



National  
Trust

News and events for autumn/winter 2019  
Kent | East Sussex | West Sussex | Surrey

# Near you

Head to [nationaltrust.org.uk/east-sussex](http://nationaltrust.org.uk/east-sussex) (or substitute your own county name) for the highlights in your region



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## From bright blooms to mellow views



Behind every sunshine-hot September day hovers a wistful apprehension that this may be the last of the year. All the more reason to make the most of every single golden moment of late summer.

Our places are a visual feast of vibrant colour at this time of year. At **Polesden Lacey** (Surrey) the double herbaceous borders are spilling over with dusty pink salvias, sedums and asters; and bright bursts of fuchsia and Japanese anemone.

**Nymans'** (West Sussex) experiment with the bright bold planting of South Africa has paid off and the gardeners are delighted with the resilience of the blooms. The South African bed makes great use of herbaceous perennials, bulbs, daisies and annuals to give maximum colour, playful textures and rhythmic patterns in bold drifts at this time of year.

At **Sissinghurst** (Kent), the South Cottage Garden is filled with fiery reds and yellows which shade through towards autumn with ornamental grasses, dahlias and cannas.

The sculpted grass amphitheatre at **Claremont Landscape Garden** (Surrey), is a perfect spot to view the lake in late summer.

### Into autumn

As the seasonal colour wheel turns, the bright flowers of late summer start to fade in the planted beds just as the autumn colour flushes through in the shrubs and trees.

At **Bateman's** (East Sussex), the wild garden is vivid with the scarlet red of the Liquidamber and fragrant with the toffee-apple scent of the Katsura tree. Acers and maples are the star of the show at **Winkworth Arboretum** (Surrey), with particularly good viewpoints at the top of the Azalea steps out across the lake to the trees beyond.

**Emmetts Garden** (Kent) is a photographer's dream in autumn with deep burgundy Liquidambers and flame-red *Euonymus alatus* flaring in the sunlight. Following the Ancient Tree Walk at **Petworth House and Park** (West Sussex), you might spot grazing fallow deer amongst the glowing russet and gold.

## Autumn outings

### Guided walks

Walking with an expert guide opens up whole worlds that you might not otherwise notice. **Bodiam Castle's** (East Sussex) daily tours reveal stories of the ancient monument. There's a Ranger Roam at **Ightham Mote** (Kent) on 25 September with an insight into the history, flora and fauna of the estate. You can spend a morning foraging at **Harting Down** (West Sussex) and find out about the many uses of wild plants on 28 September and join a Deer Rut walk at **Petworth** on 25 October and 7 November.

### Autumn menus

Kitchen gardens come into their own in late summer. **Bateman's** uses estate-grown herbs in the tea room and in September they'll be making use of a glorious glut of onions and squash. At **Sissinghurst**, there is home-grown veg to buy and take home. Look out for the displays of pumpkins and squash in the shop and restaurant. Last year, 663kg of fruit and veg was baked, steamed and fried into seasonal dishes in the Barn café at **Standen** (West Sussex). Kitchen Garden Tasting Days are held here every Friday in October.

### Harvest events

Make the most of the mellow fruitfulness of the season with harvest events at **Dapdune Wharf** (Surrey) and **Alfriston Clergy House** (East Sussex). They're celebrating the apple harvest on 6 October with pressing, tasting, stories and games. **Smallhythe Place** (Kent) and **Ightham Mote** are celebrating their harvest in September with Smallhythe's Orchard Day on the 21st and Ightham Mote's Apple and Harvest Day on the 28th.

### Heritage Open Days

Bring along your non-member friends for free entry on selected days in September when we celebrate Heritage Open Days. At **Nymans** there are tours of the kitchen garden and cellar each day. At **Hatchlands Park** (Surrey) listen to pianist Nathaniel Mander as he plays keyboard instruments associated with famous composers including Bach, Chopin and Elgar. Check the website for Heritage Open Days at your nearest property.



More details about autumn events on property websites

# London news



Head to **Ham House** this September and discover a riverside estate awash with autumnal delights. Inside the house you'll learn about the seasonal treats enjoyed by the Duke and Duchess, while in the Kitchen Garden there's a feast of fruit and vegetables for you try in the Orangery Café or take home in a Ham-grown bag.

