



AngloFILE

FEBRUARY 2009

PICK OF THE REGIONS:

- **Ernest Gimson and the Arts & Crafts Movement** in Leicester
- Chinese New Year: **London celebrates The Year of the Ox**
- **Snow tubing**: cheap Winter thrills in Norwich
- Room with a view: **Taunton's Five-Star Treehouse**
- **Snowdrop Weekends at Waterperry Gardens**, Oxon
- **English Lakes Hotels £10 a night** hotel giveaway
- Yorkshire National Railway Museum goes **Mad about Mumbai**
- Just how big is space? **Powers of Ten – Size of the Universe** at Wynyard Planetarium & Observatory Stockton-on-Tees
- Evolution, revolution and more at The Heart of England's **celebration of imagination**

DON'T MISS
THE NEW
Free and Easy
SECTION!

Out of the Ordinary

Quirky and unusual events around England

24 Feb: Olney Pancake Race, Olney, Buckinghamshire; **9 Feb: Hurling the silver ball** in St Ives, Cornwall; **9-16 Feb: Slaithwaite Moonraking Festival of Lanterns and Legends**, West Yorks; **Apr** (various dates): **British & World Marbles Championships**, Tinsley Green, West Sussex; **29 Mar: World Pooh Sticks Championships**, Days Lock Island, River Thames, Oxon; **Purple sausages and ground up mummies at Eye for Colour**, Bristol; **8 May**: "Dancing here, prancing there, jigging, jogging everywhere" **Helston Flora Day 2009**

2009 anniversaries

Darwin200: A nationwide programme of events is planned for 2009 to celebrate the bicentenary of the birth of Charles Darwin and the 150th anniversary of the publication of his *On The Origin of Species*.

Darwin's birthplace Shrewsbury is hosting a Darwin festival, with a wide programme already under way including **Exploring Our Green Planet; Darwin & the Darwinian Controversy; Charles Darwin and Adam Smith** and more; **until 19 April**, the Natural History Museum in London is showing rare specimens, personal objects and live animals in the biggest ever exhibition about Darwin, **Darwin: Big Idea; Big Exhibition**; Bath Royal Literary and Scientific Institution has launched a programme of more than 50 events throughout the year in **Darwin and Beyond**; and bookings are now being taken for the **Darwin 2009 Festival** in Cambridge from **5-10 July; from 13 Feb**: Darwin's home **Down House in Kent**, reopens after a major new investment programme

8-18 Apr: Henry VIII: A 500th Anniversary Exhibition, The Drawings Gallery, Windsor Castle; **8 Apr-25 Oct: Handel Reveal'd** an exhibition marking the 250th anniversary of the composer's birth, Handel House Museum in London's Mayfair; **15 Sept-18 Oct: Sir Peter Scott Anniversary Exhibition**, Nature in Art, Tewkesbury; BBC celebrates **Purcell's** 350th anniversary; concerts around the UK celebrate 200th anniversary of **Mendelssohn's birth and Haydn's death**; daily walking tours celebrate **Kew's 250th anniversary**; the **Coalbrookdale 300** exhibition opening Easter 2009 at the Coalbrookdale Gallery, near Ironbridge, Shropshire, celebrates the 300th anniversary of the Industrial Revolution

Free and Easy

A round-up of attractions that are free to enter or take part in

London – **The British Museum** in Bloomsbury; the **Science Museum**, the **Natural History Museum** and the **V&A** in South Kensington; **Tate Britain** and **Tate Modern**; **Sir John Soane's Museum**, Lincoln's Inn Fields, **The Museum of London** in the City; the **Horniman Museum** in Forest Hill; **Imperial War Museum**, Lambeth; the **Geffrye Museum** of domestic interiors – all these offer free admission to permanent collections*; **Trinity College of Music**, Greenwich, presents at least three free musical performances every week during term time; celebrating its 250th anniversary this year, the Royal Botanic Gardens, **Kew**, is offering free tours on selected dates.

