

SUMMER 2016

Landmark News



LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



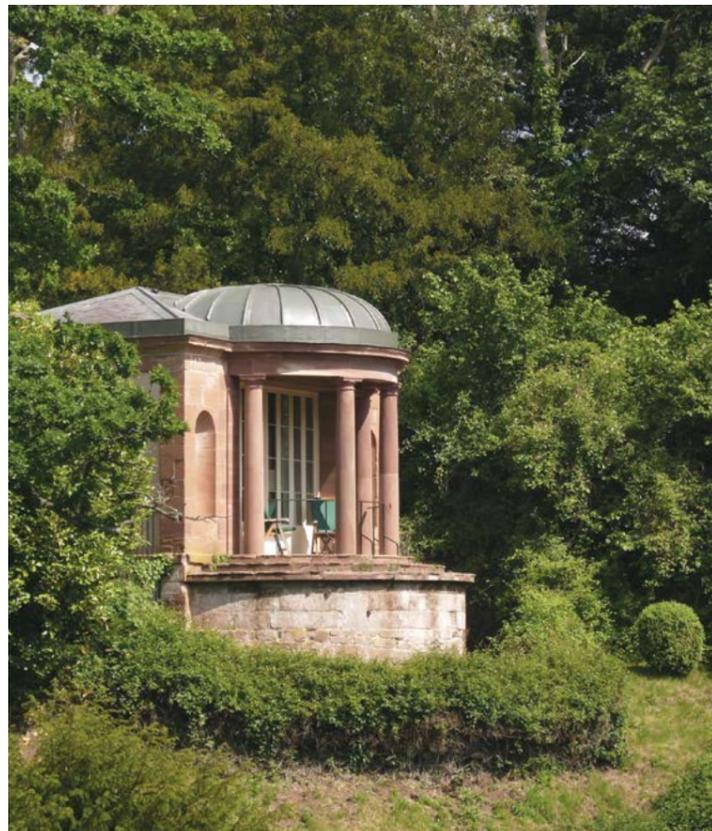
One of our challenges at Landmark is working out which of the many thousands of historic structures at risk in Britain – from the tail end of Cornwall to the topmost tip of Caithness – we should be trying to save. As we come to the end of our 50th anniversary celebrations we have been thinking about what sorts of buildings will most need our help, and would lend themselves best to our kind of re-use, in the future. After much discussion, we have drawn up a list. The results might be surprising: they are places which are fascinating but now fleeting – and which we think Landmark should be in the vanguard of trying to save. They include 20th-century military buildings, the buildings of transport and communication and small and significant industrial

buildings. Over the coming years we will try and ensure we take on more of these sorts of places, to make sure that as well as saving individual special buildings, we are helping to illuminate their preciousness and their plight across the UK.

A small but perfectly formed example is Coed y Bleiddiau, the little line manager's cottage on the Ffestiniog railway in Gwynedd. It is a poignant window on both the earliest decades of rail transport in this country, and the seismic changes slate mining wrought to the lives of the people of North Wales. If we can just raise the remaining funds in time, we can start work this autumn and so make this delightful hillside halt the first completed restoration of our second fifty years.

Anna Keay

Dr Anna Keay, Director



We are in discussions with the owner of this Shropshire folly to help protect its future by turning it into a Landmark for two.

Hope for Shropshire Folly

Some of you have no doubt shared our sadness at the recent demise of The Vivat Trust, an organisation very similar to Landmark that sadly failed to recover from the economic downturn. One of Vivat's most triumphant restorations and most charming buildings is a Classical folly for two in an almost impossibly picturesque setting, looking out over water on the steeply wooded slopes of a deep gorge in Shropshire, through which winds the River Worfe. We are in discussions with its owner about taking on the lease; look out on our website for further news soon of this future Landmark that we shall refurbish, and return to its original 18th-century name, The Birdhouse.

