

## #newsin30seconds

### Birthday bonanza is no monkey business

Britain's only Monkey Forest is celebrating a very special year in 2025 – its 20th anniversary. Trentham Monkey Forest, on the edge of Stoke-on-Trent, is a 60-acre Staffordshire woodland that is home to 140 Barbary macaques, which are a threatened species. As well as being the only place in the UK where visitors can walk amongst the free roaming animals, the attraction has also played a major role in conservation and breeding programmes. On 19 July 2025, it will celebrate with a *Birthday Bonanza*, including 20% off tickets and special events. <https://bit.ly/4IUUoFx>

### Wildflowers in Bloom from June

Visitors to the Sculpture Garden in the grounds of England's greatest Elizabethan house are set for a treat for all the senses from June. Summer sees the return of wildflower displays within the garden, which is an open-air gallery of striking sculptures created by a diverse range of artists. The artworks are showcased alongside sweeping borders, broad drifts of wildflowers and naturalistic planting. <https://bit.ly/3EzHiwF>

### Ewe herd it here first

Ever wondered how farmers remove the thick coat of wool from a sheep's body, or would like to see it happen up-close? Visitors to Sledmere Hall in East Yorkshire are being offered the chance to do just that and to watch a shepherd at work. Demonstrations are planned for the Rare Breed Farm Park on 1 June at 11am, 1pm and 2pm. Tickets will be available soon. <https://bit.ly/42BiM7t>

### Enjoy a night at the movies...in a distillery

Cinema Nights at Hampshire's Bombay Sapphire Distillery, where visitors can enjoy a classic film in a completely different setting, must be one of the most original nights out in the UK. A ticket – costing from £30 - includes a gin and tonic on arrival at the famous distillery, along with the screening of the movie with popcorn and sweets. <https://bit.ly/4k0TFRu>

### Strictly one festival not to miss this summer

Tickets are now on sale for the 2025 Lichfield Festival in Staffordshire, which this year includes a world premiere from *Strictly Come Dancing* professional dancer, Neil Jones. *Gingerland* - a family-friendly, comedy tale - not only stars Jones, but the show has also been devised and choreographed by him. It will debut on 10 July - with tickets costing £26 – £48 - before touring the UK in 2026. Other highlights of the popular annual summer Festival, 8 to 20 July, include former Spandau Ballet frontman Tony Hadley. <https://bit.ly/4eh9otF>

### You are entering a different world

A new, free family-friendly exhibition for the summer season is set to turn an art gallery into a world filled with digital life forms, vibrant colours and ambient sounds. *Microworld*, at Ferens Art Gallery, Hull from 24 May until 7 September, is an interactive digital art exhibition that responds to visitors' movements. Created by Genetic Moo, a UK based collective, the artworks are inspired by sea creatures, nature, and science. <https://bit.ly/4jXWJh6>

### Get your kicks on Route 63

The *Highway 63 American & Custom Car Show* is one of the most colourful and eye-catching on Lincolnshire's annual calendar of events. For those who love American cars, trucks, hot rods, and custom rides, The Ropewalk in Barton upon Humber, is the place to be on 7 June and 12 July. The venue is a regionally acclaimed centre for the arts housing four gallery spaces, a sculpture garden, and coffee shop. Admission to the Car Show is free. <https://bit.ly/4cWkQud>