

Landmark News

New hope for Cobham Dairy

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



Dear Friends,

Landmark is all about renewal. The buildings we have saved now have new lives, while time spent in a Landmark is, at its best, a tonic for the soul.

As well as exciting progress on a host of rescue projects - including the launch of our campaign for Cobham Dairy - we have also been renewing our existing Landmarks, guided by your

comments and suggestions. We are now over halfway through a project to re-light all our buildings with brighter LED bulbs and better shades, while improved heating, bathrooms, kitchens, gardens and building maintenance are all in train. A series of building refurbishments have been completed at Crownhill Fort, New Inn, Old Place of Monreith, Castle of Park and others will follow in the coming months.

But renewal is about more than buildings. For the fourth year, hundreds of people will soon enjoy breaks in our buildings as part of our 50 For Free scheme, which offers 50 free stays to the nominees of charities.

We also want to ensure that fresh initiates join the tribe of Landmark enthusiasts. This lies behind our new Young Landmarkers scheme, aimed at engaging people in their 20s with our buildings and our work. If you don't quite qualify yourself, then why not give a gift of membership to a friend or relative - and help share the fulfilment that having Landmark in your life can bring.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anna Keay".

Dr Anna Keay, Director

The Birdhouse rejuvenated



Our 198th Landmark, the Birdhouse in Shropshire, has welcomed its first guests. The classically-inspired pavilion is nestled in woodland above an enchanting picturesque landscape. It was designed by leading Georgian architect James Wyatt c.1783, who ten years later created Cobham Dairy (see pages 4 & 5).

The Birdhouse was commissioned by Isaac Hawkins Browne, a wealthy Midlands industrialist who returned from a Grand Tour of Europe with antiquarian tastes. Perched above a natural ravine known as the Dingle, the pavilion was used for recreation until the 1930s by the inhabitants of Badger Hall (demolished in 1952).

Fortunately this secluded folly survived, though it fell into ruin during the 20th century until a triumphant restoration by the Vivat Trust in 1995. Vivat sadly went into liquidation in 2015. Following refurbishment and redecoration led by Landmark's crafts team, this charming little building is once again available for holidays costing from £34 per person per night.

The redecorated sitting room at the Birdhouse. The picturesque scene from its balcony is on the back cover of the newsletter.



Image © William Carter @wilijc

Welcome to Young Landmarkers

Our vibrant new membership scheme, Young Landmarkers, is aimed at people aged between 18 and 29. For £25 per year, members receive access to exclusive booking offers, complimentary Landmark merchandise and invitations to social events, the first of which was a festive drinks gathering at the St Pancras Hotel, London.

The scheme perpetuates our 50 year-old mission to promote the enjoyment of historic buildings by captivating a new generation of Landmarkers. “Like many people, my own first experience of Landmark was staying with a group of friends in my 20s” explained Director Anna Keay. “I have never forgotten the thrill when we all spilled out of the borrowed Vauxhall Astra and heaved open Old Hall’s huge medieval door. The Young Landmarkers scheme is designed to enable more people in their 20s to experience the joys of Landmark and to share it with one another.”

Young Landmarkers was officially launched at 13 Princelet Street, our elegant early 18th-century building in Spitalfields. Scores of young professionals, including those from Historic England and the Victorian Society, mingled with others from broader cultural institutions such as the V&A and the Tate. It was brilliant to see so many young people – some of whom were not familiar with Landmark – explore the building, once the home and workplace of Huguenot silk weavers.

We’ve had a promising response to Young Landmarkers and are excited to see membership numbers grow. There are more details, including how to purchase membership for yourself or as a gift, in the Get Involved section of our website.



Top image: Breakfast at Castle Bungalow
Bottom image: Guests celebrating the new scheme in the garden area at Princelet Street.

If you don’t qualify as a Young Landmarker, why not deepen your involvement with Landmark and receive priority booking opportunities by joining the Friends scheme? Find out more in the Support us section of our website.

