



Visit**England** ™

What's On in England, 2012

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## January

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### **A Room for London**

**1 January – 31 December**

There can be few places to stay a night in London quite as unusual, poetic and life-enhancing as Living Architecture's newest project: a 'boat' perched on the very edge of the Queen Elizabeth Hall. A Room for London will be available to rent by the night from 1 January to 31 December 2012, allowing up to two guests at a time the chance to spend a unique night in an exemplary work of architecture overlooking London.

[www.livingarchitecture.co.uk](http://www.livingarchitecture.co.uk)

### **Dickens on Film**

**January**

**BFI Southbank London, and other venues**

Dickens on Film will be the largest retrospective ever staged of film and TV works based on or inspired by Charles Dickens. The three-month season will premier at the BFI Southbank in January before embarking on a national and international tour

[www.dickens2012.org](http://www.dickens2012.org)

### **Film Release: War Horse**

**13 January**

**Nationwide**

Much of Steven Spielberg's latest film, about a boy who goes in search of his horse when it is sent to France during World War I, was shot in Castle Combe, Wiltshire. Some of the cast and crew even stayed in a popular nearby B&B – Fosse Farmhouse.

[www.warhorsemovie.co.uk](http://www.warhorsemovie.co.uk)

### **Bond in Motion: 50 Vehicles, 50 Years**

**17 January – 30 December**

**The National Motor Museum, Beaulieu**

This exhibition – the largest of its kind staged anywhere in the world – will showcase 50 of the best loved and most iconic James Bond vehicles in celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> year of 007 films. Bond in Motion will feature a whole range of vehicles that have appeared in Bond films over the years including cars, boats, motorbikes, sleds, jets and many more. 2012 also marks the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the world-famous National Motor Museum, a fitting year to be hosting a major new car exhibition.

[www.beaulieu.co.uk](http://www.beaulieu.co.uk)

### **David Hockney: A Bigger Picture**

**21 January – 9 April**

**Royal Academy, London**

In January 2012 the Royal Academy of Arts will showcase the first major exhibition of new landscape works by David Hockney RA. Featuring vivid paintings inspired by the East Yorkshire landscape, these large-scale works have been created especially for the galleries at the Royal Academy of Arts. 'David Hockney: A Bigger Picture' will span a 50 year period to demonstrate Hockney's long exploration and fascination with the depiction of landscape. The exhibition will include a display of his iPad drawings and a series of new films produced using 18 cameras, which will be displayed on multiple screens and which will

provide a spellbinding visual journey through the eyes of David Hockney.  
[www.royalacademy.org.uk](http://www.royalacademy.org.uk)

### **Turner and his Contemporaries: The Hickman Bacon Watercolour Collection**

**12 January - 14 April**

#### **Abbot Hall Art Gallery, Kendal, Cumbria**

Abbot Hall Art Gallery, Kendal, Cumbria, will be exhibiting more than 40 outstanding works from the magnificent collection assembled by Sir Hickman Bacon almost one hundred years ago, one of the most important private holdings of British 18th and 19th century watercolours in the world. At the centre of the show will be the towering figure of JMW Turner who, pushed to ever greater heights through his association with his contemporary, Thomas Girtin, transformed the medium and raised the humble watercolour to a technical and aesthetic level previously unimaginable. Book ending the exhibition will be atmospheric and exquisitely modulated works by other exceptional innovators, including John Robert Cozens and John Sell Cotman, many of whom were neglected at the time that the astute Sir Hickman Bacon acquired their watercolours but who are now recognised as true masters of the art. Abbot Hall, which itself possesses a fine collection of Lake District watercolours, is a fitting venue for what promises to be a beautiful and inspiring show.

[www.abbothall.org.uk](http://www.abbothall.org.uk)

### **The Haxey Hood**

**6 January**

#### **Haxey, near Epworth, North Lincolnshire**

Without doubt one of the oldest local traditions in England, probably dating back to the 14th century, the Haxey Hood takes place on January 6th each year at Haxey, on the Southern border of the Isle of Axholme, in North Lincolnshire. Every January, the parish of Haxey goes a little crazy for the day. Proceedings are launched by the Fool from his stone in front of Haxey Parish Church, usually around 2.30pm. He then leads the crowd up the hill for games for the children and the start of the main game at 3.30pm. The Hood, a long leather cylinder, is thrown into the air to launch the proceedings. When it falls the participants (regulars from the local public houses) swarm around it and attempt to sway the hood out of the field, through the streets and back to their favourite hostelry for a celebration and the honour of holding it for the coming year. The game is refereed by the Lord of the Hood, helped by his Chief Boggin both dressed in scarlet hunting coats and hats decorated with flowers and plumes. The ceremonial Fool, and a bunch of Boggins in red sweaters keep order.

[www.visitlincolnshire.com/towns-and-villages/haxey-p154231](http://www.visitlincolnshire.com/towns-and-villages/haxey-p154231)

### **500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Katherine Parr**

**Throughout 2012**

#### **Sudeley Castle, Cheltenham**

A year-long historic, literary and musical event to celebrate the life of Tudor Queen Katherine Parr, who lived, died and is entombed at Sudeley Castle. The castle and the neighbouring village of Winchcombe will hold year-long celebrations that include family days of archery and falconry, Tudor banquets and even a re-enactment of Katherine Parr's funeral. At its heart of the event will lie a special Katherine Parr exhibition, featuring items from the castle's own collection, as well as several other pieces on loan from other national and historic collections. A new interpretive film, featuring world famous historian Dr David Starkey will guide visitors around parts of the castle never previously seen. Ticketed events will include the opportunity to enjoy afternoon tea with Lady Ashcombe and specially invited guests.