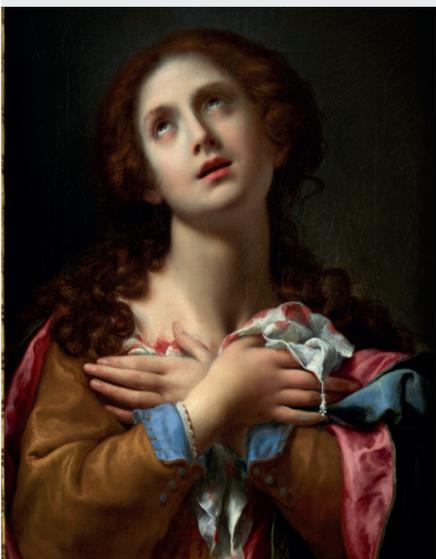


Autumn also sees the arrival of apple days at our places across the capital. You can choose to sink your teeth into local Merton variety apples at **Morden Hall Park**, while away an afternoon at William Morris' **Red House** in Bexleyheath, or relax in the ancient orchard at **Fenton House** in Hampstead.



A winter exhibition at **Osterley Park and House** will tell the story of banking family, the Childs, and how they worked their way to fame and fortune during Britain's financial revolution. The small but detailed exhibition will look at some of the works of art and design the family surrounded themselves with.

A highlight of the exhibition will be Carlo Dolci's sublime painting of the early Christian martyr, Saint Agatha – newly acquired by the National Trust for Osterley with the generous help of the Art Fund.



For more information on the above and other news from London head to [nationaltrust.org.uk/london](http://nationaltrust.org.uk/london)

# The Tiger travels



Judith Kerr's much-loved 1968 classic, *The Tiger Who Came to Tea*, is making his way over to Kent and East Sussex at the end of this year. The successful touring exhibition, by Seven Stories, The National Centre for Children's Books, will be coming to **Bateman's** in September before travelling up to **Knole** in November.

During his stay at Bateman's, the Tiger can be found downstairs in the kitchen. Upstairs, Sophie's 1960s-style room has been recreated in John Kipling's bedroom. Take part in storytelling, dressing-up and craft events and see if you can find the stripy vegetables growing in the kitchen garden.

At Knole, the Tiger takes up residence in the grand surroundings of the Orangery. Along with Judith Kerr's illustrations, there's dressing up, a pop-up kitchen, lots of pots and pans to play with and a life-sized Tiger to cuddle up to. Venture out into the parkland for a Tiger-themed family trail with a special prize at the end.

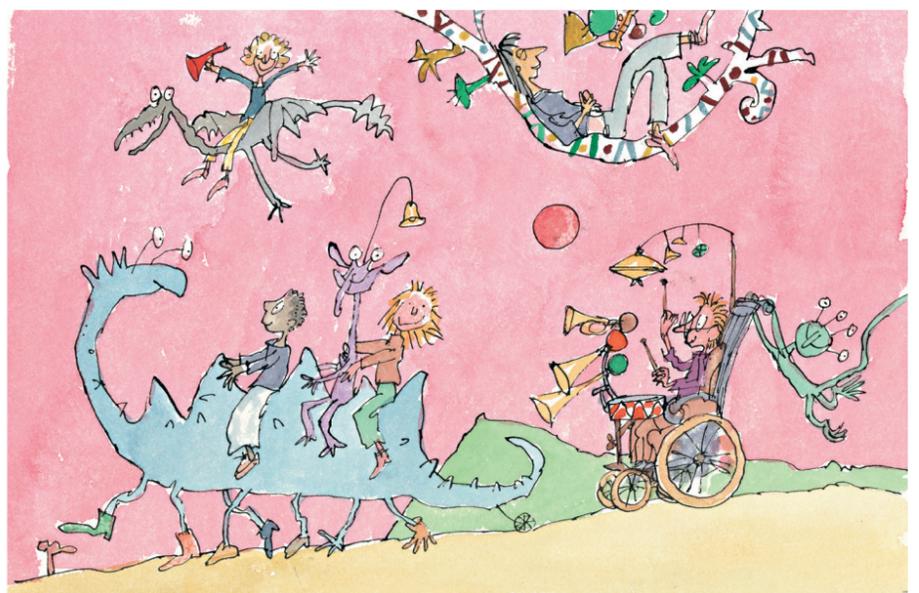
The Tiger's visit coincides with Knole's annual Children's Book Festival. Stories will be brought to life throughout the weekend of 16/17 November, as some of the best-loved children's authors and illustrators host workshops, readings and book signings.

