

COUNTRY LIFE®

MARCH 28, 2018

EVERY WEEK

Sublime spring gardens

Why every gardener longs
for a glasshouse

49 pages of international property

Chocks away! 100 years of the RAF

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Kent

An impressive 8,723 sq ft country house in need of modernisation

Kemsing, Sevenoaks 4 miles, London 23 miles

Occupying a lovely edge of village position, commanding far reaching views to the east, south and west. 5 reception rooms, 10 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, ample ancillary accommodation, garaging for 5 cars, further outbuildings, tennis court in need of refurbishment, extensive gardens and grounds. About 4.91 acres.

Offers in excess of £2,000,000

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 **OnTheMarket.com**



CAMBRIDGESHIRE / SUFFOLK BORDER

An impressive early Victorian country house set in beautifully maintained grounds extending to almost 7 acres with commanding countryside views, stables, paddocks and formal gardens.

- 5,277 sq ft of versatile accommodation • 4 reception rooms • 6 bedrooms
- 3 bathrooms • Driveway & garaging • Office • Range of outbuildings
- Outdoor heated swimming pool • Hard tennis court • Pond & formal gardens
- Stable block with 2 stables & stores • 2 paddocks • In all nearly 7 acres

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Gloucestershire

Grade II listed country property situated in a highly desirable part of the Cotswolds

Cirencester 6 miles, Kemble station 11 miles, Cheltenham 14 miles

Cotswold stone house with 2 separate cottages surrounded by immaculate formal gardens. 3 bedroom main house, 2 separate 1 bedroom cottages, impressive Tythe barn, stone stables, all weather arena and paddock. About 11 acres.

Guide price: £1,300,000

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**OnTheMarket.com**



Beautifully restored historical country estate

WYCLIFFE, COUNTY DURHAM

Barnard Castle: 5 miles, Scotch Corner: 10 miles, Darlington: 14 miles, Newcastle International Airport: 52 miles

Grade II * modernised, classic country house. Elegant reception rooms, including hall, drawing room, dining room, library, family kitchen, master bedroom suite, 11 further bedrooms, 11 bathrooms and 5 cottages. Exceptional gardens & grazing.

About 85 acres | Guide £6 million



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Gloucestershire, Lowerdean



An enchanting listed family house in the heart of the Cotswolds

Northleach: 2 miles | Burford: 10 miles | Cirencester: 12 miles | Cheltenham: 13 miles

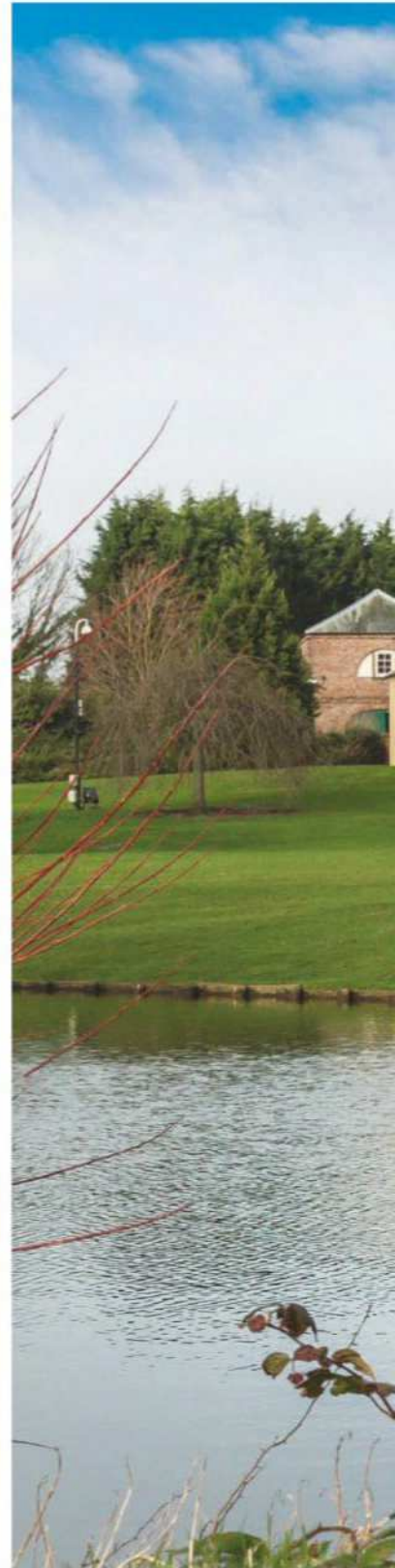
Reception hall | Drawing room | Dining room | Study | Kitchen/breakfast room | Utility room | Cellar | 6 Bedrooms
Dressing room | 4 Bathrooms | Period stable block with garaging and stables | Tennis court | Gardens | Paddock

About 2.7 acres



Luke Morgan
Country Department | 020 3642 4591

Sam Trounson
Cirencester Office | 01285 898 036



In Yorkshire's golden triangle

BILTON IN AINSTY, NORTH YORKSHIRE

A1-Wetherby: 4.5 miles, York: 9 miles, Harrogate: 14 miles, Leeds: 18 miles

Beautifully situated Georgian country house in prime location, 7 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, flat, offices, traditional stables, gate house, lodge house, walled garden, lake, parkland and cricket pitch.

About 93 acres | Guide £6.5 million



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Manor house deep in Dorset countryside

NETHERBURY, BRIDPORT, DORSET

Beaminster: 2.5 miles, Bridport: 4 miles, Crewkerne: 10 miles, Sherborne: 19 miles (London Waterloo from 138 minutes)

Lot 1: Grade II* listed manor house. 5 reception rooms, kitchen, 8 bedrooms, 7 bathrooms, stable block, garaging, further outbuildings, formal gardens and terraces, courtyard, swimming pool, lake, mixed woodland, parkland, pasture, 3 cottages, in all about 33.2 acres.

Lot 2: 43.4 acres, Lot 3: 6.1 acres, Lot 4: Slape Lodge and 0.28 acres. Cottages: EPCs = E-G

About 83 acres | Lot 1: Guide £5.5 million



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Exceptional site for new country house

HIGHMOOR, HENLEY-ON-THAMES

Henley-on-Thames: 5 miles, Reading: 10 miles, London Heathrow Airport: 15.5 miles, Central London: 43 miles

Proposed house: planning permission for 20,000 sq ft house (not as shown), open-plan kitchen/breakfast room, 4 reception rooms, additional entertainment space in the basement, 4 bedrooms with dressing room and en suite bathrooms, 3 further bedrooms on the second floor. Proposed ancillary/outbuildings and grounds, indoor pool & spa, 4 bay garage, tennis court. EPC = F + E

About 41 acres | Guide £4.75 million



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Outstanding superbly appointed home

LOUDWATER, HERTFORDSHIRE

M25 (Junction 18): 1.74 miles, Rickmansworth train station:
2.01 miles (London Baker Street from 31 minutes)

Versatile accommodation arranged over 3 floors, 4 reception rooms,
kitchen/breakfast room with orangery, 6 bedrooms, 5 bath/shower
rooms, games/cinema room, double garage, mature gardens.

EPC = C

About 0.7 acres | Guide £2.65 million

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Unique property in stunning grounds

ASCOT, BERKSHIRE

Ascot Train Station: 1.9 miles (London Waterloo from 50 minutes),
Heathrow Airport: 11.2 miles

Set in a private and well-located road in South Ascot. Drawing room, dining room, kitchen/breakfast room, family room, 5 bedrooms, study, games room, cinema, summerhouse, triple garage, private gated entrance, beautifully landscaped grounds. EPC = C

Guide £2.75 million

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Superbly situated watermill

IXWORTH, SUFFOLK

Bury St Edmunds: 9 miles, Stowmarket: 15 miles (London Liverpool Street from 85 minutes)

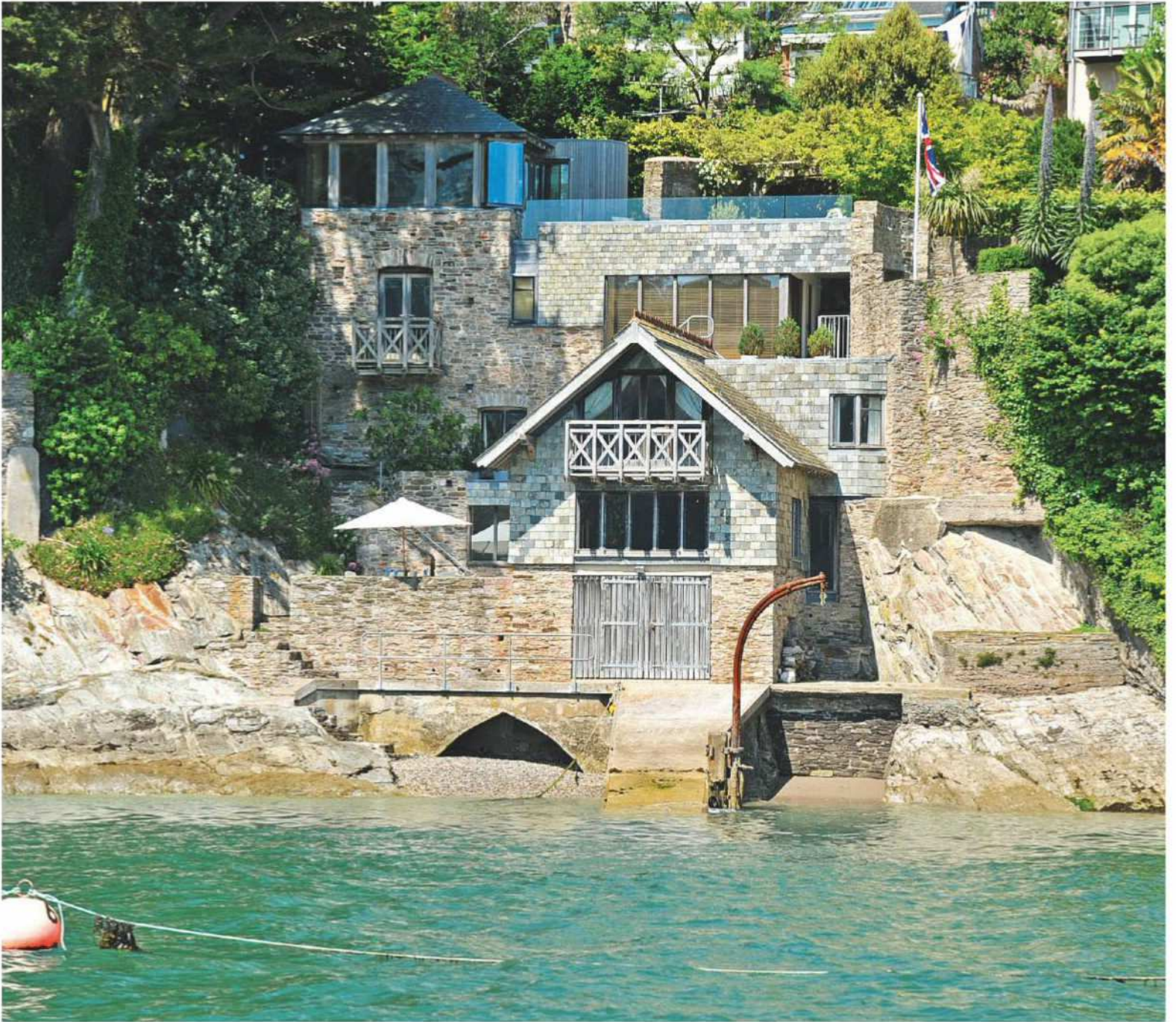
3 reception rooms, kitchen/breakfast room, 5 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, dressing room, attached listed former mill over 4 floors, outbuildings, enchanting grounds with walled garden, informal gardens, mill pond with island and mill race.

