



National Trust

News and events for autumn and winter 2018
Derbyshire | Leicestershire | Lincolnshire
Northamptonshire | Nottinghamshire | Rutland

Near you



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Changing colours and nature's harvest

Autumn is the season of spectacular colour, fungi and harvest and it's a great time to get outside to make the most of the fading summer sun as the morning mists begin. You can experience the changing seasons at our special places across the East Midlands.

Clumber Park in Nottinghamshire is the perfect place to get active in the outdoors; great for your health and well-being. There's yoga for those who like things a bit more serene and the Trust 10k and Park Run for those who like pace. The 20-plus miles of cycle paths are great for taking in the autumn colours. Close by, at Mr Straw's House in Nottinghamshire, it's all about cacti as the varieties in the greenhouse begin to flower, some only for one day.

In Derbyshire, Calke Abbey has Deadwood is Good Wood walks during October (Tues, Fri and Sat at 11am and 2pm) to highlight the importance of deadwood and the habitats it supports. While at

Longshaw, you can roll up your sleeves and get stuck in at the Muck in Day (14 Oct) to help us look after woods on the estate. At Hardwick, enjoy roasted apples in the restaurant after a day looking for fungi - blue stalks and fly agaric have been spotted in the parkland.

At Gunby Estate, Hall and Gardens in Lincolnshire see the dazzling displays of dahlias and michaelmas daisies which attract the bees and butterflies until late in the year and at Belton House in Lincolnshire the sound of bellowing deer fills the parkland as the rutting season begins.

If you're retired or taking time off work, why not visit our places during the week in the autumn? Take advantage of a quieter time



perhaps by reading a book in the gardens or try your hand at visitteering - lots of places need help to collect fallen leaves.

Whether you're visiting or volunteering, your support helps us care for special places in the Midlands. Thank you.

Follow us...

or your local National Trust place on social media. Share your days out with us and get the latest updates on summer events and activities



Halloween happenings

There's frighteningly good fun to be had during October half-term with pumpkins, ghosts, ghouls and creepy crawlies.

Throughout October, Canons Ashby in Northamptonshire will run their annual pumpkin trail, while at Tattershall Castle in Lincolnshire, dare you visit in the black of night (26, 27 & 31 Oct) and hear about the resident ghosts of the castle? Calke Abbey in Derbyshire hosts a pumpkin party (31 Oct) where you

can decorate a pumpkin in your own spooky style and add it to the display. Clumber Park in Nottinghamshire has a Halloween whodunit (20 Oct to 4 Nov) and Ilam Park in Staffordshire has a spooky trail in the woods (27 Oct to 4 Nov).

Take a look at the What's On pages for more Halloween fun near you.



For details of all there is to see and do, visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk/midlands or take a look at the 'What's On' section



From the Director
for the Midlands



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Welcome to the autumn edition of Near You.

It is not an exaggeration to say that countryside faces the biggest change in a generation prompted by the Agriculture and Environment Bills and you may have noticed that we are actively engaged in conversations to try and get the best possible outcome. I generally find that actions speak louder than words, so you will see in this issue that we are doing our best in the Midlands to work with farmers and other partners to hold on to the landscapes that we love, as well as find future uses of land that allow people to make a living. We already have some great examples that demonstrate how you can produce food in a much more nature friendly way, as highlighted at Attingham Park.

However, sometimes acquiring really special pieces of land is the only way to ensure that beautiful places can survive and we believe that this is the case for our last remaining hay meadows in the White Peak, which we have been able to do thanks to some generous legacies. We will be thinking a lot about remembrance this autumn and I hope that those people who left legacies specifically to acquire land in the Peak District will feel that we have done their wishes justice. When I visited on a June day, surrounded by flowers and the song of a curlew, I could honestly think of no better way to be remembered.

Andy Beer

Rare meadowland saved in the Peak District

Two areas of farmland in the Peak District, with rare wildflower rich hay meadows and wildlife rich grassland, have been saved for the nation.

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Thanks to legacies left to us by generous supporters, we've been able to buy High Fields near Longshaw and Greensides Farm near Buxton, meaning we can now protect these very special areas of the Peak District for the future.

