



What's New in England 2016 and
Beyond

For the most up to date guide, please check:
www.visitengland.com/biz/media-centre/media-resources

1. Accommodation

Pullman Liverpool Hotel, Liverpool

January

Opening on Kings Dock, the four-star Pullman Liverpool Hotel will be a 216-room Accor property, claiming to be 'one of the most stylish, upscale hotels in the city'. It will also include a restaurant, bar and gym, and has a fantastic location in the city centre, making it great for both leisure and business.

www.pullmanhotels.com

Gloucester Place by Z Hotels, London

February 2016,

The four star hotel will be spread across four distinct buildings: 23, 33 and 51-55 Gloucester Place. It will operate as one hotel and offer the same facilities and features, with the larger building providing a larger seating and reception area. The hotel will have 89 bedrooms across the properties ranging in size, including standard, superior, executive and junior suite bedrooms. 87 Gloucester Place will offer a unique luxury service with dedicated 24 hour service, top quality amenities provided within each bedroom and complimentary drinks and breakfast. There will be 20 bedrooms within this building ranging in size, including standard, superior and executive bedrooms as well as junior and grand suites.

Prices start from £80

www.thezhotels.com/gloucester-place

The Painswick, Gloucestershire

March 2016

Gloucestershire-based Calcot Hotels has now added the Cotswolds88 Hotel in Painswick to its portfolio. The hotel already offers 17 guest bedrooms and suites, a 34 seater restaurant, a separate private dining/ meeting room and a beauty treatment room, but is now undergoing a refurbishment, and is set to be transformed into a restaurant with rooms. After a short closure, it is set to reopen in early 2016 as The Painswick.

www.thepainswick.co.uk

Brimstone Hotel, Lake District

March & July

Since its launch in 2013, the Brimstone Lodge has been renowned for its style and luxe décor. Now this luxurious boutique hotel will launch two significant additions a 200 seat restaurant Stove, and the Brimstone Spa. The Stove Restaurant will offer modern British food and Brimstone Spa will offer 10 treatment rooms plus an indulgent double treatment room. The Restaurant will launch in March, with Brimstone Spa following in July.

www.brimstonehotel.co.uk

Hilton Garden Hotel, Sunderland

April

The next hotel to be opened by the Hilton Group, the Hilton Garden Hotel is set to offer a perfect destination for visitors and businesses alike. The 141 bedroom hotel is situated at Stadium Park, ideally located to enjoy Roker beach, National Glass Centre, and Sunderland AFC's Stadium of Light. The hotel also gives guests the perfect opportunity to explore further North East destinations, such as Newcastle Gateshead, Durham and Northumberland.

www.safc.com/hospitality-and-events/conference-events-and-hotel-centre/hilton-hotel-information

The PIG at Combe, Devon

April

THE PIG hotels group has announced a fifth addition to its expanding portfolio. Located at Combe House in Devon's Otter Valley, it will feature 33 rooms in the main house (a Grade-1 listed Elizabethan Manor) and a characterful stable block. A 600year-old thatched longhouse will provide further private accommodation for up to eight guests.

www.thepighotel.com/at-combe/opening-2016/

Dalmeny Resort Hotel, Lancashire

Spring

To celebrate its 70th anniversary in 2016, The Dalmeny Hotel will undergo a £2.5million refurbishment, with many of the hotel's bedrooms being given a facelift. A new restaurant will be created, as well as improvements made to the spa services. The hotel is set on St Anne's award-winning beach, offering romantic sea view rooms and spacious family suites.

www.dalmenyhotel.co.uk

Tequila Hotel, Isle of Wight

Spring

Following the success of its bar in London, the tequila brand, El Patron will be opening its first hotel on The Isle of Wight . Renowned for their quirky interiors, El Patron's Tequila Hotel will feature six bespoke Mexican styled rooms, each with its own individual cocktail-set. There will be live music and DJ's in the bar section, and live music every Sunday day time.

www.visitisleofwight.co.uk

The Barrel Store Youth Hostel, Cirencester

Spring

Cirencester's thriving arts, theatre and cultural centre New Brewery Arts, is embarking on a new project to transform The Barrel Store into a 48-bed youth hostel offering visitors to the south Cotswolds stylish and reasonably priced accommodation. It will also give visitors the opportunity to stay in the first public Passivhaus, ultra-low-energy building in Gloucestershire.

www.newbreweryarts.org.uk/making-a-visit/the-barrel-store

Oddfellows on the Park, Manchester

Summer

Based in the heart of beautiful Bruntwood Park, yet only minutes by car to both central Manchester and Manchester Airport, lies a boutique hotel with personality and character. Housed in a Victorian mansion with an unforgettable history is Oddfellows On The Park, sister hotel to the award winning Oddfellows, Chester. Design-led and full of fun with 22 individually designed and luxurious boutique bedrooms, an events space to dream of, restaurant, cocktail bar and spa.

www.visitmanchester.com

The Staycity Aparthotel, York

June

The Staycity complex will feature 197 serviced apartments with fully equipped kitchens and dining rooms/lounges, with two retail units on the ground floor. The six-storey building will be built next to York Barbican and overlooking the city's Bar Walls. It is set to provisionally open in 2016.

www.staycity.com

Living Architecture: The Secular Retreat, Devon

Winter

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

Woolsington Hall Hotel & Spa, Newcastle

Winter

The Grade II listed Woolsington Hall will see a luxury renovation, transforming the hall into a 34 bedroom, five star hotel and leisure complex, the first of its kind in Newcastle. The site will also be complete with a restaurant, lodges, golf course, spa, and a cookery school. With history as its backdrop, the hall will be gracefully and sensitively restored to its former glory, with a bespoke, unique and personal touch running throughout. It is set to open in winter 2016 or spring 2017

www.woolsingtonhallhotel.co.uk

Z City hotel, London

December 2016

Situated within the area of Temple, nestled between Aldwych and Ludgate Circus, will be Z City Hotel, which is due to open December 2016. The hotel will offer a range of Z Double, Queen, Accessible and Inside rooms.

