



National Trust

Autumn Winter Newsletter 2018  
Northern Ireland

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Edith Helen (née Chaplin), Marchioness of Londonderry, by Bassano Ltd, 21 October 1918 National Portrait Gallery, London



Emmeline Pankhurst by Georgina Agnes Brackenbury 1927 National Portrait Gallery London



Florence Wrey and Lady Charlotte Cole who both played an influential role in the history of Florence Court

## Women and Power update

Over 100 Trust places around the country are responding to the anniversary of women gaining the vote in 1918 by giving greater prominence and depth to the stories and experiences of women from many periods of our history, some of which have been overlooked in the past. At the Giant's Causeway and Carrick-a-Rede we will be celebrating the work of a number of influential women who have had a significant impact on these two places.

In September we are launching a new 'Focus on Women' mural wall in the **Giant's Causeway Visitor Centre** and a dedicated audio guide (available September 2018 to February 2019) to share the stories of the women who played a key role in the development of Northern Ireland's only World Heritage Site.

Featured women include Susanna Drury, a painter who produced the first trustworthy paintings of the Giant's Causeway in 1939-40; Elizabeth Henry, the woman behind the development of the Causeway Hotel and Octavia Hill, the founder

of the National Trust and one of the greatest social entrepreneurs in British history.

At **Carrick-a-Rede** we will be honouring Biddy Carson, a long serving member of staff and volunteer who also designed Carrick-a-Rede's first ever certificate to reward those crossing the bridge, a concept which has been a huge success with visitors as well as being a great fundraising initiative.

In Fermanagh, the **Hidden Graces** tour at **Florence Court** runs throughout 2018, shedding light on some of the family's lesser known female members. The stories cover the whole timespan of Florence Court, from the very start of the house itself, with Florence Bourchier Wrey, who gave her name to the house, through to Nancy MacLennan, wife of the 6th Earl of Enniskillen, who had a distinguished and enviable career before she married, including being the Washington and United Nations correspondent of *The New York Times* and as a diplomat in Cairo, Nairobi and Tokyo.

# Faces of change

We're delighted to announce that Mount Stewart will be hosting the *Faces of Change: Votes for Women* - National Trust/ National Portrait Gallery partnership exhibition from 9 November 2018 to 3 February 2019. (Thursday to Sunday).

Mount Stewart is one of three National Trust places to showcase this exclusive touring exhibition as part of the women's suffrage anniversary. Photographs, prints, drawings and paintings from the National Portrait Gallery's collection will be displayed, together with items from Mount Stewart's own collection, bringing portraiture and place together in an emotive visual display.

'We are delighted that works, normally only accessible in London, will be brought to Mount Stewart to be enjoyed by our local community

and visitors here,' says Neil Watt, House and Collections Manager at Mount Stewart. 'For the first time, the life of Edith, Marchioness of Londonderry, and her achievements in promoting political equality for women, will be seen in a wider context here at Mount Stewart. The theme is a natural fit for us, and so the opportunity to discuss women's history here was one that we could not let pass by.'

This special exhibition presents an overview of the campaign for Votes for Women from the late nineteenth century until 1918 and commemorates the passing of the Representation of the People Act on 6 February 1918, which gave thousands of British women the right to vote in general elections. While the campaign attracted thousands of supporters and cut across traditional class divisions, this exhibition presents an overview of the movement through portraits of some of the key figures who rose to public prominence through their campaign for political representation.

Drawn from the National Portrait Gallery Collection, the exhibition includes well-known but also rarely seen paintings, drawings, photographs and archival documents representing individuals including suffragette leader Emmeline Pankhurst, alongside her daughters Christabel and Sylvia.

Items from Mount Stewart's own collection will be used to tell the history of its own exceptional women, including Edith, Lady Londonderry, founder of the Women's Legion and the first woman to be made Dame of the British Empire, Military Division. She was also a suffragist.

The *Faces of Change: Votes for Women* displays will provide a national picture of the fight for universal suffrage in Great Britain, giving context to the varying views on women's suffrage and the crucial roles women across social classes played in the campaign.

## Frightful half-term fun



At **Mount Stewart** the half-term celebrations are themed around *The Magic Ink Pot*, a beautifully illustrated book written by Edith, Lady Londonderry, for her children. Take the Ink Pot trail around the gardens and see if you can solve the clues. There are also craft activities and face painting.

**Castle Ward** will be presenting a week of scarecrow-themed crafts, a scarecrow trail and scarecrow pageant. Visit on 20 and 21 October for Pumpkinfest when over 2,000 pumpkins will be ready and waiting for you to scoop out, before designing your pumpkin face to have carved by our team of volunteers.

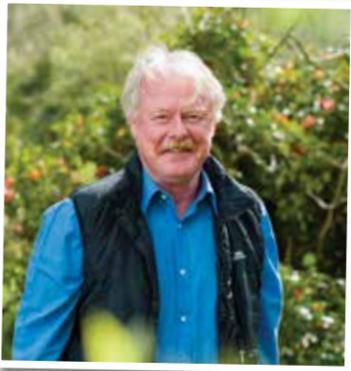
In Mid-Ulster **The Argory** and **Springhill** will be getting into the Halloween spirit with fun trails around the gardens, pumpkin carving and wand and broomstick craft activities.

Please check [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/ni](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/ni) for the latest what's on listings and admission details.

In Fermanagh **Florence Court** is hosting a series of Spooky Basement Tours. Take a trip underground to see the basement decorated for Halloween and follow the tour guide into the dark shadows if you dare!

For a Halloween experience with a difference make a trip to the **Giant's Causeway** for Mexican Day of the Dead on the 1 and 2 November. Take the sugar skull trail down to the stones and learn why this festival is so important in Mexican culture. There will also be face painting, tissue paper craft making and live music.

From 29 October to 4 November at **Downhill Demesne Bishop's Gate** we're running a Goblins & Fairies Halloween Woodland Trail. Embark on a journey of adventure through the Bishop's Gate gardens and spooky woods and help us on our quest to find the fairies and goblins that lurk within.



## In the picture

**Dr Bob Brown OBE**  
Regional Chairman

Some years ago my wife and I visited the Sistine Chapel, hopeful and inspired by the prospect of viewing the iconic ceiling with the Last Judgement by Michelangelo. The experience was a disaster. Although there were timed tickets, the press of crowds and the relentless pushing and processing of visitors, meant that any contemplation of this great masterpiece was impossible.

This is the challenge posed by success. The more special and famous a piece of heritage is, whether natural or cultural, the more people want to see it, obviously. And with this comes issues of conservation – the pressure of visitors on special places can put at risk the very things that people come to see. Some prehistoric cave paintings in Europe are now closed, and instead visitors get to view replicas, in order to avoid the effects of damp human breath on the ancient pigments. Machu Picchu in the Peruvian Andes, once an icon of Inca remoteness, now has special projects to manage the pressure of thousands of tramping feet damaging the famous ruins.