Species rich grasslands, like those found at High Fields and Greensides, are a vital part of our landscape as they support a wide variety of wildlife and plants. Despite this, they have declined by around 97% over the last century, largely due to the intensification of farming.

Rare examples of limestone pavement are also a feature on both farms, supporting a number of ferns and wild flowers. High Fields also has a few dewponds, originally created as watering holes for livestock, which now provide a wonderful wetland habitat for newts.

Jon Stewart, General Manager for the Peak District, says: 'Both farms have unusually large areas of hay

meadows and flower rich grassland which are not just beautiful to look at, but are important habitats for wild plants and insects in particular.

'This is testament to the generations of farmers that have cared for them and bucked the general trend.

'By buying this land we have the opportunity to conserve and enhance what is there and work with other farmers and land managers to help care for the wider landscape.'

Over the coming months we'll be deciding on the best way to manage the land, both to encourage wildlife to flourish and enable people to experience these beautiful pockets of the English countryside.

Jon continues: 'This is the type of landscape we'd never be able to protect without the financial help of our supporters and we owe them a huge debt of gratitude.'

You can find out more about these two important acquisitions at www.nationaltrust.org.uk/midlandsmeadows



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Turning the tables on Bess' story

An ambitious dynast, a woman who married and outlived four husbands; this is how Bess of Hardwick is commonly remembered, history painting her as 'proud, furious, selfish and unfeeling'. We Are Bess, a new project from the team at Hardwick, Derbyshire demonstrates another side and how her story resonates with contemporary women.

'Bess' life has much to say to us today about operating as a woman in a man's world, the way many experiences of women transcend time, and about how we talk and think about women," comments historian and broadcaster, Dr Suzannah Lipscomb, from the University of Roehampton and Creative Director of We Are Bess.

'Despite centuries of progress in many ways, attitudes to women and their experiences are not so very different four centuries later.'

The project also draws on research commissioned by the Trust, undertaken by Dr Emma Turnbull from the University of Oxford.

'This is about overturning a remarkably resilient impression that Bess was a domineering 'shrew', a woman with an aggressive, 'masculine' temperament,' explains Dr Turnbull.

'The source of this devastating image was her effectively 'ex'-husband, George Talbot, Earl of Shrewsbury, who spread slanderous rumours about her. Generations of historians have repeated Shrewsbury's vitriolic words, helping perpetuate a misogynistic narrative – a deeply

unfair legacy and misrepresentative of her character. We Are Bess is about reclaiming Bess' story.'

Working with Dr Turnbull and Dr Lipscomb, the Trust has enlisted a number of modern-day women to consider how they relate to Bess.

'With the help of modern women's reflections, Bess' story can bring to light important parallels with the past, and make us rethink our present,' added Dr Lipscomb.

Photographed portraits of these women form part of an exhibition in Hardwick's Long Gallery, which runs 3 Oct – 4 Nov 2018, and re-opens 16 Feb – 2 Jun 2019. Find out more and read some of the modern-day stories at www.nationaltrust.org.uk/hardwick/features/we-are-bess

A day in the life...

Holly Kemish, Assistant Fundraising Consultant

I work across the Midlands region, from the Lincolnshire coast across to the Welsh borders, so a typical day for me can often start with a drive out to a property. It is a real pleasure and privilege to be able to work in some of the most beautiful places in the region and I find it exciting and inspiring to work with property teams to develop ways that supporters like you can be involved in our work.

I help properties with their raffles and second-hand bookshops so I am often asked questions about these

important aspects of fundraising. I think people are surprised by how successful the National Trust second-hand bookshops are in the Midlands; last year we raised nearly £300,000 to look after our special places, at the same time as helping our visitors enjoy a 'new' read.

Also on a typical day I will be helping properties to plan for events as part of the 'Inside the Trust' programme, which is organised for supporters who have pledged to leave a gift in their will or for those who regularly donate and support

our work. I also spend a lot of time looking into other sources of funding for important projects across the region. At the moment I am working with, amongst others, the Peak District and Clumber Park teams.

You can find out more about the projects at these properties by following the links:

Find out more information about the Peak District Appeal at: www.nationaltrust.org.uk/PeakDistrictAppeal



To support Clumber Park Revitalised you can collect and send your used postage stamps to: Fundraising Coordinator, Clumber Park, Estate Office, Worksop, Notts, S80 3AZ or find out more about the project at: www.nationaltrust.org.uk/appeal/support-clumber-park

Thank you for your support.