About 3 acres | Guide £975,000

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Gem on the Dart

KINGSWEAR, DEVON

Totnes: 12 miles (London Paddington from 180 minutes)

A beautifully designed former boathouse with superb open-plan living and entertaining spaces. 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, private level gardens, boat store, slipway, running mooring and detached garage with planning consent for studio flat. EPC = D

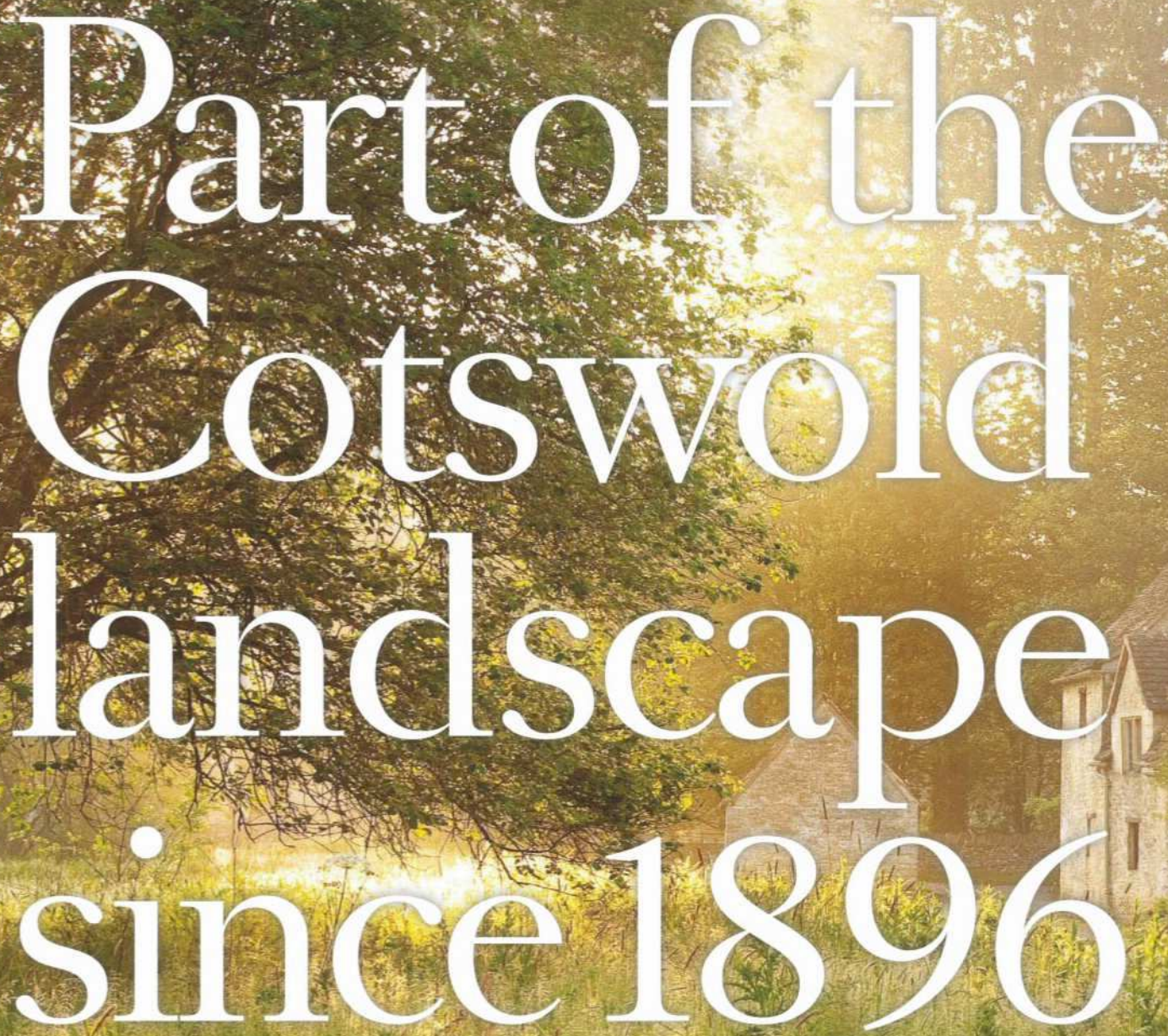
Guide £2.5 million



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Cirencester

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Stratford-upon-Avon

Cheltenham

Bath



Near Seville, Spain
Guide price: €3,500,000



Burgau, Algarve, Portugal
Guide price: €995,000



St James, Barbados
Guide price: US \$12,000,000



Chexbres, Switzerland
CHF 950,000



Scansano, Italy
Guide price: €2,950,000

A WORLD OF PROPERTY



New York, USA
Guide price: \$4,495,000



Sandy Lane, Barbados
Guide price: US \$5,750,000



Monaco
Price on application



Grasse, France
Guide price: €2,490,000



Berlin, Germany
Prices from: €498,000

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The Compton

LODGE ROAD, ST JOHN'S WOOD, NW8

Prices from £1.1 million

Estimated completion in Q1 2019

- 
Concierge
- 
Cycle Store
- 
Parking
- 
Gym
- 
Roof Terrace



The Avenue

THE AVENUE, QUEENS PARK, NW6

Prices from £800,000

Estimated completion in Q4 2018

- 
Concierge
- 
Cycle Store
- 
Parking
- 
Gym
- 
Courtyard



Kings Cross Quarter

PENTONVILLE ROAD, KING'S CROSS, N1

Prices from £1.413 million

Estimated completion in Q3 2018

- 
Concierge
- 
Cycle Store
- 
Gym
- 
Cinema
- 
Spa
- 
Swimming Pool



The Atelier

SINCLAIR ROAD, WEST KENSINGTON, W14

Prices £POA

Estimated completion in Q1 2019

- 
Concierge
- 
Cycle Store
- 
Parking
- 
Gym
- 
Cinema
- 
Courtyard



GRANT & Co

Ledbury, Herefordshire

Ledbury 8 miles, Malvern 10 miles, Hereford 13 miles

Impressive & well-presented country house; framed by glorious garden and grounds and tucked away in a peaceful and accessible location. In all 7 acres

Guide Price £1.475 Million

- 🏠 5 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, 3 reception rooms: (4,192 ft²), (EPC-E)
- 📧 In all 7 Acres: mature gardens, ornamental & wildlife pool, paddocks, Hi-spec garaging/versatile outbuildings
- 📍 Tranquil setting, excellent communications & schools

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COUNTRY LIFE | NEW BUILD & DEVELOPMENTS ISSUE
ON SALE 18TH APRIL 2018, BOOKING/COPY DEADLINE 4TH APRIL (MIDDAY)



For further information or to advertise your property in this special edition please speak to your estate agent or contact a member of the Country Life team:

📞 020 3148 4206
✉ lucy.hall@timeinc.com

The Country Life New Build & Development issue will go on sale 18th April. The issue will showcase beautiful new homes from exclusive apartments in stylish developments to refined country houses that are eco-friendly, providing an excellent advertising platform for this expanding market. With dedicated editorial features on New Builds and Developments, the issue will highlight the key benefits of buying a new build property, showcase the most sought after new build properties in both the city, town and country and provide an update on the new build market, perfect for anyone looking to purchase a beautiful new home.

Country Life Magazine is one of Britain's best known, and best loved magazines. It appeals to a discerning, stylish audience of high net worth individuals with one passion in common – property. Property is at the heart of their lives, it's a key part of their investment portfolio and for the majority of our readers it is the main reason why they buy Country Life. In line with property market Country Life reaches a real mix of inherited wealth and new money. Traditionally the historical Country Life readers included doctors, lawyers and landed gentry but we are now seeing more 'new money' city bankers, entrepreneurs, celebs etc. Together they make up an audience who appreciate the finer things in life and combine their investments with leisure interests.

Reaching over 400,000 affluent readers every week, we are the only premium weekly property glossy and carry more property pages than any other national magazine or newspaper. Country Life's readers have always sought the best things in life from food and antiques to the finest properties and estates to buy. Our readers love to travel, have exquisite taste and a large disposable income which allows them to live in the manner to which they are accustomed. In fact, Country Life readers are 62% AB and 24% A social class and have a higher total spend than the readers of the FT, Vogue, Harper's Bazaar, GQ and The Economist. Country Life is found where the wealth is and have more money to spend than anyone else – every week you would be reaching people who have £1BN to spend.

We will be distributing an extra 5,000 copies of the New Build & Development issue to exclusive locations such as key London postcodes, private members clubs, luxury Golf Clubs, 5* star hotels, London HQ's and corporate banks – the perfect target market for promoting luxury New Builds & Developments.

Country Life will be offering special rates for all New Build & Developments:
DPS: £4,000 Full page: £2,000 Half Page: £1,150
*all rates subject to VAT

COUNTRY LIFE INTERNATIONAL

SPRING 2018

Pure magic: the land of ice and fire



Paradise unchained:
own the five-star life

Boston and Japan's
booming markets

PLUS spa bathrooms
and Napa Valley



Sophisticated villa with stunning views

QUINTA DO LAGO, PORTUGAL

Ria Formosa nature reserve: 1 km, Quinta do Lago beach: 1 km,
Faro International Airport: 25 km

This grand villa has been built with materials of exceptional quality and finished with modern interiors, 5 bedroom suites, outdoor dining area, underfloor heating, heated swimming pool, golf and lake views. Plot 2,395m² Build: 825m². EPC = A

Guide €6.95 million

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Magnificent country house

POLLENSA, MALLORCA, SPAIN

Palma Airport: 60 km

Imposing Mallorcan country mansion in a stunning valley. 7 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, guest house, large swimming pool, beautiful mountain views in a prestigious location.

About 69 acres | Guide €7 million

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Historic Mallorcan country home

POLLENSA, MALLORCA, SPAIN

Pollensa Town Centre: 2 km, Palma Airport: 60 km

Immaculate country mansion in a prestigious area, renovated to the highest of standards, 8 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, swimming pool, olive mill and located next to golf course.

About 10 acres | Price on application

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Contemporary beachfront bliss

MARBELLA, SPAIN

Puerto Banús: 0.5 km, Malaga Airport: 58 km

One-of-a-kind beachfront mansion, built and decorated to the highest of specifications. 5 en suite bedrooms, staff quarters, panoramic sea views, pool, spa area with indoor pool, direct beach access. Built: 835 m² Terraces: 391 m² Plot: 1,860 m².

Guide €13.9 million

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Outstanding brand new contemporary villa

VALE DO LOBO, PORTUGAL

Faro International Airport: 25 km

This brand new contemporary villa is located in the heart of Vale do Lobo and is set over 3 floors. 4 bedroom suites, underfloor heating, heated infinity swimming pool and roof terrace.

Plot 1,629m² Build: 734m². EPC = A

Guide €5.5 million

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Stunning quality finca

POLLENSA, MALLORCA, SPAIN

Palma Airport: 60 km

Immaculate country house constructed to the highest of standards, 6 bedrooms, 6 bathrooms, guest house and heated pool, stunning garden and mountain views.

About 3.5 acres | Guide €3.695 million

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Historic Cape Karoo charm

PRINCE ALBERT, WESTERN CAPE, SOUTH AFRICA

Cape Town Int. Airport: 391km, George Airport: 163 km

19th century Cape Dutch holiday guesthouse in the heart of a charming Karoo village, fully restored, 9 luxurious suites, established gardens and 3 swimming pools.

About 1.2 acres | Guide ZAR 15,000,000

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Outstanding estate in exclusive location

POLLENSA, MALLORCA, SPAIN

Pollensa Town centre: 2 km, Palma Airport: 60 km

Impressive country residence with sea views. 5 bedrooms, 5 bathrooms, cloakroom, guest house, large swimming pool and extensive gardens in an exclusive location.

About 5.4 acres | Guide €5.5 million

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Soho Mews Condo

3 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, triple exposures and 853 square foot wraparound terrace. \$7.995M. Web 18181111.
Jared Seligman +1 212.396.3159



New in Prestigious Cobble Hill

Oversized windows, 3 outdoor spaces, New York City views.
4 bedrooms, 4 baths. \$5.495M. Web 17627039.
Jeffrey Stockwell +1 646.613.2615



Elegant Full Floor Four Bedroom

East 72nd Street. Renovated classic co-op residence with 10'3" ceilings,
2 wood burning fireplaces and striking prewar detail throughout. \$8.75M.
Web 18077155. Knight Meem +1 917.318.6242/Sim Meem +1 917.536.5220



Penthouse Living in Prime Tribeca

Triple mint 3 bedroom + den, 3.5 bath duplex with 2 terraces.
Full service Condo. \$6.995M. Web 18052111.
Bahar Tavakolian +1 917.297.7067/Alvina Chiu + 1 917.502.5024



Park Avenue, 74th St. 11 Room, Sunny High Floor

4,100 sqft, living room, 3 bedrooms+library+2 offices, eat-in-kitchen, staff + laundry, 4.5bths. \$13.2M. Web 17550401. Cornelia Zagat Eland +1 212.452.4384/Mark Blumenfeld +1 212.570.4014



Breathtaking River, City & Park Views

Mint Penthouse, full service Condo, steps from Carl Schurz Park.
Full floor 4 bedrooms, 6 baths. \$7.2M. Web 18093292. Laurie Diamond +1 212.585.4553/Melissa Ryan Kaiser +1 212.585.4554

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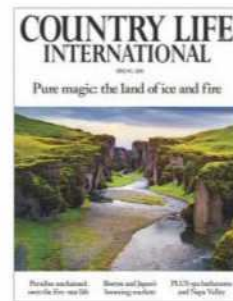
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Iceland's Fjadrargljúfur canyon in the summer
(Getty Images)

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Not even fire can conquer the wine country of California, reports Octavia Pollock

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Boutique hotelier Gordon Campbell Gray talks to Annunciata Elwes about the magic of solitude and adventure versus logic

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The sky's the limit down under

THE team of renowned architects and designers assembled to create Sydney Harbour's new show-stopping glass towers, One Circular Quay, are calling the development a 'legacy' opportunity that will set a new benchmark for the city and provide family heirlooms of years to come.

