



National  
Trust

News and events for autumn / winter 2019  
Bedfordshire | Cambridgeshire | Essex  
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# Near you



## Wonderful woodlands

There is no better time than autumn to explore the magnificent forests and ancient woodland in our region. Nick Marsh, the Woodland Restoration Project Manager for the East of England tells us of some of the best places to visit and how we're helping restore and care for these special landscapes.

“Across East Anglia we are fortunate to have a wide range of superb woodlands and wooded habitats, from ancient woodland which has existed continuously since 1600 AD, to parkland and woodland pasture containing some impressive veteran trees. Many of these are intrinsically linked to our historic homes and gardens and provide the perfect sanctuary in which to escape.



**Ashridge Estate** in Hertfordshire sits on the edge of the Chiltern Hills and is a 5000 acre estate with a mix of open wood pasture, chalk grassland, Grade II registered parkland and large clusters of oak and beech woodland. It provides some stunning autumn scenes and colours and is a wildlife paradise for any intrepid naturalist. There are impressive open glades and rides, with plenty of places to just sit, contemplate and take in its breathtaking beauty.

**Ickworth's** woodland provides a natural backdrop to the pleasure gardens and parkland areas of the estate, containing a network of rides and walks with lots of veteran trees to be discovered. Ask the team about the walking route that takes you alongside ancient woodlands and across the River Linnet, providing a beautiful, elevated view of the surrounding parkland.

Whilst much of our woodland across the East of England is in good condition, we are transforming some areas for the benefit of wildlife. Many of our estates were planted with conifer back in the 1950s and 60s,

some on ancient woodland (much prior to the National Trust's management). This was standard practice at the time as it was seen as a way of generating a future income.

Unfortunately, non-native conifer trees were often planted in dense blocks on unsuitable ground and without proper management. We are now restoring many of these areas with native broadleaved trees which provide the best habitat for invertebrates, birds, butterflies and ground flora.

**Hatfield Forest** National Nature Reserve in Essex has an incredible heritage dating back to the Norman invasion. It is possibly the best surviving example of a royal forest in the UK with all the medieval elements of a hunting ground – deer park, managed areas of woodland with ferns and open savanna-like grassland. Some of the trees date back 1000 years. Management techniques such as pollarding (pruning trees at 8ft) and coppicing (continuous cropping of trees back to the trunk) are carried out, both of which generate timber whilst improving the wooded habitat. To protect the Forest it is best enjoyed during the drier months of spring and summer.

Over at **Wimpole**, why not explore Cobbs Wood, with ancient woodland and a medieval moat? The Belts, a continuous band of woodland within the Wimpole farmland, also has many mature trees and is part of a designated site of special scientific interest for its population of bats.

For historic parkland and woodland settings, then **Blickling, Felbrigg** and **Sheringham estates** have incredible scenery, some close to the Norfolk Coast path trail with maritime pine woods. Blickling boasts amazing small-leaved lime veterans across the formal parkland which turn a vibrant yellow in the autumn. Felbrigg has 580 acres of extensive woodlands with many estate walks. The Victory V avenue of beech is a spectacle of copper-brown in the autumn and a great place for an exhilarating walk. ”

For more information on your nearest woodland or how to get involved in helping to care for our special places then visit [www.nationaltrust.org.uk](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk)

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# Hoo's waiting for you?

This summer, we unveiled a completely new way of experiencing Sutton Hoo. With new and exciting ways to uncover the stories of one of the most significant archaeological discoveries ever made, we're revealing more about those dramatic finds, who made them and the people who had left the treasures behind.

It's all been part of a £4million investment in Sutton Hoo, which has been possible thanks to a £1.8million grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund and the support of our visitors, donors and members just like you.

In Tranmer House, once the home of Edith Pretty, the landowner who instigated those digs 80 years ago, you can delve further into how they came about and the people behind the work.

From archaeologist Basil Brown, an amateur digger who went on to make a discovery that would change everything we knew about our Anglo-Saxon roots, to the archaeologists who followed him and who continue to explore Sutton Hoo today, you can immerse yourself in the story of a find that would make history.

Or discover just what a 'Hoo' is, and why the Anglo-Saxons chose to bury their royalty here, before heading out to the Royal Burial Ground yourself and walking amongst the mounds that once housed countless priceless treasures and would have been the place of elaborate burial ceremonies and displays of wealth and status.

Meet a master craftsman, a wise woman, a warrior and a trader amongst others, and discover life in Anglo-Saxon England and how the communities and traditions created then still have echoes in how we live today. It's also in the High Hall that you can get up close to our craftsman-made replicas of the extraordinary treasures found buried alongside King Rædwald, and learn about the intricate and detailed work of the craftsmen of the day and how they used gold, silver and precious stones to create a helmet, sword and objects special enough to accompany their king into the afterlife.