“The scheme is designed to enable more people in their 20s to experience the joys of Landmark”

Please help us to save exquisite Cobham Dairy

In the 1790s, one of the greatest Georgian architects, James Wyatt, designed a little pleasure dairy in the grounds of Cobham Hall in Kent. We have launched an appeal to rescue this exquisite Grade II* listed building at risk. Wyatt was at the height of his powers and reputation when the 4th Earl of Darnley commissioned the model dairy to adorn the grounds of his country seat that Wyatt was also remodelling. (Today the hall is a girls' school, from which we have a 99 year lease on the Dairy.)

Designed to look like a tiny Italianate chapel glimpsed across the pleasure grounds laid out by Humphry Repton, the Dairy, with its 'cloisters', did indeed provide lodging for a dairy maid. She milked the cows in an equally picturesque timber cowshed nearby (now lost). But this was no ordinary dairy. It was built for the amusement of Elizabeth, Countess of Darnley and her friends, to provide an elegant setting where they might turn their own fair hands to churning butter and making cheese.

Wyatt had a family interest in the Penrhyn slate mines and at this date favoured the use of innovative hung tiles, cladding the whole building with slates that were then limewashed in imitation of stone. Many of these survive.

Inside, the double-height central chamber, lit by upper clerestory windows, once had a fine vaulted ceiling and a shelf of Carrara marble running all around. There are still triple alcoves in the end walls. A font-like feature stood in the centre to keep the dairy produce cool. On two of the four sides, the 'cloisters' that surround this chamber have surviving beautiful rib vaulted ceilings made of lathe and plaster, the ribs finishing in clusters of oak leaves.

It took Georgian craft skills of the highest order to create such a building, and it will demand the employment of today's most skilled craftspeople to restore it.

“Designed to look like a tiny Italianate chapel...this was no ordinary dairy”

Retaining all we can of the original lime plasterwork will be a demanding task in itself, but still more skill will be required to set out the timber substructure to reinstate the ceiling in the main chamber. Then there will be the modelling of the replacement ribs in lime plaster. We do not yet know whether the ribs were run in situ or pre-cast and subsequently applied.

The missing oak leaf clusters, decorative corbels and bosses will be pre-cast from moulds by specialist conservators, then applied afterwards. The composition of the plaster used to create these in the first place will be very carefully analysed to ensure a good match.

We see no reason to replace the roof which was restored thirty years ago, but the flat roofs between the corner pyramidal roofs will be remade in copper because of the shallow pitch. Blacksmith-made finials will complete these pyramidal roofs.

We are confident that fixing the external slate cladding to the brickwork will be achievable using Wyatt's method, albeit with stainless steel, rather than rust-prone iron, fixings. We have made sure that the curved 'specials' needed for the arched window and door reveals can also be supplied, and Penrhyn slate is still readily available. Internal and external paint traces will be



Remains of vaulted plasterwork in one of the cloisters



Once an eyecatcher from the main house, today the Dairy stands stripped bare of its exterior slate cladding and with its windows boarded up

analysed, and door and window frames made following survivals of the originals.

Since the Dairy was reroofed in the 1980s and cleared of harmful encroaching vegetation, it has stood empty, bare and decaying. Remarkably, James Wyatt's original drawings for the Dairy survive, so we have everything needed to accomplish a wholehearted restoration of this utterly charming little building – except the funds.

In October, we launched an appeal for £954,000 to save Cobham Dairy. Our corporate partner, Ecclesiastical Insurance, who specialise in insuring historic buildings, have pledged £200,000 if we can match this sum from our own supporters by 31st March 2017. Thanks to generous early supporters, including three new Guardians, we are over halfway to this target having already raised £112,000. We now need just £88,000 to secure the full value of the pledge, so please help now if you can. Your donation will be worth double its value to saving Cobham Dairy.

