



National  
Trust

News and events for autumn / Christmas 2018  
**Berkshire | Buckinghamshire |  
 Hampshire | Isle of Wight |  
 London | Oxfordshire**



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**Head to [nationaltrust.org.uk/southeast](http://nationaltrust.org.uk/southeast) to track the best September gardens and autumn colour near you and find head gardener advice for your own garden.**

## Golden time in the garden



Cliveden

**September is a fantastic time to visit our gardens as they mellow into a romantic tangle of repeat-flowering perennials, feathery grasses and sculptural seedheads.**

It's also a tranquil time as the days are still and warm, children have been buttoned back into school and the tourists have retreated. You're likely to find more garden interest than you'd expect too, with bright splashes of colour as gardeners make the most of this golden time in the garden. Some even consider it a distinct season of its own.

'It's partly being driven by climate,' says Rosie Fyles, Head Gardener at **Ham House** in South London. 'Last year's winter was the first in a long time when it's been cold enough to allow us to stop mowing the grass. Generally, the season is longer and plants just keep on flowering.'

This experience is borne out by Met Office data which shows that since the millennium, September has been mostly drier and warmer than August.

Building interest in late summer and autumn is the natural next focus for our gardeners. In recent years, as most of our places have begun opening all year round, they've had the pleasurable challenge of adding garden interest in spring and winter. Now it's September's turn.

'We're getting wiser about our plant choices for late summer,' says Anthony Mason, new Head Gardener at **Cliveden** in Buckinghamshire. For instance, choosing repeat- or second-sowing plants such as salvias and asters or ornamental grasses. Or shrubs with bright colour and texture like burning bush or callicarpa bodinieri with its violet, bead-like berries.'

**Mottisfont** in Hampshire has taken the focus to the next level by designing a whole new garden for the season, which opens this year. It pays tribute to Mottisfont's monastic past, with two long cloister-esque pergolas which will soon be woven round with vines and hanging gourds. The pergolas lead to a productive kitchen garden planted with fruit trees and year-round herbs and salads in raised beds. 'I'm really looking forward to experimenting and sharing ideas with our visitors,' says Jonny Norton, Mottisfont's head gardener.

This is a time to take a breath, look back and take stock – good gardening advice, which we could take into our own lives. A peaceful wander among soft herbaceous borders in gentle late summer light is just the thing to restore and reset for a new season.

## Autumn colour

**As late summer ripens into autumn, the focus shifts from flowerbeds to foliage as shrubs and trees turn bright red and gold.**



### Ashridge, Buckinghamshire

The beech, oak and lime trees in Ashridge's woodland are aglow with colour in October and November. You can climb the monument for far-reaching views of the spectacle or immerse yourself in the visual treat of rich gold, red and browns. It's crunchy underfoot with dried leaves and beech mast at this time of year and if you're lucky, you might spot the fallow deer bucks vying for does in the clearings.



### The Vyne, Hampshire

The Vyne offers some spectacular natural sights in autumn. Follow its gentle trail through golden-canopied beech woods to a huge lake fringed by crimson and purple leaves of liquidamber and swamp cypress. They create beautiful reflections across the water. You'll discover wetlands too – rich with colourful migrating birds.

### Morden Hall Park, London

The historic avenues planted with limes and horse chestnuts become a riot of colour crisscrossing the park as the weather changes. If you know where to look, there are impressive individual trees to admire as their leaves turn gold. Seek out the gingko biloba and hornbeam in the rose garden and look out for an Acer cappadocicum as you approach Phipps Bridge.

### Stowe, Buckinghamshire

At Stowe [pictured left], autumn brings misty mornings over the lakes and bright afternoons, ripe for rambling. The gardeners prune the ripening foliage to frame perfect views of red and gold trees surrounding the monuments. Stowe gardener Anna Tolfree says to look out for the cyclamen flowering bright against the dark soil and the spindle on the edge of Sleeping Wood, which has beautiful vivid orange and pink seedheads set against ruby red leaves.



# London news



If you're looking for design inspiration as the festive season draws near, **Osterley's Made for the Table** exhibition will inspire even the most jaded. From 5 November in the west London house, you'll find contemporary and historic silver from the Goldsmiths' Company's Collection, exploring the aesthetics of fine dining past and present.