Rising to 59 storeys and commanding 'one of the world's most coveted views', taking in the Opera House, Harbour Bridge and beyond (*above*), the residential building will contain 190 of 'the most luxurious apartments ever offered in Sydney'. Adjacent will stand a 28-storey building, housing the new five-star Wanda Vista Hotel, and residents will be treated as VIP guests, with access to the pool, gym, spa, 24-hour concierge, private dining and everything else the hotel lifestyle provides. Boutique luxury retail and

public-art spaces are planned for the space in between the towers.

Occupying the site of the first European settlement in Australia and, today, the gateway to one of the world's most cosmopolitan cities, the development is a creation of the Wanda Group, which is currently expanding its international portfolio to include luxury mixed-use developments in cities such as London (One Nine Elms), Beverly Hills, Chicago and Istanbul, as well as the Jewel Residences on the Gold Coast.

Completion is planned for mid 2022 and sales launched late last year through CBRE. Two- to three-bedroom apartments cost from AUD\$5.5 million (£3.09 million); three-bedroom apartments from AUD\$10 million (£5.63 million). Contact 00 612 89 69 85 88 or visit www.onecircularquay.com for further information.

Spanish serenade

VALENCIA, the Mediterranean city that those in the know claim is every bit as exciting as Barcelona, but half as busy, has seen something of a property boom, according to high-end agents Lucas Fox (00 34 960 077 790).

The city where paella was invented showed an annual property-price increase of 11% at the end of 2017, with the number of homes sold in the province up 21%. Lucas Fox saw the volume of its sales and rentals soar by 86% and 59% respectively, 40% of which were to international buyers, mostly from France, the UK and America.

'The property recovery in Valencia has taken hold in the past two to three years,' comments Lucas Fox Valencia partner Juan Luis Herrero. 'Since summer 2014, the number of transactions and prices have been rising steadily and there is now a lot of movement in the market. This has contributed to greater interest from foreign buyers. Valencia Town Hall is granting licences for 1,500 new homes and the initial projects are selling well thanks to their competitive pricing and this will further spur on more projects.' This city's star is on the rise. Watch this space.



Take a bite

WITH the city of New York ranking top in Knight Frank's City Wealth Index 2018, it's clear that the Big Apple defies wider property-market dynamics. Last year, its market saw the largest annual average private investment and it remains a dominant centre for Ultra High Net Worth Individuals.

A case in point is 432 Park Avenue, which has achieved sales in excess of \$2 billion. This makes it not only the most successful building in New York, but also one of the most successful addresses in the world.

'These properties, frequently referred to as "trophy" properties, appear to be a new market category that do not follow the rules and dynamics of the overall market place, often due to their rarity of location, extraordinary views, the quality of their amenities and their unique interiors,' comments Susan de Franca, presi-

Getty



dent and CEO at Douglas Elliman Development Marketing.

The American property market is riding high and continues to maintain its status as a safe haven for foreign

investors, something that, according to Knight Frank, is expected to remain stable for quite some time. We look forward to our American issue later this year, out on August 15.

New York City has repeatedly defied the wider property-market dynamics



The proposed Ayia Napa Marina will have 190 apartments and 29 villas

Ayia Napa reborn

A PROJECT in Cyprus, the €250 million (£222.4 million) Ayia Napa Marina, is putting the region back on the map—and for all the right reasons. 'With global tourism numbers increasing by 14.6% in 2017, Cyprus and Ayia Napa Marina is set to be the hot ticket this year,' says Rod Taylor, head of international new developments at Savills.

The development, which will be complete in 2021, includes 190 apartments in two striking, twisting towers, 29 villas and a 600-berth full-service marina, as well as a spa and fitness areas.

'The iconic architecture and superyacht marina, coupled with a high-end commercial and retail offering, means that this project is set to be the newest destination of the elite visiting and making Cyprus their home,' adds Mr Taylor. 'Given the size and offering of this project, Ayia Napa is no longer the party capital in the area, but the home to the chic, sophisticated and serious international property investor.' From €795,000 to €7 million (£706,348 to £6.2 million) with Savills (020-7016 3740)

Making a splash

THE *Arches of Oman* (right), a striking new artwork by Cotswolds-based sculptor Giles Rayner, was unveiled late last year in Muscat. It was commissioned by the Sultan of Oman to celebrate the 47th year of his reign and the sixth anniversary of the Royal Opera House.

A thing of beauty that can withstand desert sandstorms

and the salty sea air that wafts from the Gulf of Oman, the artwork was constructed in England in the hardest known grade of stainless steel. At 40ft tall, the two 'tusks' stand on a stainless-steel plate to reflect the country's year-round sunshine, their apex replicates the arches of the Royal Opera House behind it, slim bands of water cascade from it, simulating the strings of a harp, and their undulations spell 'S' for Sultanate. The work is surrounded by lush landscaped gardens that have been specially created.

Water sculptures by Mr Rayner, who also works with copper and bronze, can be found in parks and gardens across the UK and beyond (www.gilesrayner.com).





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USA – New York City, New York

Spectacular and one-of-a-kind, designer 5 bedroom, 5.5 bath duplex atop the Baccarat. Features a glass and marble floating staircase, a 550 square feet loggia plus much more. Web#17786904. Contact: Dina Scheinman

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001 212 381 2319 dscheinman@halstead.com



USA – East Hampton, NY

Traditional 2.3 acre estate on Further Lane. 6,500 square feet with 5 bedrooms, 6 baths, heated pool, pool house and room for tennis. Co-Exclusive. Web#48082. Contact: David Zazula

US - \$18,995,000 HALSTEAD REAL ESTATE

001 631 771 5305 dzazula@halstead.com



USA – New York City, New York

A majestic residence like no other, this virtual mansion-in-the-sky affords unrivaled space privacy and luxury. Located in Tribeca's most important landmark buildings. Co-Exclusive. Web#17953362. Contact: Richard Orenstein

US – Price Upon Request HALSTEAD REAL ESTATE

001 212 381 4248 rorenstein@halstead.com



USA – New York City, New York

Sun-drenched, high floor 6 bedroom, 5.5 bath home features un-paralleled 360-degree views of Central Park to the East River. Luxury condominium with fitness center and pool. Co-Exclusive. Web#17601827. Contact: Karen & Frederick Wigdor

US \$17,900,000 HALSTEAD REAL ESTATE

001 212 381 3391 fwigdor@halstead.com



USA - New York City, New York

Corner Penthouse: 4,500 SF + a large landscaped wrap-around terrace. Views in all rooms. 4 bedrooms, 4.5 baths, WBFP, high ceilings. Price includes: additional 6-room apt. Web #17870148. Contact Louise Phillips Forbes.

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USA – New York City, New York

Four-story single family residence with a south facing garden, features parlor and ground floor entrances. 5 bedrooms, 5.5 baths. Perfect live/work setup. Web#17000068.

Contact: Barbara Wilson
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USA – New York City, New York

Rare corner 2 bedroom/convertible 3 bedroom. Sprawling and spectacular – nearly 1600 square feet with sweeping views of the Hudson river and cityscape. 24-hour doorman. Web#16587549. Contact: Jay K. Overbye

US \$3,995,000 HALSTEAD REAL ESTATE

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USA – Park Slope, Brooklyn, NY

Immaculate townhouse – brand new and fully gut-renovated with contemporary interior. 10 rooms, 5 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, garden, deck and cellar.

Web#17718856. Contact: Kimberly T. Hastie
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USA – New York City, NY

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Web#18054381. Contact: Elaine Tross
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How to live the dream

Imagine your perfect holiday house, but with five-star hotel service. Why would you own property any other way? **Annunciata Elwes** and **Liz Rowlinson** visit three of the world's finest resorts that are branching out into private residences



Where the elephant roamed

Beachfront Residences, Viceroy Sugar Beach Resort, St Lucia

IT will not come as a surprise to anyone who has spent even the briefest of spells in the tropical Arcadia that is Sugar Beach, on the Caribbean island of St Lucia, that this secluded, verdant, UNESCO World Heritage-listed spot, between two iconic (thankfully inactive) volcanoes, has been revered for millennia.

The Val des Pitons was sacred to the ancient Amerindians, who saw the two mighty peaks as embodiments of a god and a goddess that represented all humanity—the fertility of the flora and fauna, the glittering Caribbean and valleys and the power of the skies and the elements. Although these beliefs are far removed from the lives of the islanders 2,000 years later, the spirit of the land, still incomparably beautiful, lives on.

‘ Lord Glenconner lived on the plantation with a pet elephant ,

The exclusive resort, which is spread out over 100 acres of tropical forest on slopes facing the dazzling sea, now features an intriguing addition in the form of five new Beachfront Residences. The appeal is that owners can visit as often as they like (there are direct flights from the UK), benefiting from unparalleled Sugar Beach service—restaurants and bars, Rainforest Spa amid the trees, PADI dive centre, outings to botanical gardens, mud springs and waterfalls, yachting through the Grenadines with private chef in tow, chauffeurs etc, all of which your personal butler will arrange. In addition, owners can sweeten the bitter pill of going back home in the knowledge that, in their absence, the resort will take excellent care of their property and, if they so wish, arrange for its rental.

The five villas, called ‘the most refined beachfront residences in the world’, are designed by award-winning British architects Michaelis ➤



Boyd Associates, with landscape architecture by Veronica Shingleton-Smith, known as 'the Mother of Flowers'. The vision is for the glorious outdoors to blend seamlessly with the elegant, characterful interior—hence exposed rafters, Modernist palettes and floor-to-ceiling slide-away glass walls connecting with sizeable outdoor terraces (*left*). From there, there is private access to crescent-shaped Glenconner Beach, which has been specially created, with impeccably white imported sand to match that of the resort's neighbouring Jalousie Beach, and is named for the late Lord Glenconner, who famously lived on the plantation with a pet elephant.

The swimming pools are infinity-edged and some bedrooms have walls

that completely disappear, allowing one to lie in bed and gaze directly out to sea and an orange-to-purple sunset with a green flash (yes, it's real), followed by a starry sky. The custom-built Italian kitchens are equipped with Gaggenau appliances—your butler will stock up on whatever your heart desires in advance of your arrival.

At present, three of the five villas have sold and construction on the remaining two will begin when buyers are found. Turnkey and fully furnished, with at least five bedrooms (all en-suite and with dressing rooms), they are priced from \$8.75 million (£6.34 million). Visit www.sugarbeachresidences.com or telephone 00 1 758 456 8091 for further information. *AE*



↑ Best-kept secret

BASK Gili Meno, Indonesia

POSSIBLY one of the world's most remote luxury locations, BASK's new villas, on the tiny, unspoilt, car-free island of Gili Meno, a short helicopter ride from Lombok and Bali, have started to find a following among those searching for what Indonesia used to be.

Respect for the environment and local culture is at the core of the development, which includes 87 stylish new properties, designed by Bali-based, multi-award-winning British architect Gary Fell, whose celebrated theme is 'blurring the distinction bet-

ween architecture and landscape'. Once complete, they will form a contemporary spin on neighbouring fishing hamlets, combining a mid-century modern look with Balinese ethos and will be virtually surrounded by water, facing the Bali Sea and backed by a natural salt lake. What's more, Gili Meno is extraordinarily private—the island is less than a square mile in size, despite having the best beach in Indonesia (as voted on TripAdvisor), and the local population is only 500.

At its heart, BASK Gili Meno is a resort (set to open in 2019), offering tropical sanctuary, as well as a spa, restaurant, cocktail bars, beach club and an enormous 43m beachfront infinity pool. There is world-class diving, fishing and watersports and

the waters are home to an array of exotic species and rare turtles, as well as an intriguing underwater sculpture, *Nest*, from acclaimed Jason DeCaires Taylor. The scheme offers owners—David Hasselhoff is among the first buyers—30 days at their villa per annum, with initial guaranteed rental returns of 7.5% for the rest of the year.

Considering that luxury in the Gili Islands is scarce, and Indonesia boasts one of the world's fastest growing tourism industries, prices are remarkably reasonable—from \$200,000 (£145,000) for a studio and, up to \$1 million (£724,495) for a three-bedroom beachfront villa. Visit www.baskgilimeno.com for further information. *AE* ➤

Some enchanted evening

Marlon Brando's South Pacific retreat

WHEN Marlon Brando first spied the coconut-tree fringed white-sand beaches and vivid turquoise lagoon of the atoll of Tetiaroa, in French Polynesia—glimpsed from Tahiti while filming *Mutiny on the Bounty*—he knew it was the perfect hideaway and acquired it on a 99-year lease.

