

Range of things to visit over heritage weekend

More than 360 properties will be opening their doors to the public, free of charge for European Heritage Open Days (EHOD) weekend (8 to 9 September). There will also be talks, tours, exhibitions, performances, arts and crafts all over Northern Ireland.

Buildings and events

Among the places and events you can visit are:

Islandreagh Mill and Beetling Sheds, Dunadry

Visit the mills and dye works on the Islandreagh Estate, a Grade B1 listed building on the banks of the Sixmile River in Dunadry dating back to the early 1800s. You can take a guided walk in the extensive grounds.

Northern Ireland's Secret Bunker

Located 15 feet below a field on the outskirts of Portadown lies a relic of the Cold War. The secret bunker was built to study the effects of nuclear explosions.

North Down Museum, Town Hall, Bangor Castle

North Down Museum, housed in Bangor Castle (which was built in 1852) packs a lot into a very small space.

Meet characters from long ago: monks, soldiers and Vikings, have a go at archery and calligraphy, or enjoy traditional music, poetry, storytelling and weapons demonstrations.

Marble Arch Caves

Take a guided bus tour and visit some of the sites in the Marble Arch Caves UNESCO Global Geopark, with an optional nature walk and a guided tour of Marble Arch Caves.

There is an Irish language version of this event taking place on Sunday 9 September.

Springhill House, Moneymore

Visit this pretty 17th century house with an interesting costume collection, walled gardens and parkland.

There are 10 generations of family tales to enthrall you, not forgetting

Ireland's best-documented ghost: Olivia.

Lissan House and Demesne

Lissan House is at the centre of extensive parkland at the foot of the Sperrin Mountains and was the home of the Staples family from the 17th century for nearly 400 years.

The Regency tea room will be open and guided tours bring the exploits of this colourful family to life.

European Heritage Open Days events

To find a full list of European Heritage Open Days building openings and events you can either [use the map viewer](#) or [download a brochure for more information](#).

You can also pick up a brochure from your local tourist information centre, council office, or from museums and libraries.

More useful links

[Places available on tech academy](#)

Date published: 09 August 2018

Applications are now open to take part in a 12 week tech academy with the possibility of future employment in the software development industry. The closing date for applications is Monday, 27 August.

About the academy

The Neueda Tech Academy is a 12 week class-based training programme provided by Belfast Metropolitan College. Successful applicants will:

- get practical, real world training in an agile team environment
- learn about cutting edge technologies
- receive £150 per week plus travel expenses

Candidates who successfully complete the training will have the opportunity of employment with Neueda, with a starting salary in the range of £22,000 to £24,000.

Who can apply

Applications are welcome from people with all of the following:

- a foundation degree or equivalent in any discipline
- a passion for technology and computing
- an ability to learn quickly and pick up new skill
- an ambition to build a career in the IT industry

Previous experience is not required.

How to apply

You can find out more information and how to apply on Neueda's website:

The closing date for applications is 12.00 noon on Monday 27 August 2018.

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[Help for people with dementia to prevent accidents at home](#)

People living with dementia can now get advice on how to reduce the chance of having an accident at home. Understanding the risks can help them stay independent, and live well and safely with dementia in their own home for as long as possible.

Free home safety check

People with [dementia](#), and anyone aged over 65, are can get free home safety checks provided by home safety officers from local councils.

The checks only take around 60 minutes and offer tips on all aspects of home safety.

A room-by-room inspection will identify potential risks, and advice will be given to families of people living with dementia to make their home safer. Heating and home energy efficiency advice can also be given.

Free home safety equipment can be provided and referrals can be made for free smoke alarms and expert fire advice from [Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service](#).

As dementia progresses, householders can also get a home assessment from occupational therapists working in [Health and Social Care Trusts](#) to make sure all practical support is provided.

This can include adaptations in the home (for example, alarms, sensors or support rails) and aids such as mobility aids and tracking devices.

For more information on how to get a home safety check, [contact your local council](#).

Explain the hazards

Families and carers of those living with dementia can also help by explaining clearly all the hazards within the home and making sure the person with dementia is involved in all discussions.

Simple tips can help in some way to reassure those living with dementia, such as:

- writing notes about turning off electrical and gas appliances
- having emergency phone numbers in large print beside the telephone

All potential risks within the home should be highlighted.

More useful links

[Adverse weather – flood risk](#)

Date published: 28 July 2018

A multi-agency teleconference, chaired by local government, has been held to co-ordinate the response from departments, councils and utilities to the current difficult weather conditions.

All agencies have been in a state of readiness since yesterday and are responding to numerous calls from across Northern Ireland.

The rain is expected to lessen from 7pm onwards however all agencies will continue to monitor the situation and take action accordingly.

The public are asked to take necessary precautions when travelling as there may be disruption on roads.

Advice and emergency numbers are available on <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/rain>

Notes to editors

Media enquiries to relevant agencies or duty press officer via pager 07623974383

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Hosepipe ban lifted but keep saving water

Date published: 19 July 2018

There is no longer a hosepipe ban across Northern Ireland but you should still continue to save water to ease demand. This will help avoid the prospect of a ban having to be reintroduced.

Water saving tips

To help save water:

- take shorter showers
- take a shower instead of a bath
- turn off the tap when brushing your teeth
- avoid watering lawns wherever possible – even when they look dry and brown, they'll spring back with the first heavy rain
- make sure your washing machine is full – don't put on a half load
- turn off the tap while washing your hands or shaving
- fix leaking taps
- keep a jug of water in the fridge so there's no need to run the water until it gets cold
- use a bowl for washing vegetables
- fill the kettle with only as much water as you need

If you experience water problems

If you experience water problems in your area, check the [NI Water website](#) and use the postcode search facility.

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