



VisitEngland 

**What's New in England 2015 and
Beyond**

For the most up to date guide, please check:
http://www.visitengland.org/media/resources/whats_new.aspx

1. Accommodation

Bouja by Hoseasons, Devon and Hampshire

From 30 January

Hoseasons will be introducing 'affordable luxury breaks' under new brand Bouja. Set across six countryside and coastal locations, Bouja will offer holiday homes with a deck, patio or private garden, as well as amenities including a flat-screen TV. Bike hire, nature trails and great quality bistros and restaurants will be offered nearby, while quirkier spaces will be provided by the designer Bouja Boutique. Beach Cove Coastal Retreat will be the first location to open, with others following throughout Q1. <http://www.hoseasons.co.uk/>

The Hospital Club, London

January

The former hospital turned 'creative hub', The Hospital Club, has now added 15 hotel rooms to its Covent Garden venue. The rooms boast sumptuous interiors and stained glass by Russell Sage studios, providing guests with a home away from home. Suites also include a private terrace, rainforest showers and lounge area. Rooms start from £180 per night. <http://www.thehospitalclub.com>

The Seaside Boarding House, Restaurant & Bar, Burton Bradstock

February/March

The Seaside Boarding House Restaurant and Bar is set on the cliffs overlooking the sweep of Dorset's famous Chesil Beach and the wide expanse of Lyme Bay. The accommodation features eight large bedrooms, while the restaurant overlooks the ever-changing seascape and will source local produce from the land, sea and air, embracing forgotten classics alongside modern British cooking. There is also a separate bar offering old fashioned cocktails, a 'snug' for afternoon naps and a larder for mid-afternoon snacks or 'midnight feasts'. Rooms are £200 per night including breakfast. <http://theseasideboardinghouse.com>

The Elephant at the Market, Newbury

March

A brand new restaurant with rooms, The Elephant at the Market has opened in Berkshire. The décor is inspired by the Babar children's books and each of the 14 rooms is named after a character from the stories. Located in Market Place, the restaurant serves up delicious food in a home-from-home space. Rooms from £95 per night. <http://theelephantatthemarket.com/>

M by Montcalm, London

April

The M by Montcalm hotel will become a standout new landmark on the London skyline. Fusing large scale art, sculpture and architecture in a futuristic-looking tower, this 23 storey building in Shoreditch will house 200 bedrooms, retail venues, bars, a business centre and fitness centre. <http://www.mbymontcalm.co.uk/>

Stanbrook Abbey, Worcestershire

17 April

Following a multi-million pound refurbishment, Stanbrook Abbey is opening its main building for overnight stays with the introduction of 52 luxury bedrooms. The newly-refurbished monastery, which was built in 1625, offers a range of rooms including a cardinal suite whose balcony looks over the surrounding grounds. Room start at £135 including breakfast. www.amazingvenues.co.uk

No Man's Fort, the Solent

23 April

No Man's Fort, a man-made island in the middle of the Solent, is opening its doors for day trips and overnight stays after undergoing extensive renovation. Along with 22 luxury bedrooms, the fort offers a nightclub, rooftop hot-pool, glass-floored

lighthouse, gallery restaurant, wine bar, spa facilities, games rooms and two helicopter pads. No Man's Fort is located 1.4 miles from the Isle of Wight and is accessed via boat from Gunwharf Quays in Portsmouth. Overnight, full-board stays start from £450 per room.

www.amazingvenues.co.uk

Living Architecture: A House for Essex

Spring

Living Architecture has worked with artist Grayson Perry to build a unique new house in the North Essex countryside. The house, near Wrabness on the North Essex coast, is an artwork in itself and is the setting for a number of works by Grayson Perry, exploring the special character and unique qualities of Essex.

www.living-architecture.co.uk

Hotel Football, Manchester

March

Ryan Giggs and Gary Neville will launch the second brand under the GG Hospitality umbrella, Hotel Football, which will be located on the doorstep of Old Trafford football stadium and provide a vibrant experience with football at its heart. Guests can enjoy the functioning rooftop football pitch, the distinctive bedrooms and the iconic stadium right on their doorstep.

Rooms will start from £89 per person.

www.hotelfootball.com

LEGO® FRIENDS themed Hotel Rooms, Legoland Windsor

March

Ten premium themed rooms are set to open in the unique Resort Hotel in March as well as a new LEGO Friends area in early summer. Accommodating two adults and up to three children, each room has a separate sleeping area for young Friends and their grown-ups, as well as interactive games. The new LEGO Friends rooms bring a fourth theme to the 150-room hotel joining the existing Kingdom, Pirate and Adventure rooms. Premium LEGO® Friends room packages are available from £369 in low season including two full days on the park and breakfast at the Bricks Family Restaurant.

<http://www.legoland.co.uk/en/hotel/>

Inside by Melia, Manchester

April

Melia will open its first hotel in Manchester as part of the First Street North development. It promises sleek, design-led rooms, state-of-the-art technology, and stylish destination bars and restaurants.

www.inside.com

Hilton Brighton Metropole, Brighton

April

From February, the Hilton Brighton Metropole will undergo a major £3.75m renovation, which will see the landmark building transformed with a brand new restaurant and spa. The hotel, which sits on Brighton's seafront, is also set to refurbish 185 of its 340 guest rooms (including four suites) as well as its meeting rooms. Whilst the refurbishments won't be ready until April, the Salt Room restaurant and the spa will be open from the end of February.

www.hilton.com/brightonmet

Enchanted Village, Alton Towers

April

Alton Towers is launching brand new accommodation at its theme park resort in Staffordshire. Guests will be able to enjoy an enchanting break in woodland lodges or a luxury tree house, and experience a land full of forest spirits and little fable folk that live amongst the trees.

<http://www.altontowers.com/hotels/enchanted-village/>

Cockliffe Country House Hotel, Nottinghamshire

April

Cockliffe Country House Hotel is a 17th century former farmhouse set in the heart of rural Nottingham, bordering the historically significant Sherwood Forest. The 11-bedroom property was acquired by independent hotel group, Heritage Estates, who already own Kelham House. The property will undergo an extensive refurbishment scheme, investing up to £1m to transform the venue's bedrooms, restaurant, wedding and conference facilities. The refurbishment programme begins in January, with phase one expected to be completed by April.

www.cch-hotel.co.uk

Safestay hostel, Holland Park

April

Safestay will open its third luxury hostel this year in a Grade I listed building within Holland Park in West London. The property, which has undergone a £2 million refurbishment, forms part of the original Jacobean building, which dates back to 1607, and was until recently a YHA hostel. The hostel forms the backdrop for the open-air Holland Park Opera and is located near The Belvedere restaurant and the Park's sporting facilities. Rates at Safestay start from £18 per bed per night. Private twin rooms start from £60 per room per night.

<http://www.safestay.co.uk/>

The Base hotel, Cornwall

April

Located in Bude, The Base hotel will be the third hotel in the Hebasca Group chain. It will complete the design-led flair of its sister hotels, promising all the style and amenities of a luxury hotel at a fraction of the price.

Perfectly located for exploring the paths and coastal walks of the north coast of Cornwall, rooms will start from just £27.50 per night.

<http://www.hebasca.co.uk/>

Chapel House Hotel, Penzance

1 May

Restoring one of the town's finest domestic buildings from near collapse, the new Chapel House Hotel is set to offer gorgeous boutique accommodation in Penzance. It will have only six bedrooms, all with original Georgian features and five offering stunning views over Mounts Bay. Double rooms start from £180 per night.

<http://www.chapelhousepz.co.uk/>

Hampton by Hilton, Newcastle upon Tyne

May

Planning permission was granted in 2013 for the conversion of the Baron House office block opposite Central Station into a 160-bedroom hotel. The hotel will be a Hampton by Hilton upper-tier budget/limited service hotel operated by Interstate Hotels. Initially with 124 bedrooms, the hotel has the potential option to extend to the full 160 bedrooms at a later stage.

<http://hamptoninn3.hilton.com/en/index.html>

St Martins Hotel, London

May

The 15 year old property located in Covent Garden, St Martins Hotel, has completed an extensive redesign. The hotel now has an additional late-night cocktail lounge, Blind Spot, designed by Tim Andreas, and a refreshed restaurant décor in the hotel's Asia de Cuba restaurant. Each of the 204 bedrooms has been given a technological makeover, including an interactive mood lighting system.

<https://www.morganshotelgroup.com/originals/originals-st-martins-lane-london>

Royal Wells Hotel, Kent

May

Following a £2.4 million transformation by Britain's oldest brewers, Shepherd Neame, the Royal Wells Hotel has reopened in Tunbridge Wells. Renovations include a new orangery, The Brasserie, a new courtyard garden, and a cosy new library area.

Four additional en-suite bedrooms have been added to the hotel, taking the total to 27, and every room has been refurbished in a contemporary, elegant style with bold splashes of colour. Queen Victoria made frequent visits to the hotel at the start of the 19th century, and later granted the use of her coat of arms, which is displayed on top of the building. Double rooms from £100 per night, including breakfast.

<http://www.royalwells.co.uk/>

Hotel Gotham, Manchester

Spring

The spectacular new Hotel Gotham promises to be 'a fun, witty destination and a little bit naughty'. The brand new hotel will be in the central conservation area of Manchester and set in one of the city's grandest, listed buildings - a former bank premises at 100 King Street, designed by Edwin Lutyens and referenced in Pevsner's Architectural Guide. Along with the 60 bedrooms, there will be a restaurant, a prohibition style bar and roof-top members-only club.

www.bespokehotels.com/hotelgotham

The Lanesborough, London

Spring

After auctioning every piece from its public spaces and rooms last year, the newly designed Lanesborough - by interior designer, Alberto Pinto - will integrate the latest innovations while honouring the building's architectural Regency heritage. The hotel offers 5 star luxury accommodation with a wide range of complimentary services, including exclusive Butler Service, change of clothing pressed on arrival, Sony VAIO laptops in all rooms, and access to the spa and fitness studio.

www.lanesborough.com

Padstow Townhouse, Cornwall

Spring

Owner of Michelin-starred restaurant Number 6, Chef Paul Ainsworth is set to open his first accommodation offering. Previously known as The Tregea Hotel, The Padstow Townhouse will feature six high-end luxury rooms in the heart of Padstow, a north Cornish harbour town on the edge of the Camel Estuary. It will include six boutique bedrooms, all with luxury amenities.

<http://www.paul-ainsworth.co.uk/blog/padstow-townhouse/>

The Victoria, Holkham, Norfolk

Spring

Following a major renovation project, The Victoria is creating 10 new guest bedrooms this spring, following the conversion of the adjacent Ancient House. The rooms will include three split-level suites and guests will be able to relax in the house's peaceful and private walled rose garden.

<http://www.holkham.co.uk/victoria/ancienthouse.html>

Treehouse Hotel, Port Lympne Reserve, Kent

June

Port Lympne Wild Animal and Safari Reserve will launch its much anticipated Treehouse Hotel in June. Guests can experience the height of luxury in these unique treehouses with a thirty mile vista over the English Channel and roaming rhino below.

Ensnconced in the tree canopy, high above the 600 acre reserve, the glass fronted suites reflect their stunning natural surroundings whilst offering space, comfort and serenity away from the everyday buzz of life. Treehouse from £300 per night (low season).