He retreated from the world for many years to his rustic thatched-roof cottages on Onetahi, one of the 12 coral islets around the lagoon, and, after his death in 2004, it was developed into an all-inclusive luxury hotel by The Pacific Beachcomber Group.

Even so, few had heard of the secluded eco-resort until Pippa Middleton honeymooned there last year. Now, it's possible to purchase a piece of the *A Streetcar Named Desire* star's South Pacific paradise. There are 21 Polynesian-style residences for sale at €6 million (£5.35 million), with access to the hotel's restaurants, spa, lagoon-view bar, tennis court and fitness centre.

Buyers of the 6,000sq ft villas, with three or four bedrooms, 56m of private beachfront, infinity pool and endless deck, are expected to be North American, French or Asian—the main tourism markets—and may rent out their homes through the hotel.

It's the 'accessible seclusion' that sets it apart, according to Stanley Rowland, who is overseeing sales. 'Tetiaroa is only 27 miles from all the modern conveniences of Tahiti, yet feels much more remote. Guests (who have included Leonardo DiCaprio) can stroll along the beach knowing they won't be bothered.'

Indeed, there's already been high interest from Los Angeles—there's a direct flight to Tahiti, from which Onetahi is 20 minutes by private jet. For European buyers, it's a little less accessible, however, for some, that's exactly the appeal.

For further information on the Tetiaroa Residences, email srowland@pbsc.pf, visit www.thebrando.com or telephone 00 689 40 86 51 53.

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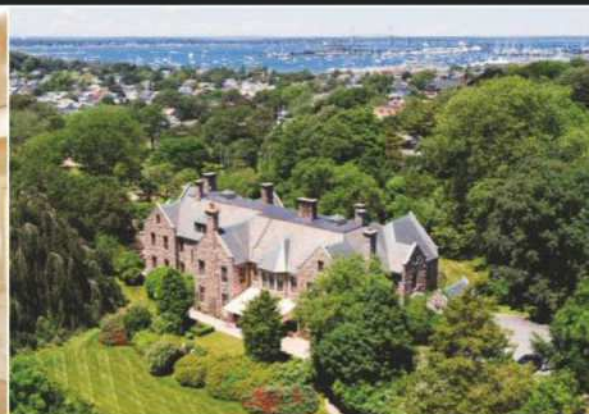
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Vine and dandy

Octavia Pollock investigates the inherent value of California wine country, which not even fire can conquer

FIRES to the left of us, fires to the right of us': not the Charge of the Light Brigade, but what Scott Lewis of V Wine Cellar in Yountville, northern California, saw when the conflagration of October 2017 broke out. For days, apocalyptic images filled the media, of smoking homes and helicopters dropping vivid-pink fire retardant on smouldering hillsides.

For many, the 21 fires that burned 245,000 acres destroyed everything they had and, in the case of 44 unfortunate souls, ended their lives, but the famous wine country was far from lost. Only 110 of 45,000 acres planted to grapes in Napa County were burnt, with just five of the area's 500-odd wineries suffering major damage.

'There's no point in dwelling on the possibility of fires,' says the pragmatic Edward Wallis of the exquisite Wallis Family Estate on Diamond Mountain, west of Calistoga. His vines were harvested after the fire, but, as his Cabernet Sauvignon grapes are thick-skinned, there is little fear of smoke taint. Elsewhere, 90% of the harvest was already in, so the 2017 vintage should be as good as ever.

Winemakers are testing rigorously and, as Patsy McGaughy of Napa Valley Vintners notes, 'no producer will release wines that aren't of the highest quality'.

What made these fires so devastating was lush vegetation from high rainfall the previous winter, which

A vine view: the heavily cultivated vineyards of the Napa valley (*right*) not only produce some of the world's finest wines, but are also largely wildfire retardant

died off over summer and gave the fires ample fuel to leap from bush to tree to house in 70mph winds. 'The integration between wild land and houses is attractive,' states firefighter Mark Ferreira who, together with colleagues active and retired, fought the flames all week, 'but there has to be a balance between safety and beauty. Trees must be trimmed, brush cut and log piles placed at a distance. At one point, we were simply rolling logs away from a house to create a break.'

By contrast, vineyards are mown and watered, making them far less vulnerable to wildfires than uncultivated hills.

Continually cited is the strength of the wine-making community. Volunteers were legion, arriving with trailers to save livestock, offering shelter—not least in wine caves—and distributing refreshments to exhausted firefighters. Dagmar Sullivan of BV winery, founded in 1900 by her great-grandparents, woke to find the flames advancing, but the alacrity of the firefighters

in cutting firebreaks stopped them a few hundred yards away. 'Cal Fire did a fantastic job,' she enthuses, 'and the fire roads they cut will make great riding trails!'

Mr Ferreira adds that, with the brush burnt, it will be a long time before similar scenes are seen. 'We have a strong, resilient community and we're recovering rapidly,' says Pacific Union realtor Hillary Ryan. 'The valley floor was preserved and most of the vistas of unspoiled expanses of vineyards and mountains remain intact.'

Driving into Napa Valley now, few reminders of the fires remain, bar the dark slopes of Atlas Peak to the east, where more than 50,000 acres burned. Head north along the famous Silverado Trail or past the busy tasting rooms of St Helena and all is as beguiling as when Georges de La Tour's wife, Fernande, saw the spot that would become BV and named it Beaulieu, meaning 'beautiful place'.

There's no reason for anyone else dreaming of their own vineyard to give up on this spectacular area of California. 🐦





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REF: 53267 €985,000

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REF: 84036 €858,000

impressive 4 bed family home with a luxury 2 bed barn conversion and small guest cottage. Located between Les Eyzies and Montignac in 10Ha of beautiful Perigord Noir countryside.



ALPES MARITIMES

REF: 78391 €975,000

Immaculate 3 bed property set on an exclusive, gated domaine with stunning sea view, pool, landscaped mediterranean garden and a garage. Located on the outskirts of Grasse.



HERAULT

REF: 50462 €895,000

Beautiful converted winery near Montpellier and Sète which offers many original features and is currently divided to provide a 4 bed house plus 3 a bed apartment.



VENDEE

REF: 81284 €795,000

Tastefully and carefully renovated Maison de Vigneronne offering 5 ensuite bedrooms and 2 apartments providing a business opportunity. There is a courtyard, pool and garage.



HAUTEVIENNE

REF: 61649 €795,000

Modern ensemble of 2 interconnected houses offering an indoor pool, large garages and cellar. Peaceful location, close to amenities and only 25kms to Limoges airport.



LOT

REF: 57579 €POA

Award winning family run business in proximity of Cahors. 21Ha of vineyards located on the "3ième terrasse" which produces the best appellation in the region, AOC and vin de table.



HAUTE SAVOIE

REF: 79719 €950,000

Large chalet in Morzine currently divided into two apartments - sunny balconies with panoramic mountain views and the possibility to construct another chalet on site.



GIRONDE

REF: 80009 €795,000

Stunning stone mill with 2 gîtes and a pool. Nestled in a rural country location with 3Ha of parkland, woodland and orchards. Walking distance to a bustling village.



PAS DE CALAIS

REF: 73944 €1,035,000

Exceptionally beautiful 19thC manor house with 6 en-suite bedrooms and set in over 2.7Ha with outbuildings and stables. An ideal property for family or commercial use.



HAUTE SAVOIE

REF: 71402 €850,000

Immaculate 4 bed mountain chalet set in a large sunny plot. The Morzine area is famous for being part of the Portes du Soleil ski domain with its 650kms of pistes.



EURE

REF: 81931 €742,000

Beautiful 5 bed / 4 bath property with lots of character set in a large garden with outbuildings. Located in a small picturesque country village just an hour from Paris.



DROME

REF: 79734 €1,090,000

Modern and bright 5 bedroom house with open-plan living, heated pool, full security system and automated garden sprinklers. Situated in the beautiful Drôme-Grignan area.



VAR

REF: 80028 €808,000

Superb architect-designed property with a lovely mediterranean garden, superb pool and high-end fixtures and fittings. Located close to the coast at Mandelieu and to Cannes.



DORDOGNE

REF: 56316 €1,995,000

Country estate of over 26Ha comprising a renovated manor house with tower, heated pool and a converted barn/guest house/gîte proposing flexible lodging for 15 people.



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REF: 77860 €1,260,000

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SARTHE

REF: 80058 €562,000

Charming village manor house with medieval origins, tastefully restored including many original features. Gatekeeper's cottage and beautiful gardens of over half a hectare.



ALPES MARITIMES

REF: 77372 €790,000

Stunning 5 bed Côte d'Azur stone bastide with pool, olive groves and sea views towards the Bay of Cannes. Within walking distance of the market town of St Cezaire sur Siagne.

In the pink

What's not to like about waterfalls, cherry blossom reflected in glittering skyscrapers and a booming property market?

Japan is in the limelight—and not just because of the Olympics, says Carla Passino

EARLIER this year, six million children flocked to polling stations across Japan. After pondering the merits of edgy superheroes over traditional fairy-tale characters, they cast their vote for the country's new Olympic mascots. Olympic fever isn't just gripping Japan—where initiatives range from the mascot vote to an ambitious bid to fashion medals out of recycled mobile phones—it's also spurring international buyers to invest in Japanese property. As Tetsuya Kaneco of Savills Japan succinctly puts it, 'the market is hot, but not over-heated'.

'Japan has once again become the focus for investors and visitors from all over the world, because of the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo and the 2019 Rugby World Cup,' says Sonny Saito of Japan Capital Realty, an affiliate of Christie's International Real Estate. Some investors, adds Yukiko Takano of List Sotheby's International Realty, have bought properties to have an Olympic base,

but, in the meantime, are taking advantage of excellent rental returns.

That's perhaps the real secret behind Japan's burgeoning appeal: beyond the Olympic frenzy, you can count on strong fundamentals. The robust rental market, which seems immune to shocks such as the global financial crisis, is obviously one of them, but Mr Kaneco also quotes the low cost of capital and a stable political climate as major attractions. Above all, 'the largest forces behind [Japan's] strong market are a solid economy and an acute workforce shortage'.

In November 2017, for example, a resale apartment spanning about 743sq ft in Tokyo cost an average of JPY53 million (about £343,000) and a new-build fetched JPY62 million (just over £400,000).

'The hottest market at the moment,' says Miss Takano, is central Tokyo,



a vast, vibrant area that combines fashionable shops, restaurants and skyscrapers with ancient temples, cherry-tree-studded gardens and the Imperial Palace. She also names Niseko Village, a ski, spa and golf resort at the foot of a snow-capped, dormant volcano on Hokkaido, Japan's northernmost prefecture, as a location to watch. 'Land prices have skyrocketed in the past five years. The quality of the powder snow is very high and it's a top choice for tourists.'

Two more hotspots are, according to Mr Saito, Karuizawa, an elegant mountain resort about two hours from Tokyo, where crystalline ponds, waterfalls and woods thick with birch and larch provide the perfect backdrop to summer walks and winter skiing, and Kyoto, Japan's former capital, with its serene gardens,

Buddhist temples and hundreds of cherry trees stretching blossom-laden branches over paths, rivers and canals.

