



National
Trust

News and events for autumn/winter 2019

Berkshire | Buckinghamshire | Hampshire |
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Near you

Head to nationaltrust.org.uk/buckinghamshire (or substitute your own county name) for the highlights in your region



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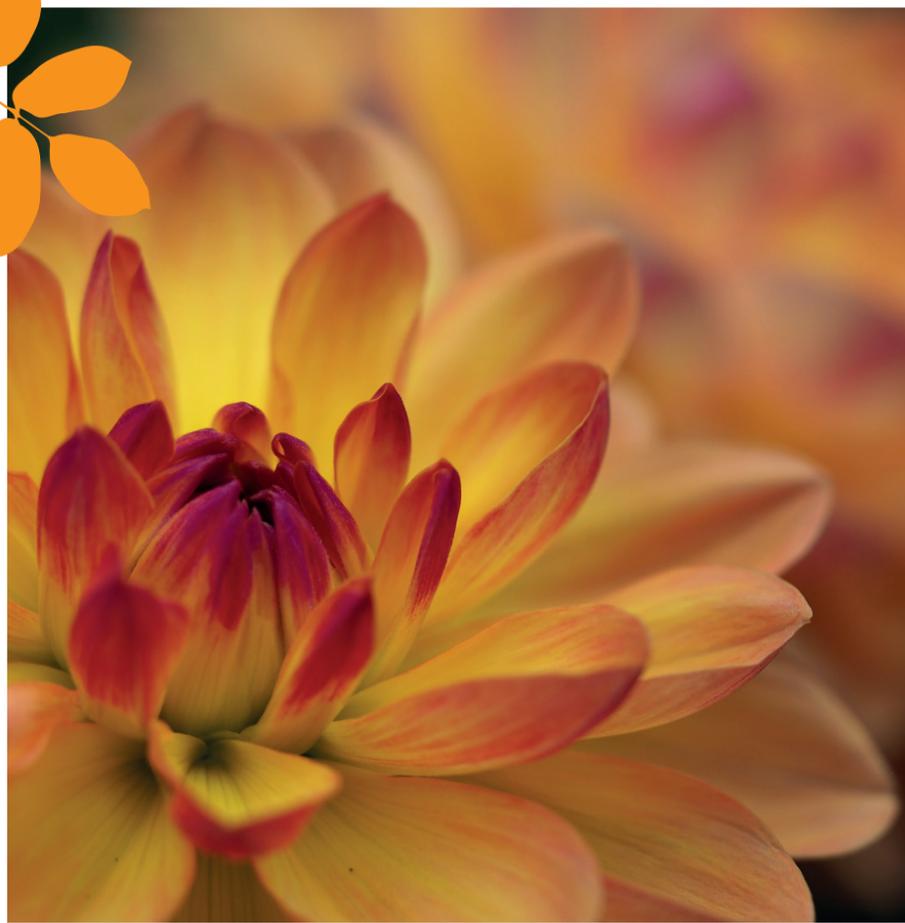
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From bright blooms to mellow views



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. Dahlias have had a big comeback in the last few years and make a big impact at **Hinton Ampner** (Hampshire) with thousands of blooms in shades of pretty pastels to hot sunset colours. **The Vyne** (Hampshire) also has eye-catching dahlias in its walled garden, as does **Mottistone** (Isle of Wight).

The parterres at **Waddesdon**, **Hughenden** and **Cliveden** (Buckinghamshire) remain bold and bright all the way through to September and it's a wonderful time to catch the last of the colour and drink in the views whilst the gardens are quieter.

At **Mottisfont** (Hampshire), there are two deep flower beds bordering the historic central pathway in the walled gardens brimming with agapanthus, Japanese anemones, rudbeckia and autumn crocus. Some of the repeat-flowering roses will continue to bloom into early autumn.

Into autumn

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

Making the most of the mellow fruitfulness of the season with harvest events are **Hughenden** and **Cliveden**. Their autumn celebrations with workshops, apple tastings, countryside crafts and gardeners top tips run throughout October until the end of half term. **Greys Court** (Oxfordshire) is celebrating the traditions of the WI during the harvest period with apple tasting, gardener talks and jam making.

Mottisfont has a whole harvest month from 21 Sep – 3 Nov in celebration of its impressive new kitchen garden. It has cloister-esque pergolas wound with hanging gourds, raised beds and a central water feature.

