

Press release

Tuesday 14th May 2019 - 8am

BBC Countryfile Live 2019 launches at Castle Howard

Countryfile presenters Matt Baker, Anita Rani, John Craven, Steve Brown, Tom Heap and Ellie Harrison today joined chef Brian Turner at Yorkshire stately home Castle Howard to launch this year's BBC Countryfile Live events.

They donned their favourite summer clothing to have fun in the fountain and celebrate Countryfile Live moving up North for the first time. The event, in the grounds of Yorkshire's magnificent stately home, will bring the UK's best summer day out to the UK's biggest county.

This August fans can enjoy two Countryfile Live events, at Blenheim Palace from Thursday 1st to Sunday 4th August and at Castle Howard from Thursday 15th to Sunday 18th August.

BBC Countryfile has been on air every week since 1988, with millions of viewers tuning in. Countryfile Live allows visitors to meet the presenters, participate in an impressive array of country related activities in the two beautiful settings of Castle Howard and Blenheim Palace.

Just as the presenters enjoyed canoeing and paddle boarding in the fountain at Castle Howard this morning, visitors will also be able to get out on the water by taking a boat ride, jumping on a paddle board or trying their hand at fishing.

Leading wealth management company Quilter plc will introduce a new initiative, The Quilter Cheviot Rural Innovation Programme, which will look to seek out the UK's & Ireland's most innovative companies or individuals, who are utilising technological and business innovation to help sustain rural communities. The successful applicant will receive £30,000 worth of funding; find out more by visiting The Quilter Cheviot Investment Hub at both BBC Countryfile Live events.

Other highlights include the National Trust's *50 Things Woodland*, the perfect place for little ones to experience the fun that can be had in the great outdoors, with tree climbing, den building, bug watching and much more.

For foodie fans, the *Le Creuset Kitchen Theatre* hosted by Brian Turner is a must visit. Here they can witness Brian and his celebrity chef friends dishing up some

culinary inspiration, before heading off to the Food Market to pay a visit to one of the event's many mouth-watering local traders.

Castle Howard's Big Top and Blenheim Palace's Big Barn offer a behind-the-scenes glimpse into the production and creation of some of the BBC's best-loved series. The presenters will have the chance to meet some of the favourite guests who have appeared on *Countryfile* in the past year – the true heroes of the Countryside!

Visitors can enjoy a drink at the Craven Arms, where John himself will host a daily pub quiz; learn about conservation and creepy crawlies at the Wildlife Zone; take in spectacular feats of poochie speed and agility at the Dog Lovers' Arena; witness remarkable lumberjack skills at the Stihl Timbersport British Championships, or just bask in the beauty of the great outdoors at two of the country's most stunning stately homes.

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Editor's Notes:

About BBC Countryfile. On air every week since 1988, Countryfile is the BBC's flagship rural affairs programme and has earned a reputation for high quality reporting, stunning photography and some of the most memorable moments on British television.

In 2009 the programme moved from its established Sunday morning slot to the prime time Sunday evening schedule on BBC One. The change proved to be a ratings winner, with audiences regularly averaging 6 million (and soaring as high as 9.4 million), to make Countryfile the most-watched factual programme year round on any TV channel.

About BBC Studios. BBC Studios, a global content company with British creativity at its heart, is a commercial subsidiary of the BBC Group. Formed in April 2018 by the merger of BBC Worldwide and BBC Studios, it spans content financing, development, production, sales, branded services and ancillaries. BBC Studios' award-winning British programmes are internationally recognised across a broad range of genres and specialisms. It has offices in 22 markets globally, including

seven production bases in the UK and production bases and partnerships in a further nine countries around the world. The company, which makes 2500 hours of content a year, is a champion for British creativity around the world and a committed partner for the UK's independent sector. BBC Studios has revenue of £1.4bn, and returns around £200m to the BBC Group annually, complementing the BBC's licence fee and enhancing programmes for UK audiences.