## Ancient landscape, new experiences

Ever wondered just how big an Anglo-Saxon burial ship might be? Our full-size sculpture representing the ship has been welcoming visitors to Sutton Hoo since the early summer, showing first-hand the sheer scale of the ship that went on to become the king's final resting place, after being hauled from the River Deben and uphill to take a commanding position overlooking the river.

This autumn, we'll be revealing the final stage of this transformation of Sutton Hoo, when you too will be able to look over both the river and the Royal Burial Ground, from the top of our 17 metre high viewing tower. Offering a series of levels and heights to climb, the tower will nestle amongst the woodland giving unparalleled views over all of the mounds at Sutton Hoo and the river behind.



Whenever you decide to visit Sutton Hoo again, we can't wait to share this new experience with you.



### Everyone welcome

I was born lucky: my family, teachers and youth leaders nurtured my interest in nature and heritage through holidays, school trips, clubs and the permission to be a latchkey kid.

I was a child in the 1970s, but reflect that if I was a child now, I may not have been afforded the same opportunities. School trips are less frequent with the increased cost of transport. A full National Curriculum focuses on maths, English and the sciences, squeezing out time for other topics. The fear of strangers and increased road traffic mean that parents are more reluctant to allow their children to roam too far. And children have many more opportunities and distractions than ever before, most notably online.

For some people there are additional things that stop them from visiting heritage sites including physical and mental disabilities; cost; not living close to sites or having access to transport; and it not being part of their everyday experience.

You will see a growing emphasis on making our current places and new places welcoming for everyone. Access to special places is good for people and people are vital for the protection of special places.

Let's share the luck!

*Paul*  
Paul Forecast, Regional Director

# News in Brief



### Shire horses move in at Wimpole

Our team of heavy horses is now fully settled into its new home. Harry, Jasper, Lady, Murphy and Queenie can now all enjoy a larger stable each and a hot shower! The new stables allow visitors to get up close to these gentle giants and learn more about the work they're doing on the farm. With daily tours, regular grooming and demonstrations there's always something to see.



### Restoring the saltmarsh

Work on Northey Island in Essex is on-going to restore saltmarsh. These specialised plants provide a home for a wide variety of wildlife, absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and provide natural flood defence by taking energy out of incoming tides. The sea bank on the south side of the island has been lowered to re-form the landscape as it was before the bank's construction. The tide will naturally regenerate new saltmarsh.

A similar project was carried out in 1991 on the south-east corner of the island which is now thriving with plants, insects, birds and fish.

### Protecting Paycocke's House



A three year project to redecorate the exterior of Paycocke's House in Coggeshall begins this September. Phase one of the project is to reapply limewash to the rear exterior of the 16th century Tudor town house. Limewashing is a traditional preservative to lime plaster which protects the timber whilst keeping it breathable. It's been used on timber framed buildings for centuries and helps to preserve the intricate wood carvings. Work on the front exterior of the house is due to start in the spring.



### Historic skills breathe life back into fire damaged cottages

In 2016, a spark from a wood burner led to a fire that devastated a row of thatched cottages on the Blickling Estate. Thankfully nobody was hurt, but those living in the cottages lost many of their treasured possessions. The buildings themselves also required significant restoration.

So we set about working with specialist craftspeople to retain and refurbish as much of the original building fabric as possible. Surprisingly, a significant amount of timber was salvaged; even the cast iron baths have been re-enamelled and reinstated. We've chosen handmade wood-fired bricks to match the originals and used lime plaster with synthetic fibres to improve the cottages thermal efficiency. A more sustainable form of heating replaces the need for open fires and the crowning glory, is the work of a team of thatchers.



### The Ickworth Hotel-exclusive autumn midweek offer

Exclusive to National Trust members only. Enjoy a one-night, dinner inclusive, autumn midweek break from just £139 for two people! For stays from Sunday to Thursday until 19 December, to include dinner, a Suffolk cream tea and a full English breakfast.

For further details, please telephone 01284 735350, or visit [www.ickworthhotel.co.uk/special-offers](http://www.ickworthhotel.co.uk/special-offers)



# Upstairs, downstairs

## Ickworth uncovered

Visit Ickworth this autumn and you'll discover the famous Rotunda building looking rather different from usual.

Work is now underway on a £5million conservation project called Ickworth Uncovered, which will see the most ambitious programme of work ever carried out at Ickworth take place, including re-roofing the entire Rotunda.