Clumber Park

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TOP FIVE

Places to find fungi

Autumn is the perfect time to explore our places and find rare fungi, and you can be part of our plans to look after places where you can spot them. Here's our selection of fascinating fungi, but remember to leave them for others to find. To find out more visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk/midsfungi

1

Longshaw Peak District

Longshaw is a great place to see fungi, with over a thousand different kinds to discover. The main pasture grasslands are a good place to start – look out for waxcaps, fairy clubs, pinkgills and possibly even a rare earth tongue. Join our Fungi Photography Walk & Talk event at Longshaw on 7 October. More details can be found in the 'What's On' section.



Waxcap



Dog's vomit fungus

2

Gunby Estate, Hall and Gardens Lincolnshire

Fungi come in many different shapes and sizes, and often have common names that indicate what they look like. Look out for dog's vomit fungus, though this is a slime mould and not a fungus, mostly found growing on areas of bark mulch. Another good find is the giant polypore, a very large bracket fungus that usually grows at the base of mature trees.

3

Clumber Park Nottinghamshire

One of the most attractive and colourful fungi is frequently found in the woodlands at Clumber Park. The fly agaric is the iconic red and white toadstool-shaped fungi that has a symbiotic relationship with silver birch. Like many fungi the fly agaric is poisonous so look but don't touch!



Fly agaric

4



Chicken of the woods

Kedleston Hall Derbyshire

Kedleston's woodland walks provide opportunities to see many different species of trees and fungi. One of the easiest to spot is the chicken-of-the-woods. You'll find these large, wavy yellow-orange brackets growing on oak, beech or chestnut trees, especially along the Wilderness Walk.

5

Calke Abbey Derbyshire

Calke's parklands and veteran trees are host to many kinds of fungi. As you enter the park, look out for the parasol mushrooms in the rough grass – these often grow as big as dinner plates. One of the rarest specimens at Calke is the oak polypore, but this is much harder to find.



Parasol mushroom

...and don't forget to share your fungi finds with us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram



Rehabilitating Belton's Stables Unexpected surprises

This spring saw the start of an ambitious 12-month project to conserve and restore the 17th-century Grade I listed Stables building at Belton House in Lincolnshire.

A little-known part of this project is the creation of a safe space for bats to roost in the attic of the building. Heated bat boxes, blackout blinds, additional ridges and felt walls have been installed to provide the best possible space for the existing bat population. It's hoped that this improved habitat will increase bat numbers in the future.

The property team are working with ecologist Andrew Chick to monitor the colony. Andrew says: 'Belton is a great place for wildlife. Ensuring the bats are retained within the stables is critical to the conservation status of these amazing creatures'.

Historically, the upper floors of the Stables were used as staff accommodation and included rooms for the Head Groom and Head Coachman. Before the builders moved in, a conservation team led by House Steward Sally Hancock worked to record and protect the decorative features within the Stables. Wallpaper, in some places up to five layers thick, covers the walls. The conservation team got an unexpected surprise in one of the bedrooms as Sally says: 'We noticed that the green pigment had leached from the paper through to the plaster, which is unusual. Our tests found the pigment was arsenic, a substance frequently used to create green wallpaper in the early 19th century'.

While this work is taking place, you can enjoy a tea-room with a view; The Pavilion Café is on Belton's front lawn overlooking the house and parkland and is where the Brownlow family had their picnics in the park. The new Stables Restaurant will open in spring 2019, refurbished to reflect the significant history of the building.

Take a peek inside Belton's bat hotel by following this link: www.nationaltrust.org.uk/belton-house/features/beltons-bats



© National Trust Images/Bat Conservation Trust/Hugh Clark



Above: Children at Longshaw, dressed in nurses and orderlies uniforms from WWI.



Right: Soldiers from the Great War.

Commemorating 100 years since the end of the Great War



November sees 100 years since the end of the First World War. Properties throughout the East Midlands will be marking this historic occasion in a variety of ways, highlighting how the Great War touched these places and the people connected to them.