Prices start from £80.

www.thezhotels.com

Nobu Hotel, London

2016

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.

www.nobuhospitality.com

Ibis Styles, Leeds

2016

Ibis Styles Leeds will be a 134 room new build hotel based in the city's Merrion Centre, located close to the shopping centre and within the Arena Quarter. It is part of the hotel operator Accor.

www.ibis.com/gb/united-kingdom/index.shtml

Roomzzz Aparthotel, Manchester

2016

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.

www.roomzzz.com

2. Activities

Westonbirt Arboretum, Gloucestershire

Late January

Westonbirt Arboretum will be opening its new Treetop Walkway, which will show a 'never-seen-before' perspective on the arboretum's trees and landscape. The walkway, which is situated in The Cotswolds, will transport visitors 13 metres high into the canopy, giving them the opportunity to learn more about trees and to see the beautiful national tree collection from above.

www.forestry.gov.uk/westonbirt

Peter Rabbit™ Adventure Playground, Willows Activity Farm, Hertfordshire

2 April

Due to open on 2 April 2016, the Peter Rabbit™ Adventure Playground, will be a major new themed adventure play area tying in to the 150th anniversary of the birth of its creator, Beatrix Potter. The new area will include The Peter Rabbit Secret Treehouse, Mrs. Tiggy-Winkle Kitchen and Lily Bobtail Nature Discovery and will be the first Peter Rabbit themed adventure play area of its kind.

www.willowsactivityfarm.com

The Wave, Bristol

DATE TBC:

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.
www.the-wave.co.uk/Bristol

3. Anniversaries

Turning 20, Royal Armouries Museum, Leeds

March

In 2016 The Royal Armouries celebrates its 20th anniversary since it opened to the public on 30th March 1996. The multi-million pound museum was built to house a large part of the national collection of arms and armour, and displays over 8500 objects throughout its six themed galleries: War, Tournament, Oriental, Self-Defence, Hunting, and Peace. It is one of the largest collections of historic arms and armour, comprising the National Collection of Arms and Armour at Leeds, National Artillery Collection at Fort Nelson, and National Firearms Collection. It is also the Keeper of the Tower of London history. There is also an impressive Hall of Steel and the outside Tiltyard is where live shows such as jousting take place during school holidays.

www.royalarmouries.org/visit-us/leeds

200th anniversary of Charlotte Brontë's birth

April

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.

www.bronte.org.uk/haworth-and-the-brontes/haworth

Durham Cathedral and Castle - 30 Year Anniversary as World Heritage Site

Spring

Durham World Heritage Site was inscribed on the World Heritage List by UNESCO in 1986, one of the first to be designated alongside the Taj Mahal and Stonehenge. Durham Cathedral and Castle were inscribed because of the site's exceptional architecture and visual drama; its archaeological importance, as well as the political (Norman Conquest) spiritual powers (medieval Prince Bishops) and religious traditions (Cuthbert, Bede and Oswald); and continued use as a place of worship, learning and residence for over 1000 years.

durhamworldheritagesite.com

The Queen's 90th birthday

12 – 15 May

To mark the 90th birthday of Queen Elizabeth II, a magnificent celebration will take place at Windsor Castle, showcasing her life, her love of horses, her dedication to the Commonwealth and her deep involvement with the Navy, Army and Air Force. Over 90 minutes, 500 horses and more than 1,000 participants from around the United Kingdom and the World will create a joyful event for The Queen, taking people on a journey of her life. It is organised by the team behind the Diamond Jubilee pageant.

www.hmq90.co.uk

90th anniversary of Eric Morecambe's birth

14 May

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.

250th anniversary of The Old Vic, Bristol

28 – 30 May

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, including a new and welcoming foyer space based on a Venetian Piazza as well as a new studio space underneath Cooper's Hall. The Old Vic is the UK's oldest working theatre, and will celebrate over the May Bank Holiday with a one-off special performance, the launch of a new digital heritage project, culminating in a street festival on the birthday itself 30 May.

www.bristololdvic.org.uk

Centenary of the Battle of the Somme

1 July

On 1 July 2016 it will have been 100 years since the start of the Battle of the Somme. To commemorate the event, Britain, France and Germany will be holding ceremonies to remember and honour those who lost their lives in one of the worst military battles in history.

www.somme2016.com

75th anniversary of Amy Johnson's death, Hull and East Yorkshire

1 July – 6 September

2016 will see the 75th anniversary of the famous pioneering pilot's death, who was the first woman to fly solo from Britain to Australia. The anniversary will be commemorated with a festival which will be staged 1 July – 6 September, and will celebrate with an international programme of arts and engineering sciences. After the success of the toad sculptures celebrating poet Phillip Larkin, giant moths will be placed across the city. New exhibits will take place at Sewerby Hall as part of the festival.

www.visithullandeastyorkshire.com

150th anniversary of the birth of author Beatrix Potter

July

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 the Lake District.

50th anniversary of England winning the World Cup

July

A series of events will take place across the country in 2016 to celebrate the 50th anniversary since the English football team won the World Cup. It's been half a century since the tournament, hosted in England, resulted in Bobby Moore lifting the trophy on 30 July 1966. The commemorations will celebrate the cultural aspects of the Football World Cup, with a major event being planned.

