



February 2019

Dear Sir/Madam

European Heritage Open Days 14 & 15 September 2019 – Invitation to Register!!

Once again, the European Heritage Open Days (EHOD) weekend in September – when hundreds of buildings open their doors for free – is back with the aim of enthusing the public about our built environment and shared heritage.

The 2018 event, which was a huge success with 363 events/ properties being visited in Northern Ireland by 75,550 visitors, attracted the attention of the media and huge audiences on social media channels, who were interested in quirky and unusual events.

Visitors thoroughly enjoyed getting inside buildings that are usually closed, and appreciated the intimate knowledge that only you can pass on about your building or event. Buildings and event organisers had many different reasons for taking part. Some wanted to reach out to their local community, publicise a project or increase interest and membership of their organisation. Others just felt it was the right thing to do, because they own a great building, and think the public should have access to it.

This event annual would be impossible to organise without you – the heritage building owners - opening your museums, galleries, churches, parks, private houses to the public for free. So whatever the reason, it's great to plan your event so that you make the most of the opportunity. We can help you with guidance, promotion, insurance, and volunteers.

This year's EHOD sub-theme is: "Arts and Entertainment". This sub-theme presents the opportunity to explore the tangible and intangible elements of heritage of arts and entertainment and learn about their history and architecture. Some examples -visual arts such as cinema, circus, fairs, dances, games, reading, music, radio, television, theatre, tourism and sport, and Learn about the history of costumes, instruments, objects from the past.

We will be publishing a 101 Events ideas guide please keep an eye on our website for this great resource in helping you plan your event.

All registered events and buildings, including opening times and addresses, will be included in our widely distributed brochure, which reaches over 30,000 people. The EHOD website will feature more detail including a description and landscape image of each property/event.

Last year we developed a WebApp which proved popular, this App will have an image and full description including opening times and addresses of each entry.

The full brochure will also be available to download from the website from mid-August. EHOD are also on Facebook and Twitter and Instagram, so you can follow all of our activities leading up to the EHOD weekend in September 2019, and please do interact with us - send us your photos, short video clips, comments and stories!

Have a peek at some of the activity on Facebook and Twitter below:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ehodni>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/ehodni>

Instagram: <https://instagram.com/loveheritageni>

We would be delighted if you can participate in EHOD 2019 and ask you to **Register Online**, by visiting <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/EHOD2019>

The closing date for Registration is **12 April 2019** as there is a very tight schedule in place to prepare the brochure for printing. Entries received after this date WILL NOT be included in the printed Brochure and will appear online ONLY.

If you are unable to complete your application online, please contact us and we will be delighted to assist you.

We are very happy to communicate with you by letter or telephone, e-mail, or by enquiries via Facebook and Twitter.

If you are looking for ideas to attract more visitors, or if you need extra help on the day, please contact me, Amanda Milligan (contact details below). My role is to support owners, participants and custodians from the registration process through to the event itself, and to offer help and advice on any aspect of EHOD you may need.

If you have any ideas to improve this event or EHOD in general we welcome your feedback before and after the event. Please let us know and we will help you as much as we can.

We very much hope that you will open your property or run an event this year and we look forward to hearing from you.

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