It's not only the fabric of special heritage that is at threat; it's also the quality of the experience. How could we have appreciated Michelangelo's work in that shuffling crowd? Understanding heritage, enjoying it, even getting a spiritual boost from it, isn't achieved with a hurried glance – it takes time and thought. That's why the National Trust has a key element in its objectives 'Creating experiences that move, teach and inspire'.

Only a few years ago, Northern Ireland was largely ignored as a tourist venue because of the Troubles. Not any longer. Today, visitors from all around the world arrive via air and sea, eager to visit our iconic places: Giant's Causeway, Carrick-a-Rede, Castle Ward home to Winterfell in the Game of Thrones, and so on. This is the good news – increased visitor numbers means more income, which means more resources for conservation and restoration.

The challenge however, is the pressure this brings, not only on the special places we look after, but on the infrastructure surrounding them. We want the visitors to come, but we don't want to put these wonderful heritage assets at risk, and we do want people to be moved, taught and seriously inspired. That's the challenge that success brings, and the tough part of meeting that challenge is to achieve a balance.

We will work with local authorities, tourism providers and communities to address these issues. It also means looking at some of the ways we currently manage our busiest places so that we can absorb the increased visitor numbers, protect the things they've come to see, and give them 'experiences that move, teach and inspire'.

## A word from our Director



**H**eritage is as much about the future as it is about the past. It supports our prosperity; it gives us our own authentic voice and our own distinctive character.

As a member of the National Trust you will be familiar with the places we look after and the undoubted passion of the team who care for them. These places, whether they are significant for their built, cultural or natural importance, are all part of Northern Ireland's unique heritage.

Since 2016 we have been working with others in the historic environment sector who, like us, care for a wide range of buildings, sites, collections and monuments. With them we have developed a collective voice for this important aspect of our heritage. In doing so we have been able to highlight how our heritage is fundamental to Northern Ireland's Programme for Government and the council's Community Plans, putting it firmly in the mind of decision makers as a lynch pin and positive force for driving regeneration, confidence and pride, both in our communities and our region as a whole.

The result is a joint manifesto, which highlights how we need to 'Treasure the past...Enrich the future'. Much work has already been done by a multitude of organisations, of all sizes, shapes and types, showcasing the value that this approach can have. Value, not only in terms of the return on investment and tourism, but probably more importantly the return for our communities, be that through skills development, confidence, wellbeing and jobs.

I am delighted that we are playing our part as part of the [niheritagedelivers.org](http://niheritagedelivers.org) network, sharing and showing off the brilliant work that is going on across Northern Ireland, both within National Trust and more widely. In so doing we are supporting our prosperity, strengthening our society and shaping our character. The essence of our founder's vision.

**Heather McLachlan**  
Regional Director



## Our position on single use plastics

We recognise that the damage caused by plastics is a complex, global issue. We're working with suppliers to come up with solutions to the plastic problem, and in the meantime, are doing all that we can to find innovative ways of reducing the impact of our own operations and investigating new ways of doing more. We have committed to phasing out the sale of single use plastics by 2022 and have already eliminated plastic disposable cups and cutlery from our cafes, choosing plant based biodegradable products instead.



## Seeding a great idea!

We love to hear from our members and were delighted to get a Facebook message from Angela Eadie sharing a great idea from her daughter Madison on how to upcycle your Near You newsletter – turn it into a compostable seed pot, once you've read it of course!



## Cleaning up our coast

A team of conservation rangers, staff and volunteers from the Giant's Causeway recently teamed up with local marine businesses for our first-ever litter pick at sea. The initiative was designed to collect litter from the bays around the World Heritage Site which can't be reached by foot.

The large-scale litter pick saw the *Causeway Lass* and the *Aquaholic's* boat drop off pairs of volunteers to the various bays along the coastline and together they gathered over 45 bags of litter, mostly plastic and fishing debris.

While our teams conduct regular litter picks on land at the Giant's Causeway site, this was the first time we had taken to the sea to access the shoreline we cannot reach on land.

Area ranger Cliff Henry explained: 'This was something we took the lead on organising but we couldn't have done it without the

other stakeholders' interest and commitment to helping to tackle this problem.

'We were all somewhat shocked at just how much rubbish had collected in these bays and it really drove home how much work there still is to be done in educating people about littering. Wherever litter is dropped, it often ends up being washed into streams and rivers, and from there it makes its way to our shoreline.

'We are planning to use the debris we gathered in our education programme to try to illustrate to school children the volume of litter, mainly plastic, that is ending up in the bays around our coast, and we hope to make bay litter picks a regular part of our conservation work going forward.'

**Keep an eye on our website for litter pick days that you can get involved with!**



# Bee Aware

## Our role in the all-Ireland pollinator plan

One in every three mouthfuls of our food relies upon pollination - pollen being moved from one flower to another, allowing fruit and seeds to be produced. Bees are one of the better-known pollinators in Northern Ireland, but they are not alone. There are over 4,000 types of species that help pollination to take place, but numbers are falling and they need our help.

We are proud to be playing our part in the All Ireland Pollinator Plan to make the landscape a better place for pollinators to survive and thrive. We are one of 68 partners working together to help restore populations to healthy levels.

Over the last few years we have created 15 extra hectares of wildflower meadows and verges in Belfast, Fermanagh, Cushendun, and Castle Ward, bringing the total wildflower meadows in our care to over 40 hectares - that's about 80 football pitches! We also manage wildflower rich dune systems, and gardens, hedgerows, orchards with pollinators in mind. Other activities include monthly butterfly, moth and bee monitoring which is an important part of understanding these species and their population. Collectively, this work is hugely important for the thousands of pollinators that need our help to survive.

You can help pollinators too by planting native wildflowers, trees and shrubs; building bug homes and leaving part of your lawn uncut until late summer.



## We don't just cut trees, we save woodlands

'Why are those guys in red cutting down the trees? Surely that's the opposite of what the National Trust is about?' That was the question commonly asked to area ranger Kevin Duncan and his team while carrying out invasive scrub clearance and thinning as part of the woodland management programme for Glenmona woodland.

'Woodlands provide a great habitat for plants and animals as well as providing many other social, economic and environmental functions', Kevin explains. 'Contrary to popular belief, most of the woodlands which we know today have come about as a result of being managed, and the wildlife which we associate with this particular habitat will gradually disappear if this management doesn't continue.'

Kevin and his team of countryside rangers recently held a series of tree-planting events, giving the public an opportunity to get involved in our conservation work. During the winter months, the team will focus on clearing areas of woodland which have become over run with rhododendron thickets.

'As a countryside ranger for the National Trust I feel a vital part of my day job, is to re-establish people's connection with nature and engage with the next generation', says Kevin.