Once restored, Cobham Dairy will join Landmark's collection of exceptional buildings. A video on our website (www.landmarktrust.org.uk/cobham) shows Director Anna Keay introducing our Ambassador George Clarke to this captivating building. Please help us save it forever by making a donation today, online, by post or by phone.

Patrons

The Landmark Patrons are a group of enthusiastic supporters who enjoy a close connection to Landmark and our buildings. Last year they visited Cobham Dairy with Director Anna Keay and Conservation Manager Alastair Dick-Cleland. There Anna gave an introduction to the history of Cobham Hall and the families who have inhabited it over the centuries. Afterwards, Alastair took the Patrons on a guided tour through the Dairy's fragile cloisters and outlined our plans to rescue this important building.

The Director's Lunch - an annual event in the Patrons varied events calendar - was served in Cobham Hall's Clifton Room, once used as a dining room by the Earl of Darnley. From here the group enjoyed views across the Humphry Repton landscape to the Dairy at the far end of the pleasure grounds. Over lunch, Anna updated Patrons on our broader activities and priorities.

In addition to these special events, our Patrons receive priority booking for Landmark holidays, bespoke updates on our work and complimentary Handbooks and calendars. If you are interested in becoming a Landmark Patron, please see the Support Us page on our website, or contact Theresa Jones on 01628 512140 or tjones@landmarktrust.org.uk.

Improving our buildings

We appreciate all the comments you take time to send in following your Landmark stays. Here are some of the improvements we've made in response to your feedback.

Better lighting in Landmarks

One of the points we often hear is that the lighting levels in our buildings could be better. To remedy this, the furnishings team has embarked on a nationwide programme of lighting improvements. Our furnishings team are making their way around the regions to change the vast majority of old bulbs to LED alternatives. LED technology has come on leaps and bounds in recent years, as has the availability of different bulb types. They use significantly less electricity - typically a 4W LED bulb produces a light output equivalent to a 60W

tungsten bulb - and they last much longer too - around 20,000 hours versus 2,000 hours. The shift means that our Housekeepers will spend less time up ladders changing bulbs.

We are taking the opportunity to introduce paler lampshades, check the lighting levels in every room and add lamps where needed and possible. It will take us a bit of time to get round every one of our 198 Landmarks but we have already tackled the lighting in over half of our buildings. Let us know what you think.

Energy-efficient LED bulbs, paler lampshades and new panel heaters at Appleton Water Tower, Norfolk



The medieval hall
now at the heart of
New Inn, Suffolk.



Completion of New Inn

We carry out routine maintenance continuously across our buildings from Penzance to Caithness based on your feedback, our maintenance surveys, and points flagged by Housekeepers. Each year we identify specific Landmarks that need a more thorough makeover. Beamsley Hospital and Appleton Water Tower have been revamped, and at New Inn we have combined two previous Landmarks, the High and Low Ends. We turned the rather under-used medieval hall into the heart of New Inn as it was originally intended, so it is now the sitting and dining room of a larger Landmark for eight. The final phase of this overhaul was completed this autumn and concentrated on the former High End, with the addition of a new bathroom next to the solar chamber bedroom upstairs and a new shower room on the ground floor to replace the existing bathroom. Next to the ground-floor twin bedroom, this provides a more accessible arrangement for Landmarkers.



Craftsman Marcin Sobczak making the new kitchen for Old Place of Monreith.

Warmer buildings

Cold winters often bring comments about the temperature of our buildings. Old storage heaters are being replaced with electric panel heaters with positive results in several properties including Luttrell's Tower, the Pineapple, Shute Gatehouse and Freston Tower. The new system allows each room to be thermostatically controlled around the clock. Unlike the existing storage heaters, this will provide heat when it is most needed. The Mackintosh Building and Alton Station have new gas central heating, and Peake's House has larger radiators and undergone draught proofing.