# Flights of fancy

Nymans is leaping into a fantasy world with a new exhibition of the work of legendary illustrator, Sir Quentin Blake.

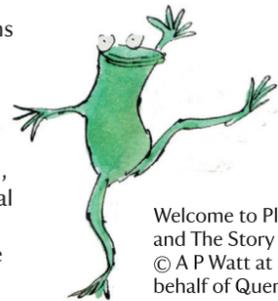
Kindly on loan from Sir Quentin's archive, the exhibition features illustrations from his self-penned stories, including the joyful antics of 'The Story of the Dancing Frog' and voyages of imagination in 'The Green Ship'. There is also a chance to find out more about how Quentin draws, with a recreation of his studio and an opportunity to practise your own drawing technique.

Over Christmas, we're taking inspiration from 'The Story of the Dancing Frog' with a chorus line of froggy sculptures stepping out in the garden, created especially for Nymans in conjunction with Wild in Art, our partners in last year's popular *The Snowman and the Snowdog™* trail. In the gallery, the festive fun continues with some



seasonal pieces from Quentin's illustrations for an edition of *A Christmas Carol*.

Also featuring are some of Quentin's works for healthcare settings, including illustrations from 'Welcome to Planet Zog', for the Alexandra Avenue Health and Social Care Centre, Harrow and the 'Ordinary Life' series, created for the Vincent Square Eating Disorders Unit, London.



*Flights of fancy: The wondrous world of Quentin Blake is at Nymans from 26 October to 19 April.*

Welcome to Planet Zog (above) and *The Story of the Dancing Frog* © A P Watt at United Agents on behalf of Quentin Blake.

# British Wildlife Photography Awards Exhibition



The British Wildlife Photography Awards exhibition comes to **Bodiam Castle** from 5 October 2019 to 5 January 2020. In the 10th year of these national awards, come and see around fifty of the most highly regarded images displayed within the ruins of the castle for the first time.

The winning photographers' work will be showcased in this iconic location set against the backdrop of the ancient ruins that many species of wildlife call home. Discover different works from categories such as Urban Wildlife, Habitats and Animal Portraits displayed in the towers.