The Glens Great Grassland Trail is a fantastic example of an innovative project which has created new ways for people to get 'closer to nature'. The trail covers eleven public meadow sites across thirty miles of the iconic Glens of Antrim

landscape. It provides locals and visitors with a better understanding of endangered meadow habitats, encouraging them to explore the landscape, beaches and rich local heritage of the area.

'I am delighted to have been part of this project, run by the Heart of the Glens Landscape Project', adds Kevin. 'The Warren grassland I manage, now part of the trail, has continued to flourish year on year. Wildflower species such as orchids and yellow rattle are starting to spread across the grassland and many butterflies and bees can also be found there. The local community and visitors alike comment on the fantastic annual colour the meadow now brings throughout the summer months to the village of Cushendun.'



## Walk through history

A major new project to protect and conserve the Fermanagh Lakelands is underway thanks to a £2.6m investment from the National Lottery. The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) confirmed the award for a new five-year Landscape Partnership project at Lough Erne. Twenty-three individual projects will be delivered to improve access, protect habitats and species and engage communities with the heritage of 500km<sup>2</sup> of landscape.

We are very fortunate that one of these projects will be delivered at Crom. Crom is home to a wide variety of species and habitats and has a rich cultural and historical heritage. In

this four-year project we will build on this legacy by reinstating parts of the eighteenth-century historic walking routes in the grounds of the castle by opening up 10.5 kilometres of footpath, improving visitor access.

The project aims to encourage visitors to connect with the landscape, discover the heritage and get closer with nature. A series of participation activities designed to engage local communities and schools in co-designing a natural play area in the woodland and a programme of workshops and citizen science opportunities in collaboration with Lough Erne Landscape Partnership will also be delivered.



## Conservation grazing at Bloody Bridge

Providing a gateway to the Mourne, Bloody Bridge is a hugely important conservation site, home to rare and unusual flora and fauna. Three types of heather thrive here - Ling, Bell and Cross-leaved, as well as Sundew (a carnivorous plant that catches and then digests insects), Bog Myrtle and Pale Butterwort. In the summer month's Grayling and Dark Green Fritillary butterflies can be spotted, along with common lizard and the rare Keeled Skimmer dragonfly.

In order to protect, conserve and most importantly improve the condition of

the land at special places like Bloody Bridge, we occasionally use unusual methods like grazing. In early summer we introduced ten Black Galloway cattle supplied by a local farmer. Chosen for their gentle and curious temperament, the cattle eat the coarse grass and encroaching scrub, allowing the heath to flourish and reducing the risk of wildfires spreading. Galloway is a hardy, traditional breed of cattle specially adapted for conservation grazing and they've already made their mark on the site, improving the habitat and proving a real hit with our visitors.

## Path to a #GreenBrexit for NI

At this year's Balmoral Show, we held a Brexit reception event for media, politicians and policy makers. The National Trust and its partner organisations in the Nature Matters NI coalition urged politicians and policy makers to lead for a Green Brexit for Northern Ireland, for the future health of the environment, economy and society.

Speaking at the Balmoral reception event, our Regional Director Heather McLachlan, told guests: 'Our environment faces critical challenges including air and water quality, loss of wildlife, climate change and pollution. Brexit presents a once in a lifetime opportunity to re-think the way we manage our natural resources, ensuring we pass on to the next generation a Northern Ireland that is clean, green and thriving.'

Key steps to a Green Brexit for NI will be:

- New sustainable agriculture policies that are good for nature, good for farmers and benefit society through the delivery of environmental public goods
- A strong, accountable and independent system of environmental governance to replace that currently supported by the EU.
- Better environmental standards for species, habitats, protected areas and the wider environment



- A nature-friendly marine and fisheries policy to protect our seas and marine biodiversity
- A common policy framework that enables cross border environmental issues to be managed, and the island of Ireland being considered as one single biogeographic unit.
- Funding for nature conservation to replace existing EU funding programmes such as LIFE+ and INTERREG.

Keep up to date with our coalition work by following @NatureMattersNI on Twitter and check out our briefing documents on the NI Environment Link website.

## Patricia's story: Escaping to the coast



For Patricia Moorhead, leaving a gift in her Will to the National Trust was the perfect way to protect places and spaces that matter to her, long into the future.

In particular, Patricia wants our local traditions and historic buildings to be remembered and celebrated. 'Land is our most cherished commodity, and often the National Trust has been successful in protecting it from insensitive development', she says. 'The traditional crafts such as thatching, dry stone walling,

wattle hedging and scything are also being given the opportunity to return, as the National Trust makes courses and day sessions available to help people learn these skills.'

Ultimately, Patricia says, that by leaving a gift in her Will, she is hopeful that more people will gain the same sense of freedom she experiences at her own favourite place, White Park Bay on the North Antrim coast.

'As the white waves crash to the shore and seagulls soar overhead', she smiles, 'I revel in the fresh air, the sight of the limestone cliffs, and just enjoy being at one with nature, very often on a deserted beach.'

In 2017/18 gifts in Wills were used to fund important conservation projects in Northern Ireland including the restoration of the Windsor Garden at Castle Ward and the development of Rowallane Garden through a new path network and an extensive planting programme.

By leaving a gift in your Will you're helping to look after irreplaceable landscapes and properties for future generations to



enjoy. Through The National Free Wills Network, we offer the opportunity to have a simple will written or updated free of charge through participating local solicitors. We will also be hosting series of information sessions during Will to Give Week 5-9 November, keep an eye on our website for details.

For further information please contact [legacies@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:legacies@nationaltrust.org.uk), call 01793 817699 or visit [nationaltrust.org.uk/features/leaving-a-gift-in-your-will](http://nationaltrust.org.uk/features/leaving-a-gift-in-your-will)



## Paintings get a new lease of life

The team at Florence Court recently completed a two week in-situ painting conservation project, achievable in part thanks to support from the Esme Mitchell Trust, a charity which supports the arts, heritage and culture in Northern Ireland.

The project saw specialist conservators Eeva Kukkoken and Lucy Critchlow from Critchlow and Kukkoken Ltd spend two weeks treating 31 selected portraits from Florence Court. Eeva and Lucy worked on consolidation of paint layers, surface cleaning of the paintings, filling and re-touching of small losses as required and documenting the condition of the paintings

They were supported by the local art handling company, Grallagh Studios

who concentrated on the frames, ensuring these were in the best condition they could be, as well as checking the fixtures and fittings associated with each painting.

Some of the conservation work took place during house open hours, meaning visitors got a rare 'behind the scenes' glimpse of the work that goes into to keeping our places and collections looking their best. Eeva and Lucy also held a training session for house staff, meaning a whole host of local staff got to learn new skills through the conservators' expertise.

Come and visit Florence Court and enjoy a tour of the house to see the conserved paintings for yourself.