Photograph by Giorgio Majno, 2006 © FAI - Fondo Ambiente Italiano



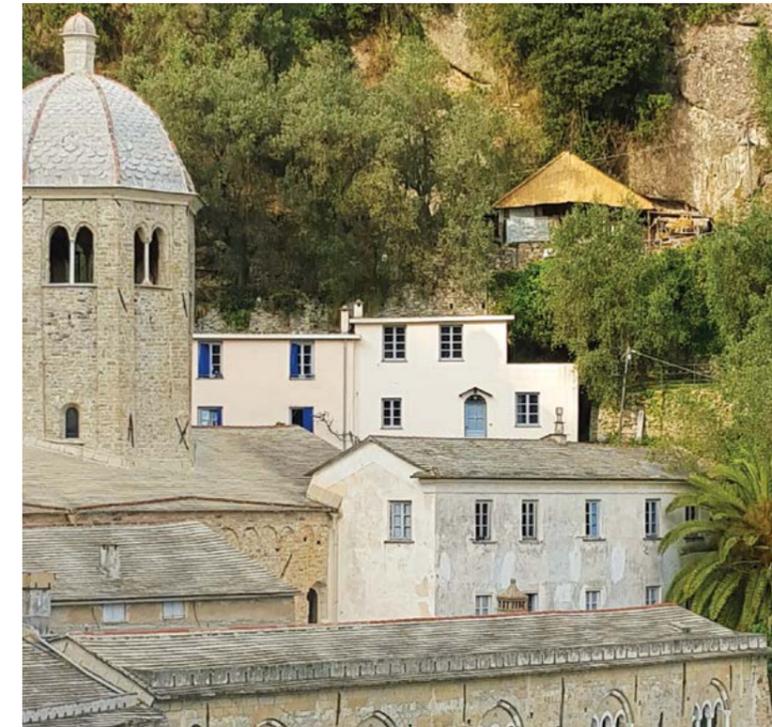
NEW

Ligurian Escape

We are delighted to announce the opening of a new Italian Landmark, Casa de Mar at San Fruttuoso on the Italian Riviera. Nestled among the pine trees and olive groves in a cove on the Portofino Peninsula, the former fisherman's cottage looks out over the roofs of a Benedictine Monastery and the blue Mediterranean Sea.

The cottage is modest in size and character but its wider setting gives it the evocative sense of place shared by all Landmarks. It is perched high above the Abbey of San Fruttuoso which dates to the 10th century and is managed by our partners, the Fondo Ambiente Italiano (FAI), who describe it 'an asset of inestimable beauty.'

The cove and our new Landmark are accessible only by sea and Landmark guests would fly into Genoa, Pisa or Milan before taking a train or taxi to Camogli or Portofino, from where there is a regular boat service to the exclusive, tiny cove. Day visitors come to appreciate the history and architecture of the Abbey and eat at the beachside restaurants serving Genoese and Ligurian cuisine. Once the last boat departs in the evening, only the lucky few who live here or those who stay in Casa de Mar remain to absorb the tranquillity of its enchanting setting. The national park of Camogli, the Capodimonte mountains and the stylish resort of Portofino are not far away and there are beautiful coastal walks in all directions.



Above: The former fisherman's cottage, top right, overlooks the Monastery and the sea beyond (top).

The two-bedroomed cottage which sleeps four costs from £43 per person per night. To find out more please visit our website www.landmarktrust.org.uk

Revival of Coed y Bleiddiau almost within reach

Our appeal for Coed y Bleiddiau, the little superintendent's cottage on the scenic Ffestiniog Railway deep in Snowdonia National Park, is tantalisingly close to its goal.

In late April, Landmark's Patrons were welcomed under a sunny sky by railway Director Paul Lewin at Porthmadog Station. They boarded a special train of carriages, newly made in the railway's workshops and pulled by a restored steam engine, to climb through beautiful mountain scenery. Changing trains, they were then pulled to Coed y Bleiddiau itself by Prince, one of the first two engines used when this narrow gauge line opened in the 1860s. Such experiences await all Landmarkers if we can just raise the funds to get on site.