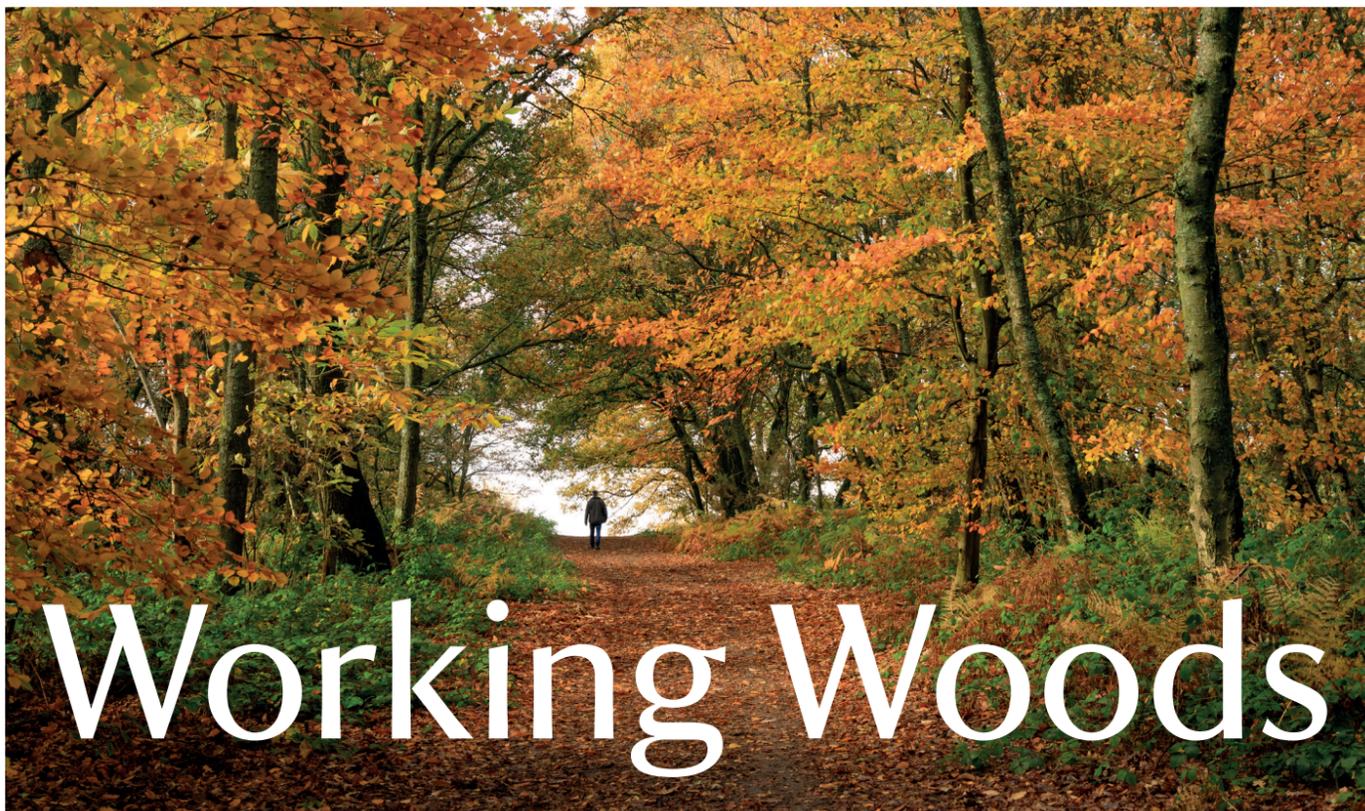
A family trail will be running throughout the exhibition highlighting the bat species that live at Bodiam Castle.

# Polesden Voices

Polesden Lacey is known for being a party house but the new exhibition, *Polesden Voices*, tells the story of Polesden as a home and place where people made their own special memories.

The exhibition brings to life the stories of men and women who lived and worked at Polesden Lacey over the last century. You'll be able to step inside one of the parties that Mrs Greville held for the village children each summer, learn about estate manager Mr Hepburn and his prize-winning turkeys and even discover who found love at Polesden Lacey.





# Working Woods

**Woodlands 'often need a bit of help' to remain healthy says Head of Forestry Ray Hawes in the National Trust magazine. But what does this mean in practice? Nymans' Lead Ranger Chloe Bradbrooke explains how and why she feels honoured to give nature a helping hand.**

I love working in woodlands. It makes me feel alive and at home. It feels like a privilege and a great responsibility - they have existed for millennia and although resilient, can also be delicate. They're not just a collection of trees; the ancient soils, plantlife and fungal communities are rich habitats for wildlife. They filter the air, soak up water to prevent flooding and provide places for recreation and therapy. They exist on a different timescale so can be slow to adapt to change, making them vulnerable in these fast-moving times.

On the other hand, our woodlands are so diverse because of, not in spite of the



activities of man. We have been cultivating trees for our use since Neolithic times. This activity has resulted in woodlands rich in diverse species of trees of different ages. Our woods have ponds created by mining stone and clay, sweet chestnut coppice for charcoal, trees for timber, hazel coppice for fencing and open rides which allow access to the woods, but also create wonderful corridors for butterflies, birds and other wildlife to travel through.

My favourite jobs are those which mean I'm in the woods either very early in the morning or into the evening such as charcoal burning or wildlife surveys. It's a very special place at these times of day; peaceful, beautiful, and everything becomes more subtly alive - it's a treat.

Other jobs include maintaining good tracks, steps and bridges to allow people to enjoy the woodland safely without causing damage. In well-used woodlands, people can unwittingly have a big impact. There can be disturbance of nesting birds, wildlife chased, dog mess and litter, removal of wood or plants and compaction of the soils if people walk off the paths. Wildflowers grow along the sides of paths as there is



more light. If paths are spread and widened even slightly, these areas can become compacted, destroying the wildflower edges.