Mary Ward's painting of the garden dates to 1860

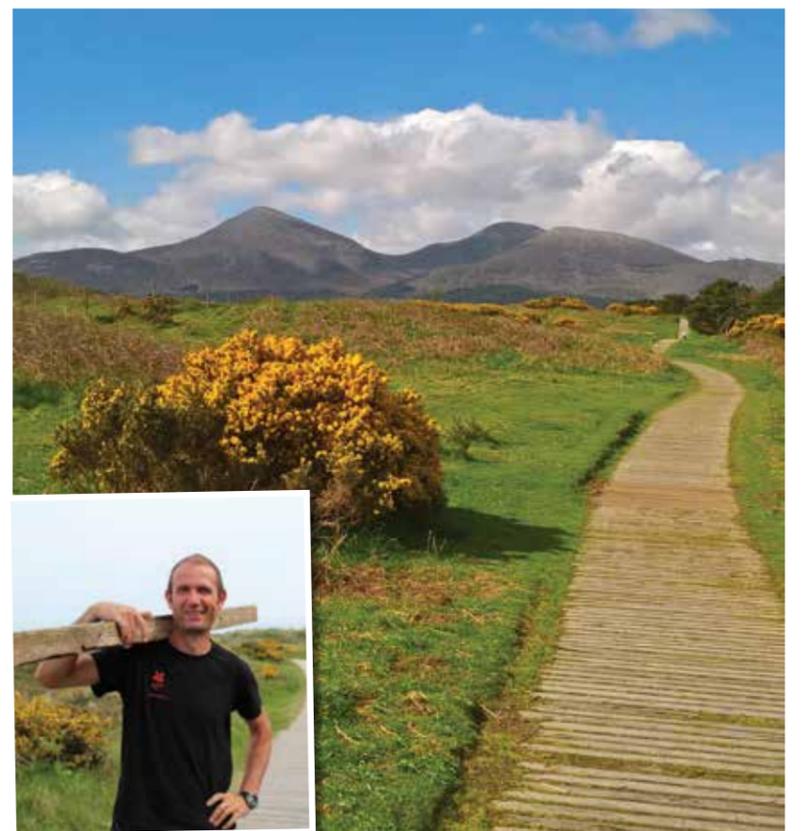
## Forgotten garden restored at Castle Ward

Following months of hard work from the National Trust gardening team, the Windsor Garden at Castle Ward has been returned to its former glory. A once colourful show-stopper, over the years the garden had changed dramatically in form, with the elaborate parterre design giving way to rolling lawns and a Mediterranean feel. A painting from 1860 by the scientist and artist Mary Ward shows the original 'Windsor Garden' as a sea of bright colours, and so a project was undertaken by the National Trust to return the space to the high Victorian arrangement it once enjoyed.

Thanks to funding supplied from Wills, gifts, and a generous donation from the Ulster Gardens Scheme, work commenced in late summer 2017 to completely change the landscape and install the complicated parterre system. Last winter, a mammoth 120 tons of soil and gravel and 7,000 bulbs were moved and planted by the gardener and a small team of volunteers. They faced wet weather, high winds, conservation restrictions and plant distribution problems, but have persevered to give the garden a dramatic makeover. To celebrate this historic opening of the garden as a vital part of

the landscape of Castle Ward, an official launch was held in June and attended by the Ulster Gardens Scheme to thank them for their generous support of the project.

Jacqui Baird, General Manager for South Down, commented: 'The newly restored Sunken Garden has been brought back to a Victorian arrangement and is a much more fitting showpiece for the estate, bringing together the history and natural beauty of Castle Ward. It's wonderful to see visitors today being as impressed by the garden as they would have been on a visit in 1860.'



## Walking the boards

### Meet Marc Vinas Alcon, Murlough National Nature Reserve's new Boardwalk Ranger

Guiding visitors through Murlough NNR's protected dunes is a three kilometre boardwalk path designed to protect the 6,000-year-old dune system from deterioration. Murlough NNR now attracts 250,000 visitors annually and the increase in visitor numbers is taking its toll on the path which was first laid in 1973. Heavy wear and tear means that the treated Douglas fir boards have an expected life span of only 10 years in areas with heavy footfall. Boardwalk maintenance is an ongoing task and Marc Vinas Alcon has been employed as the region's first Boardwalk Ranger to repair the boardwalk and experiment with the use of new materials for the pathway, including recycled plastics.

Originally from Catalonia, Marc worked for many years in an NGO managed wetland. 'I started my career in conservation in bird rescue, working for a large fishery where it was my job to rescue the birds caught in the nets. It was there I began to understand the conflict between conservation and human occupation', he explains.

'My favourite part of the job is being outdoors and getting to explore but I really enjoy speaking to the visitors', he says. 'It's great to get to know the locals and explain the importance of the work we're doing. While I'm out on the boardwalks, I can chat to visitors about the techniques I'm using and why.'

## Go natural this Christmas

Our new Christmas collection takes its inspiration from the Natural World. This theme has influenced many artists and craftspeople over time with beautifully illustrated birds, berries and woodland animals taking prominence.

These energetic patterns are reimagined and simple hand painted leaf motifs and woodland scenes are highlighted by festive cinnabar, forest green and slate blue.

Real fauna and flora are used to adorn our homes and are accented with copper gold, to give them Christmas sparkle and take center stage during the fun festive season. See the collection for yourself in your nearest National Trust shop.



## Get involved

We're always looking for keen volunteers to help. If you're interested in learning new skills and helping look after Murlough NNR, contact the team via [murlough@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:murlough@nationaltrust.org.uk) You can also help us to care for this special place by donating to our boardwalk fundraising appeal. The cost of each board is £5, or £40 for a metre which really adds up! If you'd like to help, visit [nationaltrust.org.uk/murlough](http://nationaltrust.org.uk/murlough)

# TOP FIVE

## Natural play areas

We're on a mission to connect children with nature. We want to see them running free in the fresh air, learning new skills and trying new things. To encourage them, we've created a number of natural play areas at our places where kids of all ages can play in nature.



### 1 Mount Stewart

Inspired by Edith, Lady Londonderry's children's book, *The Magic Inkpot*, Mount Stewart's natural play area brings characters from this mythical tale of Irish legends to life. Step into a magical land of upside-down trees, where sea dragons play and sleeping dragons lie. Balance beams, stepping logs, a tree cave, squirrel run, see-saw and more provide a fun challenge for mind and body.

### 2 Minnowburn

The natural play trail at Minnowburn winds through the forest, parallel to the popular Giant's Ring walking route that follows the River Lagan. Made largely from recycled tree trunks and willow, the trail features balancing beams, stepping stones, a seesaw, log ladder and more. Some of the larger pieces of natural play include a giant xylophone, willow den and a teddy bear picnic seating area.