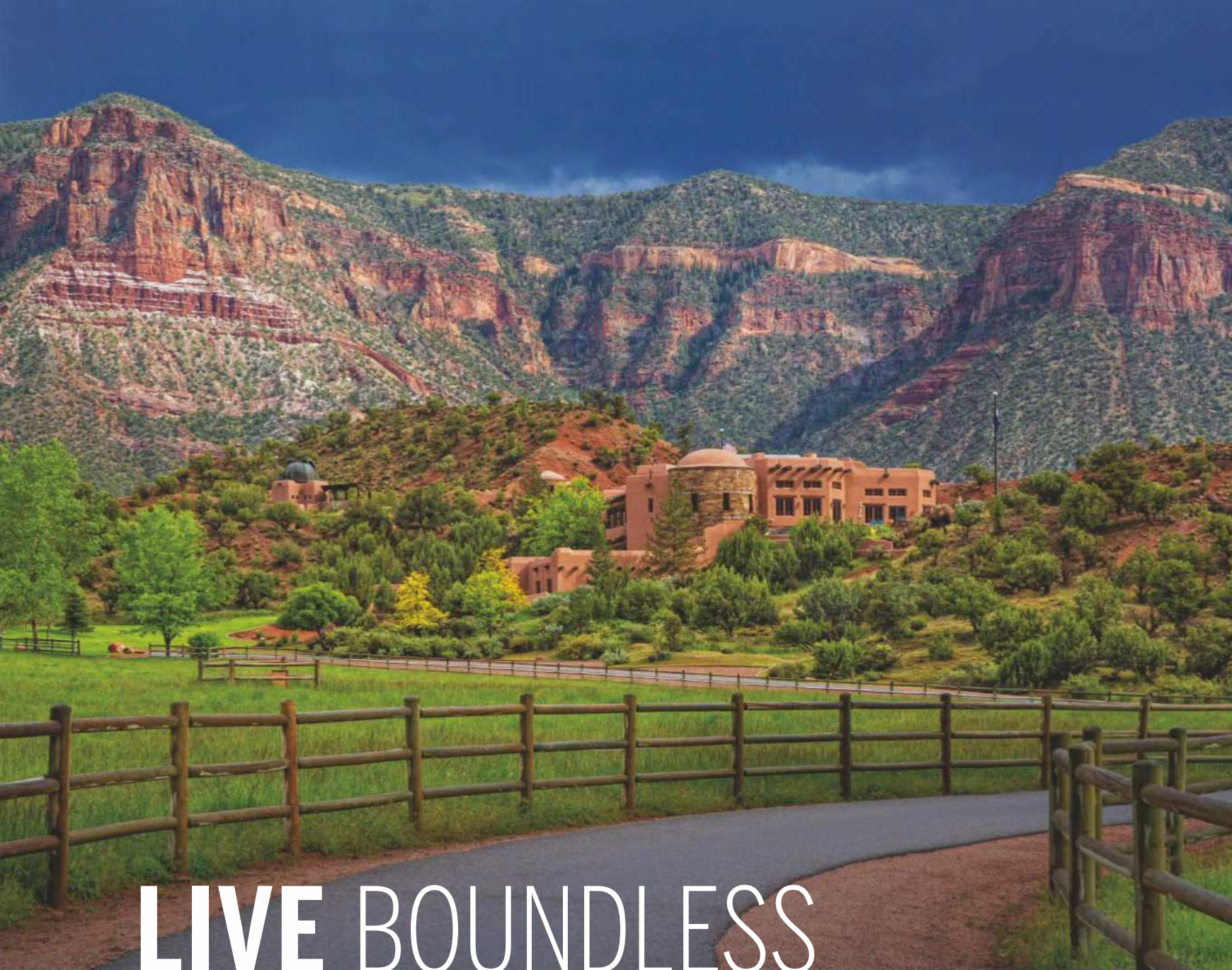
The launch of the Four Seasons Hotel Residences about 18 months ago has made Kyoto especially appealing to buyers looking for serviced apartments that can be easily let out for part of the year. '[The city] is booming,' says Mr Saito. 'As we get closer to 2020, Tokyo may see a little slowdown, but Kyoto will be still increasing in price well beyond 2020.'

An upbeat Miss Takano sees sales becoming even stronger, as Japan stands to benefit from the increasing

number of wealthy millennials and growing international interest in its extraordinary culture. It's a view that resonates with Mr Saito. 'Many of the affluent buyers looking for a Japanese garden in Kyoto or an architect-designed mountain home in Karuizawa are not doing so only for monetary reasons—they're doing it to have a piece of the Japanese spirit.'

Yoshio Tomii/Getty





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HARBOUR ISLAND, BAHAMAS Miss Lena's House. This elegant 3 BR 3 bath home is one of the most beautiful residences within Dunmore Town's historic village in Harbour Island. Luscious gardens and picturesque views. **WEB: 32306 US\$1,400,000.**
JAMES MALCOLM JAMES.MALCOLM@SIR.COM 242.376.9858



MAN-O-WAR CAY, BAHAMAS The Reach. Just north of the vibrant out island settlement, this 5 acre sea to sea enclave stretches from the brilliant waters of the Sea of Abaco, across the island to the deep blue Atlantic Ocean. 2 BR 2 baths in total. **WEB: 32035 US\$3,900,000.**
CHRISTOPHER ALBURY CHRISTOPHER.ALBURY@SIR.COM 242.359.6885



ALBANY, BAHAMAS W 18. Sophisticated and professionally decorated 3 storey 6,706 sf 4 BR 4/2 bath oceanview villa. Qualifies for Albany hotel program. Exclusive resort community with mega yacht marina, 18 hole championship golf, spa and other amenities. **WEB: 28211 US\$4,950,000.**
LANA RADEMAKER LANA.RADEMAKER@SIR.COM 242.457.0406



NASSAU, BAHAMAS 206 Bayroc, Cable Beach. Contemporary 2nd floor beachfront condominium offers 3 BR, 3.5 baths and 2,373 sf of living space. This gated community offers a private sandy beach, 3 pools and gym. Standby generator. **WEB: 31611 US\$1,585,000.**
MARK HUSSEY MARK.HUSSEY@SIR.COM 242.424.9193



ELEUTHERA, BAHAMAS Sayle Point. new 2 story 3 BR 3 bath 2,000 sf Bahamian home situated on a 1 acre prime waterfront location with inspiring sea views and sunsets at Paradise Cove, Rainbow Bay. **WEB: 32155 US\$1,750,000.**
JOAN BRAITHWAITE JOAN.BRAITHWAITE@SIR.COM 242.376.1288



NASSAU, BAHAMAS Casa Hibiscus, Islands at Old Fort. Canalfront 2,500 sf single level home with 3 BR and 4 baths. Top of the line custom kitchen, 60 foot dock and stand by generator. Exclusive waterfront community. Gated. **WEB: 32158 US\$3,250,000.**
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Boston boom

Eleanor Doughty explores the capital of Massachusetts, where the towers are reaching new heights and old-school elegance is still in style

BOSTON, the city long associated with traditional brownstones, is on the up. Last year, Deutsche Bank ranked it the top city in the USA for quality of life and, in the summer, tech services firm General Electric relocated its headquarters to the city. There's also an attention-grabbing new tower on the block: 61-storey One Dalton Street (www.onedalton.com).


Currently being built on a small parcel of land in the Back Bay area—the Mayfair of Boston—it will be finished later this year and comprise 160 ultra-luxury residences, each of which will be managed by the neighbouring five-star Four Seasons hotel.

'Boston is a conservative city and people don't demonstrate their wealth,' says Richard L. Friedman, president of One Dalton's developer Carpenter & Company. 'Unlike Miami or New York, it's not flashy. It's about elegance and understated money.' Most of his customers are Bostonians from the suburbs, 'people who want to move

into the city, for the restaurants and the shopping'.

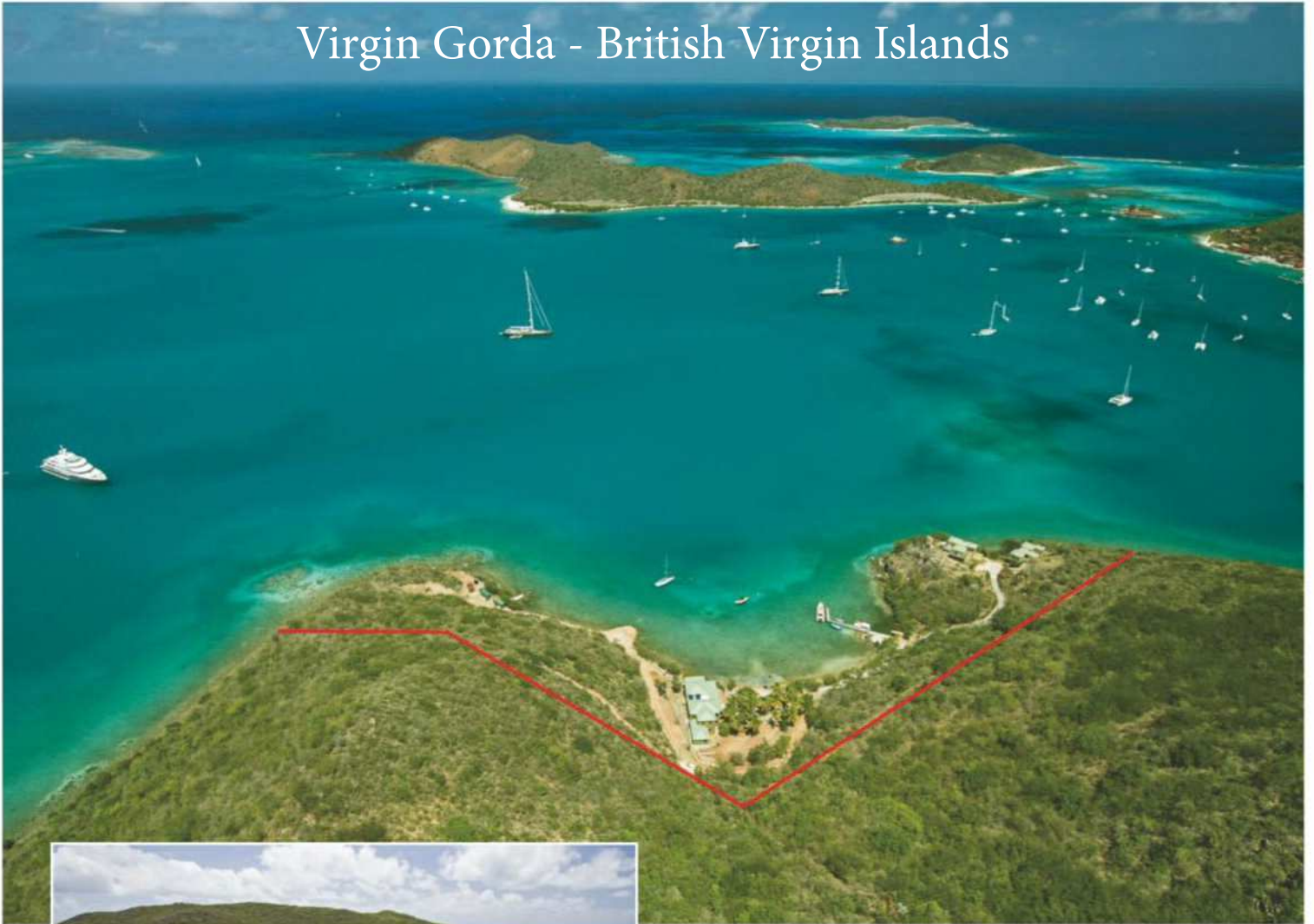
Another jaw-dropping new development, a new downtown high-rise, is the 60-storey Millennium Tower (www.millenniumtowerboston.com), with a built-in spa, gym and bar—one canny buyer recently snapped up 16 flats for \$15.6 million (£11.3 million).

However, it's not all shiny new skyscrapers. Families are still drawn to the city for its old-school style. In sought-after Beacon Hill, five-storey homes remain the most highly coveted. Indeed, the area's Louisburg Square, once recognised as the most expensive block in Boston—last year, a house was marketed through Otis & Ahearn (www.otisahearn.com) for \$14.95 million (£10.83 million)—is home to the American politician John Kerry.

Boston's time is now. Thanks to the extension of direct flights from Logan airport—to Tokyo, Istanbul and Dubai, in the past five years—and the election of new mayor Martin Walsh in 2014, the city is primed for its next act. 

Sean Paone/Shutterstock

Virgin Gorda - British Virgin Islands



This exceptional estate is situated on the island of Virgin Gorda in the British Virgin Islands. It is located in the North Sound, near to Necker Island, Eustatia and Moskito Island and next to the famous Costa Smeralda Yacht Club.

While Little Bay has the advantage of being connected to the mainland, it has the exclusivity and feel of a private island. The property has 7 acres, protected by thousands more undeveloped green-zone acres, a pristine beachfront and over a mile of coastline.

The plantation style house is brand new, with the latest of hurricane proofing. A guest complex is included on one of the three private hills.

The bay and two docks are among the most protected in all the islands.

