



AngloFILE

MARCH 2009

PICK OF THE REGIONS:

- **Visiting the Victorians** at Liverpool's Speke Hall
- **Fabulous 'twofers'** from VisitLondon
- **Lord Nelson** joins Hampshire's Watercress Line
- **Lambing time** at Wimpole Hole Farm, near Cambridge
- **Name the T Rex** at Hancock's new Great North Museum
- Lincolnshire celebrates **Tennyson's 200th anniversary**
- Inside **Agatha Christie's Greenway House** in Devon
- Saving stained glass at **York Minster's new glaziers' studio**
- Underwater romance at **Birmingham's National Seal Life Centre**

DON'T MISS
THE NEW
Free and Easy
SECTION!

Out of the Ordinary

Quirky and unusual events around England

Opening 14 Mar: it may not be U2, but the EDGE at **Paultons Park** will give you the thrill of a lifetime; **13 Apr: World Coal Carrying Championship**, Gawthorpe, W Yorks; **1-4 May: Jack in the Green**, a festival of morris dancing and other traditional dance in Hastings; **3 May: Eel Day**, Ely, Cambridgeshire; Ever wondered where your liver lives? Or tested how good you are at balancing? Visit **Lifeworks - The Human Body** at Peterborough Museum

Exhibitions & Events

What's on around the country

Until 22 Mar: [Simply Madonna](#), the world's largest private collection of Madonna's stage and film clothing and artefacts, Old Truman Brewery, East London; **5-10 Mar:** celebrate East London's rich cultural history with the Mayor's **[EAST 2009 Festival](#)** and lots of events and activities at **[Museum of London](#)** and **[Museum of London Docklands](#)**; **5 Mar-14 June: [Constable Portraits: The Painter and His Circle](#)**, National Portrait Gallery, London; **6-8 Mar: [Aldeburgh Literary Festival](#)**, Suffolk; **6-15 Mar: [National Science & Engineering Week](#)**, various events and venues; workshops, experiments and shows for all the family at the **[Newcastle Science Fest](#)**; the **[Royal Observatory](#)** at Greenwich celebrates the **[International Year of Astronomy](#)** with Mars-themed events; **7 Mar: [Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths \(STEM\) Fair](#)**, Enginuity, near Ironbridge, Shropshire; **12-15 Mar: 40th [Windsor Festival Spring Weekend](#)**; **14-15 Mar: [Light Fantastic](#)** at Amberley Museum & Heritage Centre, Arundel, W Sussex; **20-23 Mar: [Florimania](#)**, a pageant of floral displays in the Tudor State Apartments, Hampton Court Palace; **22 Mar: [Creepy Crawlies Day](#)** at Drusillas Park Zoo, Alfriston E Sussex; **22 Mar-2 May: [Crimes of passion: Street Art in Bristol](#)**, Royal West of England Academy, Bristol; **4 Apr-19 July: [Baroque 1620-1800: Style in the Age of Magnificence](#)** V&A, South Kensington; **9 Apr:** see the first British Concorde at the **[Fleet Air Arm Museum](#)** celebrating the 40th anniversary of the aircraft's first flight; **24 Apr-4 May: Tulip Festival at [Pashley Manor](#)**, near Wadhurst, E Sussex

Mother's Day

Something different for mother on her special day

22 Mar: events and activities with the **[National Trust](#)**; lunch on the Orient-Express **[British Pullman](#)** while travelling through the English countryside; taking a llama walk at **[Ashdown Forest Llama Park](#)**;

joining the **Mississippi Paddle Steamer *Dixie Queen*** for a cruise down the Thames, backed by a New Orleans jazz band; free entry for mothers at **Barleylands** educational farm and craft village, Billericay, Essex; contact **Wahanda** for spa treatment discounts at locations throughout the country; see the capital from the air in a **Helicopter Tour over London for Two**; treat her to a **Super Model Make Over & Photo Shoot**; **Mother and Daughter Pamper Day** available from lastminute.com at 250 UK locations; give her a **Harrods Shopping Experience** with guided tour, lunch at LaDuree, a gift, manicure or pedicure and £100 to spend; all mums will travel free at **Cleethorpes Coast Light Railway** on Mother's Day; Mother's Day lunch at **Spring Barn Farm**, Lewes; more **Mother's Day ideas from enjoyEngland**