Visiting a woodland is great for both body and soul. An autumn woodland glowing with colour and rich with the smell of damp earth is a wonderful, uplifting place to be and I encourage you to experience it. We can all play our part in ensuring they continue to thrive.

## A brief guide to woodland works:

### Thinning

Thinning is the selective removal of trees to allow the remaining ones more light and space to grow and develop into healthy trees. It also allows the understorey to develop and encourages a wide age range of trees.

### Halo-releasing

This is done around ancient/veteran trees that may have become 'shaded out' by later-arriving trees. This can cause dying back of branches and the tree to decline. Cutting back the competitors and creating an open 'halo' around the veteran allows the light to reach them.

### Coppicing

Coppicing is an ancient management technique in which selected trees are cut close to the ground. They grow back with lots of stems which, at Nymans, we use for bean poles, supports for the summer borders or plant labels for sale in the shop. The stems are cut on a rotational basis so are truly sustainable.

Equally important is what coppicing does for nature. After the trees are cut, ground vegetation and wild flowers flourish in the light, benefiting insects and butterflies. Later, as the underwood grows, it supports different nesting birds and mammals such as dormice. When the coppice is re-cut years later, the cycle begins again.

### Scrub clearing

Maintaining wide rides and glades creates a mosaic of vegetation structure and habitats necessary for butterflies, dragonflies, birds and bats to thrive. In order to these keep areas open, scrub may be cleared.

### Woodland products

Most National Trust ranger teams make good use of the timber produced from conservation activities to champion sustainable practices. We mill it for construction, make charcoal and firewood, create bird boxes and other products to help fund our work and provide sustainable woodland products with no transport miles.

## Bake...

### Cinnamon sugar apple cake

This simple cinnamon sugar apple cake from the tea room at Bateman's is light and fluffy, loaded with fresh apples, and topped with a crunchy cinnamon sugar layer.



Serves 16 slices

#### Ingredients

200g brown sugar  
80ml oil  
1 egg  
250ml buttermilk (you can substitute plain yogurt loosened with milk, or milk with 1tsp lemon juice)  
1 tsp vanilla essence  
280g self-raising flour  
3 small apples, chopped (no need to peel)

#### For the topping

120g sugar  
1-2 tsp cinnamon  
40g butter, melted

#### Method

- Preheat oven to 170°C
- Line a traybake tin with greaseproof paper
- Whisk together sugar, egg, oil, vanilla and milk
- Sift flour and baking powder into a large bowl
- Add the wet mixture and gently combine
- Fold in the apples
- Pour batter into the tin
- Combine topping ingredients and use two spoons to drop bits of the mixture evenly over the batter to create a giraffe-like pattern
- Bake for 40 minutes. It's delicious when served warm with clotted cream or Greek yoghurt.

**Bateman's Apple Day takes place on Saturday 19 October this year.**

**Why not send us a photo on Twitter @southeastNT or Facebook? Or email lse.customerenquiries@nationaltrust.org.uk**

## Christmas preview



Leap into a fantasy world at **Nymans** in West Sussex with a new exhibition of the work of legendary illustrator, Sir Quentin Blake, including his illustrations from A Christmas Carol and a chorus line of froggy sculptures to discover in the garden.

At **Uppark** Lady Sarah's Christmas Ball reveals sparkling 18th-century masked ball scenes with life-size paper creations, and outdoors a themed family trail. In Surrey, the sumptuous party house at **Polesden Lacey** has been re-imagined with jewels and sparkle, plus a charming woodland trail for families and the chance to meet Father

Christmas in his bejewelled grotto.

The house at **Scotney Castle** in Kent has been transformed into an extravagant Victorian Christmas, complete with huge decorated trees and original family toys, not to mention Father Christmas just waiting to be visited in the Old Castle.

In East Sussex, **Bateman's** is resplendent with the opulent magic of a Just So Christmas, based on the tales of its famous owner Rudyard Kipling. The tearooms are serving festive fare, warming drinks and plenty of treats to kick off the Christmas

indulgence. Our shops are full to bursting with lots of great ideas for beautiful gifts to get your Christmas shopping off to a cracking start.



