



National Trust

News and events
Autumn 2018

South West
Edition

Near you

Issue 101

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The season of mists and mellow fruitfulness

Following an unseasonably hot summer, autumn may give us some surprises too this year, with levels of rainfall and sunlight influencing the shades and lifespan of the leaves. Whatever our autumn leaves have in store for us, there will be plenty more for your senses to feast upon, from displays of fungi to glorious breaths of chilly air on bright days.

At Hidcote (above, main picture) our gardeners will be gathering seeds, to contribute to the heritage seed library to help protect and conserve these varieties for future generations. Meanwhile the garden will be transformed by the structural displays of seedheads as they dry in the last of the summer sun.

Autumn is of course the time for harvest of the fruitful kind too, and across the region you'll find celebrations of the humble apple. At Apple Days and festivals you'll have the chance to sample local ciders, juices and cakes too.

With birds and wild animals enjoying the fruits of the season, and with the camouflage of leaves fading, step outside, seek out deer, flocks of birds and spot spiders' webs captured in the morning dew.

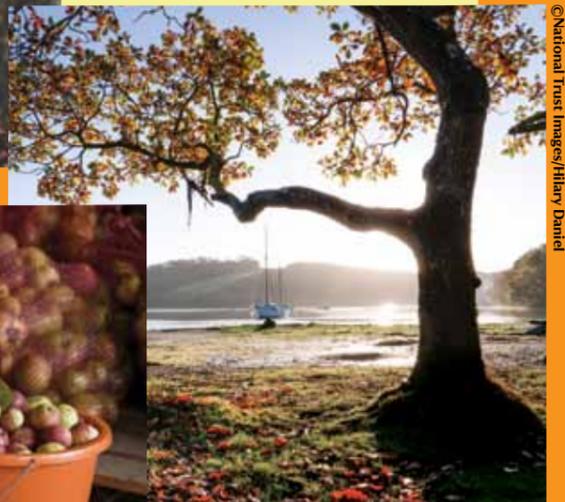
Above, main: The beech alley at Hidcote, Gloucestershire. Middle right: Orange ping pong bat fungus. Bottom right: Roudwood Quay, Trelissick, Cornwall. Bottom left: Apple harvest at Killerton, Devon.



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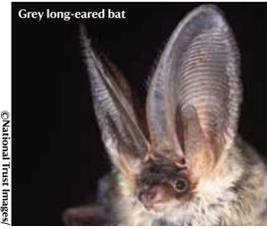
©National Trust Images/Mel Peters



Bechstein's bat

©National Trust Images/Bat Conservation Trust/Hugh Clark

Rare bats on Golden Cap



Grey long-eared bat

©National Trust Images/Bat Conservation Trust/Hugh Clark

Surveys by National Trust ecologists and volunteers have found that Golden Cap in Dorset is used by 13 out of Britain's 18 bat species, including some which are under threat and in decline.

Evidence has been found of Bechstein's bats, grey long-eared, barbastelle, and greater and lesser horseshoe bats amongst others, which are some of the rarest bat species in the UK.

In west and north Dorset we've been working with the Dorset Bat Group to find out more about the bats here, and how they are using the landscape.

Ecology Officer Gemma Baron said: 'The Golden Cap area is carefully managed by the Trust and the farm tenants to ensure it has some of the best habitat for wildlife, including bats. We were very excited to find evidence of the grey long eared bat which is one of the rarest bats in the UK and lives in very restricted areas of the country, and to recently be able to tag five Bechstein's bats, which are a rare tree dwelling bat. There are thought to be just 1500 Bechstein's bats in the UK as a whole.

'This area is great for bats because of the fantastic patchwork of habitats found here. Grassland, woodland and scrub provide great foraging habitats, and are connected by an extensive network of old, traditionally managed hedgerows and small lanes which bats use to navigate. Old trees with natural holes and cracks, and old farm buildings also provide a range of roosting sites. Because of the low-intensity way the area is farmed and looked after, there are plenty of invertebrates for bats to eat.'

Women and Power



Rachel Dobbs and Hannah Jones of LOW PROFILE.