350 years since the Fire of London

2 September

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.

www.cityoflondon.gov.uk

100th anniversary of Roald Dahl's birth

13 September

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

800th anniversary of coronation of Henry III, Gloucester

October

2016 marks 800 years since Henry III was crowned King at St Peter's Abbey (now Gloucester Cathedral), at the age of just nine years old. There are currently plans to have a grand procession, a re-enactment of the coronation, museum exhibitions, as well

as a permanent commemoration. The coronation was held on 28 October 1216, following the death of Henry's father, King John.

www.thecityofgloucester.co.uk/

90th anniversary of first volume of Winnie the Pooh

October

Although Winnie the Pooh made his debut in the London Evening News in 1925, it wasn't until October 1926 that A.A. Milne published his first collection of Pooh stories in the book, 'Winnie the Pooh'. This was then followed by 'The House at Pooh Corner' in 1928. The stories are set in the Ashdown Forest in Sussex.

100th anniversary of the birth of Alf Wight (James Herriot)

October

In 2016 marks 100 years since the birth of the Thirsk Vet Alf Wight whom many know as author James Herriot, the country vet whose country vet adventures inspired the much beloved TV adaptation All Creatures Great and Small (which is on the cards to be remade by HBO). A Visit to James Herriot World in Thirsk allows visitors to immerse themselves in the life and times of James Herriot. Visit the original home of the veterinary practice at 23 Kirkgate, lovingly restored to its 1940's glory, see the Alf Wight statue, wartime bunker, farriers workshop, memorabilia and instruments on display and go behind the scenes on the BBC adaptation of Creatures Great and Small.

www.worldofjamesherriot.com/

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. The RSC will also open a major new exhibition, which is set to immerse visitors in its history. Work has also started to restore the Grade II listed Swan Wing of the theatre, which dates back to 1879. King Edward VI school will reopen Shakespeare's school room and Guildhall (where Shakespeare was educated and watched his first piece of professional theatre) to the public in April.

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

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. The celebrations begin with the Root 1066 International Festival with a programme of exhibitions and performances. The anniversary is also marked by the opening of a brand new Battle Museum, as well as a new exhibition featured inside the Great Gatehouse on the legacy of the battle. Following the opening there will be 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). There will also be The Hastings Bonfire & Torchlight Procession on 15 Oct.

www.battlelocalhistory.com/battle-950.html

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.

www.english-heritage.org.uk/discover/blue-plaques

25 years of the National Forest

Since the National Forest was launched a quarter of a century ago, over eight and a half million trees have been planted, new cycle trails and accommodations have been established, as well as the National Forest Way, the 75 mile long distance walking trail.

www.nationalforest.org

300th anniversary of Capability Brown

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

200th anniversary of Leeds & Liverpool Canals

2016 will see a year of celebrations to mark the bicentenary of the completion of Britain's longest (and arguably most famous) single man-made waterway. The celebrations will be led by the Canal & River Trust, the Leeds & Liverpool Canal Society and the Inland Waterways Association.

The events will culminate in October 2016, with the awarding-winning, heritage education boat Kennet, -creating the first complete trans-Pennine journey along the canal by the merchants of Yorkshire and Lancashire 200 years ago.

www.canalrivertrust.org.uk/enjoy-the-waterways/canal-and-river-network/leeds-and-liverpool-canal

Freud Museum 30th Anniversary, London

Home to the famous founder of psychoanalysis, The Freud Museum was the final place where Sigmund Freud lived. The historic house attracts visitors from around the world, and includes one of the most iconic pieces of furniture – Sigmund Freud's couch. The Museum is known for its cutting-edge programming which includes contemporary art exhibitions; the start of the celebrations will see one of these exhibitions: 'Wittgenstein's Dream'. There will also be talks from Ian Sinclair, Marina Warmer and Edmund de Waal.

www.freud.org.uk

350th anniversary of Newton's law on gravitational forces, Lincolnshire

Thanks to the falling apple at Newton's birthplace: Woolsthorpe Manor, 2016 will mark the anniversary of Newton's law on gravitational forces. Celebrations will be held at the National Trust house, including an Illuminating Newton project. The biennial event Gravity Fields Science & Arts Festival will see a key focus on the anniversary, 21-25 September.

www.visitlincolnshire.com

800 years since King John's lost treasure, Lincolnshire

Said to be lost in the mud of the Lincolnshire Wash, King John's treasure was never found. The king headed to Lincoln, where he was reputedly poisoned by a monk at Swineshead Abbey, never finishing his journey. There will be events marking this anniversary in 2016.

www.visitlincolnshire.com

4. Attractions/ Exhibitions/Restaurants

Casamia, Bristol

January 2016

Moving from its current location in Westbury-on-Trym, the Michelin-starred restaurant will occupy part of the old General Hospital; a grand building located on the waterfront which has been restored.

www.visitbristol.co.uk

Painting the Modern Garden: Monet to Matisse, Royal Academy of Arts, London

30 January – 20 April

This major exhibition will examine the role of gardens in the paintings of Claude Monet and his contemporaries. The exhibition will span the early 1860s to the 1920s and will include; Impressionist, Post-Impressionist and Avant-Garde artists of the early 20th century. It will bring together more than 120 works from public institutions and private collections, including 35 paintings by Monet alongside rarely-seen masterpieces by Paul Klee, Emil Nolde, Gustav Klimt and Wassily Kandinsky. A highlight of the exhibition will be a magnificent selection of Monet's water lily paintings including the great *Agapanthus Triptych* of 1916-1919 – it will be the first time this monumental triptych has been together in over 100 years, and the first time ever it's been seen in the UK.

