



National Trust news

An update from the Wiltshire Landscape team

Easter

As you know, Easter is one of our busiest time of year.

We're keeping our fingers crossed that the weather holds, so that people can enjoy Avebury and its landscape at its very best.

This year our Cadbury Easter Egg Hunt will take place in Avebury Manor Garden throughout the holidays, while in the Old Farmyard there'll be '50 Things to do before you're 11¾' on various days, which will encourage children to engage with nature.

Avebury Chapel

Work is ongoing at the chapel. As often happens, once the work starts then the need for further work is discovered, so it's taken a little longer than expected.

But the roof is now sound, the repairs to the windows and floor are done and we are starting to get some information boards made. We're planning to open for the Easter weekend so that people can see the progress so far. We will further develop the offer inside the chapel throughout the year. Do pop in and have a look.



Photo: ©National Trust / Emma Weston

Spring is in the air

Thank goodness - Spring is here at last! The last few days have been particularly beautiful, sunny and warm. We've noticed a few more people exploring the henge, the café has been busy and everyone is smiling. This weekend the clocks change, which heralds the start of our summer opening times. On Sunday 31 March our opening times change across the property to reflect the longer afternoons; the new times can be found on the Avebury website (www.nationaltrust.org.uk).

We have an exciting programme ahead with regular events such as the Trust10 run on the fourth Sunday of every month, Dressing Mrs Dunch in the manor, Gardener's Question Time resumes once a month in the garden (next one is on 26 April) and the regular archaeology walks resume, the first one 'East of Avebury' being on 28 April.

Shop refit

As some of you will have seen at the relaunch event, the National Trust shop has been refurbished and looks beautifully fresh and enticing with clean lines and a wonderful range. We are particularly excited to show off the new 'Sutton Lane Meadows' range, including bags and scarves and homeware. The designs for these products are inspired by some traditional wild-flower meadows that our team look after near Chippenham.



Avebury Manor garden wall fundraising

Visitors to the manor and to St James' Church may have noticed the sorry state of the thatch that tops the boundary wall between them.

This year we have launched a multi-pronged approach to raise the £20,000 funds that we need to repair the thatch so that the wall is protected for future generations:

- We're encouraging people to donate online through our appeal page which can be found on the Avebury website (scroll to the bottom).
- We're raising funds through the annual raffle sale in front of the wall in the Monk's Garden.
- We're encouraging people to 'Walk for the wall' through the Wiltshire Landscape Walking Challenge.

If you would be willing to help, we'd really appreciate volunteers to spend an afternoon or two selling raffle tickets in the manor garden, please get in touch with fraser.normington@nationaltrust.org.uk if you think you can help.



Still digging

From 29 April there will be a new exhibition in the Barn Gallery which will replace the 'Women in archaeology at Avebury' exhibition (which is going to be on public display at Bournemouth University later in the year).

'Still Digging' will show the work and results of the last 20 years of excavations at Avebury. Do come along and have a look; remember that Avebury residents have free entry.

Cobblestones second-hand books has been running for a year now and feedback has been fantastic. Thank you for all your support and book donations.

What's happening in Food and Beverage?

Our Food and Beverage team is busy getting our three outlets ready for the peak season. Having the right team in place is crucial for their smooth operation. We are still looking for new members of staff to join our busy team – please contact toby.waite@nationaltrust.org.uk for more information.

Pop-up café: This continues to serve a great range of food, despite the difficulties of working from a tiny kitchen. The overflow space in the barn is working well and is offering visitors with dogs somewhere dry to sit in rainy weather.

Avebury Manor Tea-room: The tea-room will be opening within the next couple of weeks for delicious afternoon teas.

This will be a quintessentially English style treat for visitors to Avebury Manor.

The Coach House Café: Well, ironic as it seems, earlier this year, during the very icy period, a coach slid backwards into the wall of the Coach House courtyard, causing significant damage. Repairs will be carried out in early April and we hope to open the Coach House Cafe to visitors soon after that.

In the meantime, work is progressing on the new Circles Café, although patience has been the name of the game as changes to any building within a World Heritage Site and Scheduled Monument need to be considered long and carefully. However, the planning application is about to be submitted and, subject to permissions, we hope to start work in summer.