©National Trust Images/Sueven Hayward

This year we've been shining a light on the stories of women at National Trust places. In the South West artists LOW PROFILE asked everyone to get involved and have been working with local singer-songwriters to develop new songs inspired by these stories.

Thanks to those that left voicemails telling stories of women they think are inspirational, innovative or pioneering LOW PROFILE have crafted an audio artwork.

Listen at nationaltrust.org.uk/storiesofwomen



South West Outdoor Festival

Join in a weekend of outdoor adventure and entertainment at East Soar, near Salcombe from 5 - 7 October. Choose from watersports, guided walks, archery and foraging, talks and workshops at this family-friendly event. Book your tickets and find out more by searching online for 'South West Outdoor Festival'.

©National Trust Images/Chris Lacey



Up on the roof at Castle Drogo

©National Trust Images/Chris Lacey

Don't miss out Castle Drogo viewing tower

As the work on Castle Drogo's roof comes to an end this year, this is your last chance to see the castle from a very different perspective, up high on the viewing tower with dramatic views overlooking the Teign Gorge.

Search online for 'Castle Drogo roof tour' to find out more.



The 'South West Coast Path Challenge', returns this October in partnership with the South West Coast Path Association. Together, we are challenging our amazing members and supporters to give back to the National Trail on its 40th anniversary.

Marvellous moggies

Anyone who spends any time at National Trust places knows that they are not really owned by the Trust at all, but by their feline residents.

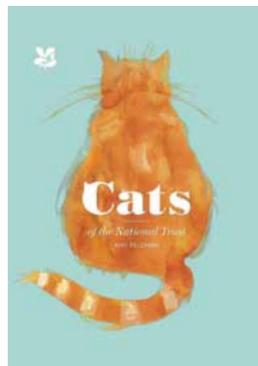
It's a tradition that goes back many years, with cats being an essential part of many of the historic families who lived there.

From Sir Winston Churchill to Ellen Terry, Beatrix Potter to Vita Sackville-West, many of the former residents were cat-lovers.

Now a new book written by Trust book editor Amy Feldman, explores the stories of cats both historical and living, as well as feline objects that had pride of place in Trust.

The book includes some South West feline friends such as Thomas Hardy's 'Snowdove', buried at Max Gate, Dorset, to whom Hardy wrote 'Last Words to a Dumb Friend' in eulogy.

Available now from our shops and online.



©National Trust

Why not come along to one of the hosted hikes throughout October, or head to the Path in your own time to raise vital funds for its future.

Events this year include old favourites like the Flaming Torchlit Trail night walks at Coleton Fishacre and Golden Cap, as well as a new coastal foraging walk at Fowey, plus nature and history walks near St Agnes and Salcombe.

Join a hosted hike or pledge to organise your own Coast Path fundraiser at southwestcoastpath.org.uk/challenge. We can't wait to see you out on the trail.

The fabric of our lives

We're lucky enough to care for over 100,000 textile items in the National Trust, including Britain's largest collection of tapestries: over 650 throughout 200 houses.

Here in the South West, the collection includes some remarkable examples but, unsurprisingly,

many of these delicate, aging textiles require special care and attention to preserve them for everyone to continue to enjoy.

This year our teams have been working hard to ensure that we continue to care for these fabrics for future generations to come.



Gently wrapping the tapestries for their journey

©National Trust Images/Barry Starcher

Travelling tapestries

Amongst the rarest of the tapestries in our care are Dyrham Park's 17th-century examples which are heading overseas for specialist cleaning and repairs.

Two of the large Enghein (Pronounced: On-gee-en) tapestries, belonging to the 17th-century house near Bath, are being treated thanks to almost £143,000 in legacies left to the National Trust.

The Flemish tapestries, woven with wool and silk, are normally on show in the Tapestry Bedchamber.

They are one of only two sets of this type in existence in this country - with the collection at Dyrham Park being the more complete and well preserved.

Magnificent Millefleurs

Montacute House's precious Millefleurs tapestry, a 15th-century gem, is now in Belgium for conversation and cleaning.

The Millefleur tapestry is the oldest in the Trust's collection, but it's beginning to show signs of its age.

At Montacute, the conservation team started the process of preserving the tapestry by gently vacuuming the magnificent knight, who has been riding his horse across the field of a thousand flowers for 450 years.