The project will see 42 tonnes of craftsman-made new slate tiles laid on the roof, as part of work to ensure the 200-year-old building stays watertight into the future and to protect the precious collection housed inside. But before any work could get underway, the entire building had to be shrouded in an

enormous scaffold structure. The scaffold alone took months to erect and its completion meant work could get underway on the specialist roofing.

Using Westmorland slate tiles, each one cut to size and shape to fit its unique place on the domed roof, the work will echo the materials and skills used to build Ickworth back in 1806.

There is a long tradition of the craftsmen who built Ickworth leaving behind a sign they had once been there, by signing their names on rafters and walls.

Now, there is also the opportunity for you to make your own mark on Ickworth – by signing

one of the slates before it heads up to the roof. It's all part of our fundraising for the project and visitors can choose to simply add their name to a slate, or to leave a message from their family or friends ready to be discovered by future generations.

We're also stabilising the vaults under the terrace, thanks to support from the Wolfson Foundation, carrying out essential structural repairs to the home of Ickworth's bat community.

In our next issue, we'll also be revealing more about how additional grant funding from The National Lottery Heritage Fund, will enable you to experience Ickworth in a completely new light.

## Raise the roof at Oxburgh Hall



It's been three years since a dormer window unexpectedly collapsed at Oxburgh Hall and a structural weakness to the roofline was exposed. Since then we've been busy behind the scenes and at the end of this year, work will begin in earnest, as we undertake the most ambitious conservation project we've ever carried out at Oxburgh.

The work, which will take two years and cost £6million to complete, will see repairs carried out to the roof, windows and chimneys, securing Oxburgh's future and the collection housed inside. In preparation, we've already started to empty the attics and have researched paint finishes and wallpapers, some of which are very early examples.

In order for us to carry out the work, a highly complex engineer-designed scaffold will be erected later this year. The design, which is no

small feat, has had to overcome the added complication that the 500 year old building is surrounded by a moat. We can't drain the moat for any significant length of time and we can't puncture the clay lining of the moat, so our engineers have devised and tested an ingenious way of spreading the load using large sandbags.

The project is able to take place thanks to your support and a fundraising appeal. The National Lottery Heritage Fund has awarded us £132,900, thanks to money raised by National Lottery players, to provide a new and exciting way of delving deeper into Oxburgh's story from 2020, called Endurance. The Wolfson Foundation has also given us £100,000 to repair the medieval gatehouse. So watch this space.



Follow our progress online [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/oxburghhall](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/oxburghhall)

## Life below stairs:

It's hard to believe it's been four years since Downton Abbey was last on our television screens. With the eagerly awaited film release in cinemas September 13, the Crawley family make a welcome return, as they prepare for a royal visit. We can only imagine what the Dowager Countess will make of it all!

Have you ever wondered what life would have been like for a servant in a great country house? Here in the East, alongside the glamorous lives of the families who lived at Ickworth, Wimpole, Anglesey Abbey, Blickling, Felbrigg and Peckover House, there was drama and excitement below stairs too.



The surviving servants' quarters and memories of those who spent their life 'in service' provide a fascinating glimpse into the hierarchy amongst servants – from the footmen and lady's maids to the cook and butler. Why not explore their stories this autumn?

At Blickling, Flo Wadlow cooked for Queen Mary.

"I poached the chicken breasts first, and then let them get cold overnight and then I coated them with a white sauce and then with aspic." Flo Wadlow

At Anglesey Abbey, it was reputed that guests had their shoelaces ironed before breakfast. And over at Ickworth, Theodora, Lady Bristol became so concerned by the hardships of her servants; she installed electric lighting and hot water boilers to improve their living conditions.



# Enfield National Trust Association celebrates 40 years

The Enfield National Trust Association marked its 40th anniversary earlier this year, celebrating with a special programme of events. A garden party and anniversary lunch raised donations, with the proceeds going towards a new bird hide at Flatford.

Designed and built by staff and volunteers and made from local wood, the hide facing Gibbonsgate lake offers a wonderful opportunity for bird enthusiasts.

Countryside manager David Piper said 'this is something we really wanted at Flatford to enhance visitor experience. And it's great that we could offer ENTA a lasting structure to celebrate its 40th anniversary.'

Supporter groups play a vital role in bringing our places to life and opening them up for everyone to enjoy through special interest talks, visits, fundraising events or hands-on conservation activities. Interested in joining a group near you? Find out more at [nationaltrust.org.uk/supporter-groups](http://nationaltrust.org.uk/supporter-groups)



## Autumn comforts

As the air begins to chill and the days draw in, autumn is a time for keeping warm and cosy. Whether it's lighting a fire for the first time or grabbing thick coats and scarves and heading out for a bracing walk, there are plenty of ways to welcome the season.