[www.sudeleycastle.co.uk](http://www.sudeleycastle.co.uk)

### **Witch Trials 400th Anniversary (1612 – 2012)**

**Throughout 2012**

#### **Lancashire**

A county-wide initiative to mark the 400th Anniversary of the Lancashire Witch Trails throws light on the hysteria that swept Lancashire in 1612 and made convicted 'witches' of a group of ordinary countrywomen from Pendle. Accusations of deadly spells and witches sabbats, followed by their exhausting journey across the wilds of rural Lancashire to the gaol of Lancaster Castle and the final gallows; it's a tale that locals discuss to this day and in 2012 will rekindle interest in the dramatic landscape, picturesque villages and folklore that surrounds England's most famous witch hunt. Artworks, touring theatre, the Walking with Witches Trail, castle tours and events throughout the year, will highlight this 400th anniversary and reintroduce new generations to one of the most talked about and extraordinary episodes in English history.

[www.visitlancashire.com/witches2012](http://www.visitlancashire.com/witches2012)

### **Turner and the Elements**

**28 January – 13 May**

#### **Turner Contemporary, Margate**

Turner and the Elements explores the important role that the depiction of the elements played in Turner's landscape watercolours and paintings. The exhibition brings together 95 works; over 80 watercolours and 12 late oil paintings, many from the Tate collection. Turner's innovative painting technique and the influence of scientific and technological developments during his lifetime were to revolutionise landscape painting. Today, nearly two centuries since Turner's visits to Margate, see first-hand how his dynamic concept of landscape, unconventional use of colour and near abstract watercolours and paintings secured his place as the artist of the elements and the founder of modern landscape painting.

[www.turnercontemporary.org](http://www.turnercontemporary.org)

## **February**

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### **Dickens' Bicentenary**

**7 February**

#### **Nationwide**

Dickens 2012 is an international celebration of the life and work of Charles Dickens, which will take place to mark the bicentenary of his birth. A number of international institutions and organisations are partners of Dickens 2012 who work together to deliver a programme of events and activities to commemorate this very special anniversary. Celebrations in Portsmouth include toast and wreath-laying, period entertainment, costume and market stalls, and a performance by Simon Callow in aid of the Charles Dickens Statue Fund.

<http://www.dickens2012.org/>

### **The Queen: Sixty Photographs for Sixty Years**

**4 February – January 2013**

#### **The Drawings Gallery, Windsor Castle**

Sixty photographs of The Queen, including the work of leading press photographers of the past six decades, will go on display at Windsor Castle to celebrate Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee. The exhibition presents a portrait of The Queen's reign as captured in fleeting moments on both official occasions and at relaxed family gatherings. With the advent of photography, the

boundaries between the officially approved and the spontaneously captured image of the monarch were irreversibly blurred. Today, through the reach of modern media, the image of Her Majesty is familiar to millions around the world. Most of the exhibition *The Queen: Sixty Photographs for Sixty Years* has been selected from photographs submitted by the Royal Rota photographic organisations.  
[www.royalcollection.org.uk](http://www.royalcollection.org.uk)

## **Record Breakers**

**11 February – 2 September**

### **The Heritage Motor Centre Shakespeare Country, Warwickshire**

In 2012 the Heritage Motor Centre will be celebrating the Best of British Record Breakers in a new exhibition opening mid-February and running to the end of the summer 2012. The Record Breakers exhibition will highlight many of Britain's motoring record breakers from the fastest British car like the 1957 MG EX181 - still the fastest MG in the world at 254.9mph, driven by Stirling Moss and later Phil Hill - to things like the smallest, the most economical, the most produced, along with a some rather more whacky British motoring record breakers as well. There will be family activities and a children's quiz running for the duration of the exhibition.

[www.heritage-motor-centre.co.uk](http://www.heritage-motor-centre.co.uk)

## **Exhibition 'And thereby hangs a tale'**

**1 February – 28 October**

### **Shakespeare Country, Warwickshire**

So, where was Shakespeare married? The lack of evidence creates a mystery and adds to the mythology of Shakespeare. We've gone back to the original sources to find out what we can prove for certain, what we can surmise and what commonly retold 'facts' are actually complete fiction. That story is explained in the exhibition.

[www.visitchurches.com/shakespeare](http://www.visitchurches.com/shakespeare)

## **Olney Pancake Race**

**21 February**

### **Market Place, Olney, Buckinghamshire MK46 4EF**

The unique Olney Pancake Race literally stops traffic as energetic local men and women in traditional housewife attire (including skirt, apron and scarf), run through the streets of Olney with their frying pans and pancakes. The 415-yard dash is run from The Bull Hotel in the Market Place to the Parish Church of St. Peter and St Paul in Church Lane. The race is started by the church warden at 11.55am, using a large bronze 'Pancake Bell.' Pancakes are tossed at the start of the race and the winner is required to toss his or her pancake again at the finish. The race has been run since around 1445 and since 1950, the contest has been an international event between Olney and the town of Liberal, Kansas in America. The race is run on a timed basis and the winner is declared after times are compared through a transatlantic telephone call from Liberal to Olney.

<http://www.olneytowncouncil.gov.uk/38/>

## **Husky Racing**

**18 – 19 February**

### **Grimsthorpe Castle, Lincolnshire**

Over the Husky Racing weekend, the parkland surrounding Grimsthorpe, built for a visit by Henry VIII in 1541, will host 400 dogs competing along a timed route, pulling sleds and their owners. The imposing country house sits amongst rolling

countryside surrounded by formal gardens, extensive woodland and a 50-acre lake, providing a stunning setting for the race.  
<http://www.grimsthorpe.co.uk>

### **Cecil Beaton's Royal Portraits: A Diamond Jubilee Celebration**

**8 February – 22 April**

**Victoria and Albert Museum, London**

To celebrate Her Majesty the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, the V&A is putting together an exhibition of 60 photographs by royal photographer, Cecil Beaton (1904-1980), depicting the Queen and the Royal Family both at home and on official occasions. Presenting highlights of the V&A's archive of royal portraits by Beaton, the exhibition will show elegant and highly-staged photographs such as Queen Elizabeth II in Coronation Robes (1953) alongside charming and informal moments, including an intimate portrait of Princess Elizabeth in 1950 with the newly born Princess Anne. The exhibition will examine Beaton's working methods, styles and approaches and includes accounts from his personal diaries which reveal details of many sittings.  
<http://www.vam.ac.uk/content/exhibitions/cecilbeaton/>