Cleaning the tapestries

©National Trust Images/Sueven Hayward

Flowers of remembrance

Every Christmas the famous Cotehele garland, made up of flowers cut and dried from the garden, goes on display in the Great Hall. This year, the gardening team have been working with artist Dominique Coiffait to mark the centenary of the end of the First World War in a very special way.

Dominique has been spending the year in a 'virtual residency' at Cotehele, making regular visits to sketch the plants growing in the garden across the seasons, then creating lino-prints from these in a range of colours. These will be built up in collage to create a giant frieze which will

work its way around the walls of the Great Hall, enhancing the 60-foot-long cut flower garland made by the garden team.

'As a commemoration of the end of the First World War it feels relevant,' says Dominique. 'We use floral tributes to honour our dead. This hand printed paper artwork should be a respectful commemoration to those who fought and died and those who survived and sowed the seeds for future generations.'

The Commemoration Garland will be on display at Cotehele from 10 November until 6 January.



Choosing the flowers at Cotehele



Cutting out the paper decorations

©National Trust/Sueven Hayward



The fragile silks at Arlington Court

©National Trust Images/Nadla Mackenzie

Saving the silks

The opulent Boudoir at Arlington Court is a defining feature of the Regency house, however now the crimson and gold silk damask is in danger of being lost. As the silk is far too fragile to remove from the walls, the damask will be restored in situ offering a unique opportunity to see this conservation work in action.

Find out how your support can help at nationaltrust.org.uk/arlington-save-our-silks



Carefully restoring a historic curtain that had sustained light damage

©National Trust Images/Anna Wright

Thanks from Tyntesfield

We're ever thankful to the people who give their time to the National Trust. At Tyntesfield a team of volunteers help us to look after fabrics, having been provided with specialist training in caring for historic textiles. Currently, this team of hard-working and willing supporters are working to restore the curtains from the Clyst Room, which have become fragile due to light damage.

Interested in volunteering? Find out how you can help at nationaltrust.org.uk/volunteer

Christmas highlights across the South West

Avebury - Discover the story of Saint Nicholas
Sat 24 Nov – Tue 1 Jan, 11am-4pm

Coleton Fishacre - Coleton Aglow
Fri 30 Nov - Sun 2 Dec, Fri 7 – Sun 9 Dec,
Fri 14 – Sun 16 Dec, Wed 19 – 24 Dec,
Thu 27 – Mon 31 Dec, 5.30-8pm

Cotehele - Commemoration Garland in the Great Hall
Sat 10 Nov - Sun 6 Jan, 11am - 4pm

Corfe Castle – Winter Lights
Fri – Sun, 14 – 30 Dec, dusk-7pm

Dunster Castle - A Christmas Castle and illuminated winter walk
Fri, Sat & Sun, 8 – 23 Dec, 11am-6pm-4pm

Kingston Lacy - Christmas at Kingston Lacy
Fri 30 Nov – Mon 1 Jan (closed 25 Dec),
Mon & Tue 10am-4pm, Wed – Sun 10am-7pm

Lacock Abbey - An audience with Father Christmas
Sat & Sun, 1 – 16 Dec, 11am-3.30pm

Tyntesfield - A very Victorian Christmas at Tyntesfield
Sat 24 Nov – Sun 23 Dec, Wed 26, Thu 27 Dec, Sun 30 Dec,
Tue 1, Wed 2 Jan, 10am-5pm, Mon 24 & 31 Dec, 10am-3pm

Please check individual places for opening times and booking information.

From illuminated gardens to visiting Father Christmas and stepping back in time to enjoy a period festive season, you'll find lots of ways to add a little Christmas magic this year.

Search for 'National Trust South West Christmas' online.



© National Trust Images/John Millar

Join a social group near you

Discover interesting and enjoyable activities that help support the work of the National Trust. Find out more at www.nationaltrust.org.uk/sw-supportergroups.

