



National
Trust

News and events for spring 2019
Bedfordshire | Cambridgeshire | Essex
Hertfordshire | Norfolk | Suffolk

Near you



More reasons to visit more often

Across the East of England we are lucky to have such a rich display of nature on our doorsteps and there really is nothing quite like going on a brisk walk to explore our landscapes. So whether it is a gentle stroll around a beautiful garden or a hike in the open countryside, with fresh air in your lungs there is no better antidote to the excess of Christmas.

Whatever the British weather has to throw at you, you can be ready for the great outdoors. Wrap up warm in your woolly socks and winter scarf and pull on your trusty wellies to get ready to explore.

Relax amongst the stillness of **Wicken Fen** to see hen harriers before they fly north for the summer, and hear migrating warblers arrive

and start to sing. Blow away the cobwebs with an exhilarating walk across **Dunstable Downs** to enjoy a view across five counties, or breathe in the bracing sea air at **Dunwich Heath**.

Of course no good winter walk is complete without a hot cuppa and a slice of cake to round it off, and we are pretty good at those too!

The quieter months provide the perfect opportunity to delve deeper into the fascinating stories and unique collections of our special places and thanks to your support, many of our properties are now able to open for longer. Our teams will be busy cleaning, protecting and conserving our beautiful houses and collections, so come and enjoy watching this vital work in action.

Wimpole Hall will be open every day, so why not join our knowledgeable team of staff and volunteers on a Dust and Discover or Basement and Picture tour? Both give you a fascinating view into the important conservation work that takes place throughout the winter. **Blickling Estate** will also be offering a behind the scenes conservation experience on Tuesdays and Thursdays and we're looking forward to Judith Kerr's *The Tiger Who Came to Tea*, 50th anniversary exhibition.

At **Ickworth**, head to the servants quarters to discover the living history team hard at work on winter housekeeping, or venture outdoors on a guided walk through the beautiful displays of snowdrops. If snowdrops take your fancy, visit Anglesey Abbey for a tour of their iconic collection of the seasonal flower.

To celebrate 80 years since George Bernard Shaw won his Oscar for *Pygmalion*, we will be opening our doors at **Shaw's Corner** earlier than ever before so you and the family can join us celebrate over February half-term. Also, over in the Norfolk Broads, **Horsey Windpump** will be reopening in March after a major restoration project.

All this is only possible thanks to your continued support. There's so much more to see at www.nationaltrust.org.uk/eastofengland

Did you know you can share your pictures with us? If you use social media, you can find us on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram, where you can share your favourite spots.

Facebook.com/EastofEnglandNT
Twitter: @East_England_NT
instagram.com/eastofenglandnt

Make more of your membership – join your local centre, association or volunteer group. Call 01284 747500.



Friends and Family

One of the things that I love most about working for the National Trust is the people. I work with some brilliant individuals who are experts in everything from archaeology to Zenobias (a type of flower called Honeycup in English). However, it's not their expertise that I love the most, but their passion. I am lucky to spend my working life with kindred spirits who share the same goal of looking after special places and sharing them with others.

We are ultimately social animals and when I go around our places I can see that a key reason that people visit is to spend quality time with friends and family. My local National Trust property is Ickworth and it holds a place in my heart that is both Georgian masterpiece and the place where my daughter learnt to ride her bike without stabilisers. Our places are the perfect spot to unwind, talk, play and bond – especially in the spring – so make a date to spend time with a loved one soon.

Getting together with other Trust enthusiasts, members and volunteer card holders who feel passionate about the same things is priceless. The National Trusts Supporter Groups are ideal for sharing unique experiences and finding out more about the places you care about. From listening to expert talks and going on behind-the-scenes tours to taking relaxing holidays, you'll be part of something amazing. Our local groups promote our work within their local area and raise money for conservation and development projects through all kinds of events.

For further information about your local supporter group visit: www.nationaltrust.org.uk/lists/supporter-groups-in-the-east-of-england

Paul



Welcome to Wimpole of 2,000 years ago

Were you lucky enough to visit Wimpole last summer and see the hive of activity taking place by a team of archaeologists? If not, don't worry as we caught up with Shannon Hogan, our very own archaeologist, to explain what they found.