Autumn outings

Heritage Open Days

Bring along your non-member friends for free entry when we celebrate Heritage Open Days on selected days in September. Visitors to **Stowe** (Buckinghamshire) can take a peek in the Gothic Temple, not usually open to the public. **Sandham Memorial Chapel** (Hampshire) has a pop-up vintage tea room alongside some of Stanley Spencer's original sketches which aren't normally on show. **Winchester City Mill** (Hampshire) has historical interpreters, live choral music and a baking demo, whilst **Basildon Park** (Berkshire) has Festival of Light celebrations including a rangoli, Indian food and curator talks. Check the website for dates.

Guided walks

Walking with an expert guide opens up whole worlds that you might not otherwise notice. The rangers at **Hughenden** are holding foraging, fungi and treescape walks, whilst at **Ashridge Estate** (Hertfordshire) there are guided autumn colour and deer rut walks of varying lengths. Stowe's autumn rambles season includes a mindfulness walk guided by a digital app (see overleaf) and on the **Isle of Wight** there's a wide range of birdwatching and wildlife walks led by knowledgeable experts.

Autumn menus

Kitchen gardens come into their own in late summer. At **Mottistone**, the re-designed organic kitchen garden supplies the tea-garden menu with fresh produce. And make sure you catch **Mottisfont's** roasted beetroot houmous with rocket and herb flatbread before the gardeners' beetroot supply runs out. **Greys Court** uses leaves, squashes and apples from the kitchen garden in its tea room and at harvest time, volunteers make jam from the soft fruit in Lady Brunner's kitchen.

Visiteering

Visiteering is a great opportunity to do your bit and make a difference without the commitment of a full volunteering role. **Claydon** (Buckinghamshire) has bookable opportunities to join the house conservation team. At **Hughenden** and **Stowe** visitors can help plant thousands of bulbs for a colourful spring and at **Cliveden** you can help with the autumn bedding changeover. And children can pitch in too – at **The Vyne** and **Hughenden** there'll be mini wheelbarrows for little ones to rake the leaves to make compost.



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 to try in the Orangery Café or take home in a Ham-grown bag.

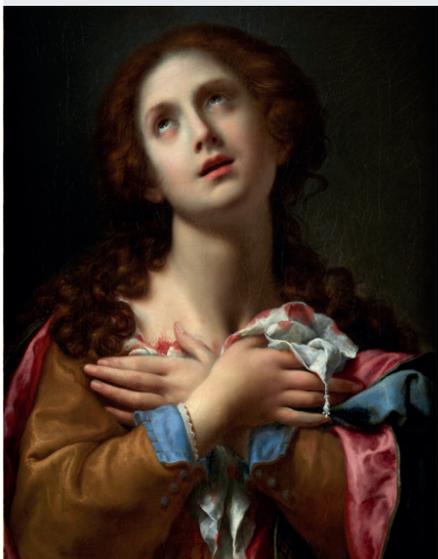


Autumn also sees the arrival of apple days at our places across the capital. You can choose to sink your teeth into local Merton variety apples at **Morden Hall Park**, while away an afternoon at William Morris' **Red House** in Bexleyheath, or relax in the ancient orchard at **Fenton House** in Hampstead.



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

Snapping the Sixties



Mottisfont's new exhibition perfectly captures the unique glamour and style of the Sixties, with a showcase of portraits by some of the decade's most famous photographers.

There are more than fifty photographs to enjoy by Patrick Lichfield, Brian Duffy and Terence Donovan, evoking the spirit of the period with famous faces and flawless fashion sense. Mostly black-and-white, the featured subjects include models and musicians, film stars and politicians. You'll find Twiggy wearing an outfit by Mary Quant, George Best leaning against a goalpost, and Paul McCartney and George Martin at a recording session in a London studio. Fashion shoots for leading lifestyle magazines such as Vogue and Elle show off the era's iconic styles.

Lichfield, Duffy and Donovan were all incredibly influential photographers who each helped to define the vibrant Sixties photographic scene in their own ways, capturing the fashionable stars and high society of 'Swinging London'. While documenting the post-war exuberance of the era they became central to the cultural

movement - celebrities in their own right who helped shape the future of fashion photography as a genre. Mottisfont's exhibition reveals some of the very best of their work. Far more than just celebrity portraits, these artistic and evocative photographs have helped define an era.