Offered at 19,000,000 US dollars

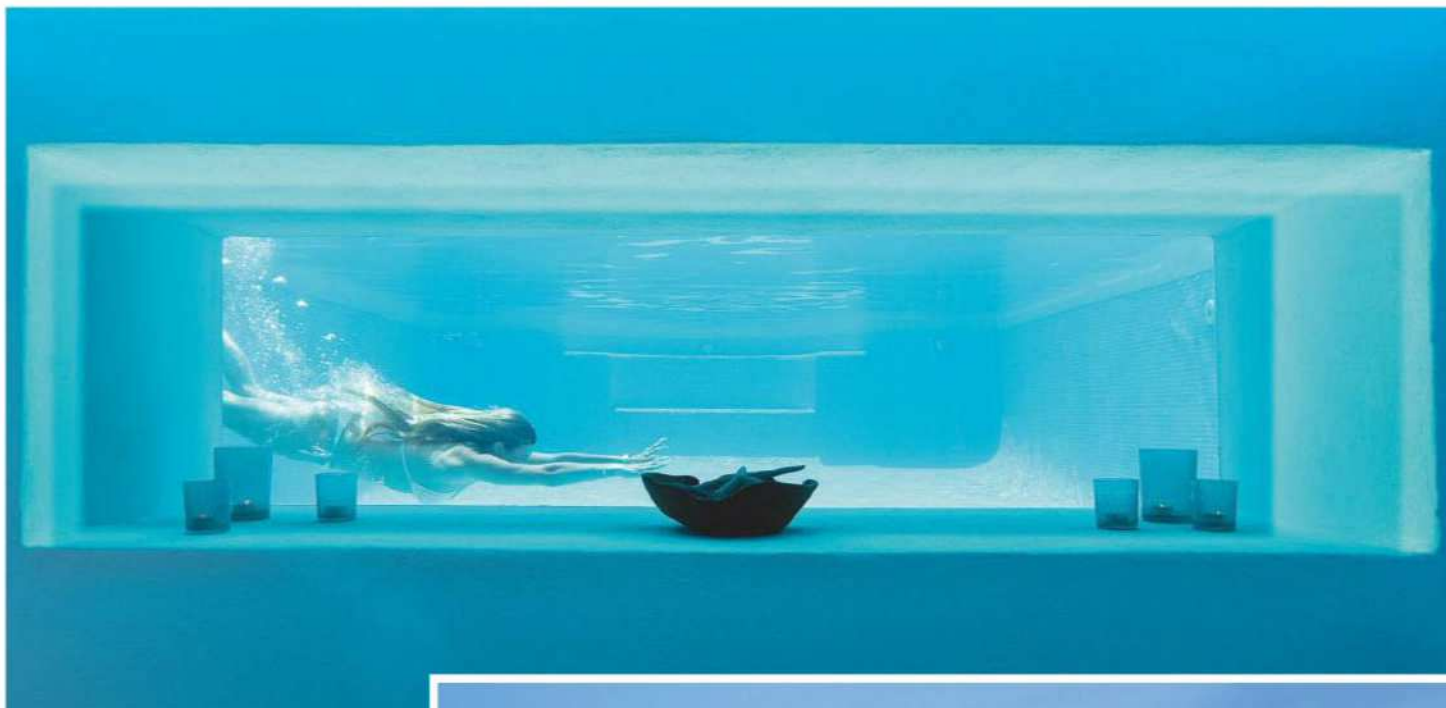


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Balearic bliss

Sunsets over the glittering Mediterranean from this newly renovated *finca* between Cala Conta and Cala Bassa, on Ibiza, are sublime, but, frankly, it'll be tricky to tear yourself away from the *hammam* bathroom, which has a spa bath, a treatment area and an underwater viewing gallery into the swimming pool (above). In calming, neutral shades of blue, beige and whitewash, the villa's interiors embody just the right kind of chic-but-rustic minimalism to keep you cool in summer and cosy by the open fire in winter. There are five bedrooms, all with en-suite bathrooms, and a separate one-bedroom guesthouse. With a wraparound plot, there's plenty of space for *alfresco* living, including a covered 'apero' seating area, large pool and panoramic terrace. €2.69m (£2.384m), Sotheby's International Realty (00 34 971 310 799)



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Annunciata Elwes plunges in



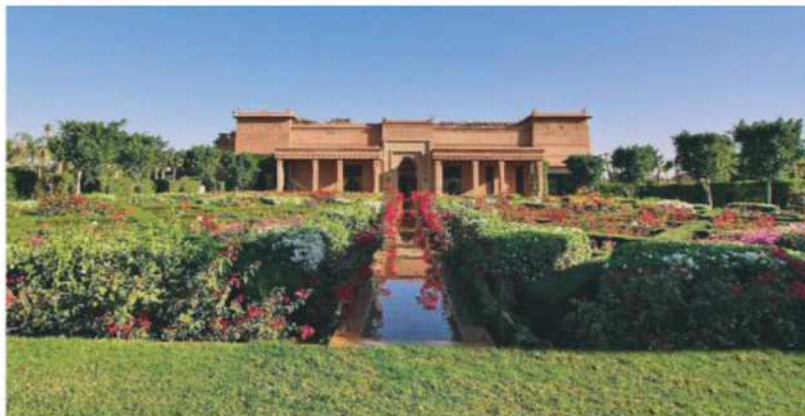
Shoop, shoop, splash

On a sunny spot right by the Jaillet ski slopes in Megève, France—and with ample views of them out of glorious floor-to-ceiling windows—this luxurious new chalet has six bedrooms, a spa, a home cinema, a garden, a terrace, balconies, Jacuzzis, a *hammam* and a pool from which to survey the day's tracks. There's also a separate staff bedroom and bathroom. €8.2m (£7.3m), Knight Frank (020-7861 1083) ➤



Let them eat cake

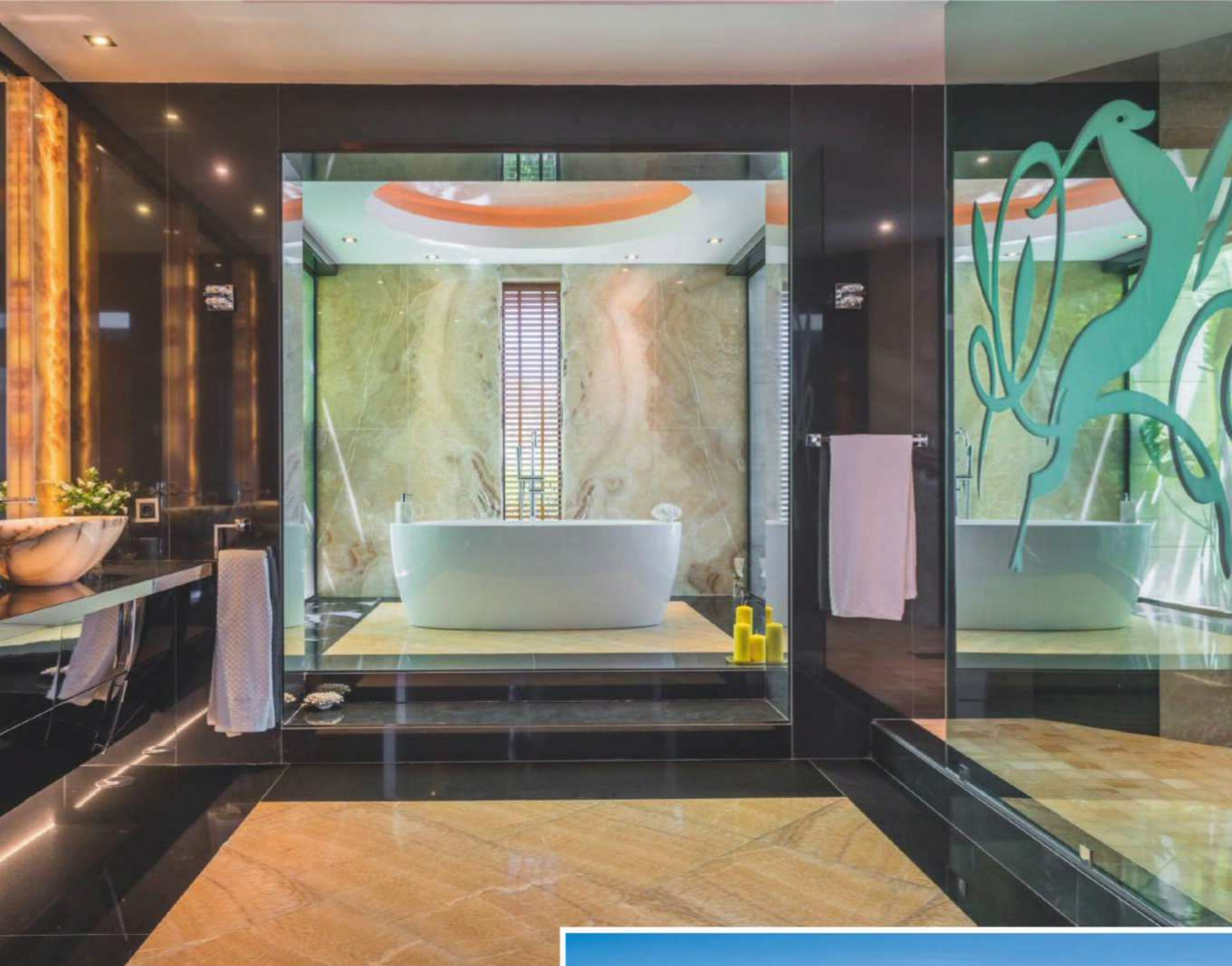
A country escape for a railroad magnate, 'praised by architectural enthusiasts as the American Versailles', say agents, the indomitable Darlington is only 25 miles from New York, in Mahwah, New Jersey, in 12 acres of grounds, framed by mountains. It covers 50,000sq ft of spectacularly lavish living space that, although modelled on a typical English castle, incorporates a number of different historical eras—Jay Gatsby springs to mind. The 58-room pad overlooks the Ramapo Valley and has just benefited from a seven-year restoration by a skilled team that includes the wood carvers who enhanced the Italian Parliament and the Big Apple's Ritz-Carlton and Waldorf-Astoria. Its extravagant features are too numerous to list, but among them is a 15ft-high mural, his-and-hers master-bedroom wing, a great hall with a 30ft-high ceiling, wine cellar, cigar room, beauty salon, theatre, eight-car garage, pool, tennis court and, of course, a luxury spa with lap pool (above), steam room and sauna, massage and exercise rooms. POA, Christie's International (00 1 877 745 5574)



A touch of the exotic

The jewel in the crown of the Palmeraie, an oasis of hundreds of thousands of palm, olive and fruit trees to the north of Marrakech, Palace Granada faces the Atlas Mountains and its design is inspired by the Alhambra of Granada. Four of its five bedrooms have two bathrooms each and a dressing room and further indulgence can be found in the spa, *hammam* and spectacular pillared swimming pool (right). There's also a tennis court, rose and vegetable gardens and numerous pretty pavilions in the grounds. POA, Kensington Luxury Properties (00 212 5 24 42 22 29)





Iberian elegance

With a bright-white and turquoise exterior that blends with the dazzling sky, this Marbella villa in La Quinta, Benahavis, right next to the Westin La Quinta Hotel, faces south and enjoys panoramic views over the sea and Sierra Blanca Mountains. There are eight bedrooms, a pool, a garden and terraces and the property comes with some striking outdoor sculpture and a fireplace in one of the sitting rooms. There's also a sauna and each of the villa's six luxurious bathrooms (*above*) is made from either marble, jade or onyx. €9.8m (£8.7m), Savills (00 34 952 863 750) 



→ Four-wheel compact carry-on, £495, Tumi (www.tumi.com)



← Les Vernis nail colours from the new Neapolis collection, £22 each, Chanel (020-7493 3836; www.chanel.com)

Don't leave without it

Hetty Chidwick picks stylish accessories for the international jet-setter



↑ Fantasy blue-topaz and diamond necklace, £2,250 (020-7730 3323; www.kiki.co.uk)



↑ Sea, Surf and Fun silk twill scarf, 90cm (35 1/2 in), £330, Hermès (020-7408 5300; www.hermes.com)



↑ Ella Tutti Fruity tassel loafers, £199, Pretty Ballerinas (020-7224 3225; www.prettyballerinas.co.uk)



↑ The Cruiser bag, £295, Eddie Harrop (07808 543366; www.eddieharrop.com)



↑ Bruton alligator travel wallet, £1,400, William & Son (020-7493 8385; www.williamandson.com)



← 1858 Geosphere dual-time-zone watch, about £4,577, Montblanc (020-7629 5884; www.montblanc.com)



↑ COCO sunglasses in Peacock Tortoise, £245, Alexis Amor (020-8940 9678; www.alexisamor.com)



↓ Holdall, £345, Brics (0845 8675149; www.caseluggage.com)



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Nestled at the end of a long track passing pretty patchwork fields, the Chateau (ISMH) suddenly appears and, upon arriving through heavy aged oak doors, you enter an entirely walled-in property. Within the courtyard space are white hydrangeas, iron-forged details and stone walls which frame a manicured lawn. Every detail has been tastefully and meticulously thought-through. The exteriors are austere, with monumental walls and beautiful proportions. There are turrets and towers. The main house has a stone stair dating to the late XIV century, the oldest architectural element within the enclosed compound. Further on, the main house offers stunning views south over a picturesque valley filled with trees and wildlife. Taste and refinement typify the splendid renovation (2007) featured in many international interior design magazines and European television programs. The architecture is a combination of Medieval and Renaissance craftsmanship together with the recent renovation; a gracious harmony. The estate boasts a profoundly sophisticated natural elegance and comfort. In addition to the main house (320m2) is the restored guest wing (100m2) with 3 independent guest suites, the fully equipped guest cottage (88m2) (in total 6 bedrooms en suite), a separate reception room of 113m2, the 3 boxes with direct access to 1.5 hectares of grazing space and a 40m x 20m arena, heated tack room, garage for two cars, laundry room annex. There are a stone farm and barn to restore. The grounds total 6.3 Ha. No neighbors within 1 km distance. The only traffic noise you hear is by the two horses in the field. The property is 20 minutes from Angouleme, 90 minutes to Bordeaux Airport by car, and 2hrs to Paris by train (TGV). Drone movie upon request.