www.royalacademy.org.uk

British Motor Museum, Warwickshire

13 February

The Heritage Motor Centre will become the British Motor Museum as part of a major refurbishment this winter, which also includes the unveiling of a new £4m Collections Centre, a £1.1m transformation of the Museum at Gaydon and an introductory gallery. The new name will reflect this Accredited Museum's recently achieved Arts Council England 'Designated' status which confirmed the national and international significance of its collections. Visitors will still be able to get up close to the cars, and designated themed areas will run throughout.

britishmotormuseum.co.uk

Holkham Hall, Norfolk

20 March

The magnificent 18th century Palladian hall on the Norfolk coast will reveal a £4.5m transformation of the former stables and pottery buildings into new and improved visitor facilities, and an attention-grabbing farming exhibition. Through the use of audio visual, interactive, film and objects the exhibition will tell the story of producing food from farm to fork. A new Courtyard Café can be enjoyed by visitors, which serves homemade locally produced food and drink. There is also the refurbished pottery building renamed 'The Lady Elizabeth Wing' which will provide an event facility seating over 250 guests.

www.holkham.co.uk

Re-opening of Hastings Pier

March

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.

www.hpcharity.co.uk

Derren Brown Psychological Theme Park, Thorpe Park, Surrey

March

Thorpe Park have worked in collaboration with Derren Brown, the TV star best known for his skills in illusion and hypnotism, to create the world's first psychological theme park experience. 1000 specialists and experts have worked to bring the new experience to life for 2016. Each visitor to the new attraction will experience a 13 minute long journey.

www.thorpepark.com

IWM Duxford's American Air Museum

March

After five years of transformation and redevelopment IWM Duxford's American Air Museum will reopen its doors and allow visitors to experience the story of Anglo-American co-operation in times of conflict, as seen through the eyes of people whose lives have been shaped it by. IWM Duxford will also be hosting three exciting air shows across summer.

www.iwm.org.uk/exhibitions/iwm-duxford/american-air-museum

Sunbridge Wells retail complex, Bradford

March

Bradford's first ever underground retail complex is due to open in heart of Bradford's historic trading quarter. This vibrant and exciting development will transform the Victorian tunnels under the city centre, incorporating Victorian and contemporary shop units together with restaurants and bars. The venture will not just attract well-known brands, but will be encourage both independent and young entrepreneurs to trade in the heart of the city.

www.sunbridgewells.com

Underfall Yard, Bristol

March

The historic boatyard Underfall Yard, a working dock yard on Bristol's Spike Island, is set to become a Maritime Centre of Excellence in 2016. The planned renovations will preserve its character, as well as share its history and protect its future, with reparations to the historic buildings, including Grade 2* listed landmarks, the Power House and chimney. There will also be a highly-anticipated new restaurant, and works are set to take place to complete the missing section of the Harbour Walkway, allowing people to walk around the entire Harbourside.

<http://underfallboatyard.co.uk>

Leisure Village, Yorkshire

March

A £5million investment into a new leisure village is due to open in Selby in 2016. The family orientated attractions will feature an indoor ski simulator, ten pin bowling, an adventure climbing facility, aerial trekking ropes, adventure play zone plus an indoor and outdoor skate and BMX park.

www.selby.gov.uk

Harley Gallery, Wellbeck, Nottinghamshire

20 March

A new gallery space is set to be opened at the Harley Gallery in Wellbeck in 2016. The new building will display historic works from The Portland Collection, the fine and decorative arts collection of the Cavendish-Bentick family. The new building will be situated next to the existing Harley Gallery, within the walls of the Victorian Tan Gallop, which was originally used for storage.

www.harleygallery.co.uk/

Magic Garden, London

24 March

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, due to open on 24 March. 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.

www.hrp.org.uk/HamptonCourtPalace

Royal Navy Museum, Hartlepool

April

Plans are underway for Hartlepool's Maritime Experience to become part of a national museum with the Borough Council joining forces with the National Museum of the Royal Navy and Trincomalee Trust. With the NMRN extensive collection including Harrier jump jets, Polaris missiles, mini submarines and a large variety of both modern and historic vessels, further details surrounding the content of the museum are eagerly anticipated.

www.destinationhartlepool.com

Rolling Stones exhibition, Saatchi Gallery, London

5 April - 4 September

The Rolling Stones are set to host their first exhibition from April – September 2016. Entitled 'Exhibitionism', it will be the most comprehensive and immersive insight into the group, and will take over the entire of the Saatchi Gallery. Tickets for the exhibition went on sale in July 2015.

www.stonesexhibitionism.com

ArcelorMittal Orbit slide, London

Spring

The world's longest and tallest tunnel slide is set to open at the ArcelorMittal Orbit in London's Olympic Park next spring. Starting at 80 metres high, it will spiral around the tower five times before a final 50 metre route down to the ground. The ride will cost £5 and the descent will take about 40 seconds, with transparent sections on the ride for visitors to enjoy the view.

arcelormittalorbit.com

Open Treasure at Durham Cathedral, Durham City

Spring

Durham Cathedral will open world-class exhibition spaces in 2016, Open Treasure is previously hidden spaces within the Cathedral Cloister, representing some of the most intact surviving medieval monastery buildings in England. It is also home to the best preserved monastic library in the British Isles. The story of these remarkable buildings will reveal their historical and architectural significance through the creation of a new exhibition route, beginning in the 14th-century Monks' Dormitory and ending in the Great Kitchen - one of only two surviving monastic kitchens in the UK.