Alongside the photographic exhibition, Mottisfont is also hosting a show of painted portraits from its own permanent 20th century art collection in one room of the gallery.

Snapping the Sixties: Lichfield, Duffy and Donovan, 21 September – 10 November



125 years of The Vyne

It's the Trust's 125th anniversary in 2020, and this intimate display looks back at the last 125 years of The Vyne. Find out how the estate survived through the turbulence of two World Wars, with memorabilia from members of the family. On display are Sir Charles Chute's Great War medals and personal photographs, alongside the touching homemade banner to celebrate his return from the horrors of the Front in 1918.

Once home from the First World War, Sir Charles immersed himself in helping others. Paying tribute to his compassion, this show explores his philanthropic work in Hampshire, overhauling the agricultural industry to prevent wartime starvation, establishing the Home Guard in the 1940s, and working tirelessly to support local charities and hospitals.

The eclectic mix of exhibits also includes schoolboy mementos from the occupation of the house by Tormore School for boys, evacuated from Kent in 1940. You'll uncover some of the boys' memories too, including the story of an infamous graffiti job on a marble bust of the Queen of Scots. You can still see the results of this today if you pop into the Tudor oak gallery.

Hampshire's Leading Citizen, 28 October 2019 – 7 September 2020.



Basildon Park en vogue

Basildon Park is hosting an exhibition of designer couture clothing from the London Museum of Fashion and Textiles. Day and evening wear pieces by Dior, Valentino and Chanel are displayed against the backdrop of the mansion's sumptuous interiors.

The specially curated exhibition is inspired by the famous weekend parties of Basildon Park in the 1950s and 60s. This period saw the renaissance of Basildon Park as a house of glamorous weekend entertaining under

the ownership of Lord and Lady Iliffe who entertained guests such as Grace Kelly and artist Graham Sutherland.

Renee, Lady Iliffe, at nearly 6ft tall with model proportions and flaming red hair, was featured in Vogue magazine in 1966. The couture pieces on display reflect the style of her heyday.

Basildon Park en vogue runs from 16 August to 18 November.



Under the Hawthorn at Stowe

'Under the Hawthorn' explores the theme of the 18th century pastoral idyll and its relevance today in a smart, funny and mindful way. With experiential walks, talks and public workshops in collaboration with poet and performer, Dan Simpson, the programme seeks to provide escapism from the stresses of modern life through engaging with the landscape at Stowe.

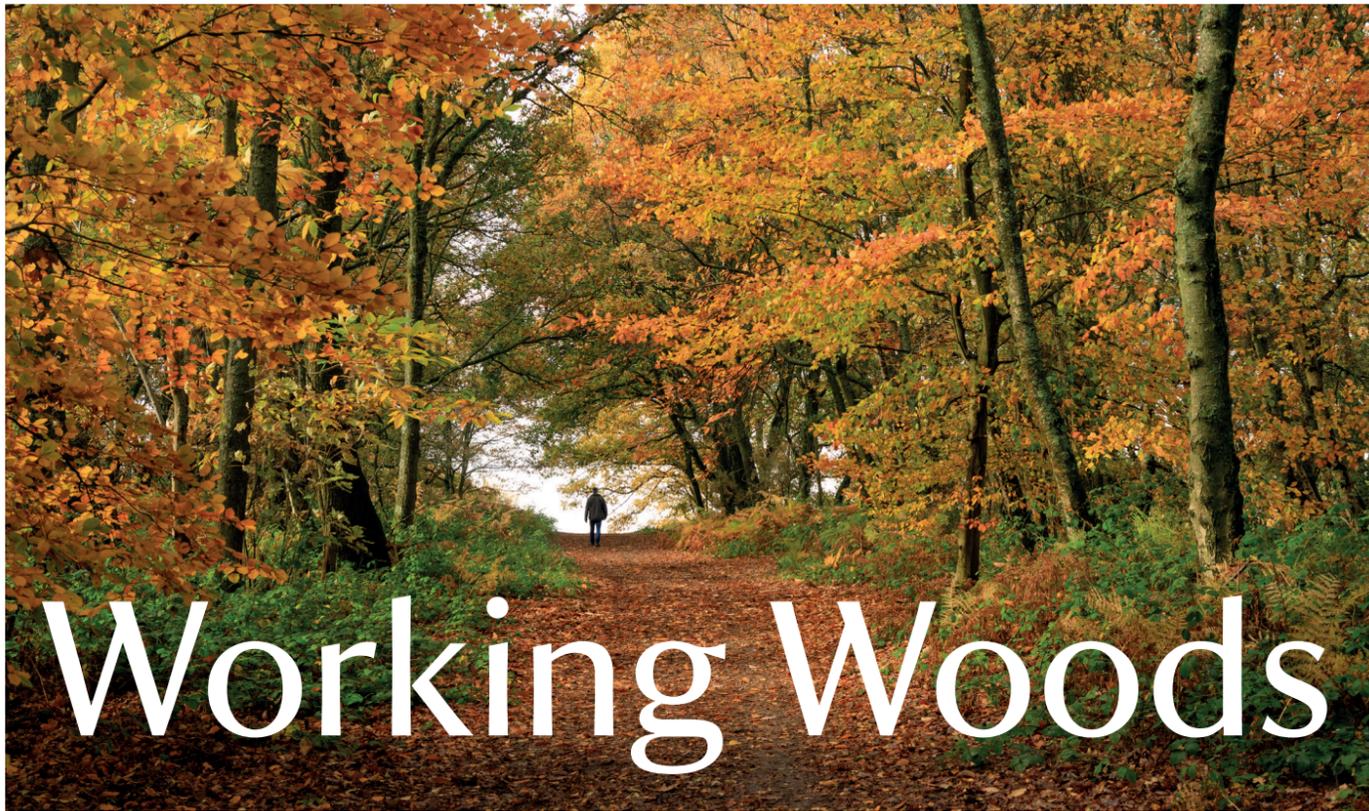
There are different levels of involvement. The simplest is to follow a tour through the pastoral idyll of Stowe's Grecian Valley, absorbing its history and immersing yourself in its stories through poetry, historic imagery and gentle prompts to notice and engage with the surroundings.

