

National Trust Press Release

Issued 17 April 2025

Images can be downloaded here:  [Festival of Blossom 2025](#).

Festival of Blossom to be celebrated across Tamar Valley with events taking place at National Trust Cotehele and around Plymouth

- **Blossom themed events run from 23 April-11 May at National Trust Cotehele, in the Tamar Valley and in Plymouth**
- **Events include community music making, a wildlife survey, blossom walks, yoga sessions and a special Blossom Train running along the line from Plymouth to Gunnislake.**
- **Participants in the Festival of Blossom are encouraged to notice blossom and celebrate it through connections to nature and each other**
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The National Trust team at Cotehele near Saltash have joined forces with the Devon and Cornwall Rail Partnership, Food Plymouth, Plymouth City Council, University of Plymouth and Tamar Grow Local to coordinate the region's Festival of Blossom and create a trail of blossom events accessible from the scenic Tamar Valley train line.

Between the 26 April- 11 May visitors to Cotehele can take in the spectacle of the orchards brimming with blossom and buzzing with pollinators, whilst enjoying lawn games and a picnic, enjoy music in the orchard or book onto a calming yoga session beneath the blooms.

Visitors to Cotehele on Saturday 26 April can join in with Gwel an Bleujenn (view of the blossom). There will be music by community musicians, poetry, dance and a group sing-along as participants process through the blossom and give thanks for the flowers and the promise of the fruit that will follow.

Those coming on Sunday 27 April can help wildlife experts from the University of Plymouth record the species of animals that can be found in the Mother Orchard by joining the Blossom Bioblitz event taking place that day. The data recorded with the help of visitors will build a picture of this wonderful habitat and the wildlife that calls it home.

On Tuesday 29 April, join horticultural expert Tess Wilmott and Cotehele's Head Gardener Dave Bouch on a blossom walk in the Tamar Valley and at Cotehele.

Rebekah Mason, Senior Programming and Partnerships Officer at Cotehele, comments 'Blossom is a beautiful sign of spring and a mark of how special our

traditional orchards are. Not only do these trees provide us with delicious food and drink, but they are also habitats that provide a home for many different species of wildlife.'

'The Mother Orchard at Cotehele is home to more than 300 trees and 125 different varieties of local and heritage apples, some dating back to 1960. We look forward to sharing this true spectacle of nature with visitors this blossom season.'

Looking into May, visitors to Cotehele can enjoy 'Bleujenn' (blossom) an exhibition by Natalie Toms that runs from 3-11 May and explores the beauty and interconnectedness of spring flowers and the wildlife they sustain.

On Saturday 3 and Sunday 4 May, the Mother Orchard will be filled with music as local artists perform lunchtime concerts, while on Thursday 8 and Saturday 10 May, yoga instructor Sarah Spear will lead a relaxing yoga session under the blossoming fruit trees in Cotehele's Old Orchard.

Devon-based poet Emmie Readman will also be holding a blossom poetry workshop on Saturday 10 May. Beginning at Calstock Village Hall this wordy exploration of blossom involves a walk from Calstock to Cotehele.

'Cotehele's orchards are a reminder of the valley's market gardening past, where thousands of cherries and apples were picked for sale at market but are also a vital habitat which need protecting and celebrating,' says Dave Bouch, Head Gardener at Cotehele. 'The Festival of Blossom is a great way to invite people to see how special traditional orchards really are and how important they've been to the Tamar Valley.'

As well as events at Cotehele, blossom activities have spread around the Tamar Valley railway line and Plymouth thanks to partnerships between the National Trust, Plymouth City Council, Food Plymouth and the Devon and Cornwall Rail Partnership.

There are blossom walks taking place throughout April and early May around Keyham, Devonport, St Budeaux, Plymouth Station and Saltram. Led by local expert Tess Wilmott of Food Plymouth, these walks give people an opportunity to discover urban, community orchards on their doorstep.

The Devon and Cornwall Rail Partnership will be aboard their special Blossom Train on the 12:28 train from Plymouth Station to Gunnislake and back on Wednesday 23 April. Whilst travelling, passengers can help themselves to complimentary items from the CreativiTEA catering trolley. Create blossom garlands, magic glass rings, edible art biscuits or a mini PoeTREE with resident artists and poet Sally Crabtree.

Among the other events taking place is a free interactive storytelling from the team at Josephine's Stories that takes place from St Budeaux Railway Station to Blackie Woods on Tuesday 6 and Sunday 11 May. Yoga instructor Sarah Spear will also be holding two further outdoor sessions of yoga at Keyham Green Places (near Alexandra Park) on Friday 9 and Sunday 11 May.

The Festival of Blossom is supported by players of People's Postcode Lottery and runs throughout April and early May, with special events at Cotehele between 26 –


29 April. To find out more, including the dates and times of specific events, visit [Cotehele festival of blossom | National Trust](#) or look out for the leaflets available at Cotehele and various community centres, cafes and wellbeing hubs in Plymouth and the Tamar Valley.

For more information visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk/cotehele.

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Notes for Editors

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Images: Images can be downloaded here:  [Festival of Blossom 2025](#). Only to be used in conjunction with this press release. Credit and caption as per file name.

About Cotehele

Cotehele is located in St Dominick, Cornwall, near Saltash, PL12 6TA. The estate and quay are open every day dawn-dusk; the garden, Edgcumbe tea-room, Barn Restaurant, shop and gallery from 10am-5pm. the house is open daily from 11am-4pm, the mill from 11am-4.30pm. For more details about Cotehele, please visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk/cotehele or facebook.com/cotehele or Twitter: @cotehelent or contact Cotehele on 01579 351346.

About the National Trust

In January 2025 the National Trust marked its 130th birthday by launching its new 10-year strategy People and Nature Thriving. This strategy, which will guide the charity's work and direction from 2025-2035 and beyond, focuses on three key goals:

- Restore Nature
- End unequal access to nature, beauty and history
- Inspire more people to care and take action

The plans follow the largest public consultation ever carried out by the National Trust, with more than 70,000 people – including members, volunteers and industry partners – sharing their views on the Trust's work and direction. Read more about the National Trust's strategy [here](#).