Regional free attractions include:

Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery, **Lickey Hills Country Park** and **Soho House**, Birmingham; **National Media Museum**, Bradford; **Buckfast Abbey**, Buckfastleigh, Devon; **Fitzwilliam Museum**, Cambridge; **Royal Armouries Museum**, Leeds; **Doncaster Museum & Art Gallery**; **Royal Albert Memorial Museum**, Exeter; **Tate Liverpool**; **Museums Quarter**, Hull; **The Lowry**, **Imperial War Museum North**, **Central Art Gallery**, **Museum of Science & Industry** and **Whitworth Art Gallery**, Manchester; **The Ashmolean Museum of Art and Archaeology**, Oxford; **Plymouth City Museum & Art Gallery**; **Tate St Ives**; **Saltash Heritage**, Cornwall; **Southampton City Art Gallery**; **National Coal Mining Museum**, Wakefield; **National Railway Museum**, York

*There may be a charge for special exhibitions

Exhibitions & Events

What's on around the country

Marking the 50th anniversary of Alec Issigonis' revolutionary design, 2009 will be the **Year of the Mini** at the Heritage Motor Centre in Gaydon, Warwickshire; **13-21 Feb: animated Exeter** celebrates its tenth anniversary; **until 15 Feb:** see fox-furred Grandma and all the Giles characters in **Giles: One of the Family**, the Cartoon Museum, London; **18-22 Feb:** the Vikings return to York for the **JORVIK Viking Festival 2009**; **14 Jan-14 Mar: Ananta**, a futuristic vision of the Hindu religion and spirituality through digital animations and robot-like sculptures; **Until 17 May:** London's Design Museum is currently showcasing the work of **Hussein Chalayan**, twice named British Designer of the Year; **Until 14 Feb: Cat and Mouse**, a new play at the B2 Space Belgrade Theatre Coventry, forming part of the city's Holocaust Memorial Day; **30 Jan-27 Mar: Treasures from Shanghai: ancient Chinese bronzes and jades**, British Museum, free entry; **31 Jan-13 Apr: Andrea Palladio: His Life and Legacy** at the Royal Academy in Piccadilly celebrates the quincentenary of the birth of the great Italian architect; **3 Feb-26 Apr: Altermodern**, the fourth Tate Triennial, Tate Britain; **6 Feb-19 Apr: On the Surface: Contemporary Ceramics** will feature the work of six artists at Blackwell Arts & Crafts House in Cumbria; **19 Feb-24 May: Le Corbusier – The Art of Architecture**, Barbican, London; **19 Feb-14 June: Shah 'Abbas: The Remaking of Iran** – 17th century Iran through the reign and legacy of one of its most influential rulers – British Museum; **20-25 Feb: London Fashion Week**; **28 Feb-8 Mar: Bath Literature Festival**; **4 Mar-31 May: Paintings of Venice by Walter Sickert**, the Dulwich

Picture Gallery in south-east London; **12-15 Mar: Windsor Festival Spring Weekend**

Attractions

New **Theatre and Performance galleries** dedicated to the performing arts will open at the V&A in March to display works from the V&A's large and diverse theatre collections; a re-created Elizabethan garden will open this spring at **Kenilworth Castle**, near Coventry; the **Whitechapel Gallery** in London's East End will reopen in April and will be almost doubled in size; **Life, Love & Legacy: A New Introduction to William Shakespeare** is the centerpiece of a new exhibition and visitor centre opening in April at the Bard's birthplace in Stratford-upon-Avon; **Greenway**, the country home of author Agatha Christie on the banks of the Dart in Devon, is opening to the public early in 2009; to be run by Opera North, the **Howard Assembly Room** in Leeds is opening to the public for the first time in over 30 years; the London home of Kenyan born poet **Khadambi Asalache**, a writer and artist, has been left to the National Trust; **until 25 March**: experience the Tower of London after visitors leave by taking a **twilight tour** on Wednesdays; **28 Mar: War Horse**, the award-winning production based on Michael Morpurgo's novel, opens at the New London Theatre; **4 April-19 July: Baroque 1620-1800: Style in the Age of Magnificence** opens at London's V&A on 4 April; **Lindow Man: A Bog Body Mystery at the University of Manchester**