The interiors of the cottage are an especially sobering sight. This little cottage, once home to Line Superintendent Henry Hovenden, his wife and their seven children, is currently a sad sight on this otherwise carefully restored piece of industrial heritage. Paul

Lewin spoke movingly of the day in 2010 when he finally turned off the electricity in the isolated cottage, knowing that its restoration was beyond the means and the mission of the railway trust. We can help, and the beautiful landscape of this part of Wales will make staying at Coed y Bleiddiau an unforgettable experience.

An unprecedented number of you responded to our appeal mailing when we launched fundraising for Coed y Bleiddiau last November. Others have contributed extremely generously as Guardians, giving donations of £6,000 or more. We are enormously grateful to you all, and for a recent legacy from the late Kay Mills-Hicks, a Landmarker and former Patron, which we have also added to the fund, to the delight of her family. Proceeds from the 2016 Spring Raffle has further boosted the appeal, now at 85% of its target.

If we can find the remaining £68,000 soon, the steam engines of the Ffestiniog Railway could be dropping Landmarkers off at Coed y Bleiddiau by this time next year. Please help us achieve this by donating if you possibly can.

Landmark Patrons enjoying a visit to Coed y Bleiddiau in April.



Hedge planting at Llwyn Celyn in February.

Below: Fractures by artist Jamie Lake, photographed by Jamie Lake and Will Carter



Llwyn Celyn has a spring in its step

Spring heralded the arrival of our contractors IJ Preece at Llwyn Celyn and the commencement of the repair and revitalisation of this important historic site. The first objective was to secure the scaffolding, and to undertake the bat mitigation works - converting an outbuilding into a 'cave' to ensure that our resident bats, currently roosting in the farmhouse, have an alternative home.

Llwyn Celyn is a complex project, with many building types and end uses to consider. How we treat its setting within the landscape will affect how successfully it settles back into the wider narrative of hills and valleys. Re-establishing natural boundaries is part of our plan. In February, 12 volunteers attended a hedge planting day. Despite the chilly late winter weather, we enjoyed the feeling of optimism that digging earth at this time of year brings. At Llwyn Celyn, we are into our second year of hedge planting - translating the coloured dashes and blobs on the architect's plan into a tantalising, if small and twiggy, promise of a wildlife haven.

A mix of native species, our new hedges will entice moths and other insects, which the bats will forage on. Hazel will be the earliest into flower, followed by blackthorn, then hawthorn, and spindle. Finally the guelder rose will extend the season into the summer. Then it won't be long before berries start to appear, to be gathered by animals and humans alike.

At the end of April, artist Jamie Lake with Will Carter and Fiona Hamilton presented new artwork in response to the site. Jamie Lake is one of four artists in residence documenting the project. Jamie chose to focus on the period prior to the start of our work, capturing the site in its current vulnerable state, focusing on the fractured walls of the outbuildings:



"To me the fractures were the visceral signs of change: the often overlooked but violent marks of dissolution. I wanted to bring the fractures in to focus, to record them before they were resealed, and to reflect on the mutability of Llwyn Celyn. I wanted to have and to create a momentary pause: to sense the fragility of what seemed intense and present, before it moved on."

Jamie designed light installations then worked with Will Carter to photograph the illuminated fractures to create a series of unique images. See them on our website.

The project at Llwyn Celyn is encouraging us to think on many scales - from the hefty stone walls waiting for repair, the timber roof trusses of the farmhouse, the void of the Threshing Barn, crevices and cracks inhabited by roosting and nesting creatures, the architecture of thorns, flowers and berries and the tiny insect life that they will in turn support.

A preview of our next rescue projects – and thanks to the Landmark Pioneers

Completed restoration projects can seem like buses, several coming along at once; and 2015 was a bumper year. In 2016 we are starting on site at Llwyn Celyn and, funding permitting, at Coed y Bleiddiau. Unexpected new Landmarks also have a way of presenting themselves such as Casa de Mar in Italy (see page 3). We're always busy behind the scenes too, seeking and scoping the next tranche of needy buildings, and we're delighted to offer a preview of the next two restoration projects about which you will be hearing more over the coming year.