Autumn sees the peak of harvest so what better time to indulge in some seasonal food and drink? After a refreshing stroll head to one of our cafés for a warming hot chocolate, fruit crumble, casserole or hearty slice of cake.

Or, if apples a-peel to you, we have bumper crops here in the East. Enjoy tastings and juicing at Blickling's apple weekend from 28 - 29 September or enjoy Oxburgh's

orchard harvest at their apple day on 21 September. Take some home to turn into a warming crumble.

Lighting your log fire for the first time is a truly autumnal milestone. You can buy seasoned firewood harvested from Blickling Estate, Hatfield Forest sells firewood, timber and hazel poles, or pick up quality Ickworth wood at their annual Wood & Craft Fair in October.



For the ultimate treat, why not tuck yourself away in one of our holiday cottages? With log fires and plenty of character, they're particularly snug in the autumn months.

**Cosy up and enjoy the comforts of autumn.**

## Winter illuminations



We're coming to that time of year when the last bronzes and golds of autumn have faded away, and we might be feeling a little bleak as winter sets in. Let us brighten your day with illuminated landscapes and experiences that will showcase some of our favourite places in a new light.

**Enchanted Felbrigg**  
Felbrigg Hall, Gardens and Estate  
Friday 6 - Sunday 8 and Friday 13 - Sunday 15 December, 3 - 7pm  
The story continues at Felbrigg as we celebrate the beauty of nature in winter. With new installations that include smoke, spotlights and glitter balls, it's a magical experience not to be missed.

**Christmas Through the Ages**  
Blickling Estate  
Saturday 30 November - Friday 20 December, 11am - 7pm  
Enjoy the colours, smells and sounds of Christmas across the estate. Begin your visit with the iconic tree-lined driveway before stepping inside to explore the house in its festive splendour. Head out into the spectacular garden of lights and discover Temple Walk, the Parterre and the Walled Garden. Soak up the magical atmosphere until 7pm in the evening.

**Winter Lights**  
Anglesey Abbey  
Friday 29 November - Sunday 1 December  
Thursday 5 - Sunday 8 December  
Thursday 12 - Sunday 15 December  
Now in its 9th year, Anglesey Abbey Winter Lights is a place where hundreds of friends and families gather to listen to live music, fill up on great food and take part in the drama of lighting this very special place. Experience the trees, the house, the mill, Quay water and our many statues lit up in a truly captivating way.

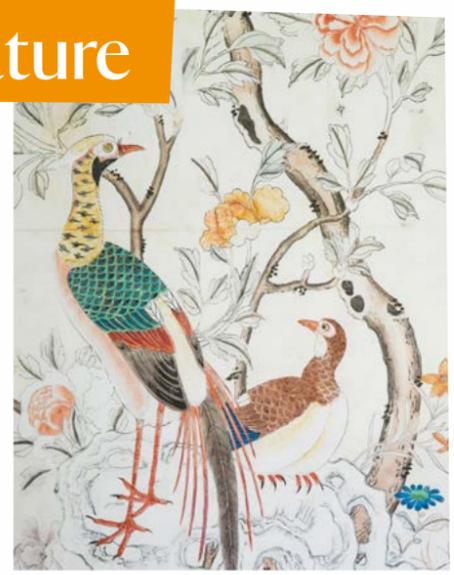
**Ickworth's Light Nights**  
Ickworth  
Friday 22 November - Friday 6 December, 4.30 - 8.30pm  
This winter, visit Ickworth's Italianate garden that glows. Awaken with a sensory and light based trail capturing the magic of a gothic Victorian Stumpery. Make the most of your evening with delicious food and artisan drinks - a great combination for the perfect night out.

## Inspired by nature

Why not come indoors this autumn to discover our collections inspired by the variety of the natural world at properties across the region?

Step inside the house at Anglesey Abbey and discover a menagerie of beautiful bird paintings displayed on the walls. From the familiar to the exotic, the bird spotters among you might find owls, kingfishers, woodpeckers, parrots and even a toucan as you journey around the house.

The Chinese Wallpaper at Felbrigg Hall offers another opportunity to continue your exploration of the outdoors, indoors. Intricate patterns of birds, trees and flowers weave around the bedroom walls, transporting you to a vivid natural world. Similarly, the huge tapestries at Blickling Hall act as windows into enchanting gardens and woodland. If watery worlds are more



appealing then come and seek out our treasures of intricate fish crafted from one of the Trusts largest silver collections at Ickworth which were used as scent containers, vinaigrettes and ornaments.

