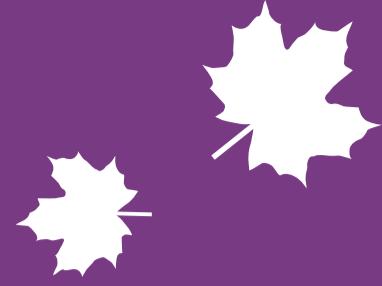




National
Trust

News and events for autumn / Christmas 2018
Kent | East Sussex |
West Sussex | Surrey



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Head to 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



Polesden Lacey

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 are even starting to consider it a distinct season of its own.

'It's partly being driven by climate,' says Troy Scott Smith, Head Gardener at **Sissinghurst Castle Garden** in Kent. 'In the past we could have predicted a cooling through September and a frost by the second week in October. Now, the season is longer and the plants just keep on flowering.'

This experience is borne out by Met Office data which shows that since the millennium, September has been not only drier than August, but warmer too.

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.

Jamie Harris, Head Gardener at **Polesden Lacey** in Surrey, agrees. 'September is a fantastic time to visit. We've dramatically increased our collections to extend the season. A walk along our double herbaceous borders will be rewarded with the likes of cool blue, deep purple and dusty pink salvias, sedums, asters and ornamental grasses still doing their thing. The roses will still be blooming until the first frosts, while the borders will be spilling over with fuchsia and Japanese anemone.'

The scale and flamboyance very much depends on the personality of the individual garden. For Troy at Sissinghurst, September is a reflective time and he prefers to echo the soft, slow shift in gear towards autumn with grasses, anenomes and second sowings of subtly coloured cosmos and delicate, domed ammis.

'Late summer-early autumn is a time to take a breath, look back, take stock and start thinking about the following year,' says Troy. It's good gardening advice that 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.

Emmetts Garden, Kent

There's a dazzling display of autumn colour as you wander through a glittering landscape. With the sunlight streaming through the leaves of the deep burgundy Liquidambars, combined with the amber foliage of Japanese maple and the flame red Euonymus alatus, it's easy to see why this garden is a photographer's dream.

Bateman's, East Sussex

Enter the wild garden for the best display of autumn colour with a range of ornamental trees and shrubs. The vivid scarlet red of Liquidamber stands out against the oranges, reds and copper of oak, cherry and Amelanchier. A particular highlight at this time of year is the Katsura tree, which smells like the autumnal treat of toffee apples.



Petworth House and Park, West Sussex

The parkland at Petworth is dotted with ancient trees. In autumn they come to life with bold colours of russet and gold. Follow the Ancient Tree walk and see them across a sea of ochre-coloured grasses, where the fallow deer roam.



Winkworth Arboretum, Surrey [pictured below]

The whole arboretum lights up in a kaleidoscope of colours in autumn. Acer and maples are the stars of the show, while Liquidambar leaves turn crimson, orange and purple. Seek out the viewpoints at the top of Magnolia Wood, the top of the azalea steps and across the lakeside to the boathouse.