<https://www.aspinallfoundation.org/treehouse-hotel>

King Street Townhouse, Manchester

Summer

Located within the Upper King Street conservation area of Manchester City Centre, this Grade II listed building, dating back to 1864, has undergone redevelopment into a luxurious and intimate townhouse hotel by Eamonn and Sally O'Loughlin, proprietors of Eclectic Hotels. The hotel will feature 40 bedrooms and suites, a south facing roof garden and rooftop spa pool.

www.kingstreettownhouse.co.uk

The Lodge Hotel, Putney

Summer

The Lodge Hotel in Putney is building a new 23 bedroom addition to their hotel, following extensive refurbishment to their restaurant and public areas too. Alongside its new urban chic rooms, the refurbishment also includes a luxury state-of-the-art gym. The property is highly sustainably focused, creating a hotel which will be able to provide fabulous accommodation alongside being conscious and kind to its surrounding environment. Classic Doubles or Twin from £123 B&B.

www.thelodgehotellondon.com

Opening of InterContinental Greenwich

Summer

The 452-room property, which will be known as the InterContinental London The O2, will stand at 19 storeys high. The five-star hotel will feature Europe's largest pillar-free ballroom, a health spa, several restaurants and a panoramic 'Sky Bar' with views of Canary Wharf and the River Thames.

<http://www.intercontinental.com/>

The Laslett, London

Summer

The Laslett, a new hotel by Living Rooms – the hotel alternative - will open its doors in London's Notting Hill this summer. Inspired by the area's vibrant cultural heritage, the 51 guest rooms and suites will resemble a stylish townhouse. Downstairs at The Laslett will boast a multifunctional space which will evolve throughout the day – part coffee shop, part bar-kitchen, part gallery, part concept store.

<http://www.living-rooms.co.uk/hotel/the-laslett>

Crowne Plaza Hotel Development, Newcastle upon Tyne

July

North East developer Silverlink is building a £55m 251-bed, four-star Intercontinental Hotels Group, Crowne Plaza Hotel in the Stephenson Quarter, next to Newcastle's Central Station. Development was carried out throughout 2014, with a projected opening date of July.

<http://www.ihg.com/crowneplaza/hotels/gb/en/reservation>

Gainsborough Bath Spa, Bath

1 July

Originally built in the 1800s, The Gainsborough Bath Spa occupies three listed and historic buildings, The Gainsborough, Bellotts, Hetling House, with distinguished Grade II Georgian façades and the one remaining Elizabethan building in the heart of Bath. The Gainsborough Bath Spa has the unique privilege of being the only hotel in the United Kingdom to house a natural thermal spa.

www.thegainsboroughbathspa.co.uk

Horringer Park Gates, Ickworth Estate, Suffolk

July

Guests staying in this strikingly attractive cottage (which sleeps four) can tramp along woodland lanes, gaze across Fairy Lake or nose around the beautiful walled gardens of the Ickworth Estate. Situated in front of a church, the cottage has a pretty rear garden, part-walled with a lawn, fruit trees and sheltered spots. Just a few minutes' walk away is the Six Bells country pub and restaurant in Horringer village, or guests can take a leisurely stroll to Ickworth's own spacious restaurant, the West Wing.

<http://www.nationaltrustholidays.org.uk/>

Mottistone Manor Farmhouse, Isle of Wight

July

A 30 minute ferry journey is all it takes to reach the Isle of Wight with its rolling countryside, sandy beaches and laid back villages. Mottistone Manor Farmhouse, (which sleeps 14) is set in one of the smallest villages on the island and occupies an

envious location close to Mottistone Gardens and church. The cottage is surrounded by large, secluded gardens with sea views and guests are free to explore the Mediterranean-style gardens at Mottistone.

<http://www.nationaltrustholidays.org.uk/>

Zetter Townhouse, Marylebone, London

Summer

The Zetter Townhouse, Marylebone, is the latest addition to the Zetter Group's boutique hotel family. This 24-bedroom Georgian townhouse includes a cocktail bar on the ground floor and a spectacular rooftop apartment, complete with a large roof terrace with an alfresco roll top bath.

<http://www.thezettergroup.com/#venues>

Z Hotels, London

Winter

Z Hotels will be adding two new properties to its portfolio, Z Shoreditch and Z Gloucester Place, at the end of 2015 with four more openings in early 2016. As with all Z properties, the compact-design rooms will offer guests luxury bed linen on handcrafted beds, 40" LED TVs with Sky Sports and Movies at no extra cost, power showers and free high speed wifi throughout. There will also be complimentary cheese and wine each evening for guests.

www.theZhotels.com

Opening of Hilton Hotel Bournemouth

Winter

An £85m scheme will see a new four-star Hilton Hotel open in Bournemouth town centre. It will boast 172 bedrooms, a skybar, leisure club, swimming pool, conferencing facilities and a café.

<http://www3.hilton.com/en/hotels/united-kingdom/hilton-bournemouth-BOHTMHI/index.html>

2015: New hotel at Plymouth's Royal William Yard

Developer Urban Splash and the Watergate Bay Hotel in north Cornwall have agreed a lease on the clock tower building in Plymouth's Royal William Yard.

<http://www.visitplymouth.co.uk/areas-to-visit/royal-william-yard>

2. Activities

Sandstone Way, Northumberland

Spring

A brand-new, 120-mile mountain bike trail linking Berwick-upon-Tweed and Hexham via Northumberland's most spectacular coastal and countryside scenery will open in Spring. Aimed at mountain bikers, the trail will include off-road and link sections on very quiet country lanes, and has been designed to safely cross rivers, main roads and railway lines. It will appeal to riders of all abilities taking three or four days to complete on average.

<http://www.visitnorthumberland.com/>

Salisbury Escape Room; Magna Carta Challenge, Wiltshire

28 March

New to Salisbury, Escape Games are physical adventures in which players are locked in a room with other participants and must use elements of the room to solve a series of puzzles, find clues, and escape within an hour. Players must be observant and use their critical thinking skills to escape the room. Testing and addictive, the games include a Magna Carta Challenge in which players must pit their wits against fiendish puzzles and clues to recover the stolen Magna Carta and escape.

<http://www.salisburyescape.com/>

Abseiling experiences, ArcelorMittal Orbit, London

Various dates from April

The ArcelorMittal Orbit, the UK's tallest sculpture, is launching a new abseiling experiences this year. The five dates available are 18 April, 27 June, 11 July, 8 August and 19 September but groups can also book privately on selected dates as well. The iconic landmark was conceived and designed by Turner Prize winning artist Sir Anish Kapoor and structural designer Cecil Balmond to mark the London 2012 Games offering stunning panoramic views across the capital.

<http://www.arcelormittalorbit.com/>

Ullswater Steamers, Lake District

May

New for 2015, the Aira Force Pier will link a new cruise and walk between National Trust Aira Force Waterfall and Glenridding Pier from 23 May. Aira Force has a love story behind it, involving a knight and his beloved Emma, which was immortalised by William Wordsworth. The new walk will also take visitors past another famous Wordsworth landmark – the lakeshore where his daffodils still bloom. In 2015 there will be a new group tour with Dove Cottage and Aira Force cruise and a joint day ticket for the public for Ullswater Steamers, Dalemain Historic Mansion & Gardens and Lowther Castle & Gardens.

<http://www.ullswater-steamers.co.uk/>

Mermaid swimming courses, Cornwall

May

Diving company Freedive UK is set to launch England's first-ever mermaid swimming course in May. A popular pastime in many tropical resorts already, the course teaches students the art of gliding underwater with a mermaid tail attached. Students can choose between a one-day or three-day course, costing £100 and £400 respectively.

<http://freediveuk.com/freediving-courses/mermaid-courses-uk/>

3. Anniversaries

80th anniversary of the Ramblers, Countrywide

January

On 1 January 1935, the Ramblers Association was officially created. Over the past eight decades, it has continued to grow and change with the times.

www.ramblers.org.uk/england

50th anniversary of Sir Winston Churchill's death, Countrywide

24 January

Sir Winston Churchill was Prime Minister of the UK in the 1940s and 1950s, encompassing the Second World War. He also fought in the First World War and is regarded one of the greatest wartime leaders of the 20th century.

800th anniversary of Magna Carta exhibition, British Library

13 March – 1 September 2015

To mark the 800th anniversary Magna Carta, the British Library is holding a once-in-a-lifetime exhibition that explores the history and resonance of this globally-recognised document that enshrines the principles of justice, democracy and freedom. The exhibition will be at the heart of a wider Magna Carta programme at the Library with a series of public events. As part of the exhibition, two of the most fundamentally important documents in American history, the Declaration of Independence and the Bill of Rights, are to go on display in the UK for the first time.

<http://www.bl.uk/whatson/exhibitions/magna-carta/>

50th anniversary of the Pennine Way, Various locations

April

24 April marks the 50th anniversary of the Pennine Way - the first National Trust trail and the UK's longest trail. The anniversary will be celebrated by Yorkshire, Derbyshire, Northumberland and Cumbria and an official event will take place at the Moorland Discovery Centre in Edale.

<http://www.nationaltrail.co.uk/pennine-way>

500th anniversary of Hampton Court Palace

2015 will mark 500 years since Cardinal Wolsey commissioned builders to lay the foundations of Hampton Court Palace in Surrey, which was famously the centre of court life for over 200 years. To celebrate the momentous anniversary, the Palace will host a series of special events, displays and entertainment that will explore the Palace's vast history and the tumultuous reign of Henry VIII. From Easter, the famous wine fountain will flow once more and a state-of-the-art 3D film projection will take place on the Palace's south façade. Two large garden parties will be staged in the summer, bringing the Tudor Palace to life with medieval jousts and Tudor kitchens.

<http://www.hrp.org.uk/HamptonCourtPalace/>

100 year anniversary of the sinking of Lusitania, Liverpool

May

2015 marks 100 years since the sinking of Lusitania, one of the biggest tragedies of WW1. Most of the 404 crewmen who lost their lives were from Liverpool.

40th Anniversary of the inaugural Cricket World Cup

7 June

It doesn't get more English than a genteel game of cricket unfolding on a village lawn. Invented in England, in the 16th century, the game's first World Cup was hosted in England in 1975. The inaugural tournament started on 7 June and eight teams participated, including Australia, England, India, New Zealand, Pakistan, and the West Indies (the six Test nations at the time), together with Sri Lanka and a composite team from East Africa. The tournament is a key milestone in the evolution of the sport and was won by the West Indies, who defeated Australia by 17 runs in the final at Lord's. Today, get to the heart of the game on a tour of Lords cricket ground in north London where fans can visit the MCC Museum and have tea and cucumber sandwiches in the historic Long Room. The Museum's collection, which began in 1864, spans the full history of cricket from its emergence as a major sport in the early 18th century, to the modern age of Twenty20 and the IPL. Its most famous exhibit is the original Ashes urn, a personal gift to then England captain the Hon. Ivo Bligh.

www.lords.org

75th anniversary of the Battle of Britain

July – October

Regarded as the most important event in Royal Air Force history, the Battle of Britain was fought between 10 July and 31 October 1940. To mark the anniversary, the RAF Museum has a number of activities and events planned throughout the year. There will be a number of Vulcan Access Days, allowing the public to sit in the pilot's seat of an Avro Vulcan, as well as a Battle of Britain Weekend in September.

<http://www.rafmuseum.org.uk/>

125th anniversary of Agatha Christie's birth, Devon

September

Four billion of Agatha Christie's detective stories have been sold over the years and to celebrate the 125th year of her birth, a planned programme of films and events is in the pipeline.

Tate Modern's 15th Anniversary

May

Tate Modern opened in 2000 as part of the public-owned Tate Group, along with Tate Britain, Tate Liverpool, Tate St Ives and Tate Online. It is Britain's national gallery of international modern art and is the most-visited modern art gallery in the world.

<http://www.tate.org.uk/visit/tate-modern>

Cunard 175th anniversary, Liverpool

May

May 2015 will see Cunard return to its spiritual home in Liverpool, to celebrate its 175th anniversary. Cunard's three Queens – Queen Mary 2, Queen Elizabeth and Queen Victoria – will meet on the famous Liverpool waterfront in a spectacular one-off

event that will draw tens of thousands of people to the banks of the Mersey. In July, Queen Mary 2 will also recreate the voyage of the first ship, Britannia, from Liverpool to New York.