Cobham Dairy, Kent

Sometimes it takes decades for the stars to align for us on a building. Such is James Wyatt's exceptional Grade II*, 1785 Gothick dairy, in the grounds of Cobham Hall, Kent. The Dairy is marooned at the edge of the grounds of the girls' boarding school the beautiful great house has become, and though we have known about it since the 1990s, only recently have all parties joined in their commitment to save it. In recent months, we have been working hard on how to solve the many challenges this tiny, exquisite building presents – the restoration of its unexpectedly rich internal and external finishes, the route of modern services, the philosophy of conservation to guide its conversion to modern use. We'll be able to tell you more when the appeal is launched later this summer.

Saving James Wyatt's Cobham Dairy will be the focus of our next appeal.



We are preparing a scheme to restore Charles Voysey's Winsford Hospital.

Winsford Cottage Hospital, Devon

Winsford Hospital in Devon is truly one of a kind. It represents the rich social trend for the philanthropic construction of cottage hospitals before the advent of the welfare state. It is also unique of its type in being designed by C. F. A. Voysey (1857-1941), one of the greatest exponents of the Arts & Crafts movement. We were first intrigued by it some 20 years ago, and were delighted when a local community trust was founded to care for its future. Sadly, this trust has now reached the end of the road. Despite their best efforts, Landmark is now the only hope for this evocative Grade II* hospital, whose sunny rooms also sheltered convalescing soldiers during the Great War. We're drawing up our plans, and are delighted that Voysey authority, Wendy Hitchmough, has agreed to give this year's Landmark Lecture.

Landmark Lecture 2016

Dr Wendy Hitchmough will give the 2016 Landmark Lecture on the Arts and Crafts architect and designer, Charles Voysey. The lecture will be held on Monday 7 November at RIBA in London, from 6.45pm, followed by drinks and the opportunity to speak to members of the Landmark team. Dr Hitchmough is Head of Historic Buildings and Research at Historic Royal Palaces and wrote the first definitive biography of C F A Voysey. Tickets are now available at a cost of £18 each either through the Gift Shop on the Landmark website, or by calling Booking Enquiries on 01628 825925. Places are limited, so please book early to avoid disappointment.

PIONEERING SUPPORT

We are thrilled to acknowledge the invaluable role played by the Landmark Pioneers in the genesis of new rescue projects. The hardest part of any new rescue is the very first stage, evaluating the viability of a deteriorating or derelict building to be saved and given new life as a Landmark. It's an exciting and creative phase, when passion and big ideas must be balanced against technical and operational feasibility before public fundraising begins. Of course, even this initial phase costs money, and this is where a small new group of generous supporters - the Landmark Pioneers - play their part. Their annual gifts of £5,000

or more act as seed funding so that we can establish whether the acorn we discover cast adrift in the world can take root to develop into the sturdy oak of an extraordinary project. So as we develop Cobham Dairy and Winsford Cottage Hospital, we salute our Pioneers, who have brought them this far.

If you'd like to find out more about becoming more involved with Landmark as a Pioneer, please contact Hatty Masser on 01628 512129 or visit the Support Us pages of our website.



We have made and installed 30 artificial burrows for Manx shearwater seabirds (above left) on Lundy. Right: The 'Manxie Villa's' ready for installation.



New home for Lundy seabirds

New homes for Lundy's Manx shearwater colonies have been built and installed across the island this spring. Beccy MacDonald, Wildlife Warden for Lundy, and a team of volunteers managed to build and install 30 of the 'Manxie villas' in just 4 days. The team included our new Volunteer Seasonal Assistant Warden Conor, Lundy Field Society volunteers Kelly, Rob, Sue, Dave and Tony, as well as Helen and Lydia from the RSPB.