"Archaeologists from the National Trust and Oxford Archaeology East got a rare chance to carry out a dig on the estate, ahead of the development of a whole new arrival to Wimpole, including a new car park, visitor welcome building and conservation of the parkland.

What we found over the summer has been incredible - we've witnessed another chapter of Wimpole's rich and ancient history.

The Late Iron Age to Early Roman (c.100BC – 150 AD) occupation of Lamp Hill at Wimpole has revealed

almost 300 metal objects including coins, cosmetic implements, horse harness fittings, Roman military uniform fittings, a spearhead, an axe, key handles, brooches, a ring as well as scrap lead and a number of iron nails and other utilitarian objects.

We're not sure yet if the site was at one time occupied by retired Roman military or if the native people living here were trading in these items for personal use and adornment or if these items were intended as votive offerings to a nearby shrine. We hope to resolve this as further work on the finds gets underway.

For me, the star discovery was a small copper alloy figurine representing the Celtic god of fertility, Cernunnos. We rarely find human figurines in archaeological excavations so he's very special, even more so as one of the finds specialists believes this may be

one of only two figures of this deity ever found. To me, he's more than this deity though, he is the enigmatic face of the people living in the landscape some 2000 years ago."



Getting greener in the East

As part of the National Trust's wider ambition to source 50% of our energy needs from renewable sources by 2020, both Anglesey Abbey and Wimpole Estate are our latest places to get greener in the East. Both properties are now reliant on energy from heat pumps that were installed over the summer of 2018. Collectively, the water heat pump at Anglesey and Wimpole's closed loop ground source heat

pump save over 67,000 litres of oil and 97 tonnes of carbon emissions per year.

Support from our visitors, whether that has been from buying a cup of tea and cake on a visit, membership or through a donation, has allowed us to make this dream a reality. Not only are we able to reduce our carbon footprint as a result of these heat pumps, but we are also making a

saving of around £20,000 a year in fuel costs (nearly half a million pounds over both of the pump's 20 year life expectancy), allowing us to reinvest money into conservation work, the properties collections and in our visitor facilities.

Other places in the region already generating renewable energy include Ickworth, Sutton Hoo, Sheringham Park and Blickling.



News in Brief



Riverlands

In July last year, we announced our commitment to one of our most ambitious waterways restoration projects: Riverlands. The £10 million pound project, in partnership with the Environment Agency, will see five of the UK's most precious rivers restored. As one of only 200 chalk streams globally, the River Bure in Norfolk was chosen as part of the national scheme due to its unique characteristics. Thanks to your support and our partnerships with Norfolk Ponds Project and the Pond Restoration Research Group at University College London, we have already successfully restored three previously in-filled 'Ghost Ponds' and created three new ponds on our Felbrigg Estate. As a result of this, it won't be long before wildlife inhabits this area to thrive once more and researchers will be able to learn how local wildlife responds to pond restoration.

Sutton Hoo

Work is now well underway on a transformational project at Sutton Hoo. The £4million project started on site in the autumn, with Sutton Hoo closing to visitors whilst we deliver ambitious plans to create an experience that is more interesting than ever before. Thanks to a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund and generous donations from you, our members and supporters, we'll be taking you on a journey through one of the most significant archaeological discoveries of all time. From new walking routes to help you discover how King Rædwald's ship was dragged from the River Deben to the site that would eventually become the Royal Burial Ground, to a viewing tower to let you see the mounds in a whole new way, to exciting new presentations in the exhibition hall and Tranmer House, we're confident you'll want to come back again and again as we release the story of the Anglo Saxons who chose Sutton Hoo as the place to bury their king. Keep up to date with the project and its development at www.nationaltrust.org.uk/sutton-hoo.