<http://www.cunard.co.uk/campaigns/anniversary-cruises/world-club-sale/maiden-atlantic-crossing/>

200th anniversary of Waterloo, London and Kent

June

The bicentenary of the Battle of Waterloo will be marked throughout the year, with English Heritage celebrations at Wellington Arch, Apsley House (the home of the Dukes of Wellington) and Walmer Castle. Objects on show in these locations include the famous Wellington boots and the Iron Duke's campaign bed.

www.english-heritage.org.uk

125th anniversary of Stan Laurel's birth

16 June

The Laurel and Hardy Museum in Stan's hometown of Ulverston will celebrate the comedy duo this summer with Another Fine Fest. The event will feature music, comedy, theatre and street art and will also coincide with the 125th anniversary of the birth of Stan Laurel.

<http://www.laurel-and-hardy.co.uk/>

10th anniversary of Seven Stories, Newcastle

August

The National Centre for Children's Books, which is a fantastic place for families and set over seven storeys will be marking its tenth birthday in August.

www.sevenstories.org.uk

25th anniversary of Manchester Pride

August

One of the biggest Prides in England celebrates its quarter century in August.

www.manchesterpride.com

750th anniversary of Battle of Evesham, Worcestershire

August

This year is the 750th anniversary of the Battle of Evesham, fought between Simon de Montfort and Prince Edward II in the Baron War. To mark this important historical event, The Battle of Evesham 2015 Festival will take place on 8 and 9 August and will include tours, treasure trails, live battle re-enactments, archery, falconry displays and much more.

<http://www.visitworcestershire.org/Evesham-The-Battle-of-Evesham-2015-Festival-at-Evesham-Town-Centre/details/?dms=3&venue=1394240&feature=1010>

40th anniversary of the National Railway Museum, York

25 September

2015 marks 40 years since the opening of the National Railway Museum in York (25 September 1975), which will be marked with a fantastic programme of special events and exhibitions. The programme will include the re-display of the Battle of Britain Class locomotive, which was used to pull Winston Churchill's funeral train 50 years ago, and the return of the award-winning partnership with York Theatre Royal, to bring railways alive through theatre.

www.nrm.org.uk

600th anniversary of Agincourt

October

2015 will mark 800 years since Henry V's greatest moment. An event, 'Henry V's Court' will take place at Kenilworth Castle in Warwickshire, where the campaign is alleged to have begun after he received the insulting gift of tennis balls, made famous in Shakespeare's play, which was the catalyst for the campaign. Visitors can also explore Portchester Castle in Hampshire, where the king gathered his troops before sailing to France.

www.english-heritage.org.uk

150 years since the publication of Alice in Wonderland, Oxford

November

Lewis Carroll's enchanting tale with iconic characters such as the White Rabbit and Mad Hatter is celebrating 150 years since its publication this year. The Story Museum in Oxford will hold a special Alice Day on 4 July, which will include a Mad Hatter's tea party, exhibitions, storytelling, promenade theatre and Alice-themed walks and talks. On 4 July (co-inciding with the day Alice entered Wonderland), Oxford River Cruises will launch their brand new floating Mad Hatter's Tea Party, including a river tour of Oxford and a themed afternoon tea. In addition, Alice's Shop Oxford runs Alice in Wonderland-themed tours year-round, taking in many places of significance to Alice and Lewis Carroll in Oxford and showcasing the many ways in which Oxford influenced and inspired Carroll's writings.

<http://www.storymuseum.org.uk/about-us/what-we-do/alices-day/>

300th anniversary of Battle of Preston, Lancashire

November

12 November sees the 300th anniversary of the Battle of Preston, the last ever battle fought on English soil. The city will be marking the anniversary with a variety of exhibitions, guided walks and events in the latter half of the year. Visitors can take in the city's battle sites, including the Market Square where the Jacobite Army proclaimed 'James III as King', and Church Street, Fishergate and Friargate, where the main battle took place. The Harris Museum and Art Gallery and the Museum of Lancashire will also host exhibits about the Jacobite rebellion.

<http://www.visitlancashire.com/explore/preston/the-battle-of-preston>

200th anniversary of birth of Ada Lovelace, London

December

Daughter of Lord Byron (commonly known as Ada Lovelace) is renowned for her pioneering work in computing and engineering and has become known as the world's first computer programmer. The Bodleian Library in Oxford will be running an exhibition dedicated to her life from 29 October – 20 December.

<http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/>

200th anniversary of the publication of Jane Austen's Emma

December

The timeless classic *Emma* celebrates its 200th anniversary this December. Whilst Austen may have promised to create in Emma 'a heroine whom no one but myself will much like', the novel has been readapted on film and screen many times over the years.

150th anniversary of Rudyard Kipling's birth

30 December

Famed for his short-stories and poems, Rudyard Kipling was born to English parents and spent much of his childhood living in the country. He has links to Bideford in Devon, where he attended school, as well as Rottingdean in Sussex – the county which he adopted as his own. Visit Bateman's, the home of Rudyard Kipling, set in the rolling Wealden countryside. Learn about his life and the sad story of his son Jack, whom he lost in the trenches of the Great War, aged just 18. From November 2015, visit the exhibition of family photos on display and learn about Kipling's early life in India. Readings of Kipling's poetry will also take place, bringing his works to life.

<http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/batemans/>

<http://www.kiplingfestivalrottingdean.co.uk/>

300 year anniversary of Birmingham Cathedral

The cathedral, which has been at the heart of the city's Anglican faith since 1715, is planning a year-long series of events to celebrate its birthday.

<http://www.birminghamcathedral.com/index.asp?idarea=1&idareasub=1>

50th anniversary of Ikon Gallery, Birmingham

Ikon is one of Birmingham's leading contemporary art galleries, located in Brindleyplace. The gallery was first established in 1965 in a glass-walled kiosk in the city's old Bullring shopping centre.

<http://ikon-gallery.org/>

25th anniversary of Birmingham Royal Ballet

The Royal Ballet Company relocated to Birmingham in 1990, where it is now an independent ballet company. It is located at the Birmingham Hippodrome.

<http://www.brb.org.uk/>

4. Attractions/ Exhibitions/Restaurants

Sky Garden, London

January

Occupying the top three levels of 20 Fenchurch Street and run by 'rhubarb' venues, the Sky Garden is nestled within the stunning prehistoric forest garden. Each of the two restaurants and the café/bar will offer the finest food and drink against the striking backdrop of London's iconic skyline.

<http://www.rhubarb.net/venues/sky-garden>

Pride Park Velodrome, Derby

January

The spectacular new Velodrome will be England's fifth 250-metres indoor track and is likely to welcome some of the biggest names in cycling. In addition to the 1,500 seater Velodrome, the building will also include a 12-badminton-court-size infield arena and a 5,000 seater concert venue.

<http://derbyvelo.co.uk/>

Churchill: Science in War and Peace, Science Museum

23 January

50 years after his death, the Science Museum will be hosting a brand new exhibition dedicated to Sir Winston Churchill this January. Churchill: Science in War and Peace will adopt an intimate tone by spotlighting individual scientists and their achievements under the direction of Churchill. The exhibition will be divided into two sections: one addressing the uniqueness of scientific innovations to the British war effort, the second tracing how the huge infusion of war research and development defined fundamental science of the 1950s and has resonated to the current day.

<http://www.sciencemuseum.org.uk/>

Churchill's Final Journey exhibition, National Railway Museum, York

30 January – 3 May

The National Railway Museum will be commemorating 50 years since Winston Churchill's state funeral at St Paul's Cathedral in 1965 with a recreation of the funeral train which carried the illustrious former Prime Minister from Waterloo, London, to his final resting place in Oxfordshire. The 'Churchill's Final Journey' display will showcase the new cosmetically-restored locomotive, Winston Churchill, which is part of the York museum's collection. The Battle of Britain Class engine was chosen to haul the former Prime Minister's funeral train from Waterloo to Long Hanborough on 30 January 1965 and was seen on TV by millions worldwide.

www.nrm.org.uk

Salt Room restaurant, Brighton

February

The team behind the Coal Shed, Brighton's award-winning restaurant, will launch the Salt Room this month in a prime, seafront location. While the Coal Shed has made a name for itself as serving the best steaks in town, its sister restaurant will celebrate

the Fruits of the Sea, delivering the finest seafood to the table. The Salt Room is owned by Razak Helalat, who opened the Coal Shed almost four years ago, and will be part of the Hilton Brighton Metropole site.

www.saltroom-restaurant.co.uk

New Churchill exhibition, Blenheim Palace

14 February

Blenheim Palace will re-open after the winter break on 14 February with a completely re-vamped Churchill exhibition. The story of Sir Winston Churchill's life will be told with new artefacts and interpretation.

<http://www.blenheimpalace.com/blenheimpalace/about-blenheim-palace/winston-churchill.html>

Whitworth Art Gallery, Manchester

14 February

On 14 February, the new Whitworth Art Gallery will reopen with an extended two new wings elevating the gallery into Whitworth Park. A glass wing will house a first floor 'café in the trees' and a ground floor learning studio which will open into a new art garden. The second, brick wing, will house a new landscape gallery with views over the park and a ground floor study centre. The wings are linked by a promenade that wraps the back of the original building, giving views over the park.

<http://www.whitworth.manchester.ac.uk/aboutus/galleryinthepark>

Shaun the Sheep Experience, Cornwall

February

Ahead of the release of the Shaun the Sheep film, a new attraction will open in Land's End, Cornwall. The Shaun the Sheep Experience, presented by Aardman, will see the famous Land's End signpost rebranded 'Lamb's End' with original sets, models and characters from the BAFTA and Academy award-winning productions. Visitors will be able to immerse themselves in Mossy Bottom Farm, discover the sheer mayhem of the Naughty Pig's Sty and try to cure Shirley the Sheep's hiccups. There will also be an opportunity for people to star in a real Shaun the Sheep scene using green screen technology and to meet other characters from the Aardman family including Wallace and Gromit and Morph.

www.heritagegb.co.uk

Newcastle Castle, Newcastle upon Tyne

Spring

Following a re-imagining of the visitor experience thanks to Heritage Lottery Funding, Newcastle Castle will be transformed into a hub of heritage activity and learning. The Black Gate and Castle Keep will provide visitors with a portal into the history of Old Newcastle, telling the story of the people who lived here over the centuries.

<http://www.newcastlecastle.co.uk/>

Osborne House, Isle of Wight

Spring

The Durbar Room, which is part of the wing constructed by Queen Victoria in 1890, is set to reopen in spring following renovation to return this grand space to its historical presentation as a dining room. Inspired by photographs from the 1890s, English Heritage has stripped out the 20th century display cases and replaced them with a newly commissioned dining table and balloon-backed dining chairs. New showcases will display a collection of fine, decorative objects from the sub-continent; predominantly gifts commemorating Queen Victoria's golden and diamond jubilees of 1887 and 1897.

www.english-heritage.org.uk/daysout/properties/osborne

Restaurant Nathan Outlaw, Cornwall

Spring

After five years at the St Enodoc Hotel in Rock, Nathan Outlaw's latest restaurant will open in the fishing village of Port Issac where it will sit within the spacious, modern building currently known as The Edge. It will complement the one Michelin star Outlaw's Fish Kitchen also in Port Isaac while Outlaw's at St Enodoc Hotel will remain open for hotel guests and non-residents.

