



National Trust

News and events for autumn and winter 2018  
North West

# Near you



Dunham Massey

## Take a front row seat this autumn

We're so lucky to have nature right on our doorstep, and autumn is one of the best times to get out and into the thick of it.

You don't always need to pack your compass and Kendal Mint Cake though. In this season there are natural spectacles to be found on the most casual of strolls, if you know where to look. Here's a selection of the shortest walks that will leave the longest memories...



Latterbarrow

© National Trust Images/Rob Clarke



Quarry Bank

© National Trust Images/David Watson

### Little hills with big views

Start from **Wray Castle** in the heart of Beatrix Potter country, and take a short but steep climb up **Latterbarrow**. This small fell boasts views punching way above its weight, perfect to see the bracken changing colour.

At **Lyme**, the panoramic views from Cage Hill are well worth the effort. The old hunting lodge on the top was ideally placed to see the action for miles around. On a clear day you can even make out some of Manchester's most distinctive landmarks: look for Beetham Tower and the City football ground.

### Trails for trees

We're all about the trees in autumn. Around the Lakes we're celebrating some of the oldest and most mysterious. Head to **Aira Force** or **High Close** to make your way along their tree trails and discover what makes a champion tree.

At **Quarry Bank**, we've been hard at work restoring Chapel Woods. This was the Greg family's pleasure ground back in the mill's heyday, filled with exotic specimens including towering redwood conifers.

### Wildlife wanders

Autumn is peak time for memorable wildlife moments. At **Dunham Massey**, **Tatton Park** and **Lyme**, watch out for clashing antlers as the deer battle for the top spot in their annual rut. If you aren't lucky enough to see a battle, you'll very likely hear one - their distinctive bellows carry for miles.

At **Speke Hall** you're in a prime spot to see the rush hour of the skies, as migrating birds arrive for winter. Or, take a stroll to the coastal reserve to see godwit, redshank and teal settling into their winter digs on the Mersey shore.

It's a hectic time for red squirrels too. Find them getting their winter stash in order in the pines at Formby or the woodland at **Allan Bank**, a short stroll from Grasmere village.

Plan your day out at [nationaltrust.org.uk/north-west](http://nationaltrust.org.uk/north-west)

### Crunching and colour

**Rufford Old Hall** and **Hare Hill** come to life in a riot of red this season. And walks at **Dunham**, **Lyme** and **Speke** will come with added crunch underfoot as brown and gold trees shed the last of their leaves.

For a picture-perfect view, try **Tarn Hows** on a misty morning. It's the ideal place for a family stroll, with its accessible path around the tarn and Tramper mobility scooters to borrow, and it's one of our very favourite spots to see the autumn colour changing.



Tarn Hows

© National Trust Images/Chris Lacey

We'd love to hear what you've been up to. Join the adventure and share your top spots this season:

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You'll find your autumn/winter  
What's on inside >>>



# Lest we forget

'As the clouds parted giving a fleeting glimpse across the hills, it made me wonder, did those who served and fell have such moments of brightness amidst the gloom of war?'

Les Meer, Fell and Rock Climbing Club, joined the Fellowship Choir's walk in June.

100 years after the end of the First World War, we've been remembering those who lost their lives in battle.

Just after the war, 14 Lake District summits were gifted to the National Trust to look after on behalf of the nation. These great gifts of freedom, described at the time as 'the world's greatest war memorials' have played a special role in our year of remembrance.

Rangers camped out on the top of Scafell Pike, the highest mountain in England, to fix the crumbling cairn at the summit – England's highest war memorial.

Singers from community choirs, together with local walkers, joined in with a series of remembrance songs performed on nine of the summits.

The performances were led by musical director Dr Dave Camlin and recorded by University of York as part of research into the health and benefits of group singing. You can hear the songs, including a new composition by Dave on the website.\*

There's still a chance to add your voice on 13 October at Peace How – a tiny hill near Derwent Water in Borrowdale. It was given to the National Trust in 1917 so that those affected by the war could experience peace and tranquillity.

And there'll be a special session devoted to the story of these great gifts at the Kendal Mountain Festival on 18 November, with performances by the Fellowship Choir who sang on the summits and an appearance by mountaineer Sir Chris Bonnington.

Find out more at [nationaltrust.org.uk/great-gift](http://nationaltrust.org.uk/great-gift)

\*A Trust New Art commission supported using public funding by Arts Council England, with research funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council.

'We were very proud to play a small part in remembering all those who gave their lives in the Great War. It was a reminder to us all that our freedom to walk these fells came at a great cost.'