Asking price: 2 450 000 euro

Ref: ESTG99900182

BRITTANY



Charming 15th century Manor House (225 m2) with a wealth of original features is located in a small village close to a church with a few houses nearby but in a quiet residential area, surrounded by a lot of greenery. The small character town of Moncontour, a wonderful medieval village with shops, primary school + college, is 1 km away. The delightful garden, with a large variety of roses, measures 1ha78a19ca and contains several spaces closed by walls. The main house, oriented South-West, is divided into 11 rooms with 6 bedrooms. The manor preserved its beautiful spiral granite staircase, and combines the charm of ancient stones with modern comfort. It is a superb family home surrounded by its own natural environment. The large attic and the stone outbuildings offer additional possibilities for the exploitation of holiday rentals with the beach at 15 minutes to this perfect retreat. The property is in good condition. In the surroundings there is ample choice for superb walks. Its location gives good access to Dinard Airport and the ferry port of St. Malo. The Pléneuf-Val André seaside resort is 30 km away. The Lamballe TGV railway station is at approximately 20 minutes away. St Briec Bay at 20 km, Rennes airport at 88 km.

Asking price: 429 900 euro

Ref: ESTG99900325

BORDER DORDOGNE/LOT ET GARONNE



This fully magnificently restored Ferme Fortifiée (fortified farm house), 850 m2, set in 70 ha, is dominantly placed on a hill surrounded by unspoiled nature. Further on the estate is a caretaker's house, a guest-house, a barn and a large restored and refurbished grange/ecurie which comprises fully equipped guest-quarters and stables (700 m2), a large open-air hangar next to a horse training track, prairies, polo field and a total of two swimming pools (oxygen active water). The main property has a stylish entrance, impressive dining/family room with an outstanding open fireplace, a kitchen annex pantry, the entre-sol children's play room overlooking the family room, a salon, a vast living room (sejour), a winter garden, and two offices, with the accommodation capacity of 8 bedrooms, and 8 bathrooms. The master bedroom-en-suite with dressing room and small salon can be closed off as a separate apartment. The ideal layout provides complete privacy. The initial two rectangular buildings (ruins), historically used for farming purposes have been patiently and tastefully converted and designed by its current owners, executed by professionals, into this elegant home. They enhanced some of its outstanding features, magnified the building courtesy of its idyllic setting, where the art of a sporty living reigns. A drone movie is available upon request.

Price: 4 200 000 euro

Ref: ESTG502

ILES DE FRANCE, BEAUTIFUL COUNTRY ESTATE APARTMENT AT 45 MINUTES FROM THE HEART OF PARIS



The Estate which has been restored to its former grandeur is a private, multi-family residence with owners of various nationalities. In 1998, the castle and its out-buildings were converted into comfortable apartments. Currently there are 35 owners with professional backgrounds from countries all over the world. The estate dates back more than 300 years. The original chateau was ransacked during the French Revolution and rebuilt in the late 1800s. The out-buildings, including the structures that now form La Cour, vary in age but are all part of the original chateau property. The grounds of the Chateau cover 16 hectares. The estate has a gated entrance and is enclosed by a stone wall. A caretaker and his family live on the property full-time. The property consists of the Chateau, the Orangerie, La Cour, the greenhouse and gardens. The grounds include a sweeping lawn, a forest and a fruit orchard. Recent additions to the chateau's amenities are a swimming pool and tennis court. The estate is a 40min train ride from Paris Gare de l'Est. In addition to its proximity to Paris, the area offers many excellent walking, cycling and touring possibilities. Along the valley of the winding river Marne, there are a number of interesting small villages where you can regularly find picturesque farmers markets and flea markets. The apartment for sale has a light and open feeling, and is spacious at 112,5 m2 of usable living space distributed over three levels. There are two bedrooms plus a sleeping loft, which has been divided into two bedrooms, a sitting area and a loft, two full bathrooms with showers, a fully-equipped kitchen, and dining/living room. A drone movie is available upon request.

Asking price: 250 000 euro

Ref: ESTG999000828



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Unusual 18th century home with many indoor and outdoor reception areas, a large terrace with hundred-year-old plane trees and 24 acres of woods and shrubland, two independent guest houses, tennis, swimming pool, stone hut "borie", large garages and other outbuildings. Natural spring feeding a 160 years-old grotto.

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White-hot to trot

Love the magical landscapes of Ireland or Scotland? Try Iceland, says Carla Passino, where the market is quietly booming

THE rift cuts across Thingvellir National Park, Iceland; craggy walls of volcanic rock towering large and forbidding above a narrow walkway. Step on the heath-carpeted plains west of the rift and you'll be on the North American continent; go east and you'll be in Europe.

Visiting Iceland is a 'very moving, ethereal kind of experience,' according to Anthony Lassman of Nota Bene Global, a company that advises ultra-high-net-worth clients on travel and super-prime property acquisition (020-3598 9888)—and not only because you get to straddle two continents in the span of a few steps. 'I went on a journey traversing the interior right to the very north, to the mountains and fjord of the Troll Peninsula and the sheer cliffs and puffs of Drangey Island, then to the glaciers of the south-east, and I found it all exhilarating and wonderful.'

The lure of Iceland's magical landscape has not only helped turn the country into a popular travel destination—visitor numbers soared from 1.4 million a year in 2006 to 4.6 million in 2016—but is also beginning to draw the attention of international property buyers. 'It appeals to an increasing number of high-net-worth people who don't necessarily want to go and lie on the beach,' says Mr Lassman. 'You might be heli-skiing in the winter and salmon fishing in the summer, when it's light until after 11pm.'

The local housing market saw an unprecedented boom in 2017. Although the country was hit by the 2008 financial crisis, it recovered extremely well and this, together

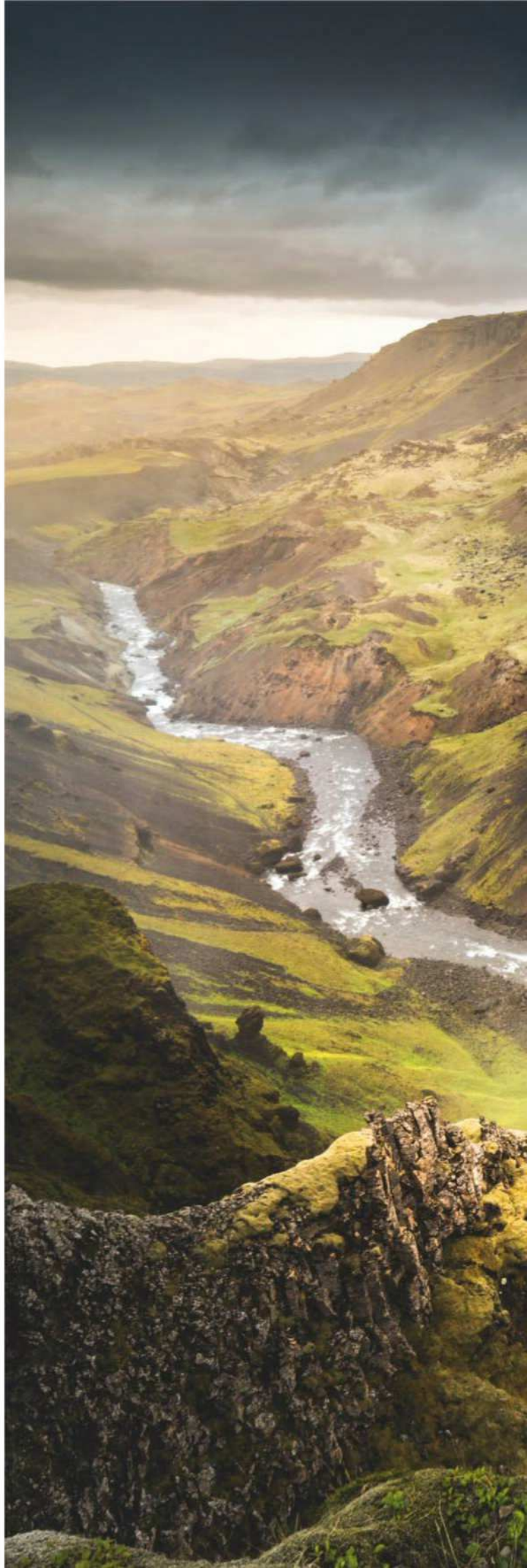
with interest rates being at a historic low, has been fuelling appetite. At the same time, supply is tight, because development virtually ground to a halt during the crisis years.

As a result, notes Kate Everett-Allen of Knight Frank (020-7167 2497), property prices have risen by an average of 20%–25% a year. Price growth peaked in July 2017 at 24.2%, but is expected to continue throughout 2018, albeit at a slower pace—'probably at about 10%'.
Although Iceland is now firmly on the radar of international investors, residential demand primarily comes from locals or expatriates. 'Americans, Scandinavians and Germans are the key nationalities,' says Miss Everett-Allen. British buyers are few at the moment, but Iceland would easily please those who love Scotland or Ireland, according to Mr Lassman. As an example, he mentions visiting a cabin-style, grass-topped house by a hill on the southern coast, just above a 'really good' salmon river.

The area is one of the two Mr Lassman recommends. 'You have beautiful scenery, lovely grasses, flowers and rivers. It's not too far away from Reykjavik—that proximity gives this region the highest density of private villas in Iceland.'

His other favourite location is the Troll Peninsula in the north, which has a beautiful fjord and access to the Arctic Sea and, by plane, Greenland. 'You'd want to be quite the adventurer to go there.'

Don't go chasing waterfalls, unless it's the Háifoss in southern Iceland





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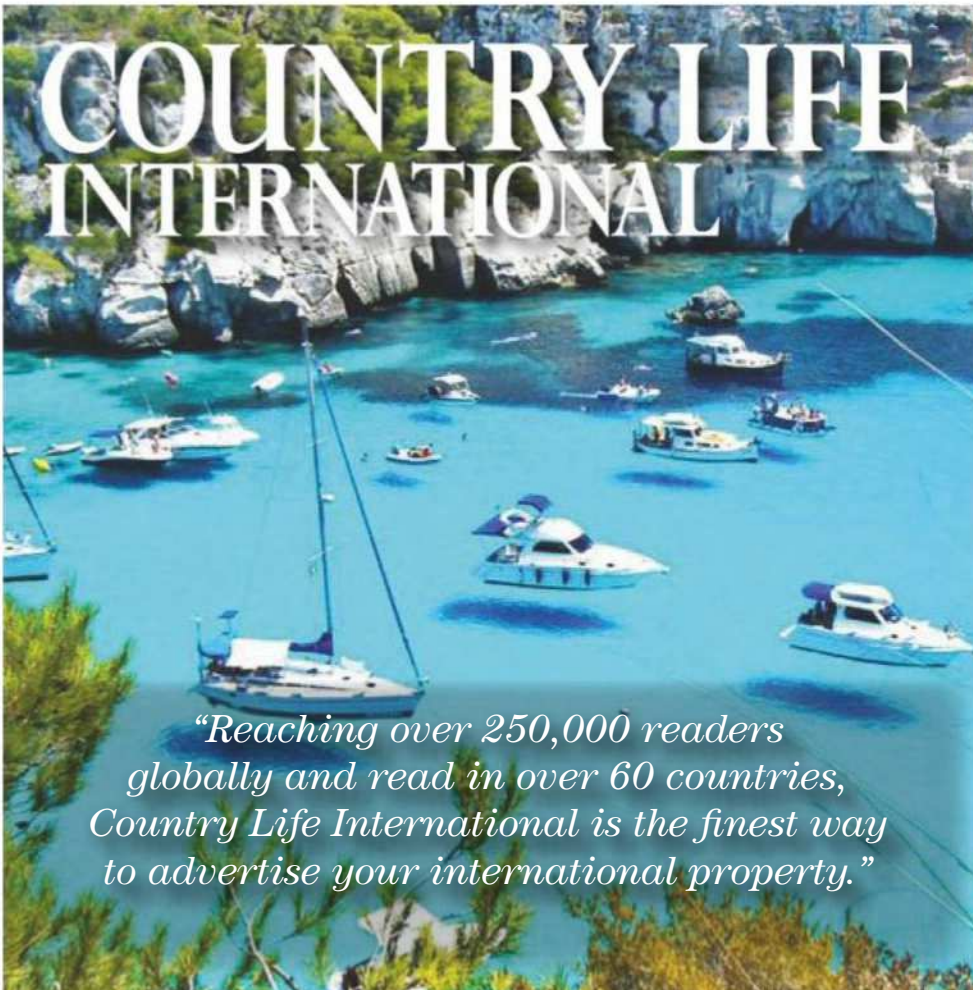
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Scots-born boutique hotelier and international property developer Gordon Campbell Gray speaks to Annunciata Elwes about the magic of solitude and adventure versus logic

Where is your favourite place in the world?