www.durhamcathedral.co.uk/open-treasure

Command of the Ocean, Historic Dockyard, Chatham, Kent

Spring/ Summer

A major new project at the Historic Dockyard in Chatham will tell the story of the Dockyard during the Age of the Sail. Plans include a brand new visitor entrance, a free to enter Discovery Centre, as well as preserving and interpreting a unique archaeological assemblage of ship's timbers.

www.thedockyard.co.uk/trust/command-oceans/

Piece Hall, Halifax

Summer

In 2016 one of the most extraordinary buildings in Britain will reopen following a £19 million restoration, it will herald the most dynamic new era for Halifax for generations. This unique, Grade 1 Listed building dates from 1779 and was originally built to support the trading of "pieces" of cloth; it is one of Europe's great public squares and will be home to shops, creative businesses, a heritage centre, and will host a variety of special events throughout the year.

www.thepiecehall.co.uk/

Alpamare waterpark, Scarborough

Summer

A waterpark unlike any other is coming to the seaside town of Scarborough in 2016. Alpamare will bring a new kind of water experience to the UK, a day of fun and relaxation for all the family. Get set for a memorable day out on the exhilarating waterslides, and water playground suitable for big and little kids! Dive into the waves with your friends, relax in the heated outdoor pool or indulge yourself in the spa and get re-energized in the iodine outdoor pool, overlooking the sea at North Bay. However, if water is not enough, there is great Alpine food on offer, as Alpamare brings the Alps to the sea.

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

Rievaulx Abbey, North York Moors National Park

May

A major restoration project is taking place at an English Heritage site, near Helmsley in the North York Moors National Park, with a brand new museum, tearoom, shop and an expanded visitor centre set to open by May 2016. Visitors will be able to enjoy a new Museum displaying objects that shed light on the uniqueness of Rievaulx and the fascinating people who founded and developed the Abbey.

www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/rievaulx-abbey/

Etches Collection, Dorset

June/ July

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.

www.theetchescollection.org/home

New wing at Tate Modern, London

June

The brand new wing of the Tate Modern will finally be unveiled on 17 June. Set to transform the Tate Modern, an iconic new building will be added at the south of the existing gallery. It will create more spaces for displaying the collection, performance and installation art and learning, as well as creating more social spaces for visitors to unwind and relax in the gallery.

www.tate.org.uk

IWM London: 'War and Cinema', London

1 July

To commemorate the centenary of The Somme, IWM London will have a 'War and Cinema' exhibition, which will show the making of the Somme film. The film is the only film in the world to have World Heritage Status and is the most successful film in box office history.

www.iwm.org.uk

400th anniversary: The Queen's House reopens, Greenwich

4 July 2016

The beautiful royal villa, designed by Inigo Jones for Anne of Denmark and completed for Henrietta Maria in 1638, will be transformed to celebrate its 400th anniversary. After almost 12 months of closure, visitors will be able to enjoy: refurbished galleries, new displays and colour schemes; as well as the re-introduction of royally-commissioned paintings, such as the return of Orazio Gentileschi's 'Joseph and Potiphar's Wife' after 360 years.

www.rmg.co.uk/queens-house/refurbishment

Brighton i360

Summer

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.

www.brightoni360.co.uk

Refurbishment of Kirkgate Market, Leeds

Mid 2016:

The Grade I-listed Kirkgate Market in Leeds will undergo a full refurbishment in 2016, which will primarily modernise the building during the year-long works. It will include a new event space and café area, replacement roofs in both halls, and the introduction of a covered daily market within the 1976 hall. The market started in 1822 and is famously where Marks & Spencer had its first stall, a fact commemorated since 2013 by the retailer with a modern day market stall.

<http://www.leeds.gov.uk/leedsmarkets/Pages/Kirkgate-market.aspx>

Hull city centre transformation

November

A multi-million pound public realm programme, ahead of Hull becoming the UK City of Culture for 2017, will see visitors to the city centre be greeted with new public art installations and contemporary spaces. Other planned works include the area around Trinity Square being opened up and Holy Trinity Church being refurbished. The project is due for completion in November.

www.visithullandeastyorkshire.com

Arts complex in the Cultural Quarter, Southampton

Development of Southampton's burgeoning Cultural Quarter is well underway, with the creation of a new arts complex alongside Guildhall Square, overlooking the central parks under construction. It will create a fantastic new focal point in the city for artistic and cultural activity, and will house a contemporary art gallery, as well as performing arts facilities.

www.discoversouthampton.co.uk/future/city-centre-masterplan/cultural-quarter

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.

www.designmuseum.org

Queen Street Dining Complex, Exeter

A £12million redevelopment of Exeter's Guildhall within the city's cultural quarter is due to open in early 2016. The neoclassical Guildhall will be transformed into an exciting dining quarter, providing a luxury place to eat and drink in a refurbished building complete with a rooftop terrace overlooking both Market and St Pancras Squares.

www.queenst-exeter.com/

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.

www.canterbury-cathedral.org/heritage-lottery-funding-the-canterbury-journey

5. Films/ Novels/ Theatre

'Dad's Army' remake

February

A remake of the classic comedy 'Dad's Army' is set to be released next February. It will feature a star-studded cast including Bill Nighy, Catherine Zeta-Jones and Michael Gambon. Filming took place in East Yorkshire, in Bridlington and Beverly. Bridlington Old Town 1940s Summer Festival (12 June) will see a bumper celebration.

