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- [Lighting Up Kedleston Hall for Diwali 2025](#). Kedleston Hall, the National Trust property near Derby, will welcome visitors from all communities to experience the Festival of Lights in a spectacular setting.
- From 3 October to 2 November, Kedleston Hall will be transformed into a vibrant celebration of Diwali. Staff and volunteers have curated an immersive experience featuring light projections, traditional lamps (some from the Hall's collection), sari fabrics, and marigold garlands — creating a colourful and joyful atmosphere throughout the historic rooms
- Kedleston Hall is the last venue, on the National Trust tour, to display *Helios* a 7-metre suspended artwork by acclaimed artist Luke Jerram. Between 17 October and 2 November, visitors will have the chance to view [Helios](#) in the Saloon. This radiant depiction of the sun complements Kedleston Hall's Diwali celebrations, symbolising light and energy at the heart of the festival.

This autumn, Kedleston Hall once again illuminates its historic interiors in celebration of Diwali. As one of the most widely celebrated festivals in India, Diwali brings together communities in joy, reflection, and togetherness - and Kedleston Hall offers a unique setting to experience its rich traditions.

Now in its third year, the Diwali programme at Kedleston continues to grow, shaped by collaboration with local communities and inspired by the Hall's historical ties to South Asia.

Jennie Lloyd, General Manager at Kedleston Hall shares; "Lighting up Kedleston Hall for Diwali has become a cherished tradition. We've worked closely with local communities to evolve our celebrations, ensuring they reflect both authenticity and creativity. This year, we're thrilled to offer something truly special in the Saloon with *Helios* by Luke Jerram"

Helios, a seven-metre illuminated sculpture of the sun, combines solar imagery, light, and sound - perfectly capturing the spirit of Diwali. Visitors will be able to experience *Helios* between 17 October to 2 November (booking essential).

Visitors can expect a joyful and immersive experience throughout the Hall:

- **Hundreds of hand-crafted marigolds** (used for festive occasions in India) adorn the rooms and **diyas (clay oil lamps)** light the way, creating a warm and welcoming atmosphere.
- **Rangoli light projections** bring colourful traditional patterns to life across the floors and walls.
- **Historic lamps from Kedleston's Museum collection** are decorated and displayed in the Museum and Dining Room.
- **Oversized traditional board games** invite families to play and connect.
- A **documentary** showcasing the intricate process behind the marigold decorations will be screened in the Billiard Room.

Simran Sandhu, Creative Producer, National Trust adds; "Diwali at Kedleston is especially meaningful given the Hall's connection to Lord Curzon's time as Viceroy of India and the extensive South Asian collection in our care. It's a chance to recognise those links while celebrating Diwali with our visitors in a spirit of light and joy.

Live bookable performances will further enrich the celebrations. On Wednesday 22 October, there will be a dance performance (produced and delivered by [Surtal Arts](#)) beneath *Helios*. On Sunday 2 November, visitors can enjoy a captivating musical fusion from Soulful Sangeet, the acclaimed tabla (Indian hand drums) and flute duo.

Everyone is welcome to this celebration of Diwali at Kedleston Hall which is free to members, admission charges apply to non-members.

Diwali runs from 3 October – 2 November. The Hall at Kedleston is open throughout Diwali celebrations between, 11am - 4pm (last entry 3pm). The Hall closes on 13 October and reopens on 17 October to continue the Diwali display with the addition of the art installation *Helios*.

Helios will be on display in the Saloon daily from 17 October - 2 November 2025 10am-4pm (last booking entry 3pm). There will also be opportunities to see *Helios* after sunset on 29 and 30 October when the Hall will open until 5pm (last booking 4:45pm). All visitors (members and non-members) to the Hall during this time will need to pre-book their entry via the online booking system.

For further information and opening times, please visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk/kedleston-hall

Tel: 01332842191

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For further media information and images please contact:

Zoe Stevens – zoe.stevens@nationaltrust.org.uk

Image 1: Peacock decoration at Kedleston Hall for Diwali
Credit: National Trust Images/Stephen Franklin

Image 2: Marble Hall decorated for Diwali at Kedleston Hall
Credit: National Trust Images/Stephen Franklin

Image 3: Luke Jerrams *Helios*
Credit: House of Hues/Bec Hughes

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Notes for Editors:

About Kedleston Hall

Kedleston Hall was designed not just as a family house, but also to be a show palace for lavish entertaining and for displaying extensive collections of paintings, sculpture and

original furnishings. Kedleston is a stunning example of the work of the 18th-century architect Robert Adam. Kedleston is surrounded by over 800 acres of naturalistic parkland including a lake, cascades and original Adam features. The parkland is full of wildlife, woodlands and walks for all to enjoy. The Curzon family have lived here since the 12th century and continue to live at the Hall.