<http://www.nathan-outlaw.com>

Hogwarts Express, Warner Bros. Studio, Leavesden

19 March

A 20,000ft expansion is set to be unveiled at Warner Bros. Studio, which will include the original Hogwarts Express steam engine and a recreation of Platform 9¾. This new, permanent addition will offer a glimpse into how some of the films' most iconic scenes were created, as well as giving visitors the chance to climb aboard the train and to pose with a luggage trolley as it disappears through the platform wall.

www.wbstudiotour.co.uk/news-updates/HogwartsExpress

Magna Carta exhibition, Salisbury Cathedral

7 March

This exhibition, entitled 'Magna Carta: Spirit of Justice, Power of Words', will present Salisbury Cathedral's original 1215 Magna Carta manuscript in its historic context. It will move from the story of the struggle between King John and his barons to the legacy of Magna Carta across the ages, and why it is still relevant today.

<http://www.salisburycathedral.org.uk/magna-carta/visiting-magna-carta>

Wellington exhibition, National Portrait Gallery, London

12 March – 7 June

Marking the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo, 'Wellington: Triumph, Politics and Passion' illustrates the Duke of Wellington's extraordinary life as a soldier and statesman. The exhibition explores the role of visual culture in creating the hero, and the reappraisal of Wellington's life that took place at his death.

<http://www.npg.org.uk/whatson/wellington/exhibition.php>

Opening of new Weston Library at the Bodleian

21 March

The Weston Library is intended to be a place for study, research and teaching using the Bodleian's special collections. The newly-renovated building will accommodate new and existing facilities including: reading rooms for the consultation of special collections (rare books, manuscripts, archives, music, maps), new research facilities and enhanced public access through exhibitions and lectures. It is due to open on 21 March.

<http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/our-work/estates-projects/weston>

Completion of Bournemouth Seafront Strategy

March

The new development will connect the Bourne Stream which currently ends in Bournemouth's Lower Gardens, to the seafront for the first time in over 100 years. This will allow locals and visitors to stay down at the pier until later in the evening.

<http://www.bournemouth.co.uk/>

Kitty Café, Nottingham

March

The Kitty Café is Nottingham's first ever feline cafe and the only one in England outside of London. Meet and relax with 19 cats and kittens, all of which are looking for a new home. An absolute must for all cat lovers, guests can also enjoy a range of 100 different types of tea, fresh coffees and baked goods made onsite, whilst making lots of new furry friends.

<http://kittycafe.co.uk/>

Penguins of Madagascar, Chessington World of Adventures

March

2015 has been dubbed Year of the Penguins by Chessington World of Adventures, and the DreamWorks Penguins of Madagascar will be descending upon the theme park with their brand new live show. Launched on the Africa stage, 'Penguins of Madagascar Live! Operation Cheezy Dibbles' will feature exclusive, never before seen in the UK animatronic characters that sing, dance and talk, helping to bring the secret mission to life. Visitors can also join the agent birds on a top secret operation on a themed Penguins of Madagascar ride for young adventurers.

<http://www.chessington.com/2015/penguins>

Alexander McQueen exhibition, The V&A

14 March – 19 July

Five years after his tragic death, the first and largest retrospective of the late designer's work to be presented in Europe will go on show at the Victoria and Albert Museum. *Alexander McQueen: Savage Beauty* will span from his 1992 MA graduate collection to his unfinished A/W 2010 collection. The designs will be presented with the dramatic staging and sense of spectacle synonymous with his runway shows and the exhibition will run from 14 March – 19 July.

<http://www.vam.ac.uk/content/exhibitions/exhibition-alexander-mcqueen-savage-beauty/>

Octonauts, Alton Towers

21 March

My First Coaster is the brand new Octonauts rollercoaster to hit CBeebies Land, aimed at pre-schoolers. Children will discover some fascinating sea creatures and learn about some of the Octonauts most exciting missions as they take an interactive tour of the Octopod. CBeebies Land include rides, immersive play areas, live experiences, character appearances and is a fun and safe environment in which pre-schoolers can play and learn.

<https://www.altontowers.com/things-to-do/theme-park/octonauts-rollercoaster-adventure/>

I'm A Celebrity Get Me Out Of Here! Maze, Thorpe Park, Surrey

27 March

Thorpe Park is opening a new I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here themed attraction. Visitors to the jungle maze will take on some of the most iconic trials inspired by the award-winning TV show, including the Catacombs of Doom and the Chambers of Horror.

www.thorpepark.com/rides/im-a-celebrity/

National Videogame Arcade, Nottingham

28 March

This five-storey building in the heart of Nottingham's Creative Quarter is set to promote the diverse cultural, educational, economic and social benefits of gaming. The brand new National Videogame Arcade will showcase the widest imaginable array of interactive experiences – from vintage arcade machines and home computers to experimental new works and location-specific installations. It will be made up of a mixture of permanent and changing exhibitions which are suitable for all ages, including *A History of Games in 100 Objects*, which tells the story of videogames in Britain from 1951 to the present day.

www.gamecity.org

LEGO®-tastic improvements to LEGO City, Legoland Windsor

March

Guests to the LEGOLAND® Windsor Resort will see changes to one of the Resort's original and most popular areas this year as the famous Traffic attractions become part of a new, improved LEGO® City area. The LEGO City Driving School is bigger and better than ever with more child-size Fiat cars as well as a new lane on the test course. Boating School will also get a new look, with more boats and more LEGO models and featuring surprising animations and audio affects The resort opens for the 2015 season on 13 March.

<http://www.legoland.co.uk/en/Explore/Activities/LEGO-City/>

Magna Carta exhibition, Bodleian Library, Oxford

March - September

The Bodleian Library houses four of the seventeen surviving pre-1300 'engrossments' of Magna Carta. To mark its 800th anniversary, the new Weston Library at the Bodleian will host an exhibition entitled 'Marks of Genius', which will display the Gloucester Charter. There will also be a special celebration event planned for the Magna Carta sealing anniversary day on 15 June.

<http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/bodley>

Critter Creek, Paultons Park, New Forest

Easter

For those with a taste for the jungle, the brand new Critter Creek attraction at the award-winning Paultons Park theme park offers a land which is crawling with fun. Enter Beasty Burrow and step inside the tree trunk world to see stick insects and giant snails in themed rooms, or step aboard the new 'Cat-o-pillar' ride and track Professor Blast's expedition to Critter Creek in his travel diary. The attraction will also feature a real life bug emporium with unusual insects, fish and lizards.

<https://paultonspark.co.uk>

Lincoln Castle Revealed

April

Regarded as one of the country's best examples of a Norman castle, Lincoln Castle has been at the centre of the fight for the English throne, a prison and, of course, home to Lincoln Cathedral's Magna Carta. In 2015, there will be new castle walks, an "in the round" cinema offering a fresh perspective on Magna Carta history, and improved access to the male and female Victorian prisons.

<http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/lincoln-castle-revealed/100256.article>

New vineyard at Kedleston Estate, Derby

April

Over 2,000 vines have been planted in the Ireton Walled Garden at Kedleston Estate to create a new vineyard. Housed in the superb 18th century Grade II listed brick construction, which was once the main kitchen garden Kedleston Hall, it will be one of the most striking vineyards in the UK. The vineyard has been organised by founder of The English Wine Project, Kieron Atkinson, and the vines are expected to start producing crops in three years.

<http://www.englishwineproject.co.uk/>

Dinosaurs Alive!, Longleat

From May 22

Dinosaurs are set to take centre stage at Longleat Safari Park this summer with its new *Dinosaurs Alive!* attraction. Starring 20 life-sized, pre-historic creatures including Triceratops, Stegosaurus, Pterodactyl and the king of dinosaurs, the Tyrannosaurus Rex, it will give visitors the chance to walk amongst these beasts - as some of them come to life. Other prehistoric adventures on offer this summer include a Dinosaur Dig, giving younger explorers a chance to test out their palaeontology skills, and the Dinosaur Explorer, Bertie Buckland who will be on hand to talk all things prehistoric.

<http://www.longleat.co.uk>

Star Wars attraction, Madame Tussauds, London

May

A new, multi-million-pound Star Wars attraction will open at Madame Tussauds London in May. Created in close collaboration with Disney and Lucasfilm, the unique, immersive experience will bring to life some of film's most powerful moments through wax figures and 11 authentic walk-in sets. Fans can star alongside their favourite heroes and villains from Star Wars Episodes I-VI and experience dynamic special effects and dramatic theming.

www.madametussauds.com/london

Dover Castle, Kent

May

This spring, Dover Castle's Admiralty Lookout will be re-presented as a First World War anti-aircraft position (a reconstruction of an original First World War gun and battery), marking the site's role during the war. In May, a ceremony will take place to mark the 75th anniversary of the Dunkirk evacuation, where the Secret Wartime Tunnels beneath the fortress played a key role. A WWII weekend is also scheduled, which will see the castle return to the 1940s.

<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/daysout/properties/dover-castle/>

Stonehenge exhibition, Wiltshire

May

A new exhibition at Stonehenge will look at another side of the famous stone circle – its history as a tourist attraction– with an array of fascinating objects from the past few centuries on display. Highlights of 'Wish You Were Here!' include the very first

Stonehenge guidebook, which dates back to 1823, and an array of memorabilia including a Great Trilobite-shaped toasting fork. The exhibition begins with Stonehenge in Victorian times and traces its development through war and peace, both as a tourist attraction and global icon. It will run until March 2016.

<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/stonehenge/>

Ben Ainslie Racing HQ, Portsmouth

May

Portsmouth will now be home to the Ben Ainslie Racing America's Cup sailing team, following the construction of a permanent base and visitor's centre at The Camber in Old Portsmouth. The new visitor centre will be at the heart of the base, showcasing the sport, innovation, technology and sustainability and welcoming schools and community groups. Visitors will experience the construction and on-going operation of the team's America's Cup boats first-hand.

<http://ben-ainslie-racing.americascup.com/>

Enchanted Forest Tree Top Quest, Alton Towers

May

The Tree Top Quest is a fantastic new high ropes course set within the captivating woodland of the brand new Enchanted Village, featuring both an adult and junior course. The adult course contains 19 challenging elements, where guests can swing from the trees as they navigate their way through the forest, before hurtling back down to earth on a zipwire. For younger children and those who want to keep their feet a little bit closer to the ground, there is also a Low Ropes course option.

<https://www.altontowers.com/things-to-do/enchanted-forest-tree-top-quest>

The Alice Look, V&A Museum of Childhood, London

2 May - 1 November

Celebrating the 150th anniversary of Lewis Carroll's much loved tale, Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, this enchanting exhibition brings together a range of photographs, rare editions, garments and illustrations that show how the character of Alice became a major cultural icon. The exhibition is divided into four main areas, with examples of the period dress that Alice was best known for, along with displays in which the character adopts a contemporary look.

<http://www.vam.ac.uk/moc/exhibitions-and-displays/the-alice-look/>

New exhibition at York's Chocolate Story, York

4 May

A new exhibition 'Brilliant Brands: York Chocolate through the Ages' will allow visitors to delve deep into the history of York's most famous brands. Visitors will be able to take a journey through York's much-loved confectionery – from the 1800s to the modern day. Discoveries will include which world-famous chocolate bar was once called Chocolate Crisp, and which multi-coloured treats were formerly known as Chocolate Beans. The exhibition will showcase a varied collection of packaging and artefacts, never before seen together.

www.yorks-chocolate-story.com

'Lest We Forget – Rugby and the First World War', World Rugby Museum, Twickenham

5 May – 1 September

Timed to coincide with the 100th anniversary of the death of Ronald Poulton Palmer, England's Grand-Slam winning captain from the 1914 season, this exhibition is dedicated to the memory of all rugby players who fought and died in the First World War. Featuring stories of rugby players from many different countries, and all levels of the game, the exhibition is an opportunity to view many unique objects and images brought together for the first time. The exhibition can be viewed as part of a World Rugby Museum visit or a combined stadium tour and museum ticket.