Food & Drink

29-31 Jan: Bent & Bongs Beer Bash (Atherton Beer & Winter Ales Festival), Manchester; **11-13 Feb: 19th Battersea Beer Festival**; **20-28 Feb: Rye Bay Scallop Festival**; Oz Clarke and James May discover the amazing array of drinks on offer as they travel through Britain in new BBC2 series **Oz and James Drink to Britain**; all about **brewery tours** from enjoyEngland; prepare for Valentine's Day at **London's most romantic restaurants** from squaremeal.co.uk

Short Breaks, Activities & Destinations

Camping and Caravanning Club sites scoop top accolades; **The National Trust** has appointed walking and activity holiday specialist **HF Holidays** to offer holidays to its 3.5 million members via the HF's Holiday Collection; the new Great Rail Journeys

seven-day **Yorkshire Moors & the Lake District** tour includes trips on the North Yorkshire Moors Railway, the Lakeside and Haverthwaite Railway, a Lake Windermere boat trip and trips on the Settle to Carlisle and Cumbrian Coast railways; **Woolacombe Bay Holiday Parks** in North Devon is offering savings of up to 30% on early season holidays and short breaks taken between 30 May and 24 July, if booked before 28 February; experience new Adventure Days in 2009 with family activity holiday specialist **PGL**; two night breaks with late checkout are now available from **Helpful Holidays**; stay three nights for the price of two at a wide range of hotels in the **New Forest**; Oxford's North Wall Arts Centre has launched a new **spring programme**, featuring contemporary theatre, music and dance; Greenfield Forest in the Yorkshire Dales has been declared England's newest **red squirrel reserve**; Bristol has been selected as one of the world's **Top 10 Cities for 2009** by guidebook publisher DK Eyewitness; **Walk the Thames Path for charity** in May

Destination of the month

Accommodation & New Openings

The **WD Guesthouse**, operated by fashion house Weardowney, offers boutique accommodation in friendly surroundings in London's fashionable Marylebone; Travelodge is offering rooms at **£19 per night** during the summer months; special accommodation offers from **Shepherd Neame**; Premier Inn is to build a **Floatel** (floating budget hotel) in Hartlepool Marina during 2009; the Five-Star **Egerton House Hotel** in Knightsbridge is offering a package giving access to all major exhibitions at the V&A, including the current **Magnificence of the Tsars**; at **Crowne Plaza** hotels, guests now receive a phone call telling them it's time to go to bed; **Rockliffe Hall** golf and luxury spa hotel opens in late 2009 at Hurworth Village, near Darlington; The luxury Four-Star **Radisson Edwardian** in Bloomsbury has undergone a £25m transformation and in January relaunches as the Radisson Edwardian Bloomsbury Street Hotel; **The Sail Lofts** is a new Five-Star self-catering development of 12 luxury apartments in St Ives, Cornwall; YHA to open new properties in **Southeast and Eastbourne**, East Sussex and **Berwick**, Northumberland

Books & Websites

Museums and Galleries of London, Metro Publications, £8.99; The Rough Guide to **Walks in London & South East England**, by Helena Smith, £8.39; **Vegetarian**

Visitor – where to stay and eat vegetarian in Britain, Annemarie Weitzel, £2.50;
IMAX has launched a website for its newest underwater production, **Under The Sea 3D**, which opens in the UK on 13 Feb; **eleven regional food trails** from Farmhouse Breakfast; download a list of major events in 2009 in the **East of England**; **Oz and James Drink to Britain**, the DVD, is released on 2 March, BBC Books, £16.55; a new website offers **low-price excess insurance** for car hire

Diary Dates

26-29 Mar 2009: Best of Britain & Ireland (formerly BTTF), ExCel, London

News from enjoyEngland

Ten money saving ideas from enjoyEngland

Half term ideas from from enjoyEngland

Alternative Valentine's Day ideas from enjoyEngland

From the best B&B breakfast to the funniest place in England: **share your ideas** about England's hidden gems, **vote** for the perfect English holiday

Take part in the **enjoyEngland occupancy survey** before 28 February and win a weekend break for two

Download vouchers for **enjoyEngland's winter attraction sale**

Tickets, trips and special offers from **EnjoyEngland Direct**