### 3 Downhill

Located 200 yards through Bishop's Gate, past the beautiful gardens and carpets of wild garlic, the Bishop's Play Trail is the perfect place to let your children explore their natural surroundings. Tackling the spider's web, climbing the causeway stones and navigating the walking see-saw are just some of the adventures on offer at the Bishop's Trail.

### 4 Springhill

Venture through the woodlands at Springhill and discover a clearing with natural climbing frames, rope swings and dens, mystical creatures and thrones. Children of all ages will be able to get in touch with nature and create their own stories and games as they play in this natural setting.



### 5 Florence Court

You'll find the natural play area at Florence Court located just behind the house with plenty of activities to discover. Have a go at adding to the nest of willow, try the rope swing, or make some music on the wooden xylophone! Using tree stumps, branches, and other natural materials found in the forest, the rangers are always adding to the play area, so there's something new to see every time you visit.



## Red squirrels bounce back

Following the 2014 acquisition of the Mount Stewart demesne we have been supporting the recovery of the red squirrel population at Mount Stewart and the Peninsula.

Our ranger teams have been working hard on our Land, Outdoors and Nature vision; working to develop a connected landscape across the Ards Peninsula and beyond which has been key to ensuring a positive future for our endangered red squirrel. Collaborating closely with private landowners in the region and with support from our volunteer teams, we have been closely monitoring the red squirrel population, providing supplementary feeding and strategic non-native invasive grey squirrel control.

As a result, reds have bounced back with vigour, growing in numbers and recolonising woodlands over the peninsula. This essential work doesn't

stop here though as there's always a danger that Squirrel Pox, carried by grey squirrels, will reach the reds with fatal consequences. Our focus now is on long-term habitat restoration and the re-connection of isolated red squirrel populations. Thanks to partnership working through the Northern Ireland Red Squirrel Forum, success is now being seen throughout Northern Ireland.



The new Red Squirrel hide at Mount Stewart is one of the best places to see reds and other woodland wildlife, so do keep your eyes peeled when out in the woods!



## Time to discover Derrymore

Located on the outskirts of the model village of Bessbrook in County Armagh, Derrymore House and demesne was designed and built c.1780 for the Chancellor of the Irish Exchequer, Isaac Corry and came into our care in 1953. The historic landscape (and possibly the house itself), was designed by John Sutherland, considered to be the most important designer of landscapes in Ireland, working in the same style as Lancelot 'Capability' Brown.

We've been working to improve the parkland with the installation of steel park fencing, in keeping with the original metal fencing. New bespoke gates were commissioned that are almost exact copies of the surviving examples on site, and the grazed meadows have had new stock-proof fencing installed.

Another new addition at Derrymore is the Ranger, Rosemary Mulholland, who has taken over from one of the Trust's longest-serving members of staff, Barney O'Brien. Rosemary's ambitions for the 100 acre demesne include making improvements for biodiversity

and enhancing the visitor experience by running events and encouraging others to learn about and appreciate the natural, and historical heritage of Derrymore.

The new fencing is, we hope, only the start of a much larger plan for improving Derrymore for visitors as we are working with Newry, Mourne and Down District Council and the Friends of Derrymore in an ambitious plan to increase the path network, provide visitor facilities and make Derrymore House more accessible for small functions and events.

Autumn is a particularly lovely time to visit Derrymore woods, with its many fine beech and oak trees; and in winter, when the snow falls, Derrymore House attracts photographers from near and far!

The grounds of Derrymore House are open all year round from dawn to dusk and are free to access. Derrymore House currently opens on Bank Holidays between April and September or by arrangement. For further details, call 028 3083 8361.



## Divis and the Black Mountain – before and after

Over the 15 years that Divis and the Black Mountain have been in our care, we have made some big changes. A landscape that was once marred by fly-tipping is now one of the finest examples of upland heath and blanket bog in Ireland. As a result we're seeing a return of the native wildlife - Irish hare can be spotted, the skylarks are back, and butterflies flutter overhead in the summer months.

This summer our Divis ranger Dermot McCann took part in the National Butterfly Survey to record the positive impact we are having on the wildlife in this bog land. Keep an eye on our website to see the results.

As a member of National Trust you should feel proud of your contribution to the restoration of this amazing space, and we are looking forward to what the future holds for Divis and the Black Mountain.



## Learn the art of blacksmithing

For generations Patterson's Spade Mill in Templepatrick was known for its highly skilled blacksmithing. In its heyday, dozens of men worked here sharing skills and techniques and playing a vital role in our industrial heritage. Famed for being the last working water-driven spade mill in daily use in the British Isles, Patterson's came into our care in 1991 and guided tours vividly capture life during the Industrial Revolution. Now Patterson's is revolutionising again as the men of the mill welcome a new partner, James McCullough who will be running blacksmithing classes at Patterson's the spade mill from September.

Himself an apprentice of the mill, James is keen to ensure the traditional skill of blacksmithing isn't lost forever and is inviting the public to enrol in his classes which will be held in the old

finishing shop. 'Patterson's Spade Mill is a special place to me,' says James. 'I learnt a lot about blacksmithing here with the guys. It's a very useful skill to have, and one that I have a passion to share with people. I will be hosting a range of classes at the mill, aimed at all levels of knowledge, from beginners to pros.'

'I love teaching blacksmithing,' he continues. 'There's always a great energy in the work shop and I find that people not only forge steel, but friendships too. I hope to be up and running by mid-September, so please pop in for a chat about blacksmithing.'

For more information on James's blacksmithing classes visit [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/patternsons-spade-mill](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/patternsons-spade-mill)



## Local treasures go on tour

Two major international exhibitions recently featured items from Northern Irish houses. In June, 'KWAB: Dutch Design in the Age of Rembrandt', was shown at the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam, focusing on the most important examples of the weirdly beautiful auricular style of ornament which flourished at that period. We lent the unique ebony cabinet from The Argory, attributed to Rembrandt's frame-maker, Herman Doomer, and made c.1630-40. Works by this craftsman are extraordinarily rare and we have yet to discover how it came to rest in The Argory at the end of the nineteenth century.

'Prized Possessions: Dutch Masterpieces from National Trust Houses' is the splendid title

of an exhibition which opened in the Holburne Museum, Bath, in May this year, featuring works of art from the Golden Age of Dutch art in the seventeenth century, including the mysterious 'Unknown Woman in a Green Velvet Cloak' by Jan Lievens from Castle Ward. It is over twenty years since the Trust has undertaken a significant externally hosted exhibition of a key part of our collections, and we are very proud that one of our paintings was included. 'Prized Possessions' is open until 16 September 2018 before travelling to the Mauritshuis, The Hague, in October and to Petworth, West Sussex, in 2019.



## Calling all Little Rangers

Do you know any kids who enjoy being outdoors, love nature and might want to help us protect it? Every day, our Rangers work hard to look after National Trust places and spaces but it's a big job so we're asking for help from Little Rangers.