Free and Easy

A round-up of events and attractions that are free to enjoy

London – **7 March: Be a Pearly King or Queen for a day** at Museum of London Docklands; **Conservation in Action, 11 March, 8 April**, 15.00, Museum of London; **Women making history, 8 March**, a day of discussion, film and music at the Museum of London Docklands; silver jubilee at Redwings Horse Sanctuary, including **Ada Cole Rescue Stables**, Essex, **Caldecott Visitor Centre** (reopens **28 Mar**), Norfolk, and **Oxhill Rescue Centre**, Warwickshire; **From 21 March**: Astro Camp-out, Persieds Shower and Voyage to the Outer Planets is among a series of events, mostly free, hosted by **Exmoor National Park** to celebrate the International Year of Astronomy; **23-26 Apr: Shakespeare Birthday Celebrations**, Stratford-upon-Avon; **Shrewsbury International Cartoon Festival**, most events free; for free and 'twofer' offers at Alton Towers, Cadbury World, the Heritage Motor Centre, National Sea Life Centre, Warwick Castle and more, go to the **Heart of England** website; Bristol – guided tour of **Clifton Suspension Bridge**, free for pedestrians; Visit the **Celebration of Imagination 2009** website for details of free entry to **Coalbrooke 300 Exhibition**; the **Heritage Motor Centre**; **Dr Johnson's Birthday Celebrations**; **Mathew Boulton – Birmingham**; and all **Soho House** events; **Travelodge's** money too tight to mention

listing of free attractions for kids throughout the UK; top ten 'twoofers' from the **Heart of England**

Attractions

Blists Hill Victorian Town reopens in spring following a £12m development and will be hosting **St David's Day Activities** on **1 March**; Opening **9 Mar** at The O2, the **British Music Experience** is dedicated to the history of popular music in Britain; learn from the past how to make better use of limited resources at **Waste Not, Want Not**, at the Museum of Brands, Packaging and Advertising in London's Notting Hill; **until 10 May: Treasures of the Black Death** at The Wallace Collection; **28 Mar-1 Nov: Wallace & Gromit present A World of Cracking Ideas**, Science Museum, London; **May-Oct: Indian Summer**, a season of exhibitions, installations, performances, lectures and film screenings dedicated to Indian culture, British Museum; **22-26 Apr** 'the best place to buy prints' **London Original Print Fair 2009**; **Mar-Jun**: Morris dancing, stressless recliners and a wizard week at **Powderham Castle** in Exeter (pdf); **23 Apr-6 Sept: Henry VIII – Man and Monarch** celebrates the 500th anniversary of the king's accession to the throne, British Library; this season's events at **Knebworth** in Stevenage include jousting on **12-13 Apr**, the **Hertfordshire Garden Show** on **2-4 May** and the **SALVO Fair** of salvaged architectural decorative items on **27-28 June**; opening at Easter, **Finchcocks Musical Museum** at Goudhurst in Kent features more than 100 historical keyboard instruments and a full programme of musical events; **Ragley Hall** in Warwickshire will be hosting events focusing on a different feature of the gardens throughout the year; as a result of the **Transformation** project, the Leeds Grand Theatre has reopened and Opera North now has a permanent home in the city; opening in spring, the **Great North Museum** in Newcastle will feature two venues, the Great North Museum: Hancock and the Hatton Gallery