From candlesticks to cutlery and serving dishes, these exquisite exhibits made by silversmiths have been the focal point of table setting for the last five centuries. Within Osterley's Robert Adam interiors, you'll also see pieces from Osterley's rarely seen silver collection together with modern glass, ceramics and textiles by leading UK artisans.

Discover more about these extraordinary crafts, and Osterley's historic links to the Goldsmiths, through a series of events, talks and workshops throughout the winter.



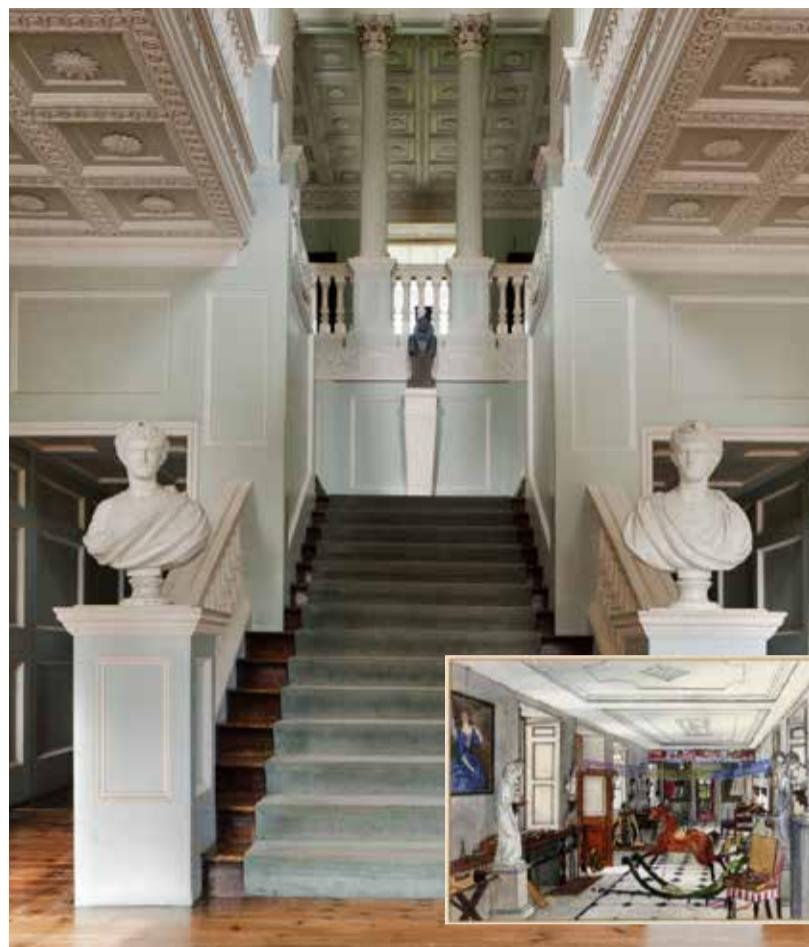
Half an hour south at **Ham House and Garden** in Richmond, there's an opportunity to indulge a taste for intrigue with **Duchess, Daughter, Socialite, Spy?** This display unveils the public and private life of one of Ham House's most compelling residents; Elizabeth Murray, Duchess of Lauderdale. As a subtle yet highly influential political activist, she was a remarkable woman for her time.

Running 12-4pm daily until Friday 19 October, the display is part of the National Trust's wider Women and Power programme, commemorating 100 years since Parliament passed a law allowing women to vote for the first time.

At the green oasis in the city that is **Morden Hall Park**, you can take a culinary journey with our range of Harvest Treats workshops in October, welcoming anyone interested in cookery from beginners to experts. You can learn new cooking skills using seasonal ingredients grown in the Park, or simply enjoy our locally sourced treats in the Park's cafes. Grow your own seasonal treats with the help of the National Trust's only garden centre at Morden Hall Park. All profits go back to our conservation work.

## To find out more...

To find out about all these events and attractions in London and to book tour tickets, please see: [nationaltrust.org.uk/london](http://nationaltrust.org.uk/london)



## Writ in Water

There's a new public artwork at **Runnymede** in Surrey which provides an immersive space for contemplation and reflection. **Writ in Water** is a major architectural artwork by Mark Wallinger, in collaboration with Studio Octopi.