## **March**

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### **Titanic Remembered**

**8 March – 30 September**

**National Maritime Museum, Greenwich**

The National Maritime Museum will commemorate the centenary of the sinking of the RMS Titanic with an exhibition highlighting the stories of some of those who survived the disaster. On display for the first time will be poignant letters, photographs and personal objects gathered by Walter Lord while researching his definitive 1955 book, *A Night to Remember*, which was made into the 1958 feature film of the same name.  
[www.nmm.ac.uk](http://www.nmm.ac.uk)

### **Jerwood Gallery opens**

**17 March**

**Hastings, East Sussex**

The Jerwood Gallery is an exciting project to create a permanent home for the Jerwood Art Collection, and a new regional Venue for the Jerwood Visual Arts programme programme on the Stade in Hastings. The building will be purpose-built to create the best possible environment for experiencing art, with a design that responds sensitively and creatively to the unique site on the Stade, and engineered to be as environmentally efficient as possible, with CO2 emissions of around 40% compared to a standard gallery design.  
<http://www.jerwoodgallery.org/>

### **World Pooh Sticks Championships**

**22 – 27 March**

**Days Lock, Little Wittenham, Oxfordshire**

When Winnie the Pooh and Christopher Robin first dropped a handful of sticks from a bridge into a stream and rushed to the other side to see which came under first, who would have imagined this would start an annual tradition? The 27th annual World Pooh Sticks Championships organised by the Rotary Club of Oxford Spires is set to attract 1,000 – 2,000 people.

Individuals and teams of 6 compete in a knock-out style competition, with teams of six dropping different coloured sticks from each of the two bridges at the lock. The event is held in aid of both the Royal National Lifeboat Institution and Rotary charity.  
[www.pooh-sticks.com](http://www.pooh-sticks.com)

### **Victoria Revealed**

**From 26 March**

#### **Kensington Palace**

This exciting new permanent exhibition at Kensington Palace will explore Queen Victoria's life and reign through her own words. Visitors will experience Victoria's first day as Queen at Kensington Palace, the romance of her early relationship with Prince Albert, moments of family life and aspects of Albert's involvement in the 1851 Great Exhibition. Set within the rooms Victoria lived in as a child, the displays will include paintings by Franz Xaver Winterhalter and Sir Edwin Landseer, gifts that Queen Victoria exchanged with Prince Albert during their engagement in 1839 and her wedding dress. Glamorous jewellery, poignant mourning clothes and other personal items will sit alongside Victorian children's toys, try-on clothing and fun interactive activities for all the family.

<http://www.hrp.org.uk/kensingtonPalace/>

### **Crown Jewels – re-presented**

**From 29 March**

#### **Tower of London**

The Crown Jewels at the Tower of London is a unique working collection of royal regalia that is still used by the Queen in important national ceremonies such as the State opening of Parliament. The re-presentation gives the Crown Jewels a home fit for the 21<sup>st</sup> century, with new displays showing the jewels like never before. The new exhibition will explore the importance of the Crown Jewels to the British monarchy, the role of the Tower in protecting these treasures and the long and fascinating tradition of coronations in England. The Coronation ceremony will be at the centre of the refreshed exhibition.

[www.hrp.org.uk/TowerOfLondon](http://www.hrp.org.uk/TowerOfLondon)

### **The Making of Harry Potter**

**31 March**

#### **Warner Bros Studio, Leavesden**

This amazing new tour will offer visitors a unique behind-the-scenes tour of the most successful film series of all time. Guests will appreciate the sheer scale and detail of the actual sets, costumes, animatronics, special effects and props used in all eight of the Harry Potter films. Spread over 150,000 square feet including two dedicated sound stages at Warner Bros Studios Leavesden, the home of the Harry Potter film productions for over ten years, The Making of Harry Potter will showcase the British artistry, technology and talent that went into bringing this beloved film series to life.

[www.wbstudiotour.co.uk](http://www.wbstudiotour.co.uk)

## **April**

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### **The Cutty Sark**

**April 2012**

The last and most famous tea-clipper, which broke all records in 1885. The Cutty Sark closed to the public on 5 November 2006

in order to start work on the planned conservation programme. The Cutty Sark plans to re-open in spring 2012.  
[www.cuttysark.org.uk](http://www.cuttysark.org.uk)

**The Wild, the Beautiful and the Damned**

**5 April – 30 September**

**Hampton Court Palace**

This is a story about the fascination of love, glamour, celebrity, lust and power and involves some of the key characters that lived, loved and died at Hampton Court Palace – Charles II, James II, William III & Queen Mary II and Queen Anne. Beauty was a good thing: it was a reflection of divine perfection, an indication of virtue. This temporary exhibition will contain magnificent artworks to reveal the stories and scandals, and will include items from the Royal Collection and other public and private collections, many of which are not currently on display.

<http://www.hrp.org.uk/NewsAndMedia/hcpressources/TheWildtheBeautifulandtheDamned>

**City of Southampton Orchestra**

**10 April**

**Queen Elizabeth Terminal, Southampton**

The City of Southampton Orchestra will be presenting a concert from the Queen Elizabeth Terminal, overlooking the berth from which the Titanic set sail. The evening will include an 'embarkation experience' exhibition with drinks reception and 'palm court' music from the White Star song book. The evening will culminate in a performance of Ralph Vaughan Williams' magnificent and exciting 'Sea Symphony' featuring a specially assembled 'Titanic Chorus' involving singers from a number of local choirs.