Progress in Scotland

Meanwhile, in Scotland we have made significant changes to Castle of Park and Old Place of Monreith. At Castle of Park, we have upgraded the kitchen, redecorated the external joinery, created a new walk-in shower on the second floor and improved the water pressure. At Old Place of Monreith, showers have been added in both bathrooms and a new kitchen fitted. The work to both properties was done by local contractors 3B Construction and their talented joiner, Marcin Sobczak, who worked on both kitchens. This is just the first phase of work, and next year we will tackle the exterior of both buildings, which involves improving rainwater drainage and cleaning the render.

Full steam ahead at Coed y Bleiddiau

Thanks to many supporters' generosity, including two valuable legacy gifts, we met our appeal for Coed y Bleiddiau, the little railway superintendent's cottage on the Ffestinog Railway, in double quick time. The Development team's famous 'chuffing pen' no longer resounds on the upper floor at Shottesbrooke as it did whenever a three-figure donation was received (it has been replaced by a cowbell for Cobham Dairy!)

Work is already well underway at Coed y Bleiddiau, built of local granite and slate in 1864 just as the railway line was forging through from Blaenau to Porthmadog. Our contractor, Mark Roberts, set up site in October, important timing as bulky materials can only be delivered by train, and sections of the railway line are to be severed this winter for vital repairs. The craftsmen, meanwhile, park nearby and walk up through the woods and over the railway track to get to site.

A single lesser horseshoe bat was spotted roosting in the roof space of the cottage earlier in the year, which meant obtaining a European Protected Species licence before any opening up or adaptation of the roof could take place. Happily, the bat vacated the site for the winter, and with the licence in hand we have created a suitable roost in the roof void with its own external entrance, now quite separate from the Landmarkers. Luckily, a generous supporter enabled us to re-roof the cottage two years ago so the bat issues have not affected the wider works.

Our gentle restoration will make the cottage into a Landmark for four; with sitting room, kitchen, bedroom and bathroom on the ground floor, and a further twin room upstairs. Completely new plaster ceilings are needed for the ground floor rooms, although most of the first



Thanks to our supporters, work is well underway to rescue this little, yet significant, cottage

*“Bulky materials can only
be delivered by train”*

floor ceilings are repairable, as are the lime plastered walls. The carpenters are repairing surviving sash windows and doors, and replacing rotten floorboards. We hope Coed y Bleiddiau will welcome its first guests in spring 2018.



Landmark Raffle

The Spring Raffle 2017 opens in late February and will close in May, with the proceeds supporting projects like Cobham Dairy. Enter for your chance to win £5,000 of Landmark holidays. Keep an eye on our website for details. www.landmarktrust.co.uk/raffle

Coloured glass at Prospect Tower, Kent

On site at Llwyn Celyn

The site at Llwyn Celyn, a £4.2 million Heritage Lottery Fund supported project to rescue a 15th-century hall house in the Llanthony Valley in Monmouthshire, has been a hive of activity. Contractors I. J. Preece have stoically worked around the seemingly endless presence of bats in the main house, using the time to introduce service trenches, to conserve the Cider House and turn it into a bedroom and bathroom and to secure the unstable south wall of the Threshing Barn. The Cider House and Cow Shed have been completely re-roofed (including returning the Cow Shed to a double pitch), with salvaged stone tiles augmented by others newly cut in the next valley. Laid in beautiful diminishing courses, it is clear that this ancient craft is alive and well in the Black Mountains.

The main house, now completely enclosed in secure scaffolding, has been stabilised using Cintec anchors drilled into the walls, some of them metres long. The specialist subcontractors got through numerous diamond drill tips as they drilled through the hard local stone. Structural engineer Tom Hill of Mann Williams played an invaluable role through these works.

The farmhouse has also been repointed externally, and it was while working on this that the exciting discovery was made of a window in the south gable. Ironically, our 'artist's impression' of what Llwyn Celyn looked like originally included a window in almost the same position, but the real one was completely invisible externally behind later smeared 'butter' pointing, and internally beneath plaster in one of the most bat-sensitive areas. The window was carefully made with beautiful splayed and plastered reveals in the stone work, and may well be primary. Our investigations continue.