<http://www.englandrugby.com/twickenham/world-rugby-museum>

York International Shakespeare Festival

9 – 16 May

The International Shakespeare Festival, brand new for 2015, will see York taken over by Shakespearean productions, screenings, exhibitions, events, workshops, and talks, with a programme ranging from local amateur dramatics groups to

international professional theatre. There will be family-friendly events, outreach activities with local state schools and an international conference for academics.

www.yorktheatreroyal.co.uk

HOME, Manchester

21 May

A new purpose-built centre for international contemporary art, theatre, film and books will open its doors for the first time in Manchester on 21 May, as part of the First Street North development. From gallery to screen via café bar and bookshop, HOME will redefine the contemporary arts centre, creating a space where ideas, hopes and moments of wonder ricochet off walls and lodge themselves in the headspace of audiences old and new. Director Danny Boyle is one of the patrons of HOME.

<http://homemcr.org/>

Thames Walk, London Sea Life Aquarium,

23 May

Themed around the iconic River Thames, the London Sea Life Aquarium's newest attraction allows visitors to discover a secret portal into the hidden world of hundreds of creatures and freshwater plants living in the UK's most iconic river. Guests entering the new zone will be taken through the history of The Thames, from the 'Great Stink' of Victorian Times to the impressive cityscape of modern day London - spotting an array of English creatures along the way.

www.visitsealife.com/london

Red Arrows ride, Blackpool

25 May

Blackpool Pleasure Beach has joined forces with the world famous Royal Air Force Aerobatic Team, the Red Arrows, to launch a unique thrill ride. It will become the world's first tourist attraction to have a ride based on the planet's best aerobatic display team, and will provide an exhilarating experience like no other. Stepping into their very own Red Arrows cockpit, visitors will take control of the plane and spin, glide and take formation in their very own display. The opening event on 25 May will include a dazzling display by the Royal Airforce Aeroabtic Team, the Red Arrows.

www.blackpoolpleasurebeach.com

Damien Hirst Gallery to open, London

May/June

British artist Damien Hirst's personal art collection will go on display in a street-length gallery designed by the architects who revamped London's Tate Britain. It will display Hirst's over 2,000-strong art collection, including pieces by Francis Bacon, Jeff Koons and street artist, Banksy. There will be six exhibition areas, a shop, a restaurant and office spaces, with an office for Hirst himself. It is scheduled to open in May/June in Lambeth.

<http://www.damienhirst.com/>

The Ivy, London

1 June

Following a significant redesign, London's iconic restaurant The Ivy has announced that it will reopen its doors in May. Art will remain a focal point at the restaurant, with major commissions being installed from renowned British artists, as well as a range of pieces created by emerging names from the British art scene. Executive Chef Gary Lee, who remains at the helm, has created a new menu that comprises recognisable Ivy staples alongside modern dishes with international influences, with a particular nod to Southern Europe and Asia.

<http://www.the-ivy.co.uk/>

The Refinery at Regent's Place, London

Spring

With a string of successful bars and restaurants throughout London already under its belt, Drake & Morgan will now open its eighth establishment at Regent's Place. Pared-back décor comes courtesy of their long-term designer-of-choice, Fusion, whilst food and drinks will be made up of fresh, seasonal menus from the kitchen and creative cocktails at the bar.

www.therefinerybars.co.uk

Resorts World, Birmingham

Spring

Resorts World will be the UK's first integrated destination leisure complex and will include a 170 room four star hotel, 11-screen cinema, The Vox Conference Centre and a casino.

<http://www.resortsworldbirmingham.co.uk/>

Eltham Palace restoration, London

Spring

Eltham Palace in Greenwich will unveil five new rooms to the public for the first time in spring, as part of a project to restore the Art Deco jewel to its 1930's heyday. Once the former childhood home of Henry VIII is reopened, visitors will be able to explore the Courtauld's luxury wartime bunker, an extensive basement billiards room and much more. There will also be a brand new visitor centre, shop and café in the former glasshouses.

<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/daysout/properties/eltham-palace-and-gardens/>

KidZania, London

Spring

One of the fastest growing education entertainment brands, KidZania, will be opening its first English 'city' in Westfields in early 2015. Children will enjoy role-play activities such as becoming a pilot, firefighter or police officer. Each role-play experience is crafted to teach kids essential life skills including; financial literacy, team work and independence.

<http://london.kidzania.com/en-uk/>

National Civil War Centre, Nottinghamshire

Spring

In spring, the UK's first ever National Civil War Centre is set to open in Newark. The £5.4m centre is a flagship project by Newark and Sherwood District Council and will be housed in the Grade II* Old Magnus Building, now undergoing restoration. The centrepiece theme will be the deadly struggles for power in 17th century Britain during the British Civil Wars. The struggle to control Newark – a staunchly Royalist town – was one of the defining events of the Civil War. It was near here that King Charles I surrendered to the Scots Army which was allied to the Roundheads.

www.civilwarnewark.co.uk

Opening of the Dreamland Heritage Park, Kent

June

Dreamland Heritage Park is a 21st-Century tourist attraction in Margate, based around the listed Scenic Railway and Cinema buildings. Dreamland will be the world's first amusement park of historic rides that will authentically recreate a thrilling seaside amusement park from the past. Award-winning, multi-disciplinary designer, Wayne Hemingway OBE, has been appointed to deliver the feel, look, smell and sound of the new Dreamland – the world's first amusement park of thrilling historic rides and classic side shows, eateries and evocative spaces, set within a landscape capable of hosting national festivals, major events and visiting attractions.

www.dreamlandmargate.com

New visitor centre at Wedgwood, Stoke-on-Trent

June

One of the best-known brands in the world is upgrading its visitor experience with a series of new landmark buildings, a factory tour, a new visitor centre, additional hands-on activities, an outdoor play area, and a comprehensive retail offering of contemporary lifestyle ware.

www.wedgwoodvisitorcentre.com

Shrek's Adventure!, London

1 July

The much anticipated new Shrek attraction from Merlin Entertainments PLC will open on London's South Bank this summer. The brand new adventure will feature cast of fairy tale characters, themed shows and sets, 4D bus ride, dramatic special effects and new DreamWorks animation. Visitors can be part of the ten live fairy-tale themed shows, where they can visit Shrek's swamp, get lost in the Mirror Maze, and much more.

<https://www.shreksadventure.com/london/>

Yves Saint Laurent exhibition, Bowes Museum, Durham

11 July – 25 October

An exclusive exhibition will present a stunning display of the work and life of esteemed French designer, Yves Saint Laurent. Yves Saint Laurent: Style is Eternal will be the first exhibition of its kind in the UK, highlighting the defining elements of YSL's vision and his significant influence on fashion and the way we understand womenswear today. The collection will showcase the different eras and styles of his creative career and explore a number of themes including art, lace and transparency and women's emancipation.

<http://www.thisisdurham.com/blog/january-2015/Yves-Saint-Laurent>

Islands, Chester Zoo

13 July

Islands is the biggest and most ambitious development in UK zoo history and plans to immerse visitors, transporting them thousands of miles away to experience the splendour of the animals, plants and cultural aspects of far-flung places. Islands will showcase the zoo's Act for Wildlife conservation activities as visitors navigate their way through mangroves, swamps, bamboo and tropical forests. It will also include Monsoon Forest, the largest indoor zoo exhibit in the UK and home to Sumatran orangutans, Sulawesi macaques and a new species for the zoo, the Sunda gharial crocodile.

www.chesterzoo.org/islands

Three Rivers Restaurant, Bristol

July

The Three Rivers is a unique sensory-immersive cultural food and drinks dining experience. Created by the House of Gastrophonic and designed especially for the City of Bristol, it will pair food and drink with music and colour. The experience includes a three-course evening dinner featuring a sensational seasonal food and drink menu inspired by and sourced from local producers from the countryside along the tracts of the rivers Frome, Severn and Avon.

<http://www.threeriversbristol.co.uk/>

HMS M.33, Portsmouth Historic Dockyard

August

The Heritage Lottery Fund has awarded £1.75million to the National Museum of the Royal Navy to restore HMS M.33, which will open to visitors this summer for the first time. Launched in May 1915, she is the sole remaining British veteran of that year's Gallipoli Campaign and the only British warship from the First World War that will be open to the public in Gallipoli's centenary year. Once opened, the boat will have a new interpretation, including an immersive battle experience, and will bring to life HMS M.33's history, the stories of the men who served on board, and the history of the Gallipoli Campaign.

<http://www.historicdockyard.co.uk/site-attractions/attractions/hms-m33>

York Art Gallery reopens

Summer

Following an £8 million redevelopment, the new-look York Art Gallery will reopen in summer 2015 with a brand new ceramic collection. CoCA – The Centre of Ceramic Art will showcase works from York Museums Trust's world-class collections of ceramics, including more than 5,000 pieces from British Studio Ceramics, the largest collection in the world.

www.yorkartgallery.org.uk

Wildrootz Indoor Play Facility, Pensthorpe, Norfolk

Summer

Following the opening of the 7,000 sq metre outdoor play area in 2013, an indoor facility is now set to open. The new facility will be an extension of the natural style of WildRootz and will demonstrate Pensthorpe's ongoing commitment to encouraging families to have fun and learn more about the natural world. It aims to inspire the next generation of wildlife watchers who love Pensthorpe for the habitats it has and the wildlife it attracts.

<http://www.pensthorpe.com/>

Alice in Wonderland Gallery, Bodleian Library, Oxford

1 July – 6 September

To mark the 150th anniversary of the publication of *Alice in Wonderland*, the Bodleian Library in Oxford will be running an exhibition dedicated to Lewis Carroll's most famous work. The exhibition will run from 1 July – 6 September.

<http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/bodley>

Audrey Hepburn exhibition, National Portrait Gallery

2 July – 18 October

A new fascinating photographic exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery entitled 'Portraits of an Icon' will illustrate the life of actress and fashion icon, Audrey Hepburn. The exhibition will comprise more than 60 images, including classic and rarely seen prints, as well as an array of vintage magazine covers, film stills and extraordinary archival material, illustrating her captivating story.

<http://www.npg.org.uk/whatson/hepburn/home.php>

The Grand Tour, Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire

July – September 2015 and March – June 2016

Galleries, museums and a stately home across Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire – Nottingham Contemporary, Chatsworth, Derby Museums and The Harley Gallery, Welbeck – have joined together to create a contemporary reinterpretation of The Grand Tour. This modern day Grand Tour will reveal hidden treasures from private collections juxtaposing them with contemporary art exhibitions across the four venues, showcasing them in a new light.

<http://www.thegrandtour.uk.com/>

Aubergine by Gordon Ramsay, London

August

Gordon Ramsay has purchased Aubergine, the restaurant where he began his career more than twenty years ago. The restaurant is where Ramsay was awarded his first Michelin star and, whilst the name is set to change, the food promises to remain as spectacular as ever. Steeped in culinary history, the restaurant is set to open in mid-2015.

<http://www.gordonramsay.com/>

Grand Central, Birmingham

September

Birmingham's new high end shopping complex Grand Central opens in September, boasting 40 stores and 20 restaurants, including the largest John Lewis store outside of the capital. The opening of Grand Central and John Lewis will coincide with the completion of Birmingham New Street station which will transform rail travel for millions of passengers and provide a unique shopping and station experience.

<http://www.grandcentralbirmingham.com/>

British Art Show 8, Leeds

October

The internationally renowned exhibition, British Art Show 8, will open at Leeds Art Gallery in October. Organised every five years by the Hayward Gallery as part of the Hayward Touring programme, the British Art Show showcases the very best work of both emerging and established artists. It is the biggest touring exhibition of contemporary art in the UK calendar, attracting over 420,000 visitors in its tour to four cities in 2010 and 2011.