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

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

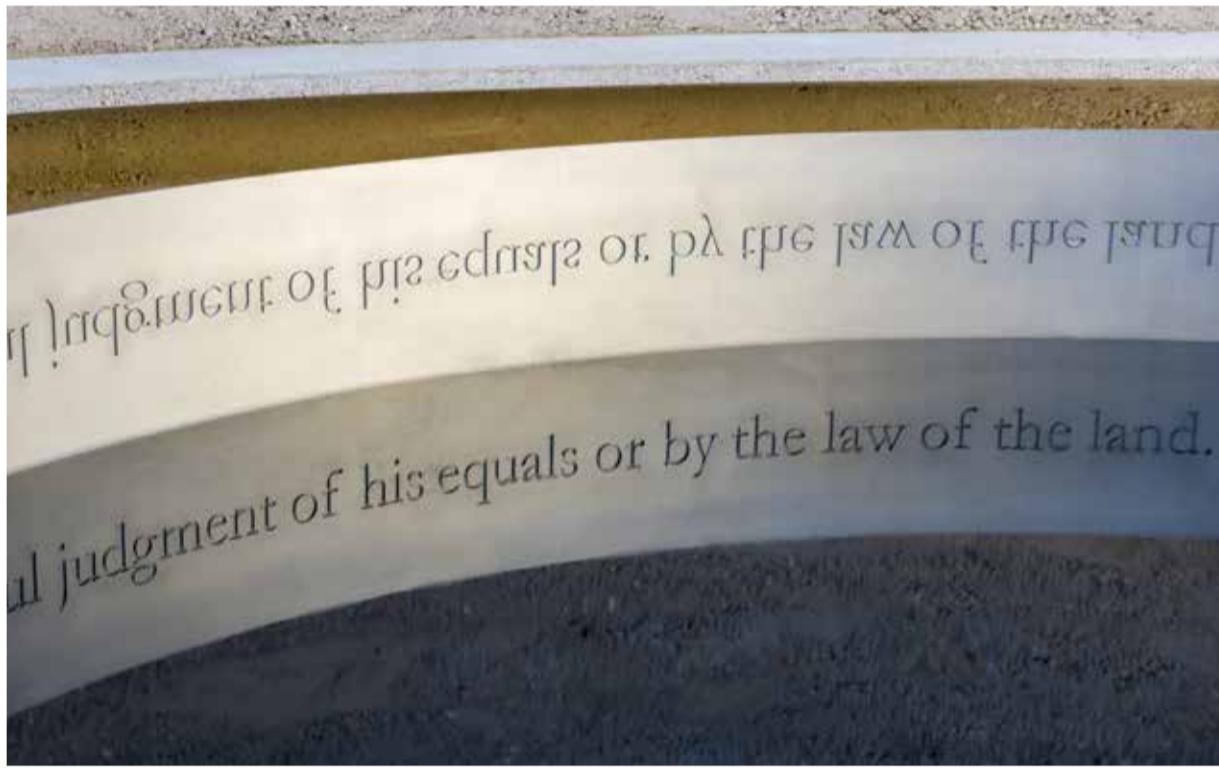


the inscription and the visitor has to move around the pool to read the words reflected in the water.

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.



Last chance to see

We couldn't let you miss the chance to catch these fascinating stories of people and places before they close.

Commemorating the anniversary of the 1918 suffrage act as part of the National Trust's Women and Power programme are A Woman's Place at **Knole** in Kent, and an exhibition about Georgian scientist and

inventor, Elizabeth Ilive at **Petworth** in West Sussex.

Running until 4 November, A Woman's Place tells the stories of the women who have contributed to

Knole's spirit and history. Through the work of six contemporary artists, themes of women and power are interpreted in sculpture, film and other interventions. The project explores love, betrayal, class, gender and inheritance and gives a voice to some of Knole's most fascinating – and unrecognised – women.

Petworth's exhibition explores the life of Elizabeth Ilive as mistress, mother, wife, inventor, scientist and patron of the arts. You can also explore what her Georgian domestic laboratory might have looked like, getting hands-on with the equipment she would have used such as scales and mortars.

Finally, until the end of October you can delve deeper in to the house at **Clandon Park** in Surrey [pictured below] than ever before. There's a unique opportunity to see the basement and ground floor rooms in their current, post-fire state of ghostly majesty, before the house closes for the season.



Beatrix Potter's garden

A lesser known side to Beatrix Potter is being revealed in an exhibition at **Sissinghurst** this autumn. Famed for her iconic children's books, she was also a naturalist, committed to getting people closer to the outdoors. She understood the benefits of open spaces and the importance of saving them for the nation. She was a keen supporter of the National Trust and in 1943 she left a large bequest of land in the Lake District to the Trust, the largest it had yet received.

The exhibition explores the woman behind the books and looks at the plants, animals and landscapes that inspired her. Beatrix was particularly fond of her garden, once saying 'My garden is a case of the survival of the fittest – always very full of flowers and weeds.' Her garden and fascination for flora and fauna inspired her to share her passion for nature with children through the stories and illustrations in her books.