Supporter Group	Membership Enquiry Contact	Telephone	Email
Bath & Bristol			
Bath Centre	Mrs Pat Martin	01225 314216	bath.centre.nt@gmail.com
Bath National Trust Volunteer Group	Mrs Sarah Bravery	01722 335203	sstravelling@hotmail.co.uk
Bristol Centre	Mrs Janet Stanton	01454 528177	janetstanton@uwclub.net
Cornwall			
Friends of Godolphin	Mrs Ann Clegg	01736 758227	godolphinfriends@btinternet.com
North Cornwall Association	Mrs Fiona Lunt	01208 869126	timflunt@btinternet.com
Penwith Association	Mrs Doreen Newman	01736 757047	david.holyoake@bcs.org
Devon			
Axe Valley Centre	Mrs Beverley Perkins	01297 631801	bev.perkins@btinternet.com
Culm & Exe Valleys Centre	Mrs Mary Lewis	01884 841264	marylewis748@btinternet.com
Exeter & District Centre	Mr John Sparks	01392 216549	jandas@icloud.com
Exeter National Trust Volunteer Group	Miss Susan Illing	01392 495987	ntvexeter@btinternet.com
Haldon Association	Mrs Veronica McCormick	01626 779543	
Honiton, Ottery & District Association	Mrs Gill Goodes	01404 42081	gillgoodes@btinternet.com
Newton Abbot Association	Mr Frank Bond	01626 777053	newtonabbotassociationnt@gmail.com
Plymouth Centre	Mrs Judy Unitt	01752 290437	judy.ntt@gmail.com
Raleigh Centre	Mr Peter Martin	01395 741050	petermartin70@sky.com
Sidmouth Centre	Mr David King	01404 811295	david@kingwoodpeckers.plus.com
South Devon National Trust Volunteer Group	Yvonne Cottam	01803 835251	ycottam@live.co.uk
South Hams Centre	Mrs Muriel Woolmer	01548 852591	
Torbay Centre	Mrs Sheila Goldsmith	01803 428035	sgoldsmith1948@hotmail.co.uk
West Devon Association	Mrs Chris Adams	01837 880297	chris_adams0@yahoo.co.uk
Dorset			
Blackmore Vale & Yeovil Association	Miss Elizabeth Gowers	01935 425383	BVYNtmembership@outlook.com
Bournemouth & Poole Association	Miss Imogen Batty	01202 530185	imogenbatty@hotmail.com

Supporter Group	Membership Enquiry Contact	Telephone	Email
Dorset continued			
Bournemouth National Trust Volunteer Group	Mrs Lesley Morton		bnt.volunteers@gmail.com
Christchurch & New Forest Association	Mr Mike Moreton	01425 610590	mcmoreton@aol.com
East Dorset Association	Mrs Janet Matthews	01202 855001	eastdorsetnt@btinternet.com
Golden Cap Association (West Dorset)	Mrs Diana Coleridge	01308 424431	dianacoleridge@gmail.com
Purbeck Association	Mr David Cole	01929 550488	jandave.cole@tiscali.co.uk
South Dorset Association	Mrs Pat Woodley	01305 832198	southdorsetassociation@gmail.com
Gloucestershire			
Cheltenham & Gloucestershire Centre	Mrs Paula Ware	01242 519444	cheltglosntc@outlook.com
Cheltenham National Trust Volunteer Group (ANTS)	Mr Russell Self	01242 243714	ants.chelntv@btinternet.com
North Cotswold Association	Mrs Olivia Amphlett	01386 593085	ncantmembers@gmail.com
Somerset			
Somerset National Trust Volunteer Group	Mr Clive Bosworth	01643 705420	clive1940@btinternet.com
Wells & District Centre	Miss E Pawley	01458 448134	
West Somerset Association	Mrs Rosemary Ball	01643 862294	david.tbeach@btinternet.com
Weston-super-Mare & District Association	Mrs Rachel Wiltshire	01934 633593	wsmnta@gmail.com
Wiltshire			
Kennet Valley Association	Mrs Jill Horsfall	01264 850542	kennetvalleynta@gmail.com
North & West Wiltshire Association	Mr Bernard Groves	07790 447740	nwwnta@gmail.com
Salisbury & South Wiltshire Association	Mr Michael Eke	01722 716862	Michael@theekes.co.uk
Upper Thames & Ridgeway Association	Mrs Gillian Miller	01793 762599	millerwrde@homecall.co.uk

Regional Director: Rebecca Burton
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