Visit a National Trust place or check out our website to find out about Big Missions for Little Rangers, from building bug hotels, to picking up litter and keeping track of the birds and animals that visit our spaces. Grab your binoculars, pull on your wellies and come and help us!



## Plant hunters wanted!

Rowallane Garden has launched a new Plant Hunters' Passport that takes visitors on a journey around the garden, following in the footsteps of the original plant hunters who collected amazing plants from around the world. You'll be guided by Sara and Ponya, two intrepid explorers who are searching for some of the rarest and most unusual plants that were collected over the course of more than a century.

Using your Plant Hunters' Passport as your map, you will travel through

mountains, swamps and forests, learning about historic plant hunters who voyaged round the globe in search of new plants. One of them, Ernest Wilson travelled 13,000 miles through China searching for the Handkerchief Tree and bringing back seeds for the magnificent tree that can be seen in Rowallane Garden today. Pick up a Plant Hunters' Passport on your next visit to Rowallane Garden and see where the journey takes you.



## Basking in the sunshine

The Argory recently unveiled a contemporary light installation entitled 'Artificial Sunshine' by local artist Kevin Killen. The neon art was commissioned to create a light that would be a bold and modern interpretation of the historic gas lighting for which this nineteenth-century house is famed and has replaced the West Hall Chandelier while it's away for conservation cleaning.

With the light sculpture we're also celebrating the legacy of Mr. Bond, the

last owner of The Argory who was a passionate collector of paintings and sculpture. This new artwork is the continuation of Mr. Bond's enduring legacy to us all.

During the autumn and winter season The Argory will be running a series of themed talks with guest speakers who were involved in the project including the conservation team and the artist himself. For more details on how you can attend please visit [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/the-argory](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/the-argory)



## Introducing Biscuit

Have you met Biscuit? He's our smallest (and cutest volunteer) with a very important job title, Staff Morale Officer. Biscuit works at The Argory where his owner Matthew Morrison is House Steward and he shot to fame on social media after we introduced him during Volunteer Week. If you're interested in a volunteering role with us, speak to a member of staff at your local place and they'll be happy to help.

## National Trust Council update

'Guardian of the spirit of the Trust', the National Trust Council makes sure we're meeting our long-term objectives. There are 36 Council members, half of whom are elected directly by Trust members, and the remainder are appointed by organisations whose interests coincide with our own.

This year will see a review of these 'Appointing Bodies'. A range of organisations are standing for election by Trust members as Appointing Bodies until 2024. Local members may be interested to know that Northern Ireland Environment Link is among the organisations included on the ballot this year. Voting opens in September and the results will be announced at our AGM on 20 October.

You'll find more information at [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/agm](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/agm)

## 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** or visit our website.

# Bird monitoring on Strangford Lough



"Breeding seabird monitoring is one of the highlights of the year for the Strangford Lough ranger team. This was my eighteenth season and it remains fascinating, unpredictable and eventful! We are tremendously privileged to spend so much time at sea every summer, visiting a myriad of islands that most people don't even know exist. It gives us a wonderful opportunity to live and breathe nature. We do it to arm ourselves with information that contributes to a national seabird data bank but also informs us how the ecology of the Lough is functioning. Seabirds at the top of the food chain are well placed to act as effective environmental indicators. We have a chance to collect valuable data, but it is also a unique opportunity to become engrossed with nature and develop a detailed knowledge of the Lough that so few people have the chance to do... and it's great fun!"

*Hugh Thurgate, Strangford Lough ranger*

This summer marked the fiftieth consecutive year that the National Trust has undertaken seabird monitoring on Strangford Lough. An extended dry period meant life was in the main good for gulls and terns trying to rear chicks through to fledging. But it only takes one badly timed weather event to undo all the good work of a long, hot summer and sadly this was the case for many of the low lying seabird colonies this year on Strangford Lough.

The gale force winds and accompanying heavy rain in mid-June resulted in the margins of some islands being swamped by the sea. In the worst scenarios virtually whole islands were covered, as happened on Cockle Island off Groomsport.

Unfortunately several species of tern have a habit of nesting perilously low down the beach, including the nationally important Arctic and internationally important common Tern and whole colonies of eggs and young chicks were wiped out. Even the internationally important Sandwich tern, which nests a little bit further up the beach, suffered badly.

The bird species that have survived through to fledging now face another vulnerable time - their first winter when they must rely on their newly developed hunting skills. Those that make it through winter have every chance of a reaching maturity and adding to the breeding colonies on Strangford Lough.



The Kitchen Garden c.1930



The garden as it looks today

## All's growing well in the Kitchen Garden

The Kitchen Garden at Florence Court once provided the estate with an abundance of vegetables, fruit, flowers and herbs. Funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund and our supporters has contributed towards the restoration of the garden to its 1930s character and atmosphere and is facilitating the delivery of a range of diverse activities to engage local communities.

Over the past number of years, staff and volunteers have worked to bring almost two acres of the garden back into cultivation. Since the start of 2018, many adults and children have been joining in with 'Have a Go' activities including our popular 'Rot Pot' activity which allows participants to learn about composting and a community archaeology dig that uncovered several interesting discoveries.

Louise Beggan, Project Coordinator, said: 'We have been investing in training for our volunteers with courses in everything from willow weaving to urban gardening. We are looking forward to seeing what the future holds for Kitchen Garden activities led by

these skilled volunteers and to welcoming more community groups and members of the public into the garden.'

Our ambition is to rebuild the two large glasshouses which were lost some years ago, providing primary propagation space to supply the ever-growing garden and creating a dedicated space for learning in horticulture. The project's development phase will come to an end in late autumn with an application for the next round of Heritage Lottery funding due in early December.

### 'Have a Go' events at Florence Court

- **Plot to Plate Cookery Class**  
23 September, 2pm-4pm
- **Seed Gathering Day**  
30 September, 2pm-4pm
- **Apple Harvest Day**  
21 October, 2pm-4pm

## Sweet success for Mount Stewart



### Mount Stewart's chocolate and rosewater cake

- Ingredients**
- 250g dark chocolate
  - 350g butter
  - 350g castor sugar
  - 6 eggs
  - 2 tbsp milk
  - 300g self-raising flour
  - 50g cocoa powder
  - Pinch Salt

- Icing**
- 200g butter
  - 350g icing sugar
  - 5ml rosewater
  - 2 tbsp milk
  - Pinch salt

Crystalised rose petals to decorate (optional)

**Method**

Preheat oven to 160 degrees (fan). Grease and line four 18cm sandwich tins. Put chocolate into heatproof bowl and melt, leave to cool. Meanwhile put butter and sugar into mixer and whisk until light and fluffy. Mix together eggs and milk and beat into the butter and sugar mix. Sift in flour and cocoa powder, add a pinch of salt and fold the dry ingredients into the butter mix. Mix in melted chocolate. Divide the mixture between the four tins and bake for approx. 20 minutes.