<http://csorchestra.org/>

**Cultural Olympiad Artists Taking the Lead – FLOW**

**April - September 2012**

**NewcastleGateshead Quayside**

FLOW is an environmentally-sustainable floating waterwheel and mill house. Entering the mill house will be like entering a quirky turn-of-the-century workshop, a workshop from a parallel universe where basic electronics, wood and water replace metal and steam, creating an accessible and interactive art space on the River Tyne. The artwork will generate its own power and combine traditional and new technologies to monitor the river's environmental details, including water temperature, speed and turbidity. A series of Owl Project musical instruments on display in the mill house will respond to this data. The audience will be able to interact with these instruments, performing alongside each other and the Tyne itself.

<http://www.artiststakingthelead.org.uk/>

**Look Out! Southampton's Titanic Story In Song**

**11 April**

**Turner Sims Concert Hall, Southampton**

Look Out! is performed by White Star Line-Up – a group of primarily Southampton-based singers and musicians formed specifically to tell this story. Featuring song, music and spoken word, it relates the events leading up to the tragedy, and the aftermath, from the viewpoint of the town and its Southampton crew. This event will be held at the

<http://www.focsle.org.uk/titanic/>

### **The World Shakespeare Festival**

**23 April – 9 September**

#### **Various locations**

Produced by the Royal Shakespeare Company, The World Shakespeare Festival will run from 23 April to 9 September 2012, celebrating how the world performs, teaches and engages with Shakespeare. In collaboration with many partners, including the roundhouse, the Barbican, the National Theatre, and the BBC, the event will celebrate Shakespeare as the world's playwright, showcasing the best of UK and international creative talent, exploring Shakespeare's place in the lives of young people, and harnessing the energy and creativity of emerging artists and amateur companies.

[www.worldshakespearefestival.org.uk](http://www.worldshakespearefestival.org.uk)

### **Royal River: power, pageantry and the Thames**

**27 April – 9 September**

#### **National Maritime Museum, London**

Guest curated by David Starkey and coinciding with the Diamond Jubilee and the recognition of Greenwich as a Royal Borough, this major exhibition celebrates the importance of the River Thames as a site of royal patronage, festivity and power. Royal River will explore the relationship between the monarch, the Royal Borough of Greenwich, the City and its people. Taking in palaces, processions, parties and promenades that made London the city we know today, Royal River brings together a wealth of paintings, manuscripts, curiosities and rarely-seen objects from the last 300 years that tell a fascinating and largely untold history of the city through its aquatic highway.

[www.nmm.ac.uk](http://www.nmm.ac.uk)

### **England's Oldest Theatre Re-Opens after £19 million Refurbishment**

**April**

#### **Old Vic, Bristol**

The Bristol Old Vic is England's oldest continuously working theatre, and will undergo a massive £19.26 million refurb in 2012 which will see the redevelopment of the Georgian theatre in Bristol's city centre. Despite this construction, the theatre has produced a full programme of work at the Old Vic and around the city.

[www.bristololdvic.org.uk](http://www.bristololdvic.org.uk)

## **May**

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### **The Sandwich Celebrates its 250th Anniversary**

**12 -13 May**

#### **Sandwich, Kent**

To celebrate 250 years of the sandwich, the town of Sandwich, the present Earl of Sandwich and his company Earl of Sandwich® are hosting a weekend of celebrations including a sandwich-making competition on the Quay Green, open to all, a Teddy Bears' Picnic, a re-enactment of the very moment in 1762 that the sandwich came into being featuring actors in period dress, a concert by Kent Early Music in honour of the 4<sup>th</sup> Earl of Sandwich, and a visit from the Honfleur Twinning Association, in traditional Normandy dress, with a baguette vs. sandwich challenge! On Sunday, Lord Sandwich will judge the finalists of the

sandwich-making competition and host the Sandwich Street Party on Market Street.

[www.visitkent.co.uk](http://www.visitkent.co.uk)

### **London2012 Torch Relay**

**18 May – 27 July**

#### **Various locations country-wide**

Lit in Greece, the Olympic flame arrives in the UK on 18 May 2012. Representing peace, unity and friendship, the flame will be carried by 8,000 inspirational torchbearers during the Olympic torch relay. As it makes its way across the UK on a 70-day journey it will bring the excitement of the Games to everyone: the torch will pass within an hour of 95% of the population.

[www.london2012.com/olympic-torch-relay](http://www.london2012.com/olympic-torch-relay)

### **The Queen: Art and Image**

**17 May – 21 October**

#### **National Portrait Gallery, London**

To mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012, the National Portrait Gallery will stage an innovative touring exhibition bringing together 60 of the most remarkable and resonant images of Elizabeth II, spanning the 60 years of her reign – some on public display for the first time. From Beaton and Leibonvitz to Annigoni and Warhol, *The Queen: Art and Image* will be the most wide-ranging exhibition of images in different media devoted to a single royal sitter. Formal painted portraits, official photographs, media pictures and powerful responses by contemporary artists will be shown alongside one another.

[www.npg.org.uk](http://www.npg.org.uk)

### **Jubilee – A View from the Crowd**

**24 May – 31 October**

#### **Kensington Palace**

On 22 June 1897 millions of people from around the world lined the streets of London to watch Queen Victoria make her way across the city in an impressive procession for a service of thanksgiving at St Paul's Cathedral. The service marked 60 years of Victoria's reign. This rich and engaging exhibition will explore the public excitement, anticipation and participation in Queen Victoria's jubilee, looking at the experiences of everyone from dukes to labourers. The exhibition will include objects from souvenir perfume to dress worn for the celebrations.

[www.hrp.org.uk/kensingtonPalace](http://www.hrp.org.uk/kensingtonPalace)

### **The Big Grin - Punch & Judy Celebrate 350 Years**

**May**

#### **Covent Garden**

The Big Grin will involve a whole network of events across the UK in 2012 to mark Mr Punch's 350<sup>th</sup> Birthday, the highlight of which will be a Big Birthday Bash in Covent Garden in May. Mr Punch will go on a tour of the country, organised by The 350 Committee – comprising delegates from The Punch & Judy College of professors, The Punch & Judy Fellowship, Puppeteers UK and Alternative Arts. The birthday bash will include a collection of international performers, a giant birthday cake, a world record attempt and some Punch & Judy Olympics.