Meanwhile, Llwyn Celyn has also been bustling with engagement activities. Our Heritage Lottery Fund grant enabled us to deliver two separate weeks of volunteer and training activity, study days and school visits, all under our banner of 'Heritage at Work.' A huge amount was accomplished, thanks to the enthusiasm of the volunteers and the experts who led the activities. John Barber supervised the rebuilding of a dry stone wall along an ancient trackway, whilst lime experts Ty Mawr instructed on lime and how to repair and repoint structural walls. Volunteers worked on both the Threshing Barn and



Volunteers rebuilding the dry stone wall under expert supervision

the Cow Shed, repointing, clearing a cobbled floor and lime washing.

A total of 35 volunteers from far and wide participated, including Young Heritage Apprentices from the Prince's Foundation who also benefitted from training with local conservation roofer Richard Jordan. In a varied calendar of activities, over 300 people enjoyed expert talks, artists workshops, and craft demonstrations as local friends and Landmark enthusiasts from further afield were welcomed to witness this evolving project.

And finally, in October we were again proud to host the annual Llanthony Valley & District Show Hedging and Walling Match, a community highlight in the year and one which has already made a major contribution to the overall presentation of the Llwyn Celyn site.

If you'd like to stay up-to-date with the project then email us at llwyncelyn@landmarktrust.org.uk

70 years of the Lundy Field Society



Fungi foragers during 'Discover Lundy' week

The Lundy Field Society (LFS) celebrated its 70th Anniversary with a bumper week of activities under the banner 'Discover Lundy'. Eighty of the Society's members sailed over to the island to host events that spanned moth trapping, history walks and talks, archaeology, pond dipping, bird ringing and fungi forays. St Helen's Church hosted a re-enactment of the 1926 Lundy Play 'Granite' and there was a Lundy Bake Off and gala dinner hosted in the Marisco Tavern.

The LFS was inaugurated in 1946 by Professor Leslie Harvey, a member of the Devon Bird Watching Society, and Martin Coles Harman, then the owner of Lundy and a keen ornithologist. Harman was keen to preserve Lundy's independence from any mainland authority, and so agreed to set up a Lundy Bird Watching Committee as long as Lundy's autonomy from the Devon Bird Watching Society could be preserved.

Once its headquarters had been established in the Old Light, membership grew to over 100 within a year and the first of many Wardens, Roland Barker, was appointed. Over the years the LFS's activities diversified and in 1969, after the management of the Island was taken on by The Landmark Trust, a Landmark-funded Warden was appointed and John (later Sir John) Smith became President.

Since then the Society has continued to carry out extensive research into Lundy's rich ecology, both above and below the waves. It has supported and advised on the creation of the Marine Nature Reserve, the No Take

Zone (where fishing and the removal of marine wildlife are prohibited by law), the Marine Conservation Zone and the Island's designation as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

Today, the LFS continues to support Lundy with research and grants towards the cost of the Warden and visiting students. Each year its volunteers assist with practical conservation work. It is an advocate of Lundy's wildlife and antiquities; making representation to national and local authorities on perceived threats to the Island's interests. The Society has been instrumental in shaping Lundy's ethos and culture and we wish it a very happy 70th Anniversary. For more details visit <http://www.lundy.org.uk/lfs>

Meet Antonella Codogno, Custodian of Villa de Vescovi, Italy

I was born and live in Padua, where I read classical studies and cultivated my love of art history. By chance in 2011 I discovered the Villa dei Vescovi, a precious gem of the Italian Renaissance, and it was love at first sight! My husband, Franco and I have the privilege of living here and welcoming visitors of all ages and from all over the world to the Villa and the two Landmark apartments within it, the Mansarda del Frutteto and Mansarda del Vigneto. I take great delight in seeing everyone's amazement at the beauty of the villa and gain deep satisfaction from the knowledge that each person leaves it with memories of a place so unique for its art and nature.