If early trials are successful, Stowe will also offer a multi-media app, downloadable from the café, to take the interaction a step further. The app uses GPS trigger points in the landscape which prompt spoken word or visual notifications on your phone, and tasks to take part in with different ways to interact.

Over three nights in October, a talks series sees a Q&A panel session with the team responsible for the restoration of the Grecian valley, a contemporary and highly engaging spoken word evening with Dan Simpson, and a lecture in the State Music Room at Stowe House with the National Trust's Gardens and Parks Historian, Richard Wheeler.

Under the Hawthorn runs from 16 September – 3 November 10am-4pm as part of Stowe's Autumn Rambles series.





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 understory 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. At Hughenden, a volunteer team creates bird boxes and other products which are sold in the shop to help fund our work, whilst offcuts are milled to fuel a biomass boiler. At Cliveden, volunteers make charcoal.

Bake...

Mottisfont's toffee apple cake

Serves 12-16 slices



Ingredients

250g caster sugar
250g softened butter
250g self-raising flour
5 eggs
10g baking powder
10g cinnamon
Itsp vanilla essence

For the toffee apple jam

500g apples
50g butter
100g maple syrup
150g caster sugar

For the icing

150g butter
300g icing sugar
Itsp vanilla essence
Pinch of salt

Method

- Cream the softened butter and sugar together until light and fluffy.
- Add the eggs little by little ensuring the mix doesn't split.
- Add the flour and dry ingredients and mix on a medium speed until fully combined.
- Divide the mixture between two 30cm cake tins and bake at 170 for 20-25 minutes or until well risen, evenly coloured and firm to the touch.
- Allow the sponges to cool in the tins before removing.
- For the jam, peel and chop the apples into 2cm chunks. Melt the butter and maple into a pan on a medium heat without stirring until the mixture forms a light smooth caramel. Add the apples and raise the temperature to soften the apples. Once at the consistency of jam, remove from the heat and allow to cool before use.
- For the icing, combine all the ingredients and whip until light and fluffy. To assemble, place a layer of the toffee apple jam between the two sponges. Cover the sides and the top of the cake with the butter cream icing then using a palette knife, ripple in some of the toffee apple jam.

Christmas preview



If you're looking for a traditional Christmas in a lovingly decorated country house, look no further than **Hughenden Manor**, **The Vyne** and **Greys Court**. With lavishly wrapped presents, brightly coloured garlands and the evocative scent of pine trees and spices, you can get your traditional Christmas fix here. For a more opulent display, **Basildon Park** will be dripping with lights, floral displays and decadent decoration.