For the icing: Beat together the butter and half the icing sugar until smooth. Add the rest of the icing sugar followed by the milk, salt and rosewater. Layer the mixture through cake and top with icing and crystalised rose petals.

There were celebrations when Mount Stewart's chocolate and rosewater cake took home the Most Inspiring Local Recipe award at the FAB Food Festival Awards in Calke Abbey earlier this year.

Inspired by Edith, Lady Londonderry's love of the rose, Patricia Prosser, catering manager at Mount Stewart, came up with a delicious cake recipe that combines rich chocolate with delicate rose water.

The rose features heavily in the symbolism of Mount Stewart, appearing on glass, textiles and ceramics and is symbolic of Edith's achievement of founding the Women's Legion, of which she was Colonel-in-Chief. Edith's use of roses (she planted a rose garden and made pot pourri) is well documented in the archives, and the rose is truly a scent and image symbolic of her role in women's suffrage, but also evocative of Mount Stewart's spirit of place.



## Carrick-a-Rede online booking now open

Did you know you can now book online for Carrick-a-Rede? In 2016 Carrick-a-Rede welcomed the highest number of visitors ever to this exhilarating rope bridge experience. Since then we have introduced some new measures to protect ongoing conservation at the site, manage health and safety and try to ease traffic congestion.

In 2017 we implemented a timed ticketing system and we are now delighted to offer online booking through our website, [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/carrick-a-rede](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/carrick-a-rede) Visitors and members can now book in

advance to cross the bridge using our new online system. Crossing the bridge is free for members but you do need to book a timed ticket. You will be required to present your ticket at the allocated time period, before crossing the bridge. There is no time limit on how long you can spend exploring the island and wider site.

Groups of 15 or more must pre-book through the Carrick-a-Rede Booking Office.

For more information contact the booking team on 028 2073 3335 or email [Carrick-a-Rede@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:Carrick-a-Rede@nationaltrust.org.uk).



National  
Trust

# Autumn/Winter 2018 Highlights Northern Ireland

Event details are subject to change. For a full list of events, please visit [nationaltrust.org.uk/ni](http://nationaltrust.org.uk/ni)

# What's on

## Halloween and half-term

**Castle Ward**  
**20–21 October**  
**Autumn Pumpkinfest**  
With over 2,000 pumpkins picked ready for you to scoop out and for us to carve, this is an autumn festival with a difference. Solve the clues on the pumpkin trail, enjoy artisan food in the stable yard and bring along your very own scarecrow creation to enter into the scarecrow competition.  
**12noon–5pm**  
Normal Admission Members Free

**Rowallane Garden**  
**20–21 October**  
**Ghosts and Gourds Spooktacular**  
The garden will come to life this Halloween with a terrifying ghost trail and spooky stories, then watch your little ones be transformed with fearsome face painting. To top off the day, why not behead, scoop out and carve your very own pumpkin to take home and ward away the evil spirits. Additional cost for pumpkins and ghost trail.  
**11am–4pm**  
Normal Admission Members Free

**Florence Court**  
**27–29 October**  
**Spooky Basement Experience**  
See the basement decorated for Halloween. Make your way through the spooky basement and keep an eye-out for some surprising ghosts at Florence Court.  
**12noon–4pm**  
Normal Admission Members Free

**Mount Stewart**  
**27–31 October**  
**Halloween fun**  
Dare you venture to Mount Stewart for five days of craft and Halloween fun? Hear the story of the Magic Ink Pot, explore the grounds on the Ink Pot trail and discover the natural play area, all dressed in your spooky best.  
**11am–3pm**  
Normal Admission Members Free

**Springhill**  
**27 October–4 November**  
**Spooky Springhill Halloween Fun**  
Springhill estate will come to life this Halloween half-term. Have a go at some creepy crafts and games, pick your pumpkin, make a witch's broomstick and wizard wand and explore the Halloween trail.  
**11am–4pm**  
Normal Admission Members Free



## Festive fun

**Rowallane Garden**  
**17–18, 24–25 November**  
**Family Festive Film Fun**  
Wrap up warm and treat yourself to some popcorn and a hot chocolate before joining us in the barn for a special film screening to get all the family in the festive spirit. Visit the website for film details.  
**2pm**  
Normal Admission Members Free

**Castle Ward**  
**24–25 November**  
**Christmas Craft Fair**  
Presented inside the superb surroundings of this eighteenth century mansion you can meet some of Northern Ireland's leading artists, designers and makers in the world of ceramics, jewellery and textiles and buy the perfect bespoke gift for Christmas.  
**11am–4pm**  
Normal Admission Members Free



**The Argory**  
**1–2 December**  
**Christmas Fair**  
The festive period is not complete without a visit to The Argory's Christmas Fair, featuring a number of craft, food and drink stalls, as well as traditional festive entertainment. Soak up the wonderful atmosphere and see the house decorated for Christmas.  
**11am–5pm**  
Normal Admission Members Free

**Rowallane Garden**  
**8–9 December**  
**Yuletide Market**  
Soak up the Christmas atmosphere with craft and food stalls, Christmas wreaths made by the Rowallane gardening team and lots of family festive fun – you might even bump into Father Christmas himself.  
**11am–5pm**  
Normal Admission Members Free

## Festivals, music and the arts

**Castle Ward**  
**16 September**  
**Winterfell Festival**  
Step into the world of the Stark family and enjoy an exclusive, immersive experience for fans of Game of Thrones. For tickets, information and the festival line-up visit [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/winterfell](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/winterfell)  
*Booking Essential*  
Note: Castle Ward will be open for ticket holders only during this event.  
**11am–5pm**



Winterfell Festival returns to Castle Ward

**Castle Coole**  
**29 September**  
**Remembering BBC Proms in the Park**  
Join Austrian flautist Karin Leitner and Dublin based harpist Teresa O'Donnell for an enjoyable evening of classical highlights, romantic film music, heart-warming Irish melodies and Karin's own compositions. Their music is guaranteed to uplift and inspire.  
*Booking Essential*  
Book online at [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/castle-coole](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/castle-coole) or contact 028 6634 8249  
**8pm**  
Adult £15 Member Adult £15

**Mount Stewart**  
**30 September**  
**Jazz in the Garden**  
Bring your picnic and settle down on the lawn with your family and friends to enjoy an afternoon of jazz in the beautiful gardens at Mount Stewart. Sorry no BBQ's. Picnics welcome. Please note that this event takes place outside.  
Appropriate clothing required.  
**2–4.30pm**  
Normal Admission Members Free