British Music Experience, Liverpool

March

Following a five year run at London's O2, the British Music Experience will now make its new home in the iconic Cunard Building in Liverpool. The BME is an unrivalled collection of music artefacts and memorabilia including some of David Bowie's, Ziggy Stardust costumes. The museum will also pay homage to the impact British music has had on the culture, fashion, art and politics of the time.

www.britishmusicexperience.com

York Theatre Royal

Spring

After a £4.1 million redevelopment project, the historic York Theatre Royal is re-opening in spring 2016. This beautiful theatre was built in 1744 on, and among, the site of the medieval St. Leonard's Hospital. The redevelopment project started in March 2015 and this will be the biggest change to the theatre since the 1967 extension. This project will see an extended foyer spaces, a revamped 1,000 seat auditorium and improved access around the building.

www.yorktheatreroyal.co.uk

Shakespeare anniversary operas, Glyndebourne Festival

21 May – 28 August

To mark the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death, two operas based on his plays will be performed at the Glyndebourne Festival, *Béatrice et Bénédict* by Berlioz and Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Adapted from *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Béatrice et Bénédict* will have its fully-staged Glyndebourne debut in a new production directed by Laurent Pelly. Britten's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* will see a return for Peter Hall's enduringly popular 1981 production, its first revival in ten years. The commemorations will continue into 2017, when the Festival presents the world premiere of a new opera based on *Hamlet*.

www.glyndebourne.com

Mystery Plays at York Minster, York

26 May – 30 June

The 800 year-old Gothic cathedral of York Minster will undergo a spectacular transformation to become a monumental auditorium for a much anticipated month-long staging of the York Minster Mystery Plays 2016. The Mystery Plays will return to the Minster for the first time since the acclaimed Millennium production in 2000 when over 28,000 people attended the sell-out performances which had an ensemble cast of more than 200 local amateur actors and, in keeping with the tradition of the Mystery Plays, just one professional actor.

www.yorkminster.org

BFG Film

July

In Roald Dahl's anniversary year, the highly-anticipated release of one of his much loved stories, *The BFG*, will take place in July. It will be directed by highest-grossing director of all time, Steven Spielberg, and will star Mark Rylance as the Big Friendly Giant and Penelope Wilton as The Queen. Filming for the live action film took place across the country, and viewers will be able to spot a variety of famous English landmarks. The film is due to be released on 22 July

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.

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.

www.lionsgate.com

Swallows and Amazons film

October

A remake of the classic Arthur Ransome novel 'Swallows and Amazons' is set to be released in 2016. The cast includes Andrew Scott, Rafe Spall and Gwendoline Christie, and filming took place in the Lake District and Yorkshire.

6. Events

Flying Scotsman Season, National Railway Museum

February – July

A season of events and activities are planned to celebrate the Flying Scotsman's highly anticipated return to steam. As well as spotting the steam icon out and about on Britain's railways Highlights include an exhibition exploring the Flying Scotsman's rollercoaster career and a display of the locomotive in the Great Hall (March – May). Immerse yourself in the rich history of luxury travel on board the Flying Scotsman route by standing on the footplate of the steam giant and stepping inside the carriages that tell the tale of the locomotive's hey-day. Its inaugural run in February will run between London's King's Cross and York.

www.nrm.org.uk/flyingscotsman/scotsman-season.aspx

The Grand Tour, Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire

March – June

Galleries, museums and a stately homes 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 follows on from the summer 2015 Grand Tour, and will reveal hidden treasures from private collections juxtaposing them with modern day and contemporary art exhibitions across the four venues, showcasing them in a new light.

www.thegrandtour.uk.com

Ocean City Blues Festival, Plymouth

24 April – 2 May

New to Plymouth, the Ocean City Blues Festival will take place on The Barbican and Sutton Harbour whilst the Transat Yacht Race is hosted by the city.

www.visitplymouth.co.uk

LEN 2016 European Championships & LEN European Masters Championships, London

25 - 29 May

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.uk sport.gov.uk/news/london-unveiled-as-the-host-city-for-the-len-2016-european-championships-260713/>

ITU World Triathlon, Leeds

11-12 June

The inaugural World Triathlon in Leeds is guaranteed to deliver a thrilling showcase of endurance and strategy as thousands of spectators line the course to cheer on both the recreational and professional athletes - including home heroes Ali and Jonny Brownlee who will be competing in their last event on home soil before the Rio 2016 Olympics. On Sunday over 5,000 triathletes of all levels of ability will compete starting with an open water swim in the glorious Roundhay Park, the bike leg will see participant's complete laps in and around Leeds city centre before completing a testing run course and crossing the finish line in the city centre.

www.leeds.triathlon.org

Eleven Arches at Auckland Castle, Durham

July

From July 2016 an open air night spectacular at Auckland Castle in Durham, will bring to life 2,000 years of Britain's History through the eyes of the North East, from the Roman times to post World War II. Eleven Arches will entertain up to 8,000 visitors per show across a 7½ acre stage with a cast and crew made up of 1,000 professionally trained volunteers. Taking inspiration from its artistic partner, Eleven Arches is modelled on Puy du Fou's own night show in France.

www.elevenarches.org

Countryfile Live, Blenheim Palace

4 – 7 August

A new outdoor countryside event from BBC Countryfile will be staged at Blenheim Palace in Oxfordshire. Hosted in partnership with the National Trust, it is set to display the very best of the living countryside. It will bring award-winning elements of the popular TV programme to a live audience, through a series of hands-on activities, talks, and unique interactive features.