More than 800 years ago, Runnymede witnessed the feudal barons forcing King John to seal Magna Carta – a founding moment in shaping the basis of common law across the world. **Writ in Water**, commissioned by the National Trust in association with arts producers Situations, celebrates the enduring significance of Magna Carta.

Set in the heart of this ancient landscape, **Writ in Water** reflects upon the founding principles of democracy. Inside, the sky looms through a wide oculus above a pool of water, as reflective as a still font.

The sides of the pool are inscribed on the inner side with Clause 39 of Magna Carta and the fundamental principles of justice it embodies. The words are reversed and inverted in the inscription and the visitor has to move around the pool to read the words reflected in the water.

**Writ in Water** takes its name from the inscription on John Keats' gravestone, which reads, 'Here lies one whose name was writ in water'. The artwork has been made possible with National Lottery funding through Arts Council England and the generous support of Art Fund, the Sigrid Rausing Trust, the Henry Moore Foundation, Surrey County Council and Lord and Lady Lupton. With additional support from Iwan and Manuela Wirth, Valeria and Rudolf Maag-Arrigoni and Harris Calnan.

The next phase of work at Runnymede is to improve access and information for visitors. Open seven days a week.



## Stowe's worthy women

Over the spring and summer, visitors to **Stowe** have been voting for the women that they consider worthy enough to be represented in the gardens. This September, you can see the results of the vote depicted in a new installation at the Temple of Venus.

It's all part of the National Trust's year of Women and Power celebrating 100 years of women's suffrage. Many of our places have been taking the opportunity to explore their histories through a different lens.

At Stowe, the team's attention was drawn to the garden's iconic Temple of the British Worthies. Originally designed in 1735, it has 16 busts of notable characters that Lord Cobham believed deserved commemoration.

Represented are eight men of ideas, seven men of action and only one woman, Elizabeth I.

When a female visitor posed the question 'Are we not worthy?', a lively debate was sparked amongst the team. In the year of Vote100, Stowe has been asking its visitors to propose a twenty-first century take on the Worthies by voting for their 'worthy women' at New Inn and online.

At the time of writing, contenders for the new Temple of British Worthies are Elizabeth II, Doreen Lawrence, Ellie Simmonds and Jess Ennis-Hill.

'Aren't we worthy?' The winning women, runs from Monday 10 September to Friday 9 November.

## The Vyne reopens

This autumn, **The Vyne** fully reopens after a £5.4 million scheme to save its roof and precious collections.

The house is being reorganised to reveal the untold story of a Victorian brother and sister who became entwined with **The Vyne**'s survival. Newly presented rooms draw you into this moment in the mansion's past, mirroring charming 19th-century watercolours painted by members of the family.

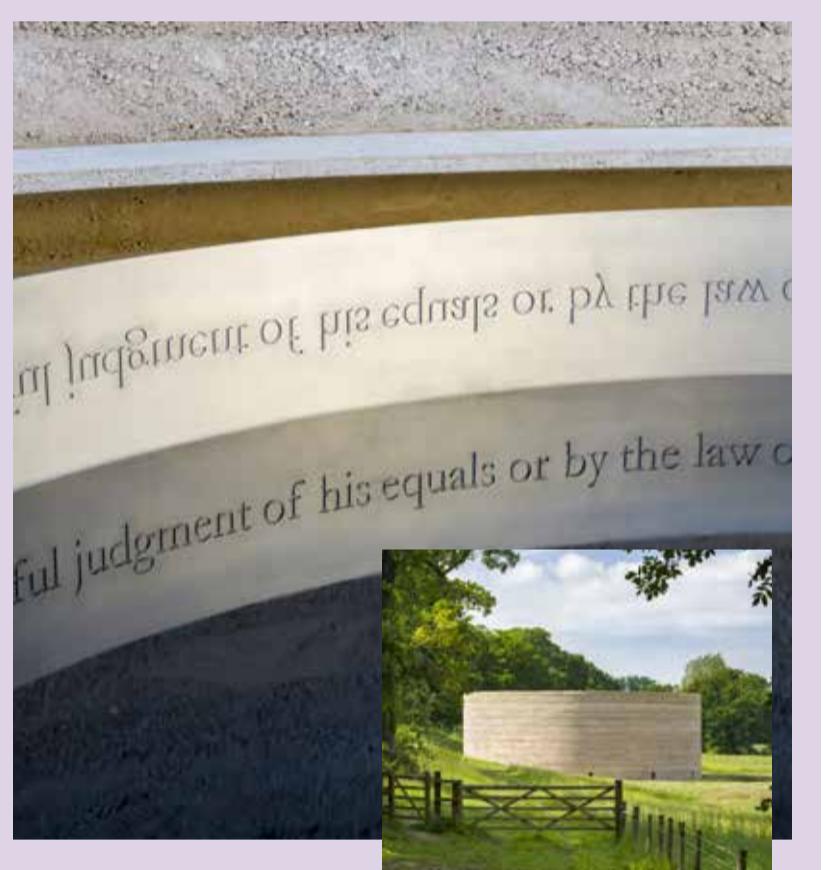
Spaces previously closed to visitors have been opened up to host a snapshot of The Vyne's huge roof project. Against a backdrop of construction sights and sounds, you can watch bird's-eye-view drone footage, and learn how more than 3,000 items were protected in the house.