[www.punchandjudyworld.org](http://www.punchandjudyworld.org)

### **Norfolk & Norwich Festival**

**11 – 26 May**

Held annually over two weeks in May, the Norfolk & Norwich Festival is the international arts festival of the East of England, featuring the very best in world-class performance, with music, theatre, dance, circus and visual arts as well as hosting spectacular free outdoor events throughout the region.

[www.nnfestival.org.uk](http://www.nnfestival.org.uk)

### **She Lay Down Deep Beneath The Sea, Tracey Emin**

**26 May – 23 September**

#### **Turner Contemporary, Margate**

Tracey Emin's first major solo exhibition at Turner Contemporary is conceived specially for Margate, where Emin grew up and which has provided inspiration for many of her most famous art works. The exhibition will explore the themes of love, sensuality and romanticism in Emin's oeuvre, featuring both new and existing works including drawings, monoprints, sculptures and neons. The exhibition's central themes will continue in a display of paintings, sketches and watercolours of erotic subjects by Tracey Emin as well as JMW Turner and Auguste Rodin, whose iconic sculpture *The Kiss* is on show at Turner Contemporary until 2 September 2012.

[www.turnercontemporary.org](http://www.turnercontemporary.org)

## **June**

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### **The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Celebrations**

**2-5 June**

#### **Various locations country-wide**

To mark 60 years of the Queen's reign, the Diamond Jubilee will take place in 2012. The celebrations will centre around an extended weekend in 2012 on 2, 3, 4 and 5 June. The Queen came to the throne on 6 February 1952 and her coronation took place on 2 June 1953. She celebrated her Silver Jubilee (25 years) in 1977 and her Golden Jubilee (50 years) in 2002. The only other British monarch to celebrate a Diamond Jubilee was Queen Victoria in 1897. Buckingham Palace will be co-ordinating a programme of events centred around the extended weekend. This will include a Big Jubilee Lunch, a Diamond Jubilee Pageant on the Thames, a concert at Buckingham Palace and the lighting of 2012 beacons throughout the United Kingdom. The Queen and other members of the Royal Family will also attend a Service of Thanksgiving at St Paul's Cathedral.

### **Diamond Jubilee River Pageant & Gun Salute**

**3 June**

#### **The Thames, London**

See the royal barge lead a 1,000-boat flotilla down the river Thames. Departs Battersea at 14:30 and passes the Tower of London as it arrives at HMS President at 15:45.

### **400 Years of the Olympick Games**

**1 June**

#### **Cotswolds**

Regarded by some as the origin of the modern Olympic Games, Robert Dover's inaugural Olimpicks were staged on a Cotswold hillside in 1612 "By Royal Approval" of King James I. And, despite a long and chequered history stretching over

almost four centuries, they still survive to this day – providing a remarkable link between the Olympics of ancient Greece, and the Olympic Games of today. The extravagant event which he organised each year included swordplay, running and leaping, horse racing, spurning (similar to tossing the caber), and throwing the sledge (hammer). A highlight, however, has always been the contest for gold in shin-kicking.

[www.olympickgames.co.uk](http://www.olympickgames.co.uk)

### **Eastbourne Sunshine Carnival**

**1 June**

#### **Eastbourne**

Back after 20 year break, Eastbourne Sunshine Carnival will return in June 2012 following huge demand. There'll be a procession, activities, music and celebrations all day. Final details TBC.

[www.visiteastbourne.co.uk](http://www.visiteastbourne.co.uk)

### **50 Years of Norfolk – Norwich Cathedral Flower Festival**

**1 – 4 June**

#### **Norwich**

A celebration of flowers and their significant impact on the county of Norfolk since Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II came to the throne. Norwich Cathedral boasts England's largest monastic cloisters and the second tallest spire in the country. Weekend events include a concert and a market in the cloisters.

[www.cathedral.org.uk/aboutus/flower-guild-about-the-flower-guild.aspx](http://www.cathedral.org.uk/aboutus/flower-guild-about-the-flower-guild.aspx)

### **David Nash at Kew Gardens**

**9 June – 14 April 2013**

#### **Kew Gardens, London**

David Nash, one of the UK's most prolific creators of ecological art, will produce and exhibit his work across the Gardens from June 2012. The exhibition will feature sculptures, installations, drawings and film throughout the Gardens, glasshouses and exhibition spaces. Nash will work on a 'wood quarry', creating pieces for the exhibition using trees from the Garden that have come to the end of their natural life. Nash's relationship with, and ever-growing knowledge of, his chosen material – wood – sits in accordance with the conservation work carried out by Kew both in the UK and around the world.

[www.kew.org](http://www.kew.org)

### **SO Festival**

**23 June – 1 July**

#### **Skegness**

SO Festival is a leading cultural festival, attracting major performances from across Europe. In 2012, the event will coincide with the Torch Relay passing through Skegness, so expect a bumper celebration that includes a collaboration with Helsingborg in Sweden and Helsingor in Denmark.

[www.sofestival.org](http://www.sofestival.org)

### **Broadstairs Dickens Festival**

**16 - 22 June**

#### **Broadstairs, Kent**

Charles Dickens visited Broadstairs in Kent regularly from 1837 until 1859 and immortalised the town as "Our English Watering Place". In 1937, to commemorate the centenary of the author's first visit, Gladys Waterer, the then owner of Dickens House, conceived the idea of putting on a production of 'David Copperfield' and of having people about the town in Victorian dress to publicise it. Thus the festival was born and, with the exception of the years of World War 2, has been held annually in the third week of June ever since.

[www.broadstairsdickensfestival.co.uk](http://www.broadstairsdickensfestival.co.uk)

### **'Stories of the World'**

**23 June**

#### **Brighton Museum and Art Gallery**

A new gallery developed in partnership with young people in Brighton & Hove is opening on 23 June 2012. The gallery is an official part of the Cultural Olympiad celebrations and will display collections from around the world in a modern setting.