The Manx shearwater (*Puffinus puffinus*) is a type of seabird found on islands around the UK, including Lundy. In 1939, the Manx shearwater population on Lundy numbered around 3,500 pairs. In 2001, this had fallen to only 166 pairs making them our main seabird conservation priority. The Seabird Recovery Project was set up over a decade ago to safeguard the Manx shearwaters (and other seabirds) and improve opportunities for breeding. The project was a success, with an estimated 3,451 pairs of Manx shearwaters documented in 2013 – an incredible 2108% increase.

Beccy said "the success of the Seabird Recovery Project on Lundy has brought with it lots of possibilities and opportunities for further studies of the island's important seabird colonies. After hearing about the success of artificial burrow projects with shearwaters elsewhere, we decided to create some of our own to assist us with monitoring and learning more about their life histories."

Since the villas were installed, they have been checked on a weekly basis to see if the Manxies are showing interest in them. At the time of writing, signs have been encouraging including the presence of spraint outside entrances, feathers inside the villas and new burrows leading from the back of a few of them. For the latest updates see our Lundy Conservation Team Facebook page.



Sea Safaris

The wealth of wildlife at Lundy attracts thousands of visitors every year and for the first time this summer you can explore the island from the sea with the island Warden, Beccy MacDonald, on the island RIB 'Islander'. Beccy said "Sea safaris are an amazing way to experience the marine wildlife of Lundy from a different perspective. Being on the water allows you to see the full expanse of the seabird colonies and watch our mischevious grey seals. Each experience is unique as you never know what you might see."

Lundy is home to around 200 grey seals and the largest seabird breeding colony in the South West with kittiwakes, puffins, guillemots, razorbills, fulmars and Manx shearwaters. The waters are regularly used by cetaceans such as porpoises and common dolphins as well as by occasional basking sharks and sunfish.

Further details on the Sea Safaris will be posted on the Lundy Conservation Team facebook page and on the Lundy webpages.

A new look for Beamsley Hospital

Our Historic Estates team is constantly working hard to make sure Landmarks remain wonderful places to stay. In our 50th year alone, we invested £1.6 million in maintenance. Two Landmarks have recently undergone major refurbishments and redecorations.

Beamsley Hospital sits in the Yorkshire countryside, not far from Skipton. It was founded in 1593 by the Countess of Cumberland who wanted to support the women who were "decrepit and broken down by old age" in Skipton. The almshouse remained in use well into the twentieth century, its last resident left in 1980. We took on the hospital in 1983 and soon began our repairs. By 2016, we felt Beamsley was in need of a makeover.

In February our team undertook a complete programme of refurbishment. Using paint generously provided by Farrow & Ball, all of the walls have been repainted or lime washed. The doors to the circular chapel have received particular attention. Mark Nevin has skilfully regrained the doors, imitating the finish of hardwoods such as oak or mahogany to give the appearance of high quality antique wood.



Nevin from Nevin of Edinburgh skilfully regraining the doors of Beamsley Hospital (above and top right).

In the main bedroom is a remarkable Georgian painted pine chest still on its original stand. The chest retains vibrant colours after more than 200 years in the Yorkshire Dales. The inscription reads "This CHEST belongeth to the MOTHER and SISTERS in the ALMSHOUSE at BEAMSLEY."



While the roof was being insulated, we uncovered the original bell that called the residents of the almshouse to prayer. The inscription reads 'SOLI DEO GLORIA 1675', meaning 'Glory to God alone'. David Bagley, with help from Chris Pickford and George Dawson, was able to trace the creation of the bell to a medieval bellfoundry in York, restarted after the reformation by William Oldfield in about 1620. As the inscription suggests, Beamsley's bell was cast in 1675 by Samuel I Smith, who worked at the bellfoundry until 1709. Have a closer look at Beamsley Hospital with our interactive tour online.