New panoramic views at Wicken Fen

Home to Highland cattle, Konik ponies, dozens of bird species and a variety of invertebrates, Wicken Fen is an important wildlife haven for us to preserve. As part of our 'Resting the Sedge Fen Project' and as a result of your membership support, we have been able to construct a temporary viewing tower situated close to the boardwalk. The tower will allow the delicate peat soils along the Lode Bank to recover, while visitors enjoy panoramic views of the fen and the sight of harriers and corvids coming in to roost on the Sedge Fen. Plans to make the viewing tower a permanent structure will hopefully become a reality later in the year.

Welcome to Wimpole

We're excited to start work this year on our 'Welcome to Wimpole' project which will bring the house, gardens, parkland, farm and wider landscape together for you to enjoy through a brand new gateway into the estate. We're updating and expanding much needed facilities for our growing number of visitors. We're also conserving and protecting this much loved estate for future generations. Find out more and follow our progress at www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wimpole-estate

Ickworth uncovered

The largest conservation project to take place at Ickworth since the National Trust acquired it in 1956 will be moving forward later this year. Ickworth Uncovered is a multi-million pound restoration project that will see specialists attend to the iconic rotunda as they re-tile the entire roof. On top of this, other minor renovations will also be happening inside the rotunda, prompting the movement of over 2,500 items into storage to allow the work to happen. Keep an eye out for more news about some special new ways you can experience Ickworth once the work gets underway.

Wimpole History Festival Returns

Thousands gathered at Wimpole last summer to enjoy the second Wimpole History Festival which delighted and captivated visitors of all ages. Together with the Cambridge Literary Festival, the National Trust is set to bring you another incredible festival this year (21-23 June). Wimpole shares fascinating stories of the past and to come and see history brought to life, whether through the amazing programme of authors and historians or living history, it shows the power and relevance of history – plus it's a fantastic day out for all the family. Tickets due to go on sale from April, so be quick! Stay tuned for more at www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wimpole-estate

A new chapter at Blickling

Blickling Estate was host to the 2018 Trust New Art installation that John Orna-Ornstein, Director of Curation and Experience for the National Trust, called a "bold, creative and really thought-provoking way to bring Blickling's historic library to life for visitors." For 2019, Blickling will once again be home to a new installation in support of the five-year long library restoration project. Joan Gabie and Neville Gabie, artist-in-residence at the 2012 Olympic Games, will be drawing inspiration from four book titles that reside in the Blickling collection to create an exhibition that highlights the importance of books.

'The Edge of Things' opens in May and will run until the end of October.



Spring Sensations

The start of a new year brings many things and not least amongst them is the promise that spring is around the corner.

If winter walking means frosty landscapes, wrapping up warm and enjoying the countryside laid bare, then spring is the time to lose some of the layers and see those wintery landscapes start to stretch their limbs and embrace the new season.

Your National Trust membership means that seeing landscapes and gardens whatever the season is easy. So if you've enjoyed a wander

through a winter wonderland, head back and see its spring finery too.

For early colour you can't beat daffodils, and at Ickworth, you'll see swathes of historic daffodils coming into bloom throughout the pleasure grounds, with varieties dating back to the 15th century, together with primroses and oxlips.

Over at Melford Hall, discover a range of spring bulbs everywhere from daffodils in the North Moat to spring bulbs in Lord Somerset's residence - an intriguing area of informal woodland in a formal lawned garden.

At Anglesey Abbey, spring bulbs bring new colour, with pretty tulips nestling underneath the silver birch trees.

If you want to be bewitched by bluebells, head out on a four mile walk in Blickling's Great Wood to enjoy carpets of blooms, or set your course to Flatford, where the aptly named 'purple trail' will take you through Orvis Wood, a bluebell-rich woodland. You'll also find bluebells at Sheringham Park - if you can take your eyes away from the rhododendrons of course.

Spring arrivals come in feathered and furry forms too. Keep your eyes and ears focused on marsh harriers and Konik pony foals at Wicken Fen, swallows and terns arriving at Blakeney Point and booming bitterns at Dunwich Heath.

If lambs are on your essential spring watch list, we've got you covered at Wimpole Home Farm, Ickworth, Felbrigg and Orford Ness.