The gallery will house hands-on activities and exhibits from Africa, Asia, the Americas and the Pacific.

[www.brighton-hove-museums.org.uk](http://www.brighton-hove-museums.org.uk)

### **Stratford upon Avon River Festival**

**30 June - 1 July**

#### **The Recreation Ground, Stratford-upon-Avon**

The weekend sees the banks and the waterways of the River Avon come alive with a boat-load of fun. With a packed programme of events both on and off the river there's something for all the family to enjoy at this unique free event. Some come and check out a variety of water based activities, admire over 100 decorated narrow boats, feast on a selection of global foods, be inspired by the Charity village, pick up a unique gift at the Craft market, get the kids involved in the various activities in the family zone or participate in one of the many workshops, or simply slump in a deckchair and enjoy listening to a selection of world class bands and performers on the band stand.

[www.stratfordriverfestival.co.uk](http://www.stratfordriverfestival.co.uk)

**25 June – 7 July**

#### **Damon Albarn's Dr Dee**

##### **London Coliseum**

Blur and Gorillaz frontman Damon Albarn, director Rufus Norris and English National Opera invite you to enter an Elizabethan world brimming with intrigue, mysticism and music. Damon Albarn has written a visionary stage show that combines acoustic pop with contemporary opera to tell the story of this fascinating Elizabethan figure. The show was inspired by his fascination with Dee and his lasting influence on English identity. He is collaborating with Rufus Norris, a theatre and opera director whose West End and Broadway shows include Cabaret, Don Giovanni, Les Liaisons Dangereuses and Vernon God Little.

<http://www.eno.org/see-whats-on/productions/production-page.php?&itemid=1885>

### **'Avenue of Champions'**

**June - September**

#### **Salisbury Cathedral, Salisbury, Wiltshire**

From June to September 2012, Salisbury Cathedral will be hosting a new Olympic themed exhibition. Sculptor Ben Dearnley brings his 'Avenue of Champions' to Salisbury Cathedral for three months to coincide with both the 2012 London Olympics and Paralympics. He will exhibit his bronze and marble sculptures depicting some of the UK's past and current Olympic and

Paralympic champions and visitors will be able to walk through the 'Avenue' viewing each sculpted athlete as they go. The final sculpture will be finished by the sculptor on site at the Cathedral, timed to coincide with the final week of the 2012 Games.  
[www.salisburycathedral.org.uk](http://www.salisburycathedral.org.uk)

## July

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### **Weymouth Tower**

**July**

**Weymouth, Dorset**

Set to open in early July, the Weymouth tower will be sited behind the Pavilion on the Pleasure Pier. It will be 53 metres high and will command views across Weymouth Bay. It will be funded and run by Merlin Entertainments Ltd, who currently also run the Sea Life Centre as well as many other major tourist attractions world-wide. This significant attraction will help to draw visitors into the borough, part helping to enhance the visitor experience in Weymouth and provide a boost to the local economy.  
[www.visit-dorset.com](http://www.visit-dorset.com)

### **Wenlock Olympic Society Games**

**8 – 15 July**

**Much Wenlock, Shropshire**

Recognised as the inspiration behind the modern international Olympic Games, it was in 1850 that the first ever Wenlock Olympian Games took place in Much Wenlock, Shropshire. They are still held there annually to this day, and 2012 will see the 126th Games take place in Much Wenlock and other sites across Shropshire on 8th, 9th, 13th, 14th and 15th July 2012. Entry forms for the next games will be added to the Wenlock Olympian Society's website in January 2012. Anyone can enter the road race, and will get their own Olympic medal for finishing.  
[www.wenlock-olympian-society.org.uk](http://www.wenlock-olympian-society.org.uk)

### **Serpentine Sackler Gallery Opens**

**July 2012**

**London**

The Serpentine Gallery has been awarded a licence to establish a new gallery in The Magazine building situated on the north side of the Serpentine Bridge in Kensington Gardens to be designed by Zaha Hadid. To be known as the Serpentine Sackler Gallery, it will become an exciting new cultural destination for London, discovering the best emerging international talents from the worlds of art and beyond. The Serpentine Sackler Gallery, like the Serpentine Gallery, will be free of charge and accessible to all, with public engagement and cultural learning at its heart. Visitor facilities will include a restaurant and café, and a concept store offering the best in contemporary design.  
<http://www.serpentinegallery.org>

### **Shakespeare: Staging the World**

**19 July – 25 November**

**British Museum, London**

During the summer of the 2012, the British Museum will stage a major exhibition on the world of Shakespeare, in collaboration with the Royal Shakespeare Company. The exhibition will provide a unique insight into the emerging role of London as a world city, seen through the innovative perspective of Shakespeare's plays. It will also explore

the pivotal role of the playhouse as a window to the world outside London, and the playwright's importance in shaping a new sense of national identity. London was it was around 400 years ago will be brought to life through contemporary performance and objects drawn from around Europe.

[www.britishmuseum.org](http://www.britishmuseum.org)

### **Alice's Day**

**7 - 8 July**

**Oxford**

It's 150 years since the real Alice in Wonderland heard the story of her imaginary and fantastical adventures down a rabbit hole, narrated by Charles Dodgson, aka Lewis Carroll. This year, celebrations will be city-wide and even more exuberant than usual. There will be curiouser and curiouser happenings and some extra special surprises in store.

<http://www.storymuseum.org.uk/alice>

### **Diamonds: A Jubilee Celebration - The Summer Opening of Buckingham Palace**

**30 July – 30 September**

**Buckingham Palace, London**

Diamonds: A Jubilee Celebration, the spectacular display at the Summer Opening of the Palace, will show the many ways in which diamonds have been used by British monarchs over the last 200 years. The exhibition includes a number of The Queen's personal jewels – those inherited by Her Majesty or acquired during her reign. The exhibition will reveal how many of these extraordinary stones have undergone a number of transformations, having been re-cut or incorporated into new settings during their fascinating history.