Steve Jolley, Wasdale Area Ranger



'Our voices rang out passionately into the wide skies, the words torn away by the wind...'

Les Meer, Fell and Rock Climbing Club



Follow Lady Stamford's story at Dunham Massey and discover how she opened the house as a military hospital during the war. You'll be able to see the recreation of one of the rooms used as a hospital ward and, in the lead up to 11 November, look out for specialist tours and events to remember those who created a sanctuary from the trenches for the 282 men who were treated here.

October is also a last chance to visit the 'Where Poppies Blow' exhibition at Wordsworth House and Garden, which explores how the wonders of nature helped men endure the horrors of war.

Throughout the house and grounds, discover wartime photographs of the soldiers recovering at Dunham Massey, displayed where they were taken 100 years ago.



See the war diary of poet Edward Thomas at Wordsworth House and Garden, its pages bearing the creases created by the shell blast that killed him.



This year's commemorations will draw to a close on Armistice Day, with the lighting of beacons at Dunham Massey and on Scafell Pike. We'll light these in remembrance of those who lost their lives fighting for freedom, and in celebration of the freedom we enjoy today. We are forever grateful.

See What's on for details.

## News round-up



### Look out – there's a tiger about!

The nationwide exhibition of the much-loved children's picture book, *The Tiger Who Came to Tea*, is heading to Quarry Bank and then Acorn Bank this autumn. Celebrating the book's 50th anniversary, this exhibition in association with Seven Stories, National Centre for Children's Books, features Judith Kerr's beloved illustrations, storytelling, a family trail, an interactive play kitchen and a life-size tiger knocking at the door for tea...

See What's on for details.

### Ghostly voices at Quarry Bank

This year, Quarry Bank's writer-in-residence, Beth Underdown, has been uncovering the stories of women lost from its history books. In 1918, the year some women got the vote and just before the end of the First World War, a cotton shortage brought a strange hush to Quarry Bank. In the silence, their voices were suddenly loud enough to be heard...

'Loves makes as many' are ghost stories about love – and love stories about ghosts – which capture the voices of five of these women and the echoes they've left behind. Join a walking performance at Quarry Bank on 6 October to hear Beth's new stories giving these forgotten women a voice.

See What's on for details.



### Re-wiring Little Moreton Hall

We're pulling the plug at Little Moreton Hall this winter to update the wiring for the first time since it was put in over 60 years ago. With over 9,000 metres of cabling tucked behind Tudor panelling and hidden under historic floor boards, it's a tricky and expensive job, but it's been made possible thanks to your generous donations. It may not sound exciting but the work will help reduce the risk of fire, which is a big worry in a timber-framed building. And who knows what secrets from the past we might find as we peel back the layers?

[nationaltrust.org.uk/little-moreton-hall](http://nationaltrust.org.uk/little-moreton-hall)

# Christmas sparkle past and present

It'll soon start to look a lot like Christmas, as twinkling lights are unravelled and brightly coloured baubles are unwrapped and polished.

Dunham Massey will become a winter wonderland once again as the Christmas illuminations return with new surprises. Wander beneath brightly coloured tree canopies, through illuminated tunnels and by carpets of twinkling lights. Don't forget your camera for a festive family photo.



If you prefer Christmas past, you can also travel back in time and experience festive traditions through the ages:

Discover how Christmas was celebrated in Regency times at Lyme, complete with dancing and singing.

See how the Tudors marked 'Yuletide' at Little Moreton Hall. Try food and drink from the past and enjoy music, storytelling and cheeky jesters too at weekends.

Take in the sights, sounds and smells of a Victorian Christmas at Speke Hall, when many of the traditions we recognise today first began. Festive garlands made by volunteers fill the air with the familiar smell of Christmas.

At Quarry Bank, step into your favourite winter tale and explore traditional classics like *The Nutcracker* and *The Snow Queen*. On the top floor of the mill you'll find a winter wonderland with nooks to curl up for a story and places to play.

Allan Bank will also be dressing the house for Christmas, as staff and volunteers bring the outdoors in, using greenery, acorns and any natural finds to create festive wreaths and holly decorations.

Christmas is all about the food so join us at Tatton Park's mansion as we celebrate traditional Christmas fayre.

Of course, no Christmas is complete without a visit to see Father Christmas himself before the big day. He'll be setting up his grottoes at Lyme, Quarry Bank, Rufford Old Hall, Speke Hall and Tatton Park's farm, ready to hear your Christmas wishes and share festive stories.