Belton in Lincolnshire is hosting a special event featuring poetry readings titled 'Battles Over, A Nations' Tribute'. The site is also taking part in the national Beacons of Light commemoration programme. Belton Park was initially used for temporary accommodation for thousands of soldiers about to go through basic training. By 1915, the parkland was housing around 20,000 of Kitchener's Army, complete with a church, YMCA huts and a separate military hospital.

Longshaw Lodge in the Peak District was used as a convalescent home for soldiers during the First World War. Now, visitors are being invited to remember this part of Longshaw's history. Children from local schools will experience life through the eyes of the soldiers, and the nurses who cared for them at Longshaw – including dressing up in contemporary clothing made by volunteers.

On 7 and 10 November, you can hear about new findings and photographs discovered by volunteer historian Thelma Griffiths, which focuses on the pivotal role that the nurses of Longshaw played on the home front.

Clumber Park in Nottinghamshire has been following the fascinating diary of Rudolph Schmitt. Rudolph was

born in France, but through his mother's employment and then unexpected death, he ended up growing up on the Clumber estate and later became the House Carpenter.

Thanks to his grandson Richard, Clumber Park are now following Rudolph's diary online from his time serving in France with the Sherwood Foresters. You can join in the conversation on Twitter by using #clumberatwar and catch regular real time updates from Rudolph's diary at www.twitter.com/ClumberParkNT

You can read more about all of these stories and the impact of the war on the places we care for by visiting www.nationaltrust.org.uk/the-great-war

News in brief

Piano conservation at Mr Straw's House

Amongst the many historic objects at Mr Straw's in Nottinghamshire stand two pianos, Florence's personal piano and one that was given to William Jnr. After years of silence, these instruments require conservation to restore the mechanisms and reinstate the sound of music back into the house.

Find out how you can support this conservation at www.nationaltrust.org.uk/fundraising-at-mr-straws

Skydancer returns to the Peak District

After four years of absence, a hen harrier nest was found by a volunteer this spring on moorland owned by the National Trust, with fledgling chicks inside. Despite being protected by law, studies have found that hen harrier numbers in the UK have been constrained by illegal population control associated with grouse moor management. Working with our tenants, we are trying to show it doesn't have to be like this and we are so pleased to see the results of our collaborative efforts bearing fruit.

For the latest updates on how the chicks are doing, and to find out more about Hen Harriers in the Peak District and our efforts to protect them, visit: www.nationaltrust.org.uk/kinder-edale-and-the-dark-peak/features/skydancer-returns

Calke Unlocked: a tour with a twist

Museum tours not for you? Want to have a little fun with history instead? Introducing Calke Unlocked – a high-energy, interactive adventure at Calke Abbey in Derbyshire. Play games, take selfies, and see Calke in a whole new light. Suitable for over 14s, and don't forget to bring a smartphone or tablet to capture some of the fun.

Find out more at www.nationaltrust.org.uk/calke-unlocked-a-tour-with-a-twist

Donation to save Belton's boathouse

Our summer newsletter showcased an appeal to save the boathouse at Belton House in Lincolnshire, an historically important feature of Belton's landscape. Since that edition, a generous donation of £2,000 has been given to help restore the riverside structure to its former splendour. Thank you for your support.

To make a donation, please visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk/appeal/saving-beltons-boathouse

'Central Bark' opens at Clumber Park

Clumber Park in Nottinghamshire now has a new dog-friendly café 'Central Bark' – named by our Facebook followers – offering refreshments, sweet treats, light bites and dog bowls for your canine friends.

We'd love to know what you think of Central Bark: email clumberparkrevitalised@nationaltrust.org.uk



© National Trust/John Black

Black Dolls: The Power of Representation

The National Trust Museum of Childhood, with the support of the Heritage Lottery Fund, is proud to be offering display space to Museumand, a unique, vibrant, creative organisation dedicated to commemorating and celebrating the Caribbean contribution to life in the UK.

The exhibition is displayed on homely 'bedroom shelves' and in our project gallery's conservation space. Displays feature our black dolls and related collections, from a 1915 Topsy-Turvy doll to our newly acquired 1974 Lt. Uhura doll, alongside a film that explores views of black dolls.

