

Update from the National Trust – May 2022

Visitor operations

- We have experienced severe issues with the drainage system of our visitor toilets. We are currently overcoming these with a temporary overground pipe between the manholes near the Farmyard and the Estate Office. This is a temporary solution whilst we explore long-term options.
- We have had some thefts from cars in our main visitor car park and are working with the Police on addressing the issue.
- The restaurant is now open 6 days/week and only closed Tuesdays. As soon as we are able to recruit additional staff, we will go back to a 7 day/week opening.

Programming

- Easter half-term and the four Easter days were busy, but quieter than in pre-pandemic years.
- Trust10: our monthly 10k run, has successfully re-started on Sunday 24 April, and is taking place every fourth Sunday of the month until October, at 9am, starting next to Elements of Avebury.
- May bank holiday weekend, Saturday 30 April – Monday 2 May: we will have additional parking in the Manor parkland (to compensate for loss of overflow car park due to Beltane camping) but will not be running any specific events/activities on the weekend.
- Platinum Jubilee, Thursday 2 June: Beacon lighting event together with local community and church (6.30pm Service, followed by gathering in Social Centre hosted by WI, 8.30pm walk to Waden Hill, 9.45pm beacon lighting on Waden Hill).
- Lost Tours: we will soon be starting tours of the attic rooms in the manor that are currently not open to the public. Volunteer training for the tours has started and we hope to be able to offer the tours to the public by June.

For our full offer and opening times please visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk/avebury

Observances

- Next camping provision in our overflow car park is Beltane; from Friday 29 April to Sunday 1 May.
- Summer Solstice planning is ongoing in cooperation with relevant stakeholders, including ASOPM (Avebury Solstice Operational Planning Meetings) and ASSF (Avebury Sacred Sites Forum).

Avebury Chapel

- The lease for Avebury Chapel to APC is expected to commence on 1 May 2022 on a 3-year term, for the use of the building as an exhibition space for local organisations under the overarching theme of 'The Living Landscape'.

Projects

- **Interpretation panels:** The interpretation panels on the visitor route from the main car park have been installed and have received very positive visitor feedback so far. Unfortunately, the panels have already been subject to vandalism and will require replacement in due course.
- **Manor ceiling works:** We will soon be carrying out a detailed survey and repair/stabilisation works to the ceiling in the Manor Kitchen. Similar to previous works done in the attic rooms, we will be lifting and 'excavating' under the floorboards above the Kitchen and expect to discover some interesting finds, that might tell us more about the history of the house.

Countryside & Archaeology update

- No news this month.

28/04/2022