Short Breaks, Activities & Destinations

Specialist walking holidays company HF Holidays has launched its **Family Outdoor Holidays 2009** brochure; Great deals and special offers from **Woolacombe Bay Holiday Parks**; to coincide with the new in-the-round production of **Carmen at the Royal Albert Hall** from 26 Feb-8 Mar, **The Milestone Hotel** in Kensington Court is offering a luxury **Carmen Experience** package including tickets for two, champagne, dinner and B&B from £490-£1,104; the Night Riviera Sleeper operated by First Great Western now features **on-demand TV for passengers** in sleeping berths; special deals in March from **Yorkshire Cottages**; **Lakeland Camping Barns** offer self-catering accommodation from £7 per person per night and have introduced maps for great walking routes between selected barns; marking the 250th anniversary of Handel's, HF Holidays is holding a **Chanteuses – Women Only** twin-share break at Conistonwater in the Lake District, including the composer's songs for upper and middle voices – at a cost of £319 for four nights' full-board accommodation, guidance and tuition; Travelodge is offering rooms at **£19 per night** for advance bookings; **Potters Leisure Resort** on the border of Norfolk and Suffolk has added a video tour to its website and will be hosting Paul Merton and friends in March; **30 Apr-8 May: North Devon and Exmoor Walking Festival**

EnjoyEngland Destination of the Month

Accommodation & New Openings

Shrewsbury now has a new theatre, **The Severn**, which opened in February; the £28m **Great North Museum** opens in Newcastle upon Tyne in April; opening in spring, the £300m **Gloucester Quays** development features designer shopping with more than 100 outlets, waterfront bars, cafés, restaurants, leisure facilities and two hotels; scheduled for completion in September, the £78m **Darwin Centre** at London's Natural History Museum will include the David Attenborough Studio, featuring excellence in science communication; the **Outchester**

Ducket at Belford in Northumberland is an 18th-century dovecote that has been converted into a Five-Star, five-storey holiday home; once a top-secret defence establishment, the Four-Star art deco **Portland Spa Hotel & Conference Centre** has opened in a clifftop location in Dorset overlooking the English Channel; the £4m spa development at **Armathwaite Hall**, near Keswick, Cumbria, has now been completed; Bowood – the Wiltshire home to the descendants of the 1st Earl of Shelburne and the 1st Marquess of Lansdowne since 1754 – opens its new 43-bedroom **Bowood Hotel & Spa** in May; **Brockholes Farm** will reopen at Easter as Yorkshire Wildlife Park; **Jurys Inn Sheffield** is celebrating its opening with the offer of rooms from £49 a night

Food & Drink

6-7 Mar: Feast East, Tastes of Anglia's 13th annual food and drink festival; **14 Mar: Sussex Beer and Cider Festival**, Hove Town Hall, East Sussex; **15 Mar: Local Produce Market, Ashdown Forest Llama Park**, Forest Row, E Sussex; **19-21 Mar: Booze on the Ouse**, St Neot's Beer Festival, Cambridgeshire

Books & Websites

Walking in the Isles of Scilly, Cicerone, £10

Walking in the Thames Valley, Cicerone, £12

Yorkshire Accommodation guide 2009

Manchester Irish Festival 2009 programme

East of England Tourism (EET) has launched a new group travel and educational visits website

Eat East, an online guide to the best of food and drink in the East of England

Diary Dates

5-8 Mar: Crufts, NEC Birmingham

6-8 Mar: Move it Dance, London Olympia

13-15 Mar: National Wedding Show, NEC Birmingham
19-22 Mar: Stitch & Craft Show, London Olympia Two
20 Mar-13 Apr: Ideal Home Show, London Earls Court
26-29 Mar 2009: Best of Britain & Ireland (formerly BTTF),
ExCel, London
17-19 Apr: The Gadget Show Live, NEC Birmingham

News from enjoyEngland

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

Tickets, trips and special offers from [EnjoyEngland Direct](#)

The [England Awards for Excellence 2009](#) sponsored by the Caravan Club will be announced on St George's Day, 23 April, at York's world-class attraction, The National Railway Museum

Best Tourism Experience national finalists

Small Visitor Attraction of the Year national finalists

Large Visitor Attraction of the Year national finalists

Access for All national finalists

Large Hotel of the Year national finalists

Hotel of the Year national finalists

Caravan Holiday Park of the Year national finalists

Self Catering Holiday of the Year national finalists

Bed and Breakfast of the Year national finalists

Business Tourism Award national finalists

Tourist Information Service of the Year national finalists;

Sustainable Tourism Award national finalists

Taste of England Award national finalists

Outstanding Customer Service Award national finalists

Best Website of the Year national finalists