www.blenheimpalace.com

Tall Ships Regatta, Blyth, Northumberland

26 – 29 August

Blyth is to host the prestigious North Sea Tall Ships Regatta 2016, an event involving some of the largest and most spectacular Tall Ships in the world. Sailing into the port at Blyth over the weekend of 26-29 August 2016, the event will give residents and tourists a chance to see some of the finest Tall Ships in the world. The weekend will be a festival of celebration with all kinds of events being organised including concerts, a sea battle, sporting competitions and a crew parade.

www.visitnorthumberland.com/blyhtallships2016

Capability Brown celebrations, Burghley House, Lincolnshire

19 March – 30 October

To celebrate the tercentenary of landscaper Lancelot 'Capability' Brown, Burghley House (a Brown-designed parklands and gardens) will set out a whole calendar of events. In March, Burghley will launch a brand new exhibition showcasing Brown's involvement at Burghley, as well as self-guided 'Brown' tours, which will run for the whole of the season. The original views and vistas will also be restored, in order for visitors to enjoy his landscaping vision in all its glory for the first time. Individuals interested can book on to 7 April, 4 May, 16 June or 14 September the Changing Landscape at Burghley days will run.
www.burghley.co.uk

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.

7. Tours, Trails and Holidays

Bristol Street Art Tours, Bristol

Spring 2016

Street art tours have become a 'must do' experience in Bristol. 2016 will see new tours that centre around Bedminster and North Street in the south of the city, where Upfest takes place, leaving giant murals around the area. It will be accompanied by a new digital street art map for south Bristol.

www.wherethewall.com

1066 Tours, Eastbourne

July

2016 marks the 950th anniversary of the Battle of Hastings. Visit Battlefields will be running a new three day tour, allowing guests to explore the battlefield itself. The itinerary includes two nights at the Landsdowne Hotel in Eastbourne, a visit to Pevensey Castle and Senlac Hilland, as well as seeing Battle Abbey and its museum. The final day will take in Lewes Castle and Lewes Priory. Prices from £319 per person.

www.visitbattlefields.co.uk

8. And Beyond...

150th anniversary: Sail Training International Rendezvous Tall Ships Regatta, Greenwich

13 - 16 April 2017

Marking the 150th anniversary of the Canadian Confederation, Greenwich will see some of the world's largest Tall Ships leave Greenwich to sail across the Atlantic Ocean to Quebec. Anchored at two sites in the borough, visitors can see the Tall Ships at the Maritime Greenwich UNESCO World Heritage Site in Greenwich and the Royal Arsenal Riverside in Woolwich. The festival will see a huge Parade of Sail taking place at around 5pm on the last day with a convoy of 40 Tall Ships and a number of smaller Class C and D ships sailing down the Thames.

www.sailtraininginternational.org/events/2017-canada-150-tall-ships-regatta

2017: Hull to host Turner Prize

Hull will host Europe's most prestigious contemporary arts prize as part of its year as UK City of Culture 2017. The Turner Prize is awarded each year to a British artist under 50 for an outstanding work of contemporary visual art. In 2017, the prize will leave Tate Britain in London for Hull's Ferens Art Gallery, where it will be the cornerstone of a 365-day festival of world-class culture.

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

2017: Scotland Yard Hotel

The original Scotland Yard police station is set to become a five-star luxury hotel, following a £50million refurbishment to the historic building. It will combine luxury bedrooms with two bars, a library, and dining rooms, and rooms will cost up to £10,000 a night.

2017: 100th anniversary of the birth of Anthony Burgess

One of Manchester's greatest cultural figures, Anthony Burgess was a novelist, poet, playwright, composer, linguist, translator and critic. The author of 33 novels, 25 works of non-fiction, hundreds of musical works, two volumes of autobiography and vast quantities of journalism, Anthony Burgess is best known for his influential and challenging: *A Clockwork Orange*.

2017: 100th anniversary of IWM

Imperial War Museums will see its centenary year in 2017, with a host of planned events and commemorations.

www.iwm.org.uk

2017: Eden Project Hotel, Cornwall

A £6 million hotel is set to open at the Eden Project in Cornwall next year. The hotel will have 115 bedrooms and has been designed to 'blend into the countryside'. It will have access to the main site, as well as being close to the perimeter of Eden's outer estate.

www.edenproject.com

June 2017: RHS Flower Show, Chatsworth

From 7-11 June 2017, The RHS Flower Show will be hosted in partnership with Chatsworth House in Derbyshire on its breathtaking grounds. It will join the current portfolio of shows at Malvern, Chelsea, Hampton Court Palace, Tatton Park, and London. This incredible new show will be bursting with fresh ideas, held on the banks of the River Derwent and providing magnificent views of the countryside amid the landscape of Capability Brown.

rhs.org.uk/chatsworth-show

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/>

December 2017: Bristol Arena

Bristol is set to unveil a brand new £91 million venue in December 2017, situated near Temple Meads station. Whilst other details are yet to be revealed, it is set to be a 12,000 capacity site.

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

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: 400th anniversary of Pocahontas's death

In March 1617, Pocahontas became ill aboard a ship bound for Virginia, and subsequently died after only travelling as far as Gravesend. Her funeral took place on 21 March 1617 at St George's church in Gravesend, Kent, where her body is buried.