I'm very lucky to have the opportunity to travel constantly, both for pleasure and work, which, in my case, fuse beautifully and are usually hard to separate, but my favourite place in the world is a no-brainer—I love Scotland. It's the grandeur and the peace of the place. My house sits in isolation on a beautiful loch with the purest of air and the magnificent mountains as a backdrop, but perhaps the greatest thing is the sense of solitude—pure magic.

What was your first property purchase?

A small flat in London. It was in Chelsea and was tiny—the bath was in the kitchen. I recall my parents coming to visit and they were appalled. I was 22 and thought it was wonderful—my own flat and no sharing, superb!

What's next in the Campbell Gray empire?

Well, we're very busy at the moment and have two new openings this year. The first is The Merchant House in Manama, Bahrain, which will have rather dazzling design and I'm really enjoying the process of creating there—the Bahrainis are terribly nice and such a pleasure to work with.

The second is The Machrie on the Island of Islay in Western Isles. It's situated on a glorious beach and has the famous Machrie Links Golf Course and, of course, being a Scot, I could not be more excited to finally be creating a hotel on the island famous for its whisky distilleries.

We're working on another new hotel, The Alex on the shore of Lake Zurich, which is currently in full design phase and will open in 2019. Several other new hotels in the pipeline will be announced shortly.

Campbell Gray's Art-Deco Phoenicia Malta (above) has just had a £13 million refurbishment



What do you do for fun?

I love to travel and, being involved with Save the Children, I get to visit some of the most deprived and interesting places on Earth, so it's not always luxury—I love to explore.

I play tennis, ski, ride and sail, but most important of all, as Cicero had it, 'if you have a library and a garden, you have all you need'. I utterly concur!

What advice would you give to anyone looking to invest in international property?

I feel I should say be careful and ensure that you are, only to a point, being logical. I say this feeling slightly hypocritical as I have always jumped into exciting foreign ventures, often against sound advice, and I've never regretted it. Life is nothing if not an adventure.

Gordon Campbell Gray is founder and chairman of award-winning Campbell Gray Hotels (www.campbellgrayhotels.com) and Campbell Gray Living (www.campbellgrayliving.com), which has just launched a development of 62 luxury residences in Amman, Jordan (International property news, December 6, 2017). He is also a tireless fundraiser and vice-president of charity Save the Children UK

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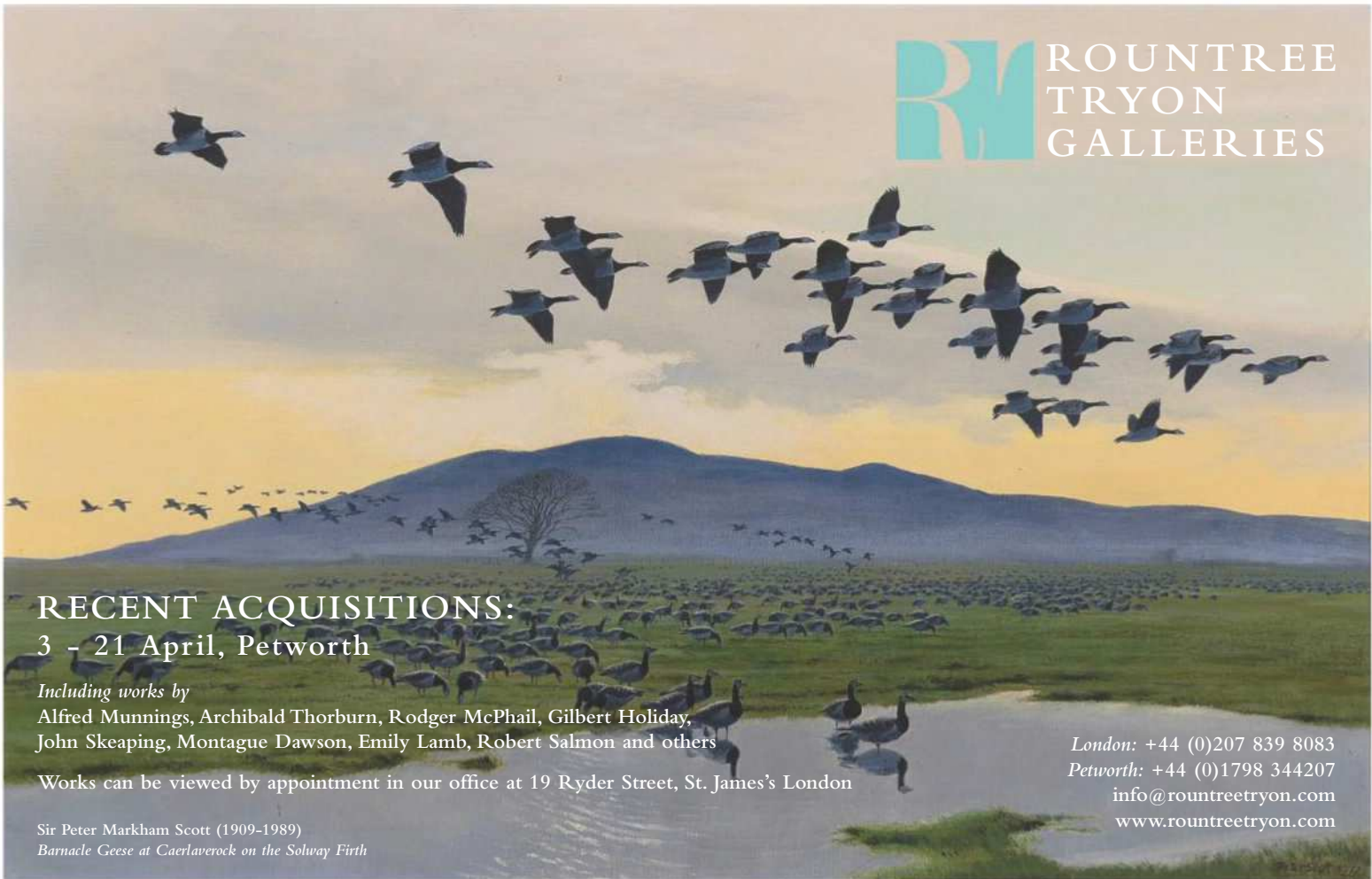
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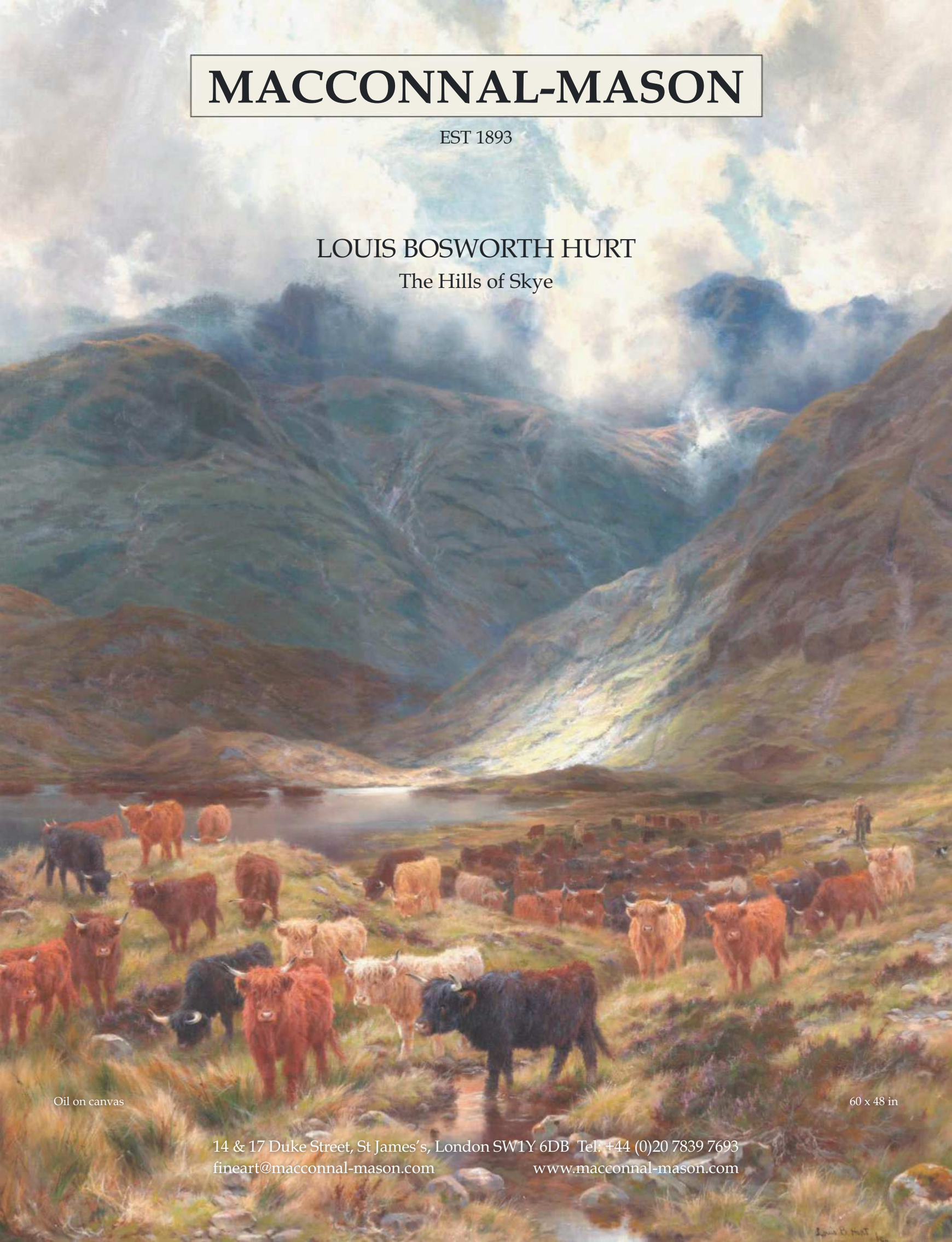
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COUNTRY LIFE

VOL CCXII NO 13, MARCH 28, 2018



Miss Jennifer Davis

Jennifer, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Trevor Davis of Edinburgh, Scotland, is a legal consultant for Dentons and an endurance athlete. This year, she will be attempting to break the world record for fastest solo journey to the South Pole to raise money for Free to Run and Women in Sport, for which she is an ambassador.

Photographed in Aspen, where she is winter training, by Tara Marolda



Age Fotostock/FLPA/Wayne Hutchinson

The good shepherd: a border collie keeps a watchful eye on a Swaledale ewe and her lamb on Howgills, Cumbria



Bodnant Garden, North Wales
(GAP Photos/Howard Rice)

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Why we love Easter

THE timing of Easter has protected it from the wicked worst of the retail industry; only the most rabid marketeer would try to commercialise one of the highlights of the liturgical calendar when we have barely recovered from Christmas. There is, we assume, only so much money that could be made from chocolate eggs and simnel cake.

For the religious and non-religious alike, Easter is a cause for celebration: from the resurrection of Christ and the Israelites' liberation from slavery to the arrival of Spring, with its subliminal messages about rebirth and renewal that is at the heart of the natural world.

The arrival of Easter brings a plethora of other more worldly attractions: gastronomes salivate at the arrival of asparagus, artichokes and watercress and gardeners delight in peonies, fritillaries and drifts of tulips. Oenophiles celebrate by pulling the cork on fresher styles of wine better suited to the new season—out go the heavy Rhône

reds, in come the zesty Loire whites, smelling of bosky hedgerows—and yachtie types make their first voyages of the year.

One of the wonderful things about Easter is what it isn't: a cause for office parties, weeks of shopping, exhaustive entertaining and a disruptive two-week national shutdown.

‘One of the wonderful things about Easter is what it isn't,’

Instead, it's a brief and delightful chance to enjoy long lunches with friends and family, Easter Egg hunts and walks on beaches that would have been dismal a few weeks ago. Perhaps best of all, Easter doesn't leave people exhausted and pressurised before it has even begun.

Comparisons might be odious—particularly in discussions of religious festivals—but Christmas might be even better if it was more like Easter.

Take your time

Amid the excitement, spare a thought for those toiling away in preparation for A-levels, Pre-Us, IBs, HNDs and other educational acronyms. Not only are they burdened with exam pressure, but also the mixed