Archaeological 'finds' are on show, and we've even recreated the long money chute, with stairs to the top where you can throw in your coins.

The Vyne's Tapestry Room tells the story of its magnificent 18th-century Soho tapestries, which are undergoing urgent conservation treatment. In this darkened room, projected images highlight beautiful scenes from the rare textiles and you can find out how you can be part of an ambitious plan to help save them.

There's a unique opportunity to watch live conservation too, when the Library's entire book collection is cleaned and restored to the shelves. Look out for 'hidden' items, such as personal letters and bookmarks.

There's more to explore on 'behind the scenes' tours, which take you into The Vyne's atmospheric cellars and attics. And later in the year, a new 'below stairs' experience opens in the Servants' Quarters, inspired by personal family memoirs.



## Member tours of Hartwell House

It's 10 years since **Hartwell House** was gifted to the National Trust to protect it for the future. The luxury hotel in the Vale of Aylesbury was part of a generous donation along with two other Historic House Hotels in Wales and York. To celebrate, the hotel is opening its doors to National Trust members this autumn for two royal history and two autumn garden talks with morning tea, tour and lunch.

The hotel is a Grade I listed Georgian and Jacobean stately home situated in 90 acres of Capability Brown-inspired parkland. The house has an illustrious history stretching back almost a thousand years to the reign of Edward the Confessor and was once home to Louis XVIII, the exiled King of France.

The formal garden was swept away in the 18th century and landscaped by Richard Woods, a follower of Capability Brown. The garden comes into its own in autumn when the trees are turning and the orchard fruit is ripening.

To find out more about the hotel, read an interview in the National Trust magazine with Historic House Hotels' chairman, Richard Broyd.

*The Hartwell House Royal history talk and tours run on 3 and 19 October. The autumn colours garden and trees tours run on 7 and 14 November. All tours include morning tea in the library plus a two-course lunch with a glass of wine and coffee. Tours start at 11am and cost £31. Call 01296 747444 to book.*



# Make...



# Harvest home

**Harvest festivals are a celebration and expression of thanks to nature for providing us with food. Many National Trust places are still working estates and our kitchen and garden teams are working more closely than ever before.**

Harvest festivals were traditionally held when the last crops had been gathered and safely stored. In the past, when the lives of a whole village depended on a successful harvest, all the community, including children, were involved in the process.

These days, when food is readily available year-round in shops, many of us neither sow, nor reap what we eat. However, the spirit of harvest home predates written history and

the tradition is in our bones. The term 'harvest home' seems particularly apt for our times as this time of year can feel like a homecoming after



a busy summer of exploring foreign lands and adventuring around the country.

Unlike many of the other festivals that punctuate our year which focus around family, harvest continues to be about community. It's the festival where we reaffirm our ties to the land at the places which mean the most to us. It's about thanksgiving for nature, reconnecting with our community and celebrating glorious home-grown food.

The goal of our outdoors and kitchen teams is to rear and grow as much produce as possible on the estate and in kitchen gardens for you to enjoy in our tea-rooms. There are so many obvious reasons for this in terms of provenance, food miles, ethical

production and the sheer freshness of the ingredients.

Why not gather in your friends and family to see how we're getting on and celebrate harvest with us?