A number of original artefacts are being shown as part of the exhibition. These include a pair of Beatrix's clogs, complete with mud, and her early studies of flowers and letters.

It is also the 75th anniversary of Beatrix's election to the President of the Herdwick Sheep Breeder's Association in 2018. She would have been the first woman president of the Association had it not been for her death in December 1943. She was a champion of nature and outdoor spaces throughout her life and this exhibition celebrates how her legacy lives on through her books and the cause she so loved.



Mr X Stitch at Standen

Mr X Stitch is bringing his revolutionary embroidered designs to a new exhibition at **Standen**, the Arts & Crafts house in West Sussex.

The exhibition charts the craft's development through time, highlighting why it is still relevant today. Jamie 'Mr X Stitch' Chalmers is one of the UK's best-known male embroiderers, an internationally exhibited textile artist and curator. His fresh and sometimes subversive

work has proven to a new generation that this humble craft is alive and kicking.

Following on from his exhibition, Jamie Chalmers will create Standen's 20 foot Christmas tree in the courtyard, inviting the local community to take part.

The exhibition runs 1 September – 11 November. The Xmas tree 24 November – 6 January.



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.

The vegetable garden at **Sissinghurst** produces several tonnes of home grown produce, much of which is used in the restaurant. The team propagate their own plants for sale on site so you can also take home a little bit of Sissinghurst with you. Apples from the orchards are picked by the rangers, juiced locally and bottled to buy or try in the restaurant.

Chartwell is particularly good for squash and pumpkin. Some are grown as climbers, hanging like giant fruits. You can guess the weight of the pumpkin or try them in a seasonal dish in the cafe. They also juice their apples for the restaurant and shop.

Nothing is more synonymous with Kent than hops and throughout September, there are guided walks from **Scotney Castle to Little Scotney farm** where they are still grown today. Here, you can go behind the scenes to learn more about the processes that go into creating local ale, see the hop gardens, picking shed, drying oast and hoppers huts. The ale is on sale at Scotney Castle.



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

Swan Barn Farm, Surrey

You can take part in a community apple pressing day in the new orchard barn at Swan Barn Farm. Bring along your own apples, join in using the heritage press and scratter and make your own apple juice and cider.

Saturday 29 September,
10.30am – 4pm



Ightham Mote, Kent

Find out about growing and eating apples at the annual Apple and Orchard Day. The garden team will be on hand to talk about the dozens of apple varieties planted in the orchard, including local heritage types such as Sunset, which is native to Ightham. A selection of stalls provide everything from cob nuts to cider and the tea-room has a range of apple-based dishes.

Saturday 29 September

Bateman's, East Sussex

Everyone can have a go at pressing apples picked from the orchard on Apple Day. You can make your own apple juice or try cider made from last year's crop. The garden and estate team are giving demonstrations and talks throughout the day and there are family crafts, apple trees to purchase and plenty of apple based recipes available to buy in the tea-room.

Sunday 14 October

Alfriston Clergy House, East Sussex

Step back in time and celebrate National Apple Day in the orchard of this medieval house. With apple pressing and tasting, apple folklore and stories, wassailing and games.

Sunday 7 October 10.30am – 4.30pm



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!



Bulb planting at Clandon

This October half term, visitors to **Clandon Park** in Surrey can help the garden team prepare for a beautiful spring by spending an autumn day planting bulbs in the parterre garden.

There will be four varieties of bulbs to plant, two types of daffodil and two of tulip. They've been chosen to match – as closely as possible – the plant list created by the 4th Earl of Onslow's Head Gardener over a hundred years ago.

'The choice of bulb and colour scheme is inspired by the horticultural legacy left by the 4th

Earl, who had a real passion for gardening, so this is an opportunity for our visitors to be part of that,' says Daniel Bennett, Senior Gardener.