## What your support means to us

'This time of year always takes me back to childhood memories of the start of a new school term. Summer's end meant conker season, bonfires and the school harvest festival - raiding mum's cupboards for food donations in the tradition of giving thanks for the harvest nature had provided.

'Later in my life I'm very proud to be part of an organisation that supports nature to thrive. The great outdoors doesn't stay great on its own and our teams work in harmony with wildlife, responding to its timetable. Our countryside teams are now carrying out all the conservation work put on hold over the summer when birds were nesting.

'Both outside and in, our places are now a-flutter with activity. We've an array of experiences across London and the South East this autumn to stir your senses, evoke old memories and create new ones. All made possible because of your support, so as ever, thank you so much!'

*Nicola Briggs, Regional Director*

## 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.

Search 'supporter groups LSE' on the National Trust website or phone Viv Tobitt, Supporter Groups Co-ordinator on 01932 339496.



# Conservation in action



## Ben's Chestnut Barn

Assistant Ranger, Ben Wiles, designed and built **Standen's** new barn using sustainable timber from the estate. It's a space for the countryside team to practice traditional craft skills. Here he explains the vision behind the building:

'We wanted to create a building that would fit in with the landscape and yet be eye-catching. The structure is a traditional cruck-frame design and we used as much roundwood, rather than sawn, timber as possible, working with the wood's strongest qualities.

'The main structural framework is sweet chestnut, felled as part of our regular coppice work at Standen, which is part of our sustainable woodland management scheme.

'The Chestnut Barn will be mainly used as an estate workshop for the construction of gates, stiles, signage and fencing components. It's vitally important to promote traditional crafts and we'll also produce items of wood-craft, which will be available in the shop. These crafts involve traditional techniques such as shave-horse use and pole-lathing, along with more contemporary methods, such as chainsaw-milling and carving.

'It's a working area of the estate, but being an open-sided barn in a busy area, it means that our work is freely visible to everyone who comes to visit.'

## Time for Bed

There are few more luxurious beds than those recently conserved at **Knole**. Following a seven-year conservation project, three iconic beds have been reinstated and can be seen once again in all their glory.

The opulent Venetian Bed, hung in blue-green Genoa velvet, was made for James II in 1688. In the King's Room sits another royal state bed, probably also made for James II, with a rare combination of gilding and silvering. Finally, the Spangled Bed is covered in shining sequins, many of which were recovered from under the floorboards during the conservation project.

*These stunning beds can be seen in the showrooms at Knole until 3 November, when they close for winter conservation.*



## Uppark's miniature deep clean



Once every three years, Uppark's house team 'deep cleans' the tiny contents of one of Britain's most important dolls' houses. This autumn, visitors will be able to watch the meticulous process in action.

The miniature 18th-century collection was created with the same level of craftsmanship as its life-size counterparts; no expense was spared to replicate the smallest detail, from the hallmarked silver spoons to the real candles.

Polishing cloths are used to gently remove tarnish from the drawing room's tea

service. Silk festoon curtains and needlework carpets are covered in protective monofilament net, across which glides the small nozzle of a low-suction museum vacuum.

Specialised conservation brushes conduct a light sweep over Flemish-style oil paintings no bigger than your thumb. Below stairs the same attention to detail is given to the kitchen's beautiful copper chocolate pot and minuscule pestle and mortar.

*14 - 18 October, 12.30pm to 2.30pm*

## Global glory for Box Hill

Box Hill shot to international fame during the 2012 Olympics, when the Zig Zag road was an exhilarating part of the cycling road race.



Now the Zig Zag has become the most popular cycling climb in the world on Strava, a social network for athletes.

National Trust Countryside Manager, Andrew Wright, said: 'It's a real phenomenon. Who'd have thought that Box Hill would be more popular than some of the great Tour de France climbs like Alpe d'Huez? People have flocked to Box Hill for centuries for fresh air, health and wellbeing. There's more to Box Hill than fabulous cycling. Visit for breath-taking views, great walks, amazing nature, picnics or fun and games on the Donkey Green.'



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