**Ham House**'s 17th century gardens in south London include a productive kitchen garden tended by 50 volunteers. This year, the team has planted its biggest crop to date. You can sample a huge variety of historic herbs, marvel at the huge array of pumpkins and squashes, and taste them in the café. There'll also be kitchen garden tours running until 3 October.

The whole of October is dedicated to an autumn festival at **Hughenden** in Buckinghamshire with stalls, guided walks and talks and workshops. Its orchard is legendary, with 57 varieties of apple to pick, taste, and squish in the apple press.

It's worth heading to **Mottisfont** in Hampshire to see the first harvest from its new kitchen garden, the Frameyard. Look out for the hanging gourds pergola walk. Over at **Greys Court** in Oxfordshire, they'll be channelling the spirit of former resident and WI Chair, Lady Brunner, with jam-making from kitchen garden berries. The scent of the boiling fruit fragrances the whole house.



## Food for thought

As little creatures get themselves ready for the winter, don't forget the harvest that our hedgerows, trees and plants provide. Hips, berries, crab apples, fungi and seeds provide vital nutrients to sustain our wildlife through the harsh winter months.

Our ranger and garden teams look after these habitats and food sources for our feathered and furry friends just as much as they tend to the fruit and vegetables we enjoy. As the days get shorter and more chilly, why not leave an area of your garden wild for your local wildlife to feast on?



## Squash and pumpkin soup

Devised by the chef at Ham House and Garden, this recipe is inspired by the stunning kitchen garden which yields produce grown on organic principles throughout autumn.

Makes 5 servings.

### Ingredients

- 750g squash
- 150 ml vegetable oil
- 2 onions, chopped
- 1 lemon zest
- 1 large carrot, chopped
- 1 tsp ground ginger
- 1 tsp ground turmeric
- 2 bay leaves
- 1 litre stock
- 2 tbsp butter
- Flat parsley
- Salt and pepper

### Method

- Peel the squash and cut into 2cm cubes (removing all seeds), do the same with the carrots.
- In a large pan add half the oil and sweat the vegetables with the seasoning for 5-10 minutes.
- As the vegetables slowly soften add 1 litre stock and cover pan, simmer for approx 7-10 minutes or until soft.
- While the squash and carrot cooks, melt half the butter with the remaining oil in a large saucepan, then add the onions. Cover and cook on a very low heat for 15-20 mins until the onions are completely soft.
- Strain the squash and carrot mixture allowing the liquid to continue cooking. Blitz the squash mixture and the onions in the food processor and add the liquid until a soup consistency is achieved. Add seasoning to taste.
- Return to the pan with a knob of butter to add richness and shine. Dress with pumpkin seeds, flat parsley and a squeeze of lemon.



## Apple days

### Mottisfont, Hampshire

Tucked away just beyond the gardens is the now 18 year-old Millennium orchard. It is filled with traditional apple varieties such as southern England cultivar, the Egremont Russet. You can discover it at your leisure or on a guided walk – part of the month-long celebrations.

1-31 October.



### Winchester City Mill, Hampshire

The popular Apple Harvest Weekend returns. Bring your fruits along to be identified by apple experts from nearby Sparsholt Agricultural College. You'll learn all about regional apple varieties plus there's apple-themed recipe cards to take away – you could snap up some of the Mill's stoneground flour to get baking at home.

20 & 21 October



### Cliveden, Buckinghamshire

Cliveden's Round Garden orchard was laid out in the mid 19th century and is one of few surviving examples of a circular fruit garden from this period. It is highly ornamental, with apple, plum, cherry and pear trees growing up 230 huge iron hoops surrounding and traversing the garden. Apple weekend celebrates the restoration of the garden and the produce it brings with talks, tastings and storytelling.

6 & 7 October

### Fenton House, London

Fenton House's Apple Weekend is a celebration of all things apple in beguiling walled gardens and a 300 year-old orchard. Taste old English varieties of apples and juice. Kids' activities include badge making, apple juicing and giant lawn games. Local produce, a range of beverages and hot food also available.

29 & 30 September



## What your support means to us...

says Regional Director, Nicola Briggs



While we've been making the most of fresh air and beautiful surroundings over the long hot summer, our fellow creatures have been busy too, not least the many varieties of birds welcoming their young to the world.

Now that those young have fledged, our rangers and outdoor teams begin the work we've had on hold to avoid disturbing nesting birds. They now gear up for their busiest time of the year. For our gardens teams, while physical work reduces as winter nears, they're absorbed in planning for the year ahead.