<http://www.visitleeds.co.uk/>

Brick Wonders, Life Science Centre, Newcastle upon Tyne

28 November 2015 - 31 January 2016

Brick Wonders is the new exhibition of the wonders of the ancient, modern and natural worlds built out of Lego. One of the exhibition highlights is a large airport with working lights, and there will also be a chance to get 'hands-on' at one of several Lego activity stations.

www.life.org.uk

LiveWorks Launch, Quayside, Newcastle

Late 2015

LiveWorks is a new £10 million capital scheme by Live Theatre to develop Quayside frontage and land and buildings adjacent to the theatre, creating a new landscaped public park and a children and young people's writing centre. A launch event and a programme of public events are also in the pipeline.

<http://www.live.org.uk/liveworks>

Opening of Knole, Kent

The former Archbishop's Palace in Sevenoaks is being renovated and is set to reopen in 2015 alongside a new visitor centre. It will be a place to discover treasures dating back to the 17th century from The National Trust.

<http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/knole/>

Harvard House, Stratford upon Avon

In 2015, visitors will be able to wander into the beautiful Grade I listed Harvard House in Stratford upon Avon. Known for centuries as 'the Ancient House', the Harvard House of today was rebuilt in 1596 by wealthy townsman, Alderman Thomas Rogers, whose grandson founded Harvard University in the United States. Visitors will be able to learn more about the history of the house, as well as view the elaborately carved façade and an array of mid-late 17th century oak furniture. The house is open to visitors while New Place and Nash's House are closed for conservation.

<http://www.shakespeare.org.uk/home.html>

2015: The Flax Mill Maltings

Shrewsbury's historic Flax Mill Maltings will see the site's main mill and a number of other key historic buildings restored to their former glory. The site will be transformed into an area dedicated to the Flax Mill's heritage and will become a place to learn about the building's place in social and international history.

<http://www.flaxmill-maltings.co.uk/>

5. Films/ Novels/ Theatre

Shaun the Sheep Movie

6 February

The Shaun the Sheep Movie is planned for release this year from the quadruple Oscar-winning Aardman Animations studios in Bristol.

<http://www.aardman.com/>

Into the Woods

9 January

Set to be released in England on 9 January, the film adaptation of the eponymous Broadway musical *Into the Woods* features an all-star cast including Johnny Depp, Meryl Streep, James Corden and Emily Blunt. Filming took place in English locations including Dover Castle in Kent, and Waverley Abbey and Virginia Water, both in Surrey.

Suffragette

16 January

This dramatisation of the early feminist movement contains a star-studded cast, including Helena Bonham Carter, Carey Mulligan and Meryl Streep. Filming took place in a variety of locations across England, such as Windsor, Chatham in Kent, Harpenden and Myddleton Square in London.

Cinderella

27 March

Directed by Kenneth Branagh, *Cinderella* will be the latest adaptation of Charles Perrault's fairy tale. The film will star Cate Blanchett, Richard Madden and Helena Bonham-Carter as Cinderella's fairy godmother. Filming locations included Windsor Castle, Blenheim Palace, Black Park in Iwer Heath and the Old Royal Naval College.

'The Twits' on stage

7 April

After the successful adaptations of Roald Dahl's works *Matilda* and *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* onto the West End stage, *The Twits* is due to open on 7 April. Adapted by Enda Walsh, the director of hit musical *Once*, the play will follow the story of the horrible Mr and Mrs Twit. It will run at the Royal Court theatre until 31 May.

<http://www.royalcourttheatre.com/whats-on/the-twits>

Bend It Like Beckham – the musical, London

May

12 years after its box office success, *Bend It Like Beckham* will take to the stage in May at the Phoenix Theatre in London. The musical will be directed by award-winning Gurinder Chadha, who directed the original film. The story centres on two 18-year-old girls who set out to make careers as professional footballers despite their families' best efforts to stop them. Tickets are on sale now.

<http://www.phoenixtheatrelondon.co.uk/bend-it-like-beckham/>

The Elephant Man, Haymarket Theatre Royal, London

19 May – 8 August

The *Elephant Man* tells the true story of 19th-century London man Joseph Merrick who became a star of the travelling freak show circuit. Starring Bradley Cooper as Merrick and Patricia Clarkson as the beautiful actress Mrs. Kendal, who is deeply touched by Merrick's pure and genuine soul. The show will run for eight weeks.

<http://elephantmanlondon.com/>

James Bond movie

23 October

Ian Fleming's iconic British secret agent returns in the latest blockbuster release, *Spectre*. The film will see Daniel Craig return to the role of James Bond once again, with the plot itself being shrouded in secrecy.

Frankenstein

2 October

Based on Mary Shelley's 1818 novel of the same name, the latest adaptation is set to be released on 2 October and will feature a stellar cast. Daniel Radcliffe will star as hunchback Igor, whilst James McAvoy will portray Victor von Frankenstein. Filming locations included Manchester Town Hall, Chatham Historic Dockyard and the Old Royal Naval College, including King Charles Court.

Star Wars: Episode VII

18 December

The saga originally created by George Lucas is set over 30 years after *Return of the Jedi*. Filming took place across the globe, including the Pinewood Studios in Buckinghamshire. The film stars *Star Wars* veterans Harrison Ford and Carrie Fisher as well as new actors such as Gwendoline Christie.

6. Events

Bristol is European Green Capital

Bristol has long been one of the UK's leading green cities and has now also been bestowed the international accolade of European Capital 2015. A vibrant programme of 'green' themed events makes Bristol stand apart as an environmentally-

focused and sustainable city, including Bristol's Big Green Week, Festival of Nature, Bristol's Biggest Bike Ride, Bristol Green Doors and Bristol Cycle Festival.

<http://visitbristol.co.uk/discover-bristol/european-green-capital>

Tour de Yorkshire

1 – 3 May

A major new international cycle race for Yorkshire has been confirmed by the sport's world governing body, the UCI. The Tour de Yorkshire will see three full stages take place over the three days, and there is also an intention to have a women's race and a mass participation sportive as part of the event. The six key locations will be Bridlington, Leeds, Scarborough, Selby, Wakefield and York, where each will either host a start or finish. Full routes are expected to be unveiled in early 2015.

<http://letour.yorkshire.com/>

Ashburton Blues Festival, Devon

22 – 24 May

Following a two-year break, the famous Ashburton Blues Festival is set to return to Devon in May. It promises three stages of top-class performers, all set in the farmland at Seale-Hayne. Offering great food, drink and fabulous music in the rolling countryside of South Devon, the three-day festival will see even more bands, workshops and stages bringing blues music to life.

<http://www.ashburtonbluesfestival.co.uk/>

Blenheim Palace Food Festival, Oxfordshire

23 – 25 May

For the first time ever, Blenheim Palace will hold its very own food fair in May when it hosts the Fantastic British Food Festivals. Aiming to entertain, educate and fill up the whole family, the three-day feast of food and drink will showcase the best in local and regional produce, through cookery demos, children's workshops, talks and scores of stalls.

<http://www.blenheimpalace.com/whats-on/events/spring2015/the-blenheim-palace-food-festival.html>

Cotswold Crank Up, Oxfordshire

24 May

Iconic Cycling Events has organised its fourth ride, the Cotswold Crank Up. The event will start from the Henry Box School in Witney with a choice of 25, 50 and 80-mile marked routes, heading out into some of the Cotswolds most breath-taking beauty spots. There will be a number of food and drink stations with produce sourced from local and national companies, and riders can expect a warm welcome home at the end of their journey where they will collect their medal and enjoy plenty more refreshments.

<http://www.cotswoldcrankup.co.uk/>

Aegon Open Nottingham

8 – 14 June / 22 – 27 June

This year marks the return of world-class tennis to the city of Nottingham for the first time since 2008. The Aegon Open Nottingham features a men's ATP World Tour 250 event and a brand-new WTA International competition at the biggest public tennis facility in Britain, the Nottingham Tennis Centre. The WTA event takes place 8 - 14 June, with the men returning to the venue from the 22 - 27 June.

<http://www.lta.org.uk/major-events/aegon-open-nottingham/>

FIA Formula E Championship, London

27 June

Formula E is a new FIA single-seater championship and the world's first fully-electric racing series. It commenced in September 2014 and will finish in June 2015, with the Championship having competed in the heart of 10 of the world's leading cities.

Round 10 on 27 June will be held in London, focussed on and around Hyde Park, with multiple access to the circuit and some extremely high speeds achieved.

<http://www.fiaformulae.com/>

England 2015 Rugby World Cup

18 September – 31 October

Rugby World Cup 2015 will span England, with games being played in Newcastle upon Tyne, Leeds, Manchester, Leicester, Birmingham, Milton Keynes, Gloucester, Exeter, Brighton and London, from 18 September until 31 October.

www.rugbyworldcup.com/destinationengland

Magna Carta celebrations, Cartmel Priory, Cumbria

25 – 29 September

Cartmel Priory was founded in 1189 by William Marshal, England's premier knight, who played a pivotal role in gaining King John's assent to create Magna Carta. To celebrate Magna Carta's 800th anniversary, the Priory will host five days of festivities, including a historical flower pageant, a living history medieval encampment, tournée and fayre, with local food and drink. The evening Son et Lumière spectacle on Saturday and Sunday is expected to draw large crowds as the Priory is illuminated with magical images at dusk.

<http://www.cartmelpriory.org.uk/Home>

7. Tours, Trails and Holidays

Tudor Trail, Winchester

January

Launched at the end of January, the new Tudor Trail takes in some of Winchester's most famous Tudor connections. The trail leads visitors around various locations including Farnham Castle, Mottisfont Abbey, and Southsea Castle. It also incorporates many of the filming locations of the hit BBC TV series Wolf Hall, including Winchester Cathedral and the Great Hall.

<http://www.visitwinchester.co.uk/winchester-tudor-trail>

Shaun in the City trail, London

28 March – 25 May

Following the popular 'Gromit Unleashed' trail, Aardman's internationally-acclaimed character, Shaun the Sheep, will be taking over London this spring. Over 100 giant sculptures created by artists, celebrities and designers will be placed in iconic locations across the capital city. The trail will then move to Bristol from 6 July – 31 August.

<http://www.shauninthecity.org.uk/>

Battle of Waterloo Commemorative Walk, London

March - June

The Waterloo 200 charity has linked up with The City of Westminster Guide Lecturers' Association to create a London walking trail to commemorate the Battle of Waterloo. The walk celebrates this final victory by the Duke of Wellington over Napoleon and gives an insight into the Duke's military and political careers. Starting in Trafalgar Square, a qualified guide will lead guests past some of the most memorable sights in central Westminster, finally finishing at Hyde Park Corner by Apsley House, the London home of the Duke. The walk launched on 21 March and will run every Saturday morning through to 20 June.

<http://www.nam.ac.uk/waterloo200/>

Cycleway Paths, Cumbria

Three new cycleways are set to open in Cumbria throughout the year. First, the Cumbria Cycle Way will be a new 260 mile circular route (on-road) around Cumbria, exploring parts of the county rarely discovered by tourists. It can be started anywhere on the route: Carlisle, the Eden and Lune Valleys, Morecambe Bay, the West Coast or Solway Firth, and is due to open in spring 2015. This will be followed by the Bay Cycle Way, a new 100 mile route from Walney Island to Glasson Dock around Morecambe Bay, which is due to open in summer 2015. Finally, at the end of the year, Eden Source to Sea, a new route following the source of the River Eden to its ultimate destination on the Solway Firth, will open.