Runs 24-26 October, 10am-4pm

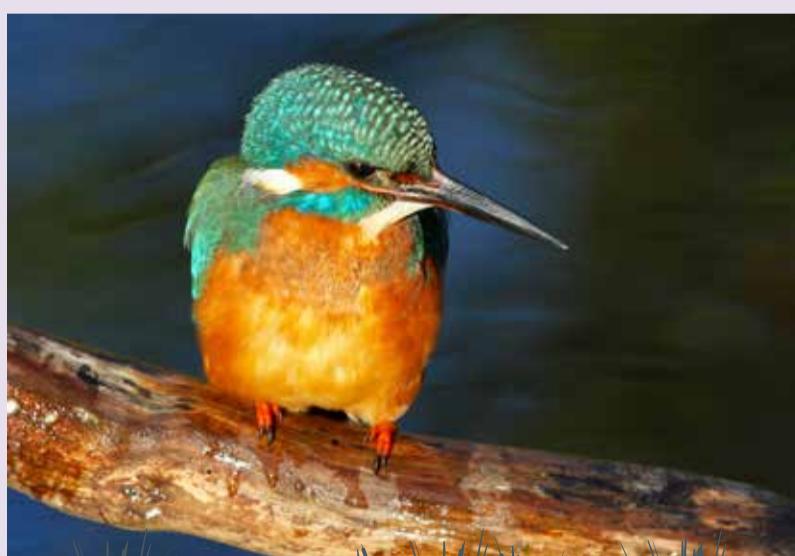


New homes for kingfishers

Our team at **Hatchlands Park** are hoping to entice nesting kingfishers back to the parkland with the installation of a new raised bank at Sheepwash pond this autumn.

These colourful birds have been visiting the pond regularly to feed, but have been unable to nest as the banks of the pond aren't high enough to protect them from potential predators.

Thanks to money generously donated by the West Surrey Supporters' centre, the new nesting bank can now be built, with the help of a band of volunteers. It is in a quiet corner of Sheepwash Pond, sheltered by hazel, to encourage kingfishers to nest and breed undisturbed.



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Conservation in action



Lifeline for bats

The patchwork of dense woods, fields and parkland of the West Sussex Downs are strongholds for some of Britain's rarest bats.

For many years, we've been monitoring bats and managing habitats to help them thrive on the **Slindon Estate, Woolbeding Countryside, Black Down, Petworth and Uppark**.

Now our ambitious plans have been thrown a lifeline thanks to a generous award of £100k made to the National Trust by players of People's Postcode Lottery.



'There is so much we still don't know about these elusive and fascinating creatures. This support will enable us to continue our research and improve habitats across the West Sussex Downs to make them even more attractive to bats,' says Fiona Scully, South Downs ranger.

At dawn and dusk, bats feast on the insects emerging from rivers and ponds. So this year, new ponds are being created and existing ones restored and improved.

We'll also be protecting veteran trees, which bats roost in, creating more grazed wood pasture, removing invasive plants and creating bat friendly features in our barns and buildings too.

Together we want to build the best future for bats and the habitats they depend on. Look out for our community walks, talks and events in the West Sussex Downs or join our groups of dedicated volunteers to help.



Connecting with Chartwell's collection

Chartwell's world-class collection is set to become mobile this autumn. Thanks to your support, and that of the Heritage Lottery Fund, we are connecting more people to Sir Winston Churchill's legacy through the Churchill's Chartwell project.

Over the past year, local makers, including Ottewill Silversmiths and the Glyndebourne Opera props department, have been re-creating

some of Churchill's most treasured artefacts for us to take on tour.

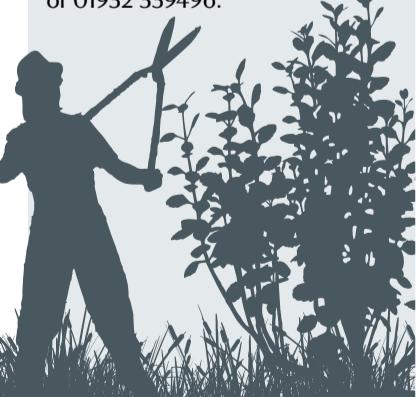
From September onwards Chartwell's Learning Officer will be offering free outreach sessions to groups and venues within 30 miles of the property.

To book a session, contact learning.chartwell@nationaltrust.org.uk

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 supportergroups@nationaltrust.org.uk or 01932 339496.



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