As always, the hardest question will be where you visit first.

Swapping ballet shoes for wellies



Emma shares her story from her first steps in professional ballet shoes to a chance encounter which helped her on her way to walking in vet student's muddy wellies.

"I was having doubts about continuing with my professional dancing career but had no idea how to start my dream of becoming a vet. I visited Wimpole in 2016 and was amazed at how visitors get to see lambing time up close. It made me realise how much I wanted to work with animals and get on the other side of the pens!

"I explained my predicament during a chance encounter with a volunteer from Wimpole. I quickly found myself on some trial days with the farm team and I was invited back to help out at lambing time.

"My time at lambing was incredible. It gave me a real insight into the huge amount of work that farm teams do and I got to learn so many different aspects of lambing a flock. It was a really intense learning experience; from cleaning pens, feeding and watering the animals to monitoring the ewes due to lamb for any signs of giving birth, to mixing formula and

taking care of the newly born lambs. I loved joining the team on their rounds to check on the ewes and lambs and helped to herd them into the right fields when they were ready.

"Lambing at Wimpole helped me achieve my dream of becoming a vet - in September I started at Bristol Vet School and am looking forward to my first placement (more lambing!) in Easter."

Why not find a volunteer opportunity that takes your fancy? www.nationaltrust.org.uk/volunteer



The perfect pair

For identical twins Geoff and Stan, wearing matching outfits exceeded childhood. The pair now wear their volunteering uniform, side by side, as gardeners at Anglesey Abbey: Stan for just over six years and Geoff just over three.

Their ties with Anglesey began at the age of three when their family moved to Rose Cottage, situated near Lord Fairhaven's home. As a keen gardener himself, their father passed down his hobby to his sons, which led to a childhood curiosity about the gardens that lay behind the walls of the Abbey. Pursuing careers of their own in mechanical engineering at the age of 16, the pair both worked at Pye's in nearby Cambridge, until Stan moved on to work in the gardens of the city's university.

Reunited again on Anglesey's grounds, the brothers revealed their favourite parts of working at Anglesey Abbey. Stan shared that he "enjoys being able to walk into the grounds away from hectic exterior life, into the calm." He added that "even on a busy day you are sure to find a quiet spot." Geoff's favourite part of working on the estate relates to his love of trees. He said: "Sharing a love for trees with Lord Fairhaven makes this an ideal place to volunteer. I especially love going to Pilgrims Lawn in autumn."

Working as part of a wider team that collectively looks after Anglesey's 114 acres of land; both brothers play a vital role in the important conservation work that goes on all year round.



2019 marks 21 years since the Winter Garden was opened and this year the pair will be involved in the start of a three year plan to revitalise the planting, made

possible by your support when you visit, eat or buy a something from our shop or plant centre.



Trust us, it all began 120 years ago



This year is a big one for Britain's oldest nature reserve, Wicken Fen. We're celebrating two anniversaries; 120 years since the National Trust purchased its first piece of land at Wicken Fen, and 20 years since the launch of the Wicken Fen Vision.

The Wicken Fen Vision is a 100 year plan to create a diverse landscape for wildlife and people over an area of 53 square kilometres. By expanding the reserve we'll create a healthy, natural and beautiful environment that gives people space to breathe, think and explore; and wildlife the diverse and extensive landscape it needs to thrive.

We're making great progress with our plan. We have increased the size of the landscape from 358 to nearly

800 hectares, wildlife is thriving in the mosaic of different habitats across the reserve, and people are able to access the wider areas of Wicken Fen, enjoying its peace and tranquillity.

Throughout the month of May we'll be inviting you to take part in our 'Big Vision Treasure Hunt', which will take you through the nature reserve and experience some of the Vision area highlights.

Our Big Vision Weekend is going to be a great opportunity to share our success so far, and our future plans with you. We'll be starting bright and early on Saturday 4 May with our Dawn Chorus Walk, and continuing throughout the bank holiday weekend with a series of walks, talks, demonstrations and activities.