<http://www.golakes.co.uk/>

New United Airlines flight route: Newcastle to New York

23 May

United Airlines will be launching a new non-stop service from Newcastle to New York's Newark Liberty International Airport. Five flights a week are scheduled between 23 May and early September in what will be Newcastle's first scheduled non-stop trans-Atlantic service.

www.united.com

8. And Beyond...

March 2016: Re-opening of Hastings Pier

Following repeated fire devastation, Hastings Pier was finally closed in 2008 due to structural concerns. Now, after an £11.4 million donation from the Heritage Lottery Fund, Hastings Pier is set to be completely transformed into "one of the coolest-looking piers in the world". Reopening this summer, the pier will host circuses, plays, concerts, film festivals, farmers' markets, urban sports, a restaurant and more.

<http://www.hpcharity.co.uk/>

2 September 2016: 350 years since the Fire of London

Starting in a small bakery on Pudding Lane, the infamous Great Fire of London swept across the City of London over three days. Sir Christopher Wren's flame-topped Monument stands in the City today, to mark this tragic event.

<http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/>

Magic Garden, London

TBC

Set to be an innovative and sensory experience, Hampton Court Palace has teamed up with a Chelsea-winning gardener to help plan the new Magic Garden for this summer. The garden will be an adventure playground with history at its heart and will feature a jousting arena, five tiltyard towers and a fire breathing dragon.

<http://www.hrp.org.uk/HamptonCourtPalace/>

2016: 250th anniversary of The Old Vic, Bristol

One of the country's most beautiful and important theatres will celebrate its 250th birthday in 2016. The celebrations will be marked by the completion of its refurbishment, which will reveal more original features of the historic building, include a new and welcoming foyer space based on a Venetian Piazza as well as a new studio space underneath Cooper's Hall.

www.bristololdvic.org.uk

2016: Living Architecture: The Secular Retreat, Devon

In south Devon, between the resorts of Salcombe and Hallsands lies a landscape of rolling hills, wooded river valleys, patchwork fields and small stone villages. Here, Peter Zumthor will create The Secular Retreat. On top of a hill, with endless views onto the rolling south Devon landscape, Zumthor has designed a veritable haven from the pressures of modern life - a space dedicated to calm, reflection and perspective.

www.living-architecture.co.uk

2016: The Wave, Bristol

The Wave: Bristol will have a brand new inland surfing lake, set to bring together people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities. The surfing lake will be powered by the latest wave-making technology and will be situated in beautiful gardens, including sensory, healing and kitchen gardens. There will also be a swimming pool, café, education centre and surf shop.

<http://www.the-wave.co.uk/Bristol/>

2016: Roomzzz Aparthotel, Manchester

Roomzzz Aparthotel, part of the Parklane Group will open its second Manchester site in the iconic Corn Exchange in the City Centre. The new hotel is part of a £30 million leisure redevelopment programme by Aviva Investors and Queensberry Real Estate, which also includes 13 new independent restaurants and four retained restaurants. The hotel, which is expected to open

in early 2016, is a key part of the redevelopment of the Grade II listed building which, upon completion, will be Manchester's primary dining destination. The hotel will have its entrance fronting Exchange Square, with guest accommodation over the second, third, fourth, and fifth floors.

<http://www.roomzzz.com/>

2016: Nobu Hotel, London

Master sushi chef, Nobu Matsuhisa, is planning his first European hotel, the Willow Street Hotel in London's Shoreditch. The new hotel has been designed by Ron Arad Associates and will house 143 bedrooms and a statement restaurant: a dramatic five metre high space in the basement. The five storey hotel includes its own garden, while rooms are clustered around a central bathroom and screened off by a full-height curved unit.

<http://nobuhospitality.com>

2016: Back To The Future on stage, London

A stage musical version of cult 1980s time travel film *Back to the Future* is set to arrive in the West End in 2016. The science fiction action adventure film starred Michael J Fox as Marty McFly – the high school kid that travels back to 1955, the crucial point of his parents meeting and the reason for his own existence.

2016: 300th anniversary of Capability Brown

Arguably England's greatest landscape gardener, 2016 marks the 300th anniversary since the birth of Lancelot 'Capability' Brown.

2016: Hunger Games musical, London

The theatre adaptation of Suzanne Collins' dystopian novels is due to arrive in London at a new purpose-built venue next to Wembley Stadium. Lionsgate, Imagine Nation and Triangular Entertainment are collaborating on the production, which will be a musical.

<http://www.lionsgate.com/>

2016: New Design Museum, London

The old Commonwealth Institute in west London is having an £80m transformation and will be three times bigger than the existing Shad Thames museum.

<http://designmuseum.org>

2016: Manchester is European City of Science

The prestigious badge of honour will be held by the city for the next two years. In summer 2016 the city will host the largest general scientific conference; EuroScience Open Forum, with 4,500 delegates expected to attend.

2016: LEN 2016 European Championships & LEN European Masters Championships, London

British Swimming has won the bid to host the LEN 2016 European Championships and the LEN European Masters Championships at the London Aquatics Centre. It is set to be the first major international event to be held at the former Olympic pool since the 2012 Games.

<https://www.uksport.gov.uk/news/london-unveiled-as-the-host-city-for-the-len-2016-european-championships-260713/>

2016: 90th anniversary of Eric Morecambe's birth

Born in Morecambe in Lancashire on 14 May 1926, Eric Morecambe (born John Eric Bartholomew) is one of England's most-loved comedians. He is best known for his double act with Ernie Wise. 2016 will mark the 90th anniversary since his birth.

2016: Etches Collection, Dorset

A brand new multi-million pound museum is set to be built in Kimmeridge, housing a collection of Jurassic Coast fossils. Set to showcase the life's work of local collector Steve Etches, it will tell the story of the life and death under the seas of Kimmeridge over 150 million years ago. The state-of-the-art space will include an exhibition gallery, with CGI projections, transforming it into an aquarium in the blink of an eye.

<http://www.theetchescollection.org/home>

2016: Z Hotel, Bath

Offering compact luxury rooms in city centre locations, Z Hotels will be opening its first property in the south west of England in 2016. Z Bath is part of a £14 million development in Saw Close and work will start imminently. The property will offer 148 bedrooms and will follow in the footsteps of all other Z Hotels which offer luxury bed linen on handcrafted beds, 40" LED TVs with Sky Sports and Movies at no extra cost, power showers and free high speed wifi throughout. There will also be complimentary cheese and wine each evening for guests.

www.theZhotels.com

April 2016: 200th anniversary of Charlotte Brontë's birth

Charlotte Brontë (21 April 1816 – 31 March 1855) was an English novelist and poet, the eldest of the three Brontë sisters who survived into adulthood and whose novels have become classics of English literature. She first published her works (including her best known novel, *Jane Eyre*) under the pen name Currer Bell. Visitors to the village of Haworth, where the sisters grew up, can discover more about the authors at the Brontë Parsonage Museum.

<https://www.bronte.org.uk/haworth-and-the-brontes/haworth>

Summer 2016: Brighton i360

At 162 metres high and with an observation pod rising to 138 metres, the i360 will be Britain's highest observation tower outside London – taller even than the London Eye. Built on the axis of the Grade II* Regency Square, the site will also have a large beachside cafe/brasserie and an exhibition space focused on displaying work by local artists.

<http://www.brightoni360.co.uk/>

July 2016: 150th anniversary of the birth of author Beatrix Potter

Born in London in 1866, Helen Beatrix Potter was best known for her imaginative children's books such as *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*. Potter spent the majority of her adult life on her farm near Sawrey in Lancashire.

July 2016: The Queen's House reopens

Ahead of its 400th anniversary, the Queen's House in Greenwich closed in July 2015 for refurbishment. Once it reopens, visitors will be able to see Orazio Gentileschi's Joseph and Potiphar's Wife displayed in this iconic building for the first time since 1650. The painting, which is part of the Royal Collection, was one of a sequence commissioned for the Queen's House by King Charles I and Queen Henrietta Maria.

<http://www.rmg.co.uk/queens-house>

September 2016: 100th anniversary of Roald Dahl's birth

Born on 13 September 1916, Roald Dahl captured the imagination of children around the world with his tales including *James and the Giant Peach*, *Matilda*, *The Witches*, *Fantastic Mr Fox*, *The Twits* and *The BFG*. The award-winning Roald Dahl Museum and Story Centre is situated in the Buckinghamshire village where Roald Dahl lived and wrote for 36 years.

www.roalddahl.com/museum

2016: 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death, Warwickshire

William Shakespeare - arguably England's most renowned playwright – will be commemorated in his home county in 2016, to mark 400 years since his death and to honour his timeless legacy. His family home in Stratford upon Avon, New Place, will be transformed and reimagined for a 21st century audience, telling the missing story of Shakespeare's mature years as a successful writer and citizen of his home town. It will open in April 2016.

<http://www.shakespeare.org.uk/visit-the-houses/nashs-house-amp-new-place.html>

2016: 950th anniversary of the Battle of Hastings

The towns of Hastings and Battle will be celebrating the 950th anniversary of the Battle of Hastings with a programme of cultural events, including a bumper edition of its annual re-enactment of the battle, which takes place every October on the battlefield lying behind Battle Abbey (English Heritage).

<http://www.visit1066country.com/events/1066-battle-of-hastings-abbey-and-battlefield-p530451>

2016 – 2021: The Canterbury Journey, Canterbury Cathedral

In May 2014, the Heritage Lottery Fund awarded an in-principle grant of nearly £12m to Canterbury Cathedral. The Canterbury Journey will radically transform the accessibility and sustainability of the Cathedral, while safeguarding the building, increasing the number of visitors and enriching their experience. The planned proposal includes a new welcome centre which will offer improved learning and hospitality, new trails which will guide visitors through both the Cathedral and its newly landscaped precincts, and an outreach programme to schools and communities. The fabric of the Cathedral's western end, which is currently endangered, will be restored and enhanced. The project is due to be delivered between 2016-2021.

<http://www.canterbury-cathedral.org/heritage-lottery-funding-the-canterbury-journey/>

20 – 23 July 2017: The Open Championship, Liverpool

This major golfing event will be held at the Royal Birkdale in Merseyside.

<http://www.theopen.com/>

2017: 150th anniversary of London's Blue Plaques

Founded in 1866, the London's Blue Plaques scheme is believed to be the oldest of its kind in the world, commemorating the link between notable historic figures and the buildings in which they lived and worked. The first plaque to Lord Byron has been demolished, so the oldest surviving one is for Napoleon III standing at King Street. Since 1986, the scheme has been run by English Heritage.

<https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/discover/blue-plaques/>

2017: 20th anniversary of the Harry Potter book series

Since the release of the first novel, *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*, on 30 June 1997, the books have gained immense popularity, critical acclaim and commercial success worldwide inspiring the highly popular film series.

2017: IAAF, London

London has been awarded the right to stage the 2017 IAAF World Championships.

<http://www.london2017athletics.com/>

2017: Bristol Aerospace Centre

The brilliance of British innovation, design and engineering will be showcased at the new Bristol Aerospace Centre, due to open at Filton in spring 2017. On display as the stunning centrepiece will be the Concorde 216, the finest of the British fleet.

<http://www.bristolaero.org/>

2017: IPC Athletics World Championships, London

London has been announced as the host city for the 2017 IPC Athletics World Championships. The Championships will be held at the Olympic stadium, a month before the same venue hosts the IAAF World Athletics Championships. London will become the first city to host the Championships side-by-side.

<http://paralympics.org.uk/news/london-to-host-2017-ipc-world-championships>

2017: 120th anniversary of Tate Britain, London

Originally known as The Tate Gallery, the art gallery is named after Henry Tate, the gallery's first benefactor.

<http://www.tate.org.uk/visit/tate-britain>

2017: Newcastle Brown Ale's 90th birthday

The city's popular ale was first launched in 1927.