**Mount Stewart**  
**9 November–3 February**  
**(Thursday–Sunday)**  
**National Portrait Gallery Exhibition**  
Mount Stewart is delighted to be partnering with the National Portrait Gallery, London, in a centenary celebration of the passing of the Representation of the People Act of 1918, which gave some women the right to vote. One of three National Trust properties in the United Kingdom to have the honour of acting as host venue for this national exhibition, Mount Stewart will be displaying works normally only shown in London. In addition, the theme of women's suffrage is particularly pertinent for Mount Stewart, given the leading role which Edith, Lady Londonderry played in the fight for equality between men and women. In this exhibition, held in the stunning Central Hall of the Mansion House, Edith Lady Londonderry will be surrounded by 47 images of her contemporaries, for the first time providing a national context to Edith's personal and inspiring story.  
**11am–3pm**  
Normal Admission Members Free

## Ranger walk and talks

**Minnowburn**  
**8 September**  
**Hedge Fun**  
Bring the family for a foraging morning on the outskirts of the city led by a member of the Belfast ranger team. Bring a basket or plastic container to gather some delicious autumn fruits.  
Meet at Minnowburn car park  
**11am–1pm**  
No Charge Donations Welcome

**Mount Stewart**  
**29 September**  
**Red Squirrel Day**  
Join us for a guided walk around the Red Squirrel Trail and learn all about the work we do to save these endangered animals. There will be a range of squirrel related activities for children to enjoy. Please note that this event takes place outside. Appropriate clothing required.  
Meet at Mount Stewart reception  
*Booking Essential*  
Contact 028 4278 8387  
**10am–12noon, 12noon–2pm**  
Normal Admission Members Free

**Minnowburn**  
**6 October**  
**Remarkable Trees of Minnowburn**  
Fairies, fungus, crafts and conservation are all part of this tour with a ranger around Minnowburn's trees.  
Meet at Minnowburn car park  
**11am–12.30pm**  
No Charge Donations Welcome

**Cushendun**  
**25 October**  
**Red Squirrel Walk**  
Join the rangers at Cushendun for an afternoon looking for red squirrels and learning about the work we are doing to restore their habitat.  
Meet at Glenmona House  
*Booking Essential*  
Contact 028 7084 8728  
**12noon–2pm**  
No Charge Donations Welcome

**Divis and Black Mountain**  
**11 November**  
**A Short Trek into Pre-history**  
Join our ranger for a look at some of the interesting archaeological remains on the property. Wear stout footwear, dress warm and bring waterproofs, just in case.  
Meet at the Long Barn on Black Mountain  
**10.30am–12noon**  
No Charge Donations Welcome



Red Squirrel Day at Mount Stewart

## Gardening

**Mount Stewart**  
**22–23 September**  
**Planter's Seminar**  
Enjoy this two-day extravaganza. This year's theme celebrates productive gardening – working with nature. Guest speakers are Bob Flowerdew, Ken Cox and Stephen Barstow. A buffet lunch will be provided on Sunday afternoon. Meet at Mount Stewart reception  
*Booking Essential*  
Contact 028 4278 8387  
**11am–6pm**  
Adult £85 including Sunday Lunch  
Member Adult £85 including Sunday Lunch

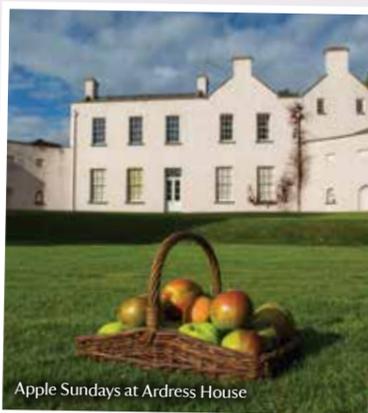
**Rowallane Garden**  
**29 September**  
**Autumn Plant Fair**  
Come and browse through the specialist plant stalls including plants grown in Rowallane's world-famous garden.  
**11am–4pm**  
Normal Admission Members Free

**Mount Stewart**  
**4 November**  
**Autumn Walk**  
The gardens at Mount Stewart were recently described as one of the Top Ten Gardens in the World and they look stunning at this time of year. Take this opportunity to enjoy a tour of the gardens with our gardening experts. Please note that this event takes place outside. Appropriate clothing required.  
Meet at Mount Stewart reception  
*Booking Essential*  
Contact 028 4278 8387  
**11am–1pm**  
Adult £10 Child £5  
Member Adult £10 Child £5

## Nature and wildlife

**Murlough NNR**  
**15 September**  
**MCS Beachwatch**  
Lend a helping hand at Murlough as the National Trust in conjunction with the Marine Conservation Society take part in the annual clean-up of our shorelines. Bring your family and friends along and help do your bit in maintaining our coast.  
Meet at Murlough main car park  
*Booking Essential*  
Contact 028 4375 1467  
or email [murlough@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:murlough@nationaltrust.org.uk)  
**10am–12noon**  
No Charge Donations Welcome

**Rowallane Garden**  
**22 September**  
**Autumn Edibles**  
Autumn is a time of harvest, join us as we taste our way around a selection of wholesome seasonal delights. All grown, foraged and made right here at Rowallane Garden.  
**2–3pm**  
Normal Admission Members Free



Apple Sundays at Ardress House

**Ardress House**  
**Every Sunday in October**  
**Apple Sundays**  
Set in the middle of orchard country, this is the ideal location to learn all about Armagh's famous apples and have some family fun. Pick your own apples, have a go on the apple press, take a guided orchard tour and more.  
**11am–5pm**  
Normal Admission Members Free

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**Skillen's Wood, Greyabbey**  
**15 December**  
**Junior Rangers Woodland Experience**  
Learn bushcraft skills with the ranger team. Please note that this event takes place outside. Appropriate clothing required.  
Meet at Greyabbey car park  
*Booking Essential*  
Contact 028 4278 8387  
No dogs please  
**10am–2pm**  
Adult Free Child £5  
Member Adult Free Child £5

**Crom**  
**5 January**  
**January Blues Bash and Burn**  
Forget the January blues by getting outside and enjoying the fresh air as you help us to remove the invasive Rhododendron scrub from the woodlands of Crom, under the guidance of our rangers. Bring the whole family and help us to keep our places special for all to enjoy. Tools and training provided to ensure a safe environment. Suitable outdoor clothing and footwear essential. Tea/coffee provided.  
Meet at Visitor Centre  
**10.30am–3.30pm**  
No Charge Volunteer Event



Have a go at Coppicing

**Killynether Wood**  
**12 January**  
**Have a go at Coppicing**  
Learn the traditional craft of hazel coppicing with the ranger team. Please note that this event takes place outside. Appropriate clothing required.  
Meet Killynether Wood car park  
Booking through the rangers office  
Contact 028 4278 7769  
**10am–3pm**  
No Charge Donations Welcome

Alternative formats: telephone 028 9751 0721 or email [ni.customerenquiries@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:ni.customerenquiries@nationaltrust.org.uk)

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