[www.royalcollection.org.uk](http://www.royalcollection.org.uk)

## **August**

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### **Bristol Ballooning Fiesta**

**9 – 12 August**

**Bristol**

The Bristol International Balloon Fiesta is a world-class hot air ballooning festival recognised as one of the UK's top 5 outdoor events. Bristol, the world's largest manufacturer of hot air balloons and the ballooning capital of Europe, will put on an extra special show in 2012, when the festival coincides with London 2012. The event sees 500,000 annual visitors, who will marvel as over 150 balloons fill the skies, in all shapes and sizes. Witness an unforgettable spectacle at 6am and 6pm every day as balloons take to the skies in mass ascents, and visit the famous night glows, when the balloons tether in the main arena and light up in sequence to music like giant lightbulbs.

[www.bristolballoonfiesta.co.uk](http://www.bristolballoonfiesta.co.uk)

### **20 Years of Airbourne**

**9 – 12 August**

**Eastbourne**

Eastbourne's famous free seafront airshow returns to the south coast for its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary this August. Promising four days of flying displays, arena entertainment, an RAF exhibition, trade stands, bandstand concerts and movie screenings, Airbourne has something for all the family.

[www.eastbourneairshow.com](http://www.eastbourneairshow.com)

## September

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### **Pride Festival Celebrates 20 Years**

**1 – 2 September**

#### **Brighton & Hove**

Celebrating everything lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender in a week-long extravaganza of events and parties, Brighton Pride is jam packed with club nights, events and much more. Since its fledging beginning in 1992 with a very modest afternoon event on The Level, Brighton Pride has evolved into the biggest free Pride festival in the UK. Culminating in a spectacular carnival parade and party in Preston Park, Brighton Pride endorses and celebrates the diversity of the gay community in the city and the contribution they have made to making Brighton and Hove the open, free spirited and diverse city it is today.

[www.brightonpride.org](http://www.brightonpride.org)

### **Plymouth Marine Festival**

**8 – 16 September**

#### **Plymouth**

A brand new festival is set to make a splash in Plymouth, Devon in September 2012, celebrating the City's very special relationship with the sea. From culture to food and science to sport, the Marine City Festival will run from Saturday 8 – Sunday 16 September and promises a week of enjoyment, education and marine activity in one of the UK's most vibrant waterfront cities. This will be the inaugural Marine City Festival and it is hoped it will develop into an annual event.

[www.plymouth.co.uk](http://www.plymouth.co.uk)

### **Agatha Christie Festival**

**9 – 16 September**

#### **Various venues across the English Riviera**

Each year, the English Riviera transforms itself into the murder mystery capital of the country, with ladies and gents in their period finery immersing themselves in tea parties, theatre, dinners on steam trains and vintage bus tours. Why? For the annual Agatha Christie Festival in honour of the Queen of Crime, who was born in Torquay in 1890. The festival is a fabulous occasion for fans from all over the world to congregate and celebrate Dame Agatha Christie's life and times. Round every corner there is a murder mystery: on steam trains, in spooky country inns, and in rambling seaside pubs. You'll also find competitions, book launches, exclusive events and even a birthday fireworks display. The official Agatha Christie Theatre Company perform their latest production at the Princess Theatre (2012 is Murder on the Nile) and Poirot is ever on-hand should there be a case or two to solve.

[www.englishriviera.co.uk](http://www.englishriviera.co.uk)

### **Festival of Bathing Beauties**

**14 – 16 September**

### **Lincolnshire Coast**

The Bathing Beauties Festival celebrates the unique beauty, culture, architecture and history of the Lincolnshire coast. Set along the 'longest Linear Coastal Arts Festival in the world', the Festival of Bathing Beauties takes place from mablethorpe to Sutton on Sea.

[www.bathingbeautiesfestival.org](http://www.bathingbeautiesfestival.org)

### **Biba and Beyond**

#### **Brighton Museum & Art Gallery**

**22 September to 14 April 2013**

With its cutting edge yet affordable fashion, Barbara Hulanicki's iconic Biba store and label transformed the High Street shopping experience in the 1960s and 70s. Young working women shopped alongside models and celebrities, including Twiggy, Cher and the Rolling Stones. Art Deco, Victorian and Hollywood glamour all combined in striking, romantic designs. Barbara Hulanicki studied at Brighton College of Art in the 1950s and the city celebrates the Biba connection with a major fashion exhibition at Brighton Museum & Art Gallery. The exhibition explores the Biba lifestyle and also looks at Barbara Hulanicki's later career, both as a fashion designer and as one of the most respected interior designers in the US.

[www.brighton-hove-museums.org.uk](http://www.brighton-hove-museums.org.uk)

### **Festival of Sport**

**14 – 16 September**

#### **Mounts Bay, Cornwall**

2012 will see the first Festival of Sport Cornwall, a new annual three-day festival open to all, held in Mount's Bay in West Cornwall. Competitors of all abilities will be welcome to the South West to participate in this exciting new destination event which will consist of a combination of triathlon, sporting cycling ( a long distance road race), an off-road 6 and 4 hour Enduro, Open Water Swimming, and a Beach Run. Sporting activities will be accompanied by live music, comedy acts and more relaxed beach sports such as Touch Rugby, Beach Volleyball, Netball and Coasteering, all held against the stunning coastal backdrop of the St Aubyn Estates and St Michael's Mount in Mount Bay. Locally sourced food will be provided by Jamie Oliver Catering while Cornwall's award-winning family brewers St Austell Brewery will run a beer tent and bar.

[www.festivalofsport.net](http://www.festivalofsport.net)

### **10 Years of ESSEXstreetdiversions**

**10 October**

#### **Chelmsford, Essex**

The tenth year of the free festival of high quality and diverse international street theatre and outdoor performance comprising many performances with a simple yet intriguing theme - mixing the mundane with the bizarre and the absurd. 2011 featured a science laboratory situated in High Chelmer, Alfonso Milano's Mechanical Marvel, and a pram with baby vegetables sleeping inside.