Antonella on the villa's loggia

Events

Summer Exhibition

In a new initiative, we will host an exhibition called 'Inspiring Landmarks' between 29 June and 4 July 2017 in a gallery space in Spitalfields. Three diverse professional artists will exhibit works directly inspired by Landmark's buildings, and we are planning an exciting programme of evening talks and events alongside. To learn more, make sure you have signed up to receive our monthly emails.

2018 bookings

On 11 March we open bookings for the second half of 2018 at Astley Castle, Bush Cottage, Belmont, China Tower, Clavell Tower, Fox Hall, the Grange, Kingswear Castle, Luttrell's Tower and Martello Tower. Members of the Patrons and Friends schemes obtain booking privileges and can book from 28 February and 4 March respectively.

GRIP stays at Saddell

LAND was an installation commissioned by Landmark from Antony Gormley to celebrate our 50th anniversary. We are thrilled to announce that GRIP, the work at Saddell Bay, will stay if we can obtain permanent planning permission, thanks to the huge generosity of an anonymous donor. Thoughtfully gazing across to Arran, this work has captured the hearts and imagination of the thousands who have seen it. We are so pleased it can remain.

Open Days

Please always check our website before you visit an Open Day as occasionally we do make changes to dates and times. We may also add new Open Days and activities as well as enriching some with our music theme for 2017.

Villa Saraceno, Italy, Sat 25 - Sun 26 March
Villa dei Vescovi, Italy, Sat 25 - Sun 26 March
Morpeth Castle, Northumberland, Sat 22 - Sun 23 April
Gothic Temple, Buckinghamshire, Sun 23 April
Cawsey House, Devon, Sat 6 - Sun 7 May
Crownhill Fort, Devon, Sat 6 - Sun 7 May
Dolbelydr, Denbighshire, Fri 12 - Mon 15 May
The Grange, Kent, Fri 12 - Mon 15 May
Wilmington Priory, East Sussex, Fri 19 - Mon 22 May
Queen Anne's Summerhouse, Bedfordshire, Sat 27 - Mon 29 May
Old Campden House, Gloucestershire, Sat 17 - Sun 18 June
Astley Castle, Warwickshire, Fri 23 - Mon 26 June
Beckford's Tower, Somerset, Sat 8 - Sun 9 July
Goddards, Surrey, Sat 22 - Sun 23 July
Culloden Tower, Yorkshire, Sat 12 - Sun 13 August
Auchinleck, Ayrshire *, Sun 3 September
Astley Castle, Warwickshire **, Fri 8 - Tues 12 September
The Grange, Kent **, Fri 8 - Tues 12 September
St Edward's Presbytery, Kent **, Fri 8 - Tues 12 September
Wilmington Priory, East Sussex **, Fri 8 - Tues 12 September
Queen Anne's Summerhouse, Bedfordshire **, Fri 8 - Sun 10 September
Belmont, Dorset **, Sat 9 - Sun 10 September
Clavell Tower, Dorset **, Sat 9 - Sun 10 September
Gothic Temple, Buckinghamshire **, Sat 9 - Sun 10 September
Peake's House, Essex **, Sat 9 - Sun 10 September
The Ruin, North Yorkshire, Sat 9 - Sun 10 September
The White House, Shropshire, Sat 9 - Sun 10 September
The Banqueting House, Northumberland **, Sat 9 - Sun 10 September
Sackville House, West Sussex **, Sat 9 - Sun 10 September
Dolbelydr, Denbighshire ***, Fri 15 - Tues 19 September
North Street, Derbyshire, Sat 28 - Sun 29 October
Woodspring Priory, Somerset, Sat 2 - Sun 3 December

* Scottish Open Doors ** Heritage Open Days *** Welsh Open Doors



GRIP gazing out to sea at Saddell Bay



The view of the Dingle from The Birdhouse, Shropshire.

The Landmark Trust

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Charity registered in England & Wales 243312 and Scotland SC039205