Appleton Water Tower, in Norfolk, was built in 1877 to provide clean water to the Sandringham Estate. In March, contractors Abletex helped us redecorate the tower. Like Beamsley, the paint was provided by Farrow & Ball. External maintenance of our Landmarks is essential, at Knowle Hill, Derbyshire (back cover) we have extended estate railings and repaired the access track as well as redecorating the bedrooms and bathroom. These are just a few of the many Landmarks undergoing important maintenance or refurbishment this year.

LAND catalogue – now available

Author Jeanette Winterson has reflected upon LAND, Antony Gormley's installation for our 50th year, in a special art catalogue to record the event. This short book has specially commissioned photographs of the five cast-iron sculptures in their striking Landmark settings, and marks the end of a particularly exciting element of Landmark's 50th anniversary year. Jeanette writes that the works were "resting places, not only for butterflies and passing birds, but for the eye and the mind's eye". The catalogue costs £15, available at good bookshops and online at www.thamesandhudson.com



50 For Free update

This is the third year we have been able to offer the 50 For Free scheme - thanks to a generous private donor. Once again the feedback we have received from those organisations that benefited has been amazing and you can read them on our website.

"Thank you so much for our weekend at Clytha Castle... We couldn't quite believe it when we arrived; a castle, on a hill, so imposing, it looked huge, magical, the stuff of fairy tales. We saw it from the distance, but couldn't quite believe that this was our castle for the weekend. High ceilings, arched doorways (and curved doors!), a fabulous spiral staircase, and access to the roof. I shall remember always the beautiful views across the hills, the silence, save for the owls, the fabulous circular kitchen and, above all, seeing my children so happy to have so much space to explore"

Family nominated by Cambridgeshire County Council - Clytha Castle

Landmark Legacy Estate

A less well known, but equally important, area of our work is our Legacy Estate: a portfolio of buildings ranging from historic estate cottages to modern flats or shops, many of them given to us as legacy gifts. These well-loved buildings have passed into our stewardship in the knowledge that we can be relied upon to care for them, and many continue to fulfil their role as part of the local community. We manage them as tenanted property providing a valuable and reliable income.

Soon we will be adding a new building to the Legacy Estate, thanks to the amazing generosity of its former owner, Mr Christopher Webb. Originally the block of four late Georgian houses, in Winchester, had been destined for demolition but Chris' parents bought one, and with him, they gradually restored it.

Join the Landmark Friends

Landmark Friends are an enthusiastic group who do an enormous amount to support our work through their membership subscriptions, providing valuable income to the charity. They are also so much more; holiday bookers, open day visitors, volunteers and ambassadors!

Friends enjoy early booking privileges, ahead of other Landmarkers and the general public, as well as a varied and illuminating programme of visits, tours and activities. Friends can book a place on a house share - perfect for those who would like to visit some of the larger Landmark buildings with like-minded people.

With membership from just £48 a year it's a great opportunity to become more involved and visit some extraordinary historical sites with others.

For more information please visit the Support Us pages of our website or telephone our Friends volunteers Jenny, Claire or Victoria on 01628 825920.



Friends enjoy an event at the Georgian House, Surrey

We met Chris when he was considering what might happen to the building after his death. We were able to discuss his wishes and aspirations, and discover the building's history, and learn about his family's association with it. In turn we explained how it might be used if he was kind enough to bequeath it to Landmark, and he also understood our approach and limitations.

Sadly Chris died last year but his generous spirit, encyclopaedic knowledge and great sense of humour will live on through his wonderful gift to us.

To discuss the gift of a building or find out more about remembering Landmark in your will please call Linda Millard on 01628 825920.

2016 OPEN DAYS

Please always check our website before you plan your visit to an open day as occasionally we do have to make changes to dates and times. We may also add new open days and activities.