[www.chelmsford.gov.uk/streetdiversions](http://www.chelmsford.gov.uk/streetdiversions)

## October

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### **Mary Rose Museum**

**Autumn 2012 (Date TBC)**

#### **Portsmouth**

In 2012, the Mary Rose Trust will open a highly anticipated new museum, bringing the hull and many of the 19,000 artefacts that were raised with her together again. The Mary Rose Trust is currently under-taking a £35 million heritage project to build an internationally-renowned boat-shaped museum. Until the opening of the new Museum, a selection of artefacts are being shown in a small museum by the entrance to the Historic Dockyard. It's a fascinating look at everyday shipboard life from almost 500 years ago.

[www.maryrose500.org](http://www.maryrose500.org)

### **Broadsides! Caricature and the Navy, 1756 - 1815**

**18 October – 3 February 2013**

#### **National Maritime Museum, London**

This new exhibition examines caricature and the Royal Navy during the second half of the eighteenth century. This was a period when the Navy assumed an unprecedented importance in the popular imagination and graphic satire became a highly sophisticated art form. The National Maritime Museum holds one of the most comprehensive collections of naval and maritime caricatures in the world, and this exhibition brings together the lively and biting satirical work of James Gillray, Isaac Cruikshank and Thomas Rowlandson. Often published within days of the events they depict, caricatures had an important role in shaping eighteenth century public opinion, while dealing with national stereotypes, government policy, and emerging notions of celebrity and heroism. Broadsides! explores the political and cultural history of the Navy through the lens of contemporary print culture, encompassing major events including the Seven Years War, the American War of Independence and the wars against revolutionary and Napoleonic France.

[www.nmm.org.uk](http://www.nmm.org.uk)

### **The Herefordshire Festival**

**27th - 28th October**

#### **Hereford City Centre**

A unique Festival creating and celebrating food and the food heritage of Herefordshire's beautiful, verdant and abundant countryside. Geographical, climatic and historical circumstances have created a great county to feed all the senses with a virtual rolling story of Herefordshire's past, present and future which the Herefordshire Festival will interpret and celebrate.

[www.herefordfestival.org](http://www.herefordfestival.org)

### **"Boswell's Vision" : An Exhibition of Victorian Photography**

**October 2012 – April 2013**

**Hall Place & gardens, Bexley, Kent**

Mr A.H.T Boswell was a man of many talents - an amateur historian, palmist, sign writer, coachbuilder and former cinema projectionist. Boswell's pride and joy was his vast collection of photographs, negatives, glass lantern slides and magic lantern machines. Boswell's Vision explores this remarkable collection that has never been on display before. As a local man Boswell boasted "I have seen anything of consequence in this town and photographed it" but the collection also covers a wide range of popular themes dating from the 19th century. The list of these international sets is endless, including Gin shops and Drunkenness, antique cars, Indian markets, fossils, castles and illustrated nursery rhymes. The insight into Victorian Life is truly remarkable. Hall Place and Gardens in Bexley, Kent is a Grade 1 listed Tudor mansion set in award-winning gardens. Visitors to the Boswell's Vision Exhibition will also be able to view the house and learn about its history and explore the 35 acres of formal gardens and parkland.

[www.hallplace.org.uk](http://www.hallplace.org.uk)

## November

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**A Dickensian Christmas**

**19 – 23 November**

**Rockingham Castle , Market Harborough**

It's Christmas Eve 1849 and the Castle is decorated for a nostalgic Victorian Christmas. The fires are lit, the food prepared and the Great Hall table is laid for a sumptuous Christmas lunch. Guided tours in period costume take place throughout the day. The Castle Courtyard decorated with illuminated trees offers a warm welcome to visitors. Christmas shopping with a difference with the Gift Shop offering an exciting range of gifts for friends & family. The Castle restaurant is open for lunch, tea & supper or just a cup of something hot and a mince pie.

<http://rockinghamcastle.com>

## December

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**Dickens Christmas Market**

**December**

**Rochester Castle, Kent**

Set in the beautiful grounds of Kent's Rochester Castle, overlooking the River Medway and just a few steps from Rochester's picture-postcard Victorian High Street, you can enjoy a truly festive atmosphere - traditional Christmas trees filled with twinkling fairy lights, the smell of roasted chestnuts and glühwein. Discover an array of wonderful German 'style' Christmas market huts selling a range of Christmas gifts, hand-crafted goods and festive fayre. In addition to all of this, street entertainers and Dickensian characters mingle amongst the revellers, whilst bands, and carol singers entertain visitors to the market.

[www.dickenschristmasmarket.com](http://www.dickenschristmasmarket.com)

**Neptune's Globe**

**Opens 18 December**  
**National Maritime Museum**

Part of the Museum's ongoing re-development of its central courtyard, Neptune's Globe is a new installation which transforms the museum's Upper Deck with an interactive world map, vast sail sculpture and audio-visual features. Together, these elements help visitors to uncover and explore a wealth of maritime stories spanning the globe. Picking up on the museum's key themes of trade, conflict, migration, exploration, leisure and technology, Neptune's Globe demonstrates the ways in which world history has been shaped by the seafaring past.

As visitors walk over an interactive floor map, stories relating to their location are revealed via digital hand held devices showing related objects and videos from the Museum's collections. Each key theme will contain dozens of stories: Titanic, Battle of Jutland, Cook's voyages, the East India Company, the Falklands War, Cowes week, the Armada - drawn from diverse times and locations but all relating to Britain's maritime experience. A colourful sculpture is positioned above the map displaying traditional sail patterns from around the globe, while interactive binoculars give visitors an augmented reality view of the objects and galleries that surround them.

[www.nmm.org.uk](http://www.nmm.org.uk)