

Press Release

Beat the February blues with Half Term heaven in Devon!

Beat the February blues with adorable spring lambs and the glories of birdsong in an award winning RHS garden which can be enjoyed by all the family this February Half Term in Devon. But the half term holiday also has some surprises in store with one of Devon's most famous landmarks being transformed as part of a major arts animation event. www.visitdevon.co.uk

Exeter's historic and magnificent cathedral will be lit up with spectacular animation to celebrate this year's **Animated Exeter film festival (14 – 26 February)**. The internationally acclaimed London artists Tura will create a breath-taking projection called *Isca Obscura* on the cathedral's iconic north-side between 18, 19 and 20 Feb. The cutting-edge piece will be aided by pioneering effects designed by i-DAT, the Digital Research Group at the University of Plymouth.

The *Isca Obscura* projection will feature Exeter's rich history and light up the city's most recognisable building with a luminous narrative of animated graphics and visually-engaging mythology and symbolism.

Animated Exeter provides a packed programme featuring work from global animation stars to the hottest emerging talent. Festival goers can watch over 140 animation films, as well as attend industry master-classes, career-planning days, and prestigious award ceremonies. Animated Exeter starts in February half-term with hands-on workshops for all levels, providing essential skills for eager first-time animators through to seasoned enthusiasts. The full range of Animated Exeter events and activities can be viewed on <http://www.animatedexeter.co.uk/> or www.heartofdevon.com.

Also part of the Animated Exeter season is a special free event for families organised by the Royal Albert Memorial Museum in the old Underground Passages by the entrance in Roman Gate alley on the High Street in Exeter. **RAMM Family Activity Day - Robert the Rat goes underground (24 February - 25 February)**.

Robert the Rat, RAMM's famous character from St Nicholas Priory in the City, explores ancient passages and encounters all sorts of dramatic events from history. Children are encouraged to make an animation or shadow story to bring events to life. All Children under 8 must be accompanied by an adult. Some activities may be messy so be sure to wear old clothes. Please visit www.exeter.gov.uk/ramm for further details.

More traditional spring activities can be enjoyed, especially by younger members of the family at Pennywell Farm in South Devon with a Half Term lambing special. Young children will be delighted by the chance to bottle feed and cuddle the cute new arrivals at Pennywell Farm.

Family entertainment with Nutty Noah and Dan the Hat will also be part of the fun. Be the first to enjoy Pennywell's brand new Red Rocket Ride. Tel: 01364 642023 or visit www.pennywellfarm.co.uk or www.visitsouthdevon.co.uk.

Children of all ages will be fascinated by the birdie fun at RHS Rosemoor Garden at Great Torrington in North Devon. It is "**Birds in the Garden week**" (19-27 February) where you can learn all about our feathered friends, from bird spotting to enjoying to bird-song. You can make your own bird box or birds nest at one of the special workshops at the world famous RHS garden (£3.00 charge for the cost of materials for the bird box).

There will be a special falconry display on **(10 - 3pm, Saturday 26 February)** at the Falconry Centre at Rosemoor including Harris Hawks, Peregrines, Bengal Eagle Owl, flying displays from 11.30-2pm, get ready for lots of audience anticipation! www.northdevon.com
www.rhs.org.uk/Gardens/Rosemoor.

Plymouth City Museum will be hosting a series of free workshops for children **(19 - 24 February)** from the Write Stuff, a Quill making workshop, to Winged Wonders - an opportunity to make some creative butterfly collages as well as the Time and Texture workshop, where children will be able to take part in fun based craft activities inspired by the "Taking Time Craft and Slow Revolution" exhibition at the museum. www.plymouth.gov.uk/homepage.htm.

For more information about Visit Devon, contact Rosie Bates, General Manager, T/: 01392 332828 or M/: 07854 952 352 or E/: rosie@visitdevon.co.uk or go to www.visitdevon.co.uk .

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About Visit Devon

Visit Devon is the destination management organisation responsible for promoting Devon to the world. The organisation acts as a voice for tourism in Devon and its aim is simple - to increase the number of visitors to Devon by promoting the county as a year-round destination for business or leisure. The organization brings together, adds value to and enhances the work and activities undertaken by the six Area Tourism Partnerships across the county. Visit Devon is committed to growing the tourism sector sustainably, increasing the skills within the industry, and raising the quality of the visitor experience.

Visit Devon is a public-private partnership limited by guarantee. The not for profit company comprises nine member organizations including the six Area Tourism Partnerships (The Heart of Devon, Visit Plymouth, North Devon+, The Dartmoor Partnership, The English Riviera Tourist Board, and Visit South Devon, Devon County Council, The Devon Association of Tourist attractions (Data), and Devon Farms. Visit Devon is the trading name of Destination Devon Ltd

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