Candle-lit houses are a big feature this year. **Ham House** will be glowing with flickering candles that lead you through a flurry of

winter revelry. **The Vyne**, **Basildon Park** and **Greys Court** are all running Christmas candlelit house tours as the early dusk draws in with festive refreshments along the way.

There are themed Christmases in Hampshire. **Mottisfont's** 'An Enchanted Christmas with the Flower Fairies' has an enchanted woodland theme whilst **Hinton Ampner** has decorations inspired by Aesop's Fables. The house's former owner Ralph Dutton treasured a beautiful book of Aesop's moral tales which will be on display.

Nor is Christmas confined to houses, we all

need to get outdoors at this time of year. You can embrace the frost-kissed gardens at **Stowe** on a winter walk to find the 12 days of Christmas across the landscape. Each installation is created with an artist or partner and will finish with a final flourish in the Temple of Concord and Victory. For children, there are outdoor Christmas trails at most of our places.

You can expect wreath workshops, fantastic Christmas shopping opportunities, carol singers, festive food and a very warm welcome wherever you go in our region this Christmas.

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



Goat round-up on the Isle of Wight

Each autumn on the Isle of Wight's Ventnor Downs, a troop of staff and volunteers scramble through thorny brambles and scratchy gorse to round up the herd of Old English feral goats that live here. It's an important task in our countryside calendar and allows the team to give the herd their annual health check.

The goats help to control the growth of scrub on this steep stretch of downland overlooking the sea, keeping at bay the invasive holm oaks that would otherwise rapidly smother the flower-rich chalk grassland. Once all the elusive goats and their new kids have been found, we count them, give their teeth a check and clip their hooves, before releasing them back into the wild to continue the good work.

This year's goat round-up is on 17 October. If you'd like to book a place call 01983 741020 for more details.



New vistas at Cliveden and Cookham

Visitors to Cliveden are enjoying breathtaking vistas down to the river Thames that have been hidden from view for decades. The ranger team has been working hard to restore the viewpoints that were once part of the historic designed landscape and which over the years had become overgrown. One visitor said of the view from Canning's Oak, 'It's so exquisite, it looks unreal, like a painting.'

Upstream at Winter Hill viewpoint, part of Maidenhead and Cookham Commons, rangers are working on a similar project to restore the important historic view over the Thames Valley. Locals remember rolling down Winter Hill as children in the 1950s, but when grazing ceased after the war, secondary woodland gradually obscured the view.

The thinning works this autumn at Winter Hill will restore valuable chalk grassland habitat as well as allowing many more people - particularly those with mobility issues - to enjoy the Thames Valley view from the car park at the top.



Return of Apollo and the nine Muses

Apollo and the nine Muses was one of the most significant statue groups to grace the landscape garden at Stowe. Symbolising inspiration and artistic creation, they were commissioned in the early eighteenth century to layer meaning into the landscape. These lead statues adorned the gardens for 100 years and were focal points within three areas of significant garden design at Stowe.

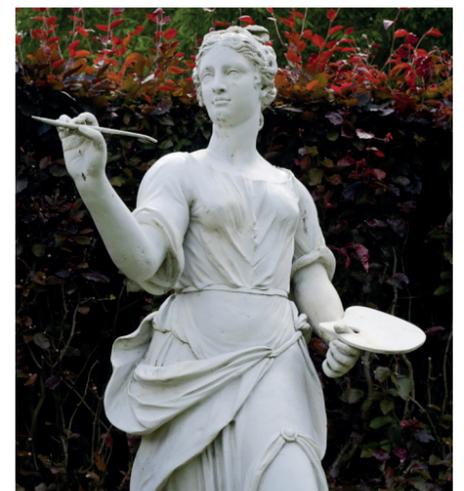
The National Trust has been restoring Stowe since acquiring the gardens 30 years ago. The latest phase involves re-introducing statuary and other lost features. The return of Apollo

and the nine Muses is an intriguing project requiring complex archival and archaeological research to recreate the iconic set.



Of the original group, only one of the Muses, Calliope, still resides at Stowe. Two others are in the collection at Anglesey Abbey. A catalogue entry from 1848 reports that the rest were melted down.

In order to create a harmonious set of nine different statues of appropriate quality and form, new moulds will be created using the original three statues as a guide, and the new Muses created from composite stone. At the time of writing, an appropriate model for Apollo remains elusive.



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