Old Campden House, Gloucestershire, Sat 18 – Sun 19 June
Hougoumont, Waterloo, Belgium, Sat 18 -Sun 19 June
Astley Castle, Warwickshire, Fri 24 – Mon 27 June
Abbey Gatehouse, Gloucestershire, Sat 9 – Sun 10 July
Culloden Tower, North Yorkshire, Sat 20 – Sun 21 August
Auchinleck, Ayrshire, Sun 4 September *
The Grange, Kent, Thurs 8 – Mon 12 September **
St Edward's Presbytery, Kent, Thurs 8 – Mon 12 September **
Astley Castle, Warwickshire, Fri 9 – Tues 13 September**
Freston Tower, Suffolk, Fri 9 – Tues 13 September **
Wilmington Priory, East Sussex, Fri 9 – Mon 12 September **
Belmont, Dorset, Sat 10 – Sun 11 September **
Clavell Tower, Dorset, Sat 10 – Sun 11 September **
The Ruin, North Yorkshire, Sat 10 – Sun 11 September **
The White House, Shropshire, Sat 10 – Sun 11 September **
Peakes House, Essex, Sat 10 – Sun 11 September **
Queen Anne's Summerhouse, Bedfordshire, Sat 10 – Mon 12 September **
Warden Abbey, Bedfordshire, Sat 10 – Sun 11 September **
Keeper's Cottage, Bedfordshire, Sat 10 – Sun 11 September **
Gothic Temple, Buckinghamshire, Sat 10- Sun 11 September**
Dolbelydr, Denbighshire, Fri 16 – Tues 20 September ***
Princelet Street, London, Sat 17 – Sun 18 September +
Wilmington Priory, East Sussex, Fri 18 – Tues 22 November

* Scottish Open Doors ** Heritage Open Days

*** Welsh Open Doors +Open House London

Special Landmark offer

Nature guides in every building have long been a staple in a Landmark stay. A Landmarker who is a keen ornithologist recently pointed out that the older bird guides have become outdated, as the changing climate affects bird migration patterns. We are therefore replacing each existing bird guide with a new hardback edition of the Collins Field Guide thanks to a generous discount from Harper Collins, which has been publishing the series for over 70 years. The series has become an invaluable companion to the British countryside and includes guides for birds, trees, wild flowers, butterflies and fungi.

Harper Collins is kindly offering Landmarkers a 25% discount on any of these guides until 31 October 2016. For each copy sold to a Landmarker, HarperCollins will donate £1 to support our work. Purchase them from the gift shop on our website.



Annie Gray cooking at Wilmington Priory in 2013

We have lots of free, family friendly activities scheduled for our Open Days, this year several taking a FOOD theme. Please check our website for full details. No booking required.

Old Campden House, Chipping Camden, Gloucestershire – Landscape and FOOD themed Sat 18 – Sun 19 June

Explore the remains of Old Campden's exceptional Jacobean gardens and banqueting houses and learn about what might have grown there from 'Baptist Hick's' gardener.

Astley Castle, Warwickshire – Archaeology and Shakespeare Fri 24 – Mon 27 June

Join archaeologists from Archeoscan (Sat and Sun) to survey the ancient landscape around Astley Castle. Using resistivity survey equipment we hope to find evidence of a medieval village, church buildings, banqueting houses and secret passages.

Auchinleck, Ayrshire – FOOD themed Sun 4 September *

Meet Mr Boswell's cook as she prepares for a special event.

The White House, Shropshire – FOOD themed Sat 10 – Sun 11 September**

See seasonal fare prepared in this farmhouse kitchen. Our food interpreters will be cooking all weekend. Do come along and help with their culinary creations.

Dolbelydr, Denbighshire – FOOD themed Fri 16 – Tues 20 September ***

Join us at Dolbelydr to discover cooking the Tudor way. Demonstrations will take place both inside and outside the building.

Wilmington Priory, East Sussex – FOOD themed Fri 18 – Tues 22 November

It's Stir Up Sunday and time to prepare for Christmas at Wilmington Priory this weekend as festive preparations begin in earnest.

The Landmark Trust

Shottesbrooke Maidenhead Berkshire SL6 3SW

www.landmarktrust.org.uk    

Charity registered in England & Wales 243312 and Scotland SC039205