Plan your festive days out at [nationaltrust.org.uk/north-west](http://nationaltrust.org.uk/north-west)



# Savour autumn

Get stuck into a delicious line up of events to warm you through and tickle your taste buds this autumn.

First on the menu is **A Taste of Autumn at Dunham Massey**, a two month spotlight on the tastes, smells, sounds and colours that the season has to offer. Find out what honey spinning is all about, sniff out the Katsura tree with its sweet candy floss scent or spot the acer leaves as they turn fiery red. You can also join the rangers for walks with a difference: head out for an early morning walk to see and hear the deer rut, join a 'taste of the estate' walk or take a peek inside the ice pit, which isn't usually open, to find out how ice cream was made in the past.

In the Lakes, **Sticklebarn's Octoberfest** weekend is the perfect excuse to refuel after a day in the nearby Langdale fells. Work up an appetite ghyll scrambling, orienteering or wild swimming, then tuck into fire-cooked foods and Cumbrian ales, with local musicians on hand to entertain.

Tasty ales and seriously good food are always on offer at Sticklebarn, not just during Octoberfest, and there are regular quiz nights and films evenings too.

At this time of year, the autumn harvest provides lots of fresh ingredients for the kitchen. Enjoy sweet dishes with apples and pears alongside hearty stews, soups and pies. All our places create their own menus, taking inspiration from the National Trust Cookbook – grab a copy to take home, or as a gift, to continue tasting the best of autumn long after your day out.

See What's on for details.





# Make the most of Twixmas

Derwent Water

© National Trust Images/John Miller

The presents have been opened, everyone's eaten too much Christmas dinner and nobody is quite sure what day it is. With a few more days until you go back to work or school, how can you make the most of your time off between Christmas and New Year?

Here are just a few ideas to get you out of the house after Boxing Day and help you start the new year on a high...

## Enjoy a turkey sandwich with a view

Pack your lunch and take in the frosty scenery with a crisp winter walk. **Sizergh**, **Blea Tarn** and **Buttermere** are all perfect places to start a family-friendly stroll taking in some spectacular views along the way.

## Work off Christmas dinner

There's no better time to get your running shoes on and start working off that third portion of Christmas pudding. Get some headspace with a winter run around the woodland and grounds at **Speke Hall** this winter, or explore **Windermere** with a lakeside run at **Fell Foot**.



Lyme

© National Trust Images/Arnheld de Soria



Tatton Park

© Tatton Park

## Spot winter wildlife

Our places are teeming with wildlife in winter, and it's easier to spot when the trees have lost their leaves. Rare native red squirrels can often be spotted in the woodlands around **Aira Force** and **Borrowdale**, while the majestic red deer make an imposing sight at **Lyme**.

## Spend the week away

Take a moment before diving into the new year with a stay in one of our holiday cottages or snug camping pods in the Lakes – head to [nationaltrust.org.uk/holidays](http://nationaltrust.org.uk/holidays) to find the perfect place to escape.

For more Twixmas ideas, visit [nationaltrust.org.uk/north-west](http://nationaltrust.org.uk/north-west)

## Wrap up warm with a hot chocolate

Treat yourself before January kicks in and enjoy something delicious in a National Trust café, like the cosy tea-room at **Acorn Bank** or the mill café at **Quarry Bank**, housed in the original weaving shed.



Quarry Bank

© National Trust Images/Chris Lacey



© National Trust/Clair Payne

## Five minutes with...

### Clair Payne, Ranger for Hawkshead and Claife

'If you travel through the Wray Valley, between Ambleside and Hawkshead, you might notice fields criss-crossed by a network of hedges. It's my job to work with our tenant farmers, who care for the land, to look after these living fences and lend nature a helping hand.'

### What's involved?

'These hedges, around 8 miles of them, need to be 'laid' every 10 to 20 years, a job that requires practice and patience. We partially cut the tree stem and bend it, securing it at an angle. The tree then grows sideways to form a thick and bushy hedge.'

### Why are hedges good for nature?

'They're a great wind-break for grazing sheep and cattle, and an important home for wildlife, providing food and a safe passage. Bats, birds and small mammals travel these green highways out of sight of predators.'

### What next?

'Some of the hedges that were lost in the mid-20th century have been restored over the last 25 years and with the support of grants and donations we're now able to restore more. Several are now ready for their first 'lay' and last winter, with the help of our volunteers, we tackled just half a mile – proof of the dedication needed for this time consuming task.'

We'll soon be back again, working on this home for nature, so give us a wave if you're out and about in the valley.'



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