



Routes - Networks - Connections

Explore how people and ideas have moved around and come together throughout history



In partnership with
 National Trust

Supported by players of



Awarded funds from



We want to celebrate how people and ideas have moved around and come together throughout history. The transport routes, communication networks, trade unions and social clubs. The travellers who have spread ideas and the hosts who welcome them. There are so many stories on our doorsteps just waiting to be uncovered.

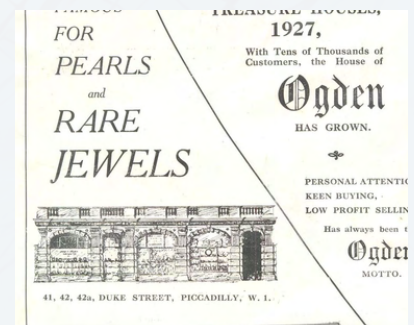
Some things to think about to get you started...

- What's in a name? Place names can tell us a lot about the people who settled in an area in the past. Are you in the 'Viking' north east or the 'Celtic' south west?
- Wish you were here?! Why did people settle in your area, why did they visit, have those reasons changed? Do you have a market place or a village green? Meeting and trading places have hundreds of stories to tell.
- Where does the river run? From source to sea, how has it shaped the land, who travels on it? How has it brought people together?
- Lost links. Are there any 'forgotten routes' near you? Perhaps a lost Roman road, railway line, postal path, or maybe there's a street name on an old map that has changed or infilled with building over time?
- Famous faces. Thomas Cook, a pioneer of the package tourism industry, was a Leicester lad. Sarah Guppy whose inventions included an early suspension bridge design was born in Birmingham and lived in Bristol. Who is linked to your local area?
- The world on our doorstep. Look around and there are global influences everywhere. Are there some 'Corinthian Columns' in the local architecture – where have these designs come from? Check your local park – plants and trees that seem everyday to us now may have exotic origins.



Be inspired by past events...

- **The Origins of Broomfield Village** – Walk in the footsteps of the Iron Age people who came to this place from far across the North Sea, bringing their beliefs, customs, traditions and most significantly... their language! (Chelmsford Civic Society)
- **Passing Through** – Did your ancestors live in Devon, or just pass through – maybe looking for work or as Romany Gypsies, Fairground or Circus people? Bring your pictures, stories and questions to share at a special coffee morning. (Romany Traveller Family History Society)
- **Doorway through time** – What connects famous London architect Christopher Wren with Dorset's Jurassic Coast? The answer is stone! Portland stone was shipped to London and used to create buildings like St Paul's Cathedral and 81 Fleet Street. See the stones and meet the team at this exhibition. (Portland Sculpture & Quarry Trust)
- **Aire and Calder Navigation** - Walk along the river and Navigation discovering the rich history and heritage of the area including: the use of the waterways for transport through the ages; the flood defences; local industries; and the former railway line. (Leeds Civic Trust)
- **Reigate Tunnel** – Opened in 1824 this is the first successful road tunnel in Britain. Join us to celebrate its anniversary, find out more about the historic building and its intrepid surveyor who made it a reality that we can still enjoy today. (Reigate Business Guild)
- **Jewel in the Crown** – Step inside a local family jewellers with far reaching connections. The distinguished client list includes Winston Churchill, royalty, the Roosevelts, and famous archaeologist Howard Carter, with whom they worked to replicate the Egyptian wonders of Tutankhamun's tomb. (Ogden of Harrogate)



Get stuck in

We've created a range of resources to help you plan a Routes - Networks - Connections event and successfully publicise it, both online and offline. Download these from your Organiser area.

If you are not yet signed up as an organiser, find out [how to get involved](#).

What if I can't link to the theme?

Our theme is entirely optional. If you have other ideas, or the theme simply doesn't appeal, that's not a problem. That said – whilst not every place or organisation will obviously connect with our theme, you might be surprised where it could take you! For example, in 2021, the Friends of Wombwell Cemetery came up with media favourite 'Cemetreats & Funeral Feasts' for Edible England. In 2022, Norfolk Archaeological Trust had a double page feature in a national newspaper with 'Champagne & Stinky Cheese – monks as accidental inventors' for Astounding Inventions.

Why it's worth it

- **Get more press coverage!** - Themed events can really boost your chances of standing out and achieving national coverage.
- **Uncover hidden gems of local history** (which can also get you more press coverage!) - Researching Astounding Inventions in 2022, a town in Yorkshire discovered they have possibly the oldest in-situ gas streetlights in the world!
- **Reach a new audience** - Different visitors could be intrigued by the theme and local coordinators could attract new sites to participate, and new volunteers too.



Making the most of it

- Include an interesting image on your registration form** – you'll get far more press and visitor attention!
- Think about your event title** - a snappy / intriguing title will help draw people in to find out more.
- TICK THE THEME BOX** on your registration form so we can find your event for press highlights!



Don't delay, talk to us today!

We're constantly looking for press and social media highlights to showcase the festival. Do you have a story that is extra special? Or a great image that connects with the theme? Then we'd love to hear from you asap - remember, the early bird catches the worm when it comes to media highlights!

[Get in touch with us](#) and share your story and images.

Places to start

- Google it! Running a search or checking a dictionary, thesaurus or encyclopaedia can help narrow your questions and spark others.
- [Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe Programme](#) – 48 trans-national ‘routes’ highlighting places connected by different themes.
- [Canal & River Trust](#) – explore our inland waterways
- [Ramblers history of public rights of way](#) – our extraordinary network of footpaths
- [The Postal Museum](#) – explore postal route maps (or delve into local details with author Alan Cleaver who is exploring old [Postal Paths](#))

Your local experts

- Your best resource for local stories is your community. Heritage Open Days is a great way of bringing people together, and these new connections can help make your event extra special.
- Put a call out through local media or hold a coffee morning to discuss options.
- Try organisations like your local museum, library or archive, interest groups and societies – is there a ramblers club, a preservation society for a local canal? What stories do they have to share?
- Connect with other local organisers through the festival network – search the database in your Organiser area, join the national webinars, or our [Facebook group](#).

Dig a little deeper!

- Archives hold the most incredible stories and there’s lots of help to guide you through the records. [Archives Hub](#) is a vast index of potential sources (and stories!) gathered from 300+ institutions across the UK. The National Archives [‘Discovery’](#) holds records from over 2,500 archives with subject specific research guides to help you.
- Newspapers are an extraordinary resource, not only for the articles documenting the events and issues of the day, but also the letters to editors, announcements and advertisements. [The British Newspaper Archive](#) holds millions of pages from local and regional newspapers dating from the 1700s. You can search for results and view your first 3 documents in full for free – though you will need to register with the site first.

We're here to help

Need some more support creating a Routes - Networks - Connections event?
Get in touch and we'll get back to you as soon as possible.



Email: info@heritageopendays.org.uk