Year round we continue to work to improve the condition of the land we look after. We've committed to support nature to thrive across an area of 3000 hectares across London and the South East - that's roughly the size of 3000 football pitches! And we couldn't do it without all of your support, so thank you!



## Sponsor a sapling



We're entering an exciting phase of the woodland restoration project at Maidenhead Thicket in Berkshire.

Maidenhead Thicket is a wooded area of big, ancient trees and gloriously gnarled veterans. Until last year there was also a redundant larch plantation – a dense, dark area where little wildlife lived.

Felling last year is enabling us to re-plant with native British trees. This new generation of oak, hazel and elm saplings will allow much more wildlife to thrive; beetles like the three-horned minotaur beetle and butterflies such as red admirals and clouded yellows.

The rangers are looking for tree-lovers to sponsor a sapling at £15 per tree, and are inviting everyone to come and help settle the saplings in their new home in a tree-planting day on Saturday 24 November.

To find out more about the tree-planting day, sponsor a sapling or look up the new walking trails at Maidenhead Thicket, head to [nationaltrust.org.uk/maidenhead-and-cookham-commons](http://nationaltrust.org.uk/maidenhead-and-cookham-commons).

## Conservation days at Claydon

If you've ever wanted to know what goes on behind the scenes to conserve collections and historic interiors, **Claydon** is the place to go in October.

The conservation team is on hand every day to talk about how country houses were cared for in the past – you may be surprised at how little has changed in terms of techniques and materials. You can find out



when you'd use a hogs hair or a pony hair brush, more than you might want to know about the bugs that inhabit historic houses and some handy life hacks to use at home.

If you feel inspired to get involved, the conservation team are running six 'give-it-a-go' sessions where visitors can become part of the conservation team. You might be taking photos and cataloguing for the inventory, monitoring light and humidity or cleaning delicate textiles with the museum vac.

There'll be a break in the middle for a cup of tea and biscuits, then it's back to work, learning more about what it takes to look after this special place and its collection.

*Give-it-a-go sessions run 20-22 and 27-29 October, 11.15-1.30pm and cost £10.*

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# Conservation in action



## Whistler's curtains

**Mottisfont**'s theatrical Drawing Room curtains were artist Rex Whistler's last commission, before he was tragically killed in the Second World War. Rex famously hand painted a mock ermine lining onto the curtains, but these are now rapidly deteriorating. Thanks to funds raised by our supporters, the curtains have recently been removed so that they can receive specialist

conservation treatment. However, we still need to continue fundraising to reach the anticipated cost of £175k to fully restore them.

This autumn, visitors to the Rex Whistler room can view some of the curtains up close inside special polycarbonate boxes, following initial 'freezing' to rid the fabric of pests.

Also on display are Rex's original design sketches for the room, which he painted with a stunning trompe l'oeil design. Alongside these are two new films capturing the room in its former glory, followed by the painstaking process of the curtains being dismantled by specialist conservators.



## Giving eels a helping hand at Morden Hall Park

Eels start their life embarking on a two year journey 3000 miles from their birth place in the Sargasso Sea, near Bermuda. Between February and May every year, tiny eels navigate up the River Wandle through **Morden Hall Park**.

Many manage this last leg of their journey with few problems; however, we want even more to make it. With help from the ZSL (Zoological Society London), Heritage Lottery Fund, and your support, we have installed an eel pass to assist these tiny creatures on their epic migration.

We've also been helping improve their habitats, enhancing the wetland and creating meanders in Morden's river to slow water channels to give the eels places to live. Last June, our rangers and volunteers started using an eel trap to monitor numbers and see if these changes are helping this critically endangered species. A year on, and there's no question the project is a success, with more than 200 eels counted.

## Meet like-minded members

If you like making the most of your National Trust membership and enjoy some company on your outings, why not join your local Supporter Group? These are groups of Trust members who live near you and get together for talks, walks, outings, day trips and even holidays. Wherever you live, there's a group within reach, waiting to give you a warm welcome.

To find out more, contact [supportergroupslse@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:supportergroupslse@nationaltrust.org.uk) or 01932 339496.



[nationaltrust.org.uk/southeast](http://nationaltrust.org.uk/southeast)



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