Museumand say, 'We have put together this

immersive exhibition with the aim of helping all communities discover what life was like for black children growing up in Britain through the ages. Black dolls are part of our shared history and cultural heritage, and through the exhibition, we're keen to discover how both black and non-black children experienced them – and their effect on childhood.'

Thank you to Museumand and all the volunteers who have helped us to put this exhibition together.

The exhibition will run until 4 November and we'll be celebrating Black History Month, with 'Have Your Say Saturday' on 6 October.

Get a first behind-the-scenes glance of Lyveden Manor

We're inviting you to get a behind the scenes experience of Lyveden Manor – currently not open to the public – and help us to shape its future. The Trust acquired the manor back in 2013, and we've been working on plans to open the building up to the public ever since.

Through the Lyveden Reconnected project, we're incorporating the historic building and surrounding grounds into the future experience of the site, and we'd really like your help to decide how we use the brand new spaces within the Manor.



© National Trust/Geoff Harrop

To do this, we'll be opening up the ground floor of the manor to special booked-visits throughout this winter, to reveal more of Sir Thomas Tresham's fascinating story and hear what you think in terms of shaping that future visitor journey.

We'll be testing out some new story-telling techniques during this time, which will mean each experience will be unique. It's an exciting time to be a pivotal part of shaping the future visitor experience of Lyveden.

During your experience, you will be able to discover more about Tresham's life as a Catholic living in Protestant Elizabethan England and explore what drove him to create Lyveden, before embarking on a journey through the unique Elizabethan gardens up to the lodge.

To book your place, please visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk/lyveden/features/book-a-behind-the-scenes-look-at-lyveden-reconnected and for the latest updates check out @NTLyveden or follow 'Lyveden, National Trust' on Facebook.

Volunteering



Volunteers take the initiative at Stainsby Mill

A new audio-visual installation at Stainsby Mill on the Hardwick Estate in Derbyshire has opened thanks to the work of volunteers.

Stainsby offers a fascinating insight into a working Victorian flour mill. 'The problem until now' explained volunteer Bob Chettle, 'is that those with limited mobility haven't been able to access the milling floor, so they've missed out on an important aspect of the mill experience'.

Just over a year ago, a team of eight volunteers formed the Stable Action Group (STAG) with the plan to use the adjacent stable block to enhance the visitor experience

and provide a video tour for those unable to access all parts of the mill.

The volunteers have produced a series of entertaining and informative audio-visual presentations which they have written, filmed and edited. Currently, six short videos may be selected by visitors allowing them to see many aspects of the milling process and hear accounts from people associated with the mill's past and present history.

To find out more and for opening times go to www.nationaltrust.org.uk/hardwick-estate-stainsby-mill



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Bridging hearts and minds at Clumber Park

As you are probably aware, the iconic Ornamental Bridge at Clumber Park, which dates from the mid-1700s, was subjected to a major act of intentional vandalism in early March. The reaction from visitors and members of the public since the incident has been absolutely overwhelming. These feelings were echoed at the Ornamental Bridge itself, where hundreds of notes of support were tied to the temporary fencing, sharing love for the bridge and treasured personal memories.

We are excited to share that the clean-up and restoration of the Ornamental Bridge is underway, but there is a long way to go to restore the bridge to its former glory as part of the Clumber Park Revitalised Project.

So far, a team of specialist divers from Nottinghamshire Police have salvaged sections of masonry from the lake under the bridge. Samples

of stone have been analysed by the British Geological Survey, to identify the material the bridge was originally built with so we can discover a suitable match. We are now in the process of tendering for architects for the project, and expect work to start next spring. It will take around two years for the works to be fully completed.

Clumber Park would like to thank our visitors and the public for their outpouring of love and support in light of the incident, and for your continued support over the coming months while restoration work takes place on site.

You can help care for Clumber Park with every continued visit, but if you would like to help towards Clumber Park's wider conservation work you can by donating at www.nationaltrust.org.uk/appeal/support-clumber-park. Thank you.

Your membership matters

Did you know, the places you love receive £2.50 each time you visit? For membership queries please call 0344 800 1895

If you require this information in alternative formats, including the Talking Newsletter, please telephone 0121 224 7460 or email: mi.customerenquiries@nationaltrust.org.uk