There is also a statue of her in the churchyard.

www.stgeorgesgravesend.org.uk/

2017: New ride at Longleat Forest Centre Parcs

A Subtropical Swimming Paradise is due to open at the Longleat Forest Centre Parcs in 2017, and will be at the heart of the visitor experience. It will feature a four person exhilarating raft ride, as well as a unique one or two, person ride experience with an exciting light, sound, and visual element.

www.centerparcs.co.uk/villages/longleat/

2017: Royal Pier, Southampton

This £400 million development will transform the landscape of Southampton's waterfront, showcasing the international face of the city as a great place to live, work and enjoy. The waterfront will be revitalised; Mayflower Park will be recreated and extended, while speciality shops, offices, leisure venues, apartments and waterside attractions will be scattered along the shoreline. The park will become a high quality public space offering spectacular views of the water and pretty southern skies. Construction will start in 2016.

www.discoversouthampton.co.uk/future/city-centre-masterplan/royal-pier

2017: 200th anniversary of Jane Austen's death

One of the most widely read authors in English literature, Jane Austen died on 18 July 1817 in Winchester. Chawton Cottage, (now known as the Jane Austen House Museum) in the village of Chawton in Hampshire, is where she spent her final eight years and which now offers talks and workshops throughout the year.

www.jane-austens-house-museum.org.uk/

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.bristol aero.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: Southampton Harbour Hotel & Spa

Preliminary work began in 2015 for the development of the brand new Southampton Harbour Hotel & Spa at Ocean Village. Once completed, it will be the first luxury five star standard hotel in Southampton, marking a major milestone for the city. Construction is set to take approximately 18-24 months.

www.harbourhotels.co.uk/

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: The Grand Hotel & Spa, York

York's renowned luxury five-star hotel has embarked on a major re-branding that will see it transformed into The Grand Hotel & Spa, York. If the two year redevelopment goes ahead, it will see the York venue double its number of guest rooms, as well as create a new restaurant space on what is currently an outside terrace area.

www.thegrandyork.co.uk

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.

www.nhm.ac.uk

2017: The O2 opens luxury retail development

Plans have been announced for a luxury retail development to open in 2017 at the O2, adding even more to its offering.

www.theo2.co.uk

2017/18: 100th anniversary of the Royal Air Force

The Royal Air Force will see its centenary year. There will be a lot of activity to celebrate this occasion, with input from air museums across the country.

www.raf.mod.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: 100th anniversary of WW1 Armistice

The commemorations will focus on reflection and remembrance, as well as social history and homecoming.

www.firstworldwarcentenary.co.uk

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: 250th anniversary of the Summer Exhibition, Royal Academy of Arts

At one time this celebrated annual show was known simply as 'The Exhibition', where the likes of Gainsborough and Reynolds, Turner and Constable sharpened their skills against each other. Today, the galleries at Burlington House continue to provide an unrivalled setting for artists to display and sell their artworks. The array of works and the celebratory atmosphere of the exhibition make for a unique experience where visitors can browse, buy and discuss the works of show.

www.royalacademy.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: Battersea Power Station Hotel

A new 160-room luxury hotel will open at the Battersea Power Station in 2019. It will feature a rooftop garden and pool, with panoramic views of the London skyline, which will run the length of the building. Beneath the garden level will be a restaurant and bar for guests to enjoy, as well as a creative space for exhibitions. The development is due for completion in 2019.

www.batterseapowerstation.co.uk

2019: Cricket World Cup

2019 will see England and Wales host the Cricket World Cup for the 5th time. Hosting venues include: Birmingham's Edgbaston Cricket Ground, Bristol's County Cricket Ground, Sophia gardens in Cardiff, Riverside Ground at Chester-Le-Street, Headingley in Leeds, The Oval and Lord's in London, Old Trafford in Manchester, Trent Bridge in Nottingham, Southampton's Rose Bowl, and Taunton's County Ground. The tournament will take place between May and July.

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: 300th anniversary of Gilbert White.

Most famous for *The Natural History and Antiquities of Selborne* Gilbert White is considered 'the first ecologist'. There is a dedicated visitor centre in Hampshire which celebrates the life and achievements of White.

www.gilbertwhiteshouse.org.uk/gilbert-white-2

2020: 150th anniversary of Charles Dickens's death

After Dickens's death on 9 June 1870 in Kent, he was laid to rest in the Poet's Corner of Westminster Abbey. Born in Portsmouth in 1812, he spent much of his working life in London, writing novels such as *Great Expectations* and *Oliver Twist*.

www.dickensmuseum.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.

www.mayflower400uk.com/

2020: Coast to coast canoe trail, Leeds & Liverpool Canal

The first-ever coast to coast canoe trail is currently in its early stages of development, and plans to be completed by 2020. The new trail will link Mersey to Humberside, and will connect towns and cities along the way including Wigan, Liverpool, Blackburn, Burnley, Leeds, Skipton, and Goole.

<https://canalrivertrust.org.uk>

9. Continued from 2015...

Bar Convent refurbishment, York

November

The Bar Convent in York, England's oldest working convent, is set to benefit from a £2 million pound Living Heritage Project funding. It is set to make the Bar Convent more accessible for the 21st century, visitors' expectations and needs. There will be a new two floor state-of-the-art exhibition created, telling the inspiring histories of Mary Ward and her followers, education for girls and the history of the Catholic church in England. There will be a phased opening of the new facilities in the late summer, with an official launch in October.

www.bar-convent.org.uk

2016: Stoke-on-Trent is European Capital of Sport

Stoke-on-Trent has been named the European Capital of Sport for 2016. It is three years since a city in Great Britain was awarded this title and previous recipients include Gateshead and Leicester. This destination presents a huge opportunity for the city to raise its profile, as well as make a significant impact on levels of participation in sport, public health and the city's ongoing regeneration.

www.visitstoke.co.uk/

2016: Joining of Lake District and Yorkshire Dales

The government has announced that two of England's most loved national parks, the Yorkshire Dales and the Lake District, are being extended. The Yorkshire Dales national park will expand by 24% and the Lake District by 3%, creating an almost continuous protected area of land in the north-west of England.

www.nationalparks.gov.uk