For the full programme please visit: www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wicken-fen-nature-reserve/features/wicken-fen-big-vision-weekend
We can't wait to see you there.



Libraries lost and found...



Peckover's lost library

A new exhibition is set to open at Peckover House in March 2019 that will celebrate an avid collector and his lost library, returning lost treasures to the house for the first time in over 50 years.

When Peckover came into the care of the National Trust in 1948, it was without its contents. Amongst the most precious items to have been sold at auction, was Lord Peckover's book collection. As we mark 100 years since his death, we wanted to celebrate Lord Peckover's life by searching for the lost volumes and bringing those we could back under one roof for this centenary year.

Lord Peckover's collection included rare and early bibles, medieval manuscripts, atlases and literature, which reflected his Quaker faith and philanthropic interests. Many of his books were bought by private collectors and museums, and dispersed around the country. Now, thanks to National Lottery players and a Heritage Lottery Fund grant, a number of them will return on loan, housed in the library that Lord Peckover himself added to the house.

Saving Blickling's library

Lord Peckover wasn't the only avid collector of books. With more than 12,500 volumes, Blickling's library makes up the largest and oldest book collection in our care. Here you'll find the first complete bible printed in English, as well as first editions of Jane Austen's *Sense and Sensibility*, *Pride and Prejudice* and *Emma*. However, investigations have revealed that the books are under threat from mould and death watch beetle. It's not unusual for leaks or pest damage to appear in historic buildings, but without the essential work to stop them in their tracks, the potential damage would be irreversible.

So starting this January, work begins on an ambitious conservation project to secure the library's future, repairing leaks and creating the right environmental conditions that the collection needs.

For those interested in finding out more, look out for our new guided tours in 2019.



Norfolk landmark restored to former glory

For the first time in 75 years, Horsey Windpump is once again standing proud in the Norfolk Broads. There was once a network of 250 windpumps that used wind power to pump water from lower to higher ground in the Broads. Following the completion of a three year restoration project, Horsey Windpump is now one of the remaining few in working order.

A true survivor, Horsey Windpump has stood for more than a century despite severe floods, a lightning strike, a collapse, storms and gale force winds. Thanks to your support, back in 2015 we began an ambitious project to secure the future of this building. The restoration was significant and required the specialist help of millwright, Tim Whiting, who luckily has a head for heights. Using the same tools and techniques that helped build the windpump in 1912, Tim and his team have repaired

and conserved the cap, re-made the sails to a historic pattern and repaired both the brickwork and inner workings of the building. However, it's not been a breeze, as windy weather and wet ground conditions have posed their challenges as work progressed.

Now final preparations are being made to re-open in March, when you'll be able to witness the sails turning for the first time in 75 years. Weather permitting the sails will be in operation on special days throughout the year, directed into the prevailing winds by turning the newly restored cap. You'll also be able to explore the five storey building and discover its fascinating past thanks to new interpretation.

Why not visit in 2019? And if you're interested in helping to keep Horsey's sails turning as a volunteer, we'd love to hear from you horseywindpump@nationaltrust.org.uk



www.facebook.com/EastofEnglandNT www.twitter.com/East_England_NT [instagram.com/eastofenglandnt](https://www.instagram.com/eastofenglandnt)

For alternative formats, please call us on 01284 747500 or email eoeneews@nationaltrust.org.uk

Editor Communications and Marketing team
Design Fiona Gowen Design and Illustration
60% recycled paper. Please recycle after use.
Printed by Wyndeham Group

Photography: © NT Images Joe Cornish / Rod Edwards / Steve Haydon / Derek Hatton / Ross Hoddinott / Chris Lacey / Emma Laister / David Levenson / John Millar / Justin Minns / MMG/Marianne Majerus / Clive Nichols / Oxford East Archaeology / Stephen Robson / Claire Sargent / Steve Sayers / Arnhel de Serra / Ben Selway / Rob Stothard / Megan Taylor / Kayley Wilcockson / Jennie Woodcock Registered Charity No. 205846