<http://m.newcastlebrown.com/>

2017: Hull UK City of Culture

Hull is set to be the UK City of Culture in 2017. It has set out ambitious plans for a unique and thrilling programme of cultural activity which would excite communities across the city and far beyond.

<http://www.hullcc.gov.uk/2017hull>

2017: Blue Whale at Natural History Museum

The central display in the Natural History Museum's Hintze Hall is set to change in the summer of 2017, as long-serving resident Diplodocus is set to be replaced after 35 years. The new display will be a blue whale skeleton, and will mark the beginning of a decade of transformation for the museum.

<http://www.nhm.ac.uk/>

2018: Blackpool Heritage Museum

Housed inside the Pavilion Theatre at the Winter Gardens, the £21 million museum will use film, photos, music and artefacts to show how Blackpool became one of the world's largest tourist resorts.

<http://www.visitblackpool.com/>

2018: British Disneyland, Kent

Chris Townsend, the commercial director at London 2012 organiser LOCOG, has been appointed to create a new theme park in Kent for Disney's Paramount Pictures. The theme park will feature Paramount brands such as Star Trek, and there will be water parks, cinemas and live music venues.

2018: 900th anniversary of Peterborough Cathedral

Peterborough Cathedral is one of the finest Norman buildings surviving in Europe and is a UK landmark.

<http://www.peterborough-cathedral.org.uk/>

2018: Opening of The Peninsula, London

The luxury global chain has announced plans to open its first ever UK property in London. Located in Belgravia, steps away from Hyde Park and Buckingham Palace, the new hotel will be in a prime location to explore the capital's cultural highlights. This will add to the hotel's 'cultural learning experience' with their in-house academy programmes, designed to offer destination insight.

<http://www.peninsula.com>

6 June 2019: 75th anniversary of D-Day landings

The D-Day Museum in Southsea is planning a major redevelopment ahead of the 75th anniversary.

2019: 50 Years of Monty Python

Monty Python's Flying Circus first aired on the BBC in October 1969, continuing for four seasons before the much-loved comedy troupe embarked on their big screen success.

2019: Royal Artillery Museum, Salisbury

Salisbury Plain in Wiltshire has been selected as the preferred location for construction of a new military museum and exhibition centre by the Royal Artillery Museum. Expected to open in spring 2019, the attraction will allow visitors to immerse themselves in the 300-year story of the Royal Artillery through one of the UK's largest military collections. This will not simply be a military museum, but a purpose-built interactive visitor attraction, with diverse appeal for visitors of all ages.

<http://www.visitwiltshire.co.uk/>

2020: Jurassica Dinosaur Museum, Dorset

An £80m attraction, called Jurassica, is set to be built in a 40m (132ft) deep limestone quarry in Portland, Dorset. According to plans, the museum will span about 100m - a third the size of the Millennium Dome - and will house robot swimming plesiosaurs, fossils and interactive displays.

<http://www.visit-dorset.com/>

2020: England Coast Path

The England Coast Path will be a new National Trail all around England's coast. It is due to open in sections and will be complete in 2020. When it is complete it will be one of the longest coastal walking routes in the world.

<http://www.nationaltrail.co.uk/england-coast-path>

2020: Mayflower anniversary

The Mayflower was the ship that in 1620 transported 102 English pilgrims, sailing from Plymouth to New England. The voyage is one of the most famous in early American colonial history.

9. Continued from 2014...

YHA Hostel, the Eden Project, Cornwall

24 October

A new youth hostel made from shipping containers is opening at the Eden Project, in partnership with the YHA and Snoozebox. The 58 room hostel will accommodate more than 220 guests and offers views over St Austell Bay. Prices start at £39 per night for a private room or £12 per night for a bed, guests can add discounted entry to the Eden Project when they book.

www.edenproject.com

Aloft Hotel, Liverpool

29 October

The new hotel will be set in a Grade II listed building and guestrooms will feature the brand's signature high ceilings, oversized windows and an ultra-comfortable platform bed as well as large walk-in showers.

www.alofthotels.com

Froyle Park, Hampshire

October

Steeped in history and located only a couple of hours from London in the historic Hampshire village of Froyle, this unique Manor House, surrounded by thick woods and sprawling country meadows, will soon be offering 14 luxury self-catering suites. Each one is designed to reflect the nostalgic refinement of the Manor House's Jacobean architecture and will ensure that guests are indulged in comfort.

www.froylepark.co.uk

The Coach House Hotel, North Yorkshire

October

Located in the grounds of Middleton Lodge in Richmond, this new-breed of country house hotel is a converted Georgian coaching house. With a focus on estate-to-plate dining, a refurbished kitchen garden in 2015 will add another dimension to seasonal menus. Each bedroom has an individual personality and is the perfect place to unwind after a stroll in the private North Yorkshire grounds.

<http://www.middletonlodge.co.uk/coach-house-hotel/>

Wizard Chambers, Georgian House Hotel, London

October

The Georgian House Hotel in London is casting a spell over its guests with its brand new wizard chambers. The 163 year old property near Victoria Station now has Potter-style rooms furnished with trunks, potion bottles, cauldrons and spell books. The hotel is perfectly located to catch a coach to the Warner Bros. Studio Tour to continue the Harry Potter experience. One night in the Wizard Chambers, including breakfast, is £209 based on two people sharing.

<http://www.georgianhousehotel.co.uk/offers/Harry-Potter-Package-London.asp>

Northcote, Lancashire

December

This renowned country house hotel situated on the edge of the Ribble Valley, is adding eight luxurious bedrooms to its already widely reputable and Michelin starred, 'restaurant with rooms'. Famed for mouth-watering cuisine and its brilliant in-house cookery school, the hotel offers a wide variety of experiences for the foodie traveller.
www.northcote.com

Weavers' House Spa, The Swan Hotel at Lavenham

Mid-December

In time for the festive season, the iconic 15th century Swan Hotel in Lavenham, Suffolk will be opening its brand new spa. Facilities will include six treatment rooms with two relaxation suites; a manicure/pedicure area; aromatic steam room, hot stone sauna and an outdoor vitality pool. The Spa will offer over 30 results-orientated and total wellbeing, sensual facial and body treatments for men and women, plus bespoke day packages, to relax, restore and refresh.
<http://www.theswanatlavenham.co.uk/weavers-house-spa-suffolk/>

Glass Floor experience, Tower Bridge

November

Tower Bridge has unveiled a brand new and spectacular glass floor across the high-level Walkways – the most significant development to the Exhibition since it originally opened in the 1980s. It offers visitors a never-seen-before view of London life, from 42 metres above the River Thames. It is 11 metres long and 1.8 metres wide and is comprised of panels weighing 530 kilograms each.
<http://www.towerbridge.org.uk/tower-bridge-glass-floor/>

Transmitting Andy Warhol, Liverpool

7 November 2014 – 8 February 2015

Bringing together more than 100 artworks, this is the first solo exhibition of Andy Warhol's (1928–1987) work in the north of England. A major exhibition highlight will be a selection of Warhol's iconic works including the Marilyn series, which will be shown alongside paintings loaned from international collections, films, drawings, prints and photographs, at Tate Liverpool.
<http://www.tate.org.uk/visit/tate-liverpool>

Magna Carta exhibition, Temple Church, London

From 17 November

An outstanding exhibition to celebrate the Charter, past and present opened at the Temple Church in November 2014. The V&A has lent four casts of medieval effigies: William Marshal I and II (taken before the Blitz), John and Henry III, whilst further loans from Lincoln Cathedral, Salisbury Cathedral and the National Archives have transformed the Temple's Round Church into a shrine to the Great Charter of Liberties. The exhibition will be in place throughout 2015 and for the foreseeable future.
www.templechurch.com

The Cumberland Art Gallery, Hampton Court Palace

20 November

Visit the new Cumberland Art Gallery and discover a fine display of works from the Royal Collection, including paintings by Holbein, Van Dyck, Rembrandt, Caravaggio and Canaletto – artists who worked for or were collected by British monarchs over three centuries. The gallery occupies the newly restored Georgian suite designed by William Kent for King George II's favourite son, the Duke of Cumberland.
<http://www.hrp.org.uk/HamptonCourtPalace/>

Small Stories: At Home in a Dolls' House, V&A Museum of Childhood

13 December 2014 - 6 September 2015

Discover the fascinating stories behind some of the UK's best-loved dolls' houses, by going on a journey through the history of the home, everyday lives and changing family relationships. Visitors are encouraged to come and meet the residents, and discover tales of marriages and parties, politics and crime. The exhibition encompasses country mansions, the Georgian town house, suburban villas, newly-built council estates and high-rise apartments.
<http://www.museumofchildhood.org.uk/>

The Lakes Distillery, Cumbria

December

Housed in a former Victorian farm in the Lake District, The Lakes Distillery - Cumbria's first whiskey distillery - also produces its own Cumbrian gin made with local botanicals. The Lakes Distillery will have a café, restaurant, shop and a visitor centre offering supervised distillery tours, but for now the distillery has launched a brand new pre-opening visitor reception. This allows visitors to see progress at the distillery as it develops, find out all about the distillery's story so far, enjoy a complimentary tasting of The ONE whiskey and indulge in a bit of retail therapy at its shop. A series of webcams have also been installed at the distillery, allowing people to view the progress as it happens.

<http://www.lakesdistillery.com/>

The Railway Children, King's Cross Theatre, London

16 December 2014 – 1 March 2015

A new adaptation of E Nesbit's classic novel 'The Railway Children' will arrive at London's King's Cross Station this December. Set in the new, purpose built 1,000 seat King's Cross Theatre, the breath-taking show will feature a stage built around a real train track, and a beautiful 60-tonne locomotive that steams into the theatre to delight all ages.

<http://www.atgtickets.com/shows/the-railway-children/kings-cross-theatre/>

The Woodspeen Restaurant and Cookery School, Newbury

29 October and 1 December

The award-winning chef John Campbell will open a restaurant, bar and cookery school on the site of the former Five Bells pub in Woodspeen, Newbury. The property, which dates back to the 19th-century, will have a 66-seat restaurant and 18-seat bar and will open on 29 October, whilst the cookery school with 10 stations, and a half-acre kitchen garden will open on 1 December. One of very few British chefs to have held two Michelin stars, John promises that The Woodspeen will retain its 'pub feel' with a bar area and restaurant celebrating seasonal ingredients.

www.thewoodspeen.com

Churchill tour, Oxford

From October 2014

Remembering Churchill 2015 is a brand new tour themed around Churchill's life and his achievements during the war. Starting with a visit to Ditchley Park, where many cabinet meetings were held during the war, the tour then continues to the Soldiers of Oxfordshire Museum, where visitors can discover personal stories behind the great wars of the 20th century. Visitors can also enjoy all that Blenheim Palace – the birthplace of Churchill – has to offer, including its brand new Churchill exhibition (opening 14th February 2015). As an optional add on to this tour, a themed talk by an Oxford historian can be booked. The tour costs £26 per person.

http://www.visitoxfordandoxfordshire.com/group-travel/Group_itineraries.aspx

Magna Carta tour, Oxford

From October 2014

Beginning at Runnymede Meadow in Surrey, *Celebrating the Magna Carta* will take visitors to the ancient meeting meadow, where King John sealed Magna Carta, before taking a river cruise upstream. Visitors will then take a themed walking tour in Oxford, where they will hear about Oxford's role in the history of Magna Carta: birthplace of King John and site of De Montfort's Oxford Parliament. Also included is a visit to the new Weston Library building at the Bodleian Library with a tour of the Magna Carta exhibition. The library holds four of the 17 known surviving Charters, and they will be on display from late March – 20th September 2015.

http://www.visitoxfordandoxfordshire.com/group-travel/Group_itineraries.aspx