About the Museum

Kedleston Hall has over one thousand objects from across the Asian continent. This collection was brought together by George Nathaniel Curzon, 1st Marquess Curzon of Kedleston (1859-1925) who inherited the Hall in 1916. Curzon travelled extensively across Asia and in 1899 became the Viceroy of India, making him the highest British representative in colonial India.

Once known as the 'Indian Museum' and later the 'Eastern Museum', the collection includes objects from countries as diverse as Japan and Turkey, Korea and Nepal. The largest group of objects originate from India, and reflect the period when Curzon was Viceroy (1899-1905). The collection ranges from tourist souvenirs to diplomatic gifts, commissioned pieces and personal items.

The museum at Kedleston was established in 1927 in collaboration with the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. The mode of display and the labelling reflect the period in which it was created.

Research is now underway to conserve and inform a re-presentation of the objects. There are many things we do not know about this collection, numerous questions to be answered and stories to unravel. How and where Curzon acquired the objects is one important question. So too, is their cultural, religious, and artistic significance. Over the coming months, different partners will help us re-present objects selected from the museum. By shining a light on small groups of objects we hope to explore different stories, spark conversations, and uncover new connections.

About the National Trust

The National Trust is an independent conservation charity founded in 1895 by three people: Octavia Hill, Sir Robert Hunter and Hardwicke Rawnsley, who saw the importance of the nation's heritage and open spaces and wanted to preserve them for everyone to enjoy. Today, across England, Wales and Northern Ireland, we continue to look after places so people and nature can thrive.

We care for more than 250,000 hectares of countryside, 890 miles of coastline, 1 million collection items and 500 historic properties, gardens and nature reserves. In 2023/24 we received 25 million visitors to our pay for entry sites. The National Trust is for everyone - we were founded for the benefit of the whole nation, and our 5.4 million members, funders and donors, and tens of thousands of volunteers support our work to care for nature, beauty, history for everyone, for ever.

In January 2025 the National Trust marked its 130th birthday by launching its new 10-year strategy People and Nature Thriving. This strategy, which will guide the charity's work and direction from 2025-2035 and beyond, focuses on three key goals:

- Restore Nature

- End unequal access to nature, beauty and history
- Inspire more people to care and take action

The plans follow the largest public consultation ever carried out by the National Trust, with more than 70,000 people – including members, volunteers and industry partners – sharing their views on the Trust’s work and direction. Read more about the National Trust’s strategy [here](#).

About Luke Jerram

Luke Jerram’s multidisciplinary practice involves the creation of sculptures, installations and live arts projects. Living in the UK but working internationally since 1997, Jerram has created a number of extraordinary art projects which have excited and inspired people around the globe. In 2019 Luke Jerram was elected Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society.

Helios follows on from Luke’s other astronomical artworks [Museum of the Moon](#), [Gaia](#), and [Mars](#).

For more information on Luke Jerram’s artworks contact: artwork@lukejerram.com.

About Helios

Helios was co-commissioned by National Trust, Cork Midsummer Festival, Liverpool Cathedral, Old Royal Naval College and University College London.

Helios is a new touring artwork by UK artist [Luke Jerram](#).

Helios, in ancient Greek mythology, is the god who personifies the Sun. He drove a four-horse chariot across the sky each day, giving the earth its hours and seasons.

Measuring seven metres in diameter, the imagery for the artwork has been compiled using photographs of the Sun provided by Astrophotographer Dr Stuart Green (taken between May 2018 to June 2024) and NASA observations of the Sun, with guidance from solar scientist, Professor Lucie Green of University College London (UCL).

Sun as Timekeeper

The position of the Sun in relation to the Earth alters day by day and hour by hour. As such, this relationship has been used as a timekeeper, defining our measurement of time and calendars throughout the ages.

The position of the Sun in the sky tells most life on our planet when to wake up and when to sleep. Over the course of the year, the location of the Sun has defined the moment for sowing seeds, the time to harvest and times for ritual celebration.

Sun and Wellbeing

Sunlight is important for both our physical and mental health. Too much heat and the Sun is perceived as oppressive, yet at the right time, its light and warmth lifts our mood and improves our well-being.

Currently there is a mental health crisis among young people and with an aging population, and as more and more people find themselves living alone, *Helios* presents an opportunity to bring people together.

Sun in Culture

As a life giver, the Sun has been an object of veneration in many cultures and has influenced humanity throughout the ages. Considered as a God in some religions, *Helios* can be a focal point to connect with different communities.

#HeliosArtwork

[@lukejerram](#)