



National
Trust

Supporter Group Newsletter

Midlands

October 2019

An Update from Andy Beer, Regional Director, Midlands

Although Spring is traditionally the time when we talk of renewal, as we move into Autumn I wanted to share with you some of the work we've been doing to breathe new life into the precious places we restore and look after. After four years of conservation work, the Grade I listed stables at Belton have been transformed into a beautiful cafe twice the size of what we had before; after reducing the year-long grazing of Jinleye meadows in Shropshire, the pastures are now hopping with life and new wildlife species; a new space for families and children to play has been transformed into Calke Explore landscape, and the Be Kinder walking trail in the Peak District, based on a Mass Trespass route, has enabled people to view the landscape with a new perspective.

October is Free Wills Month and it's a reminder to ourselves and others that leaving a legacy is a key support in helping to ensure new work and new life continues after we're no longer here to support it. Thank you very much for sharing in this work and for volunteering your support and kindness in helping our properties and their teams.

Andy Beer

Lasting legacies

The annual report has recently been issued for 2018/19 and it is a pleasure to report that we have seen record income from gifts in wills. £66.5m came to the National Trust through gifts in wills last year; more than two thirds of total fundraised income. In accordance with the supporters' wishes, 75% went into the General Fund to be used where it's most urgently needed, with the remainder gifted to specific properties, projects or areas of the Trust's work. For more information on gifts in wills, how to update or make a will and to see the impact of gifts, please visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk/features/leaving-a-gift-in-your-will, email legacies@nationaltrust.org.uk or call 01793 817699.

National Trust at 125 years old!

The year 2020 represents the Trust's 125th anniversary and is a special occasion to remember our roots and our founders.

A national programme of events and activities will be announced shortly.

We will also be inviting supporters to fundraise for National Trust by doing something, anything, that they enjoy. From bake sales to abseils! We will let you know about some of the more unusual activities.

To find out more about the anniversary year, look out for more information on our website in January, or watch this space in upcoming newsletters.

November meetings

We are pleased to be welcoming

Tom Webster-Deakin, Marketing and Communications Consultant (Digital), to the November get-togethers.

The new Midlands wish list will also be launched at the meetings, with a hard copy for each group.

Formal invitations have been sent. For further information please email:

Mids.SupporterGroups@nationaltrust.org.uk

We look forward to seeing you!

Project updates

Hardwick Hall has occupied its lofty and exposed position for over 400 years. Built of soft local sandstone there have been stone masons working on the hall ever since it was built.

In July 2018 Hardwick Hall started its next phase of building works on the East Loggia. This was the third phase of building works in a 10 year plan to ensure that the building remains wind and water tight to preserve the building and its internationally renowned collection, which includes 16th century textiles and furniture.

The work to the East Loggia included stone masonry repairs, replacing the loggia's lead roof, replacing the loggia's ceiling, and works to the imposing columns. This followed previous works in years one and two of the 10 year plan to the entrance gatehouse and high level repairs on the East façade.

Once the scaffold was in place, the works could commence. The specialist masonry works were carried out by Hardwick's own skilled masons, who work in the same way many of their predecessors would have, with each piece of stone being carefully worked by hand to fit the requirements. The stone masons undertook repairs to the façade's stone work and to the columns, where they had to provide new bases and collars to replace some stones that had perished beyond repair.

The works to the lead roof and ceiling were carried out by specialist contractors who are members of the Lead Contractors Association. They stripped the existing lead roof dating from the 1960's and replaced it with a new lead roof. However, the old lead was not wasted; it was taken away and melted down and, once its impurities were removed, it was mixed with additional lead to provide the materials for the new roof.

The underside of the loggia was also worked on with the existing ceiling being removed. The team took this opportunity to examine the structure within the roof void to check the structural integrity and undertake any repairs necessary. The plasterwork was reapplied to new laths in several coats. This lime plaster contains horse hair to provide some reinforcement to the plaster and is a traditional technique. In 2020 a final lime wash will be applied to this plaster once it has 'gone off'.

Works to the columns on the East Loggia remain ongoing as there are 8 for the team to tackle. The plastering to the barrels of the columns is being undertaken by a specialist plasterer who is carefully replacing the damaged plasterwork.

In the meantime works have also commenced on the West front, with high level masonry repair currently being undertaken to maintain this iconic façade for years to come.



Enjoy Hardwick from new heights

The buildings project at Hardwick has provided a special opportunity to welcome visitors on roof tours a chance to enjoy the breath-taking views of the Derbyshire countryside and get up close to the iconic features of Hardwick Hall.

For more information please visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk/hardwick/features/new-heights-at-hardwick or call 03442 491895

Updated strategy

Hilary McGrady, National Trust Director-General, has recently announced a refreshed strategy for our organisation. Most of the key elements remain the same, with a large focus on Land, Outdoors and Nature. The below narrative helps to explain our position and what we stand for.

To be relevant in people's lives, we need to be absolutely clear on what we're here for. The Trust is a many-headed beast and we know that some people in the wider public don't feel clear on or connected to what we do. We need to be sure of what we stand for and why it matters. This is our narrative.

The National Trust is woven into the rich tapestry of our national identity. We exist because people share the idea that **beautiful natural and historic places matter – for our spirit, our wellbeing and our relationships**. We don't seek to preserve or present one unchanging view of our country, rather **we celebrate its variety**. Whether it's historic houses, farms, coastlines, woodlands, terraced houses or city parks, **we stand up for the places that matter to people everywhere**. **We take our responsibility to protect very seriously**, and we want beautiful places to look and feel amazing forever. But preserving them is becoming more difficult every year. We know **nature is vanishing** before our eyes and much of **our historic environment is under threat**. The Trust is rising to these challenges, but we can't do it on our own. **Working with others, we will support where we can and lead where we should**. We are open to all, whether you love walking in the outdoors, campaigning for nature, immersing yourself in history or simply want to spend time in a beautiful place with family and friends. We want to make sure that, **no matter who you are or where you come from, you feel welcome** and able to make a difference to the places that matter to you.

Thank you

The Midlands team would like to extend our warm regards to all members of National Trust Supporter Groups. You advocate passionately for the Trust's work and raise valuable funds to support projects in the region and beyond. It has been a pleasure to welcome you to many property visits and we hope that you have enjoyed opportunities to visit behind the scenes or hear more about upcoming projects. Most importantly, it is always refreshing to see the benefit of the groups—you provide excellent opportunities for National Trust members to see more, learn more and feel close to the Trust's work. Thank you.

We wish the groups continued success with your upcoming programmes of events.

Best wishes

Holly Kemish, Fundraising Consultant, Midlands

Lynne Stacey, Senior Business Support Coordinator, Hardwick Hub

Laura Bromley, Business Support Coordinator, Hardwick Hub

Please ensure group donations are posted to :

Supporter Group Admin,

Hardwick Hub Consultancy Office, The Croft, Doe Lea, Chesterfield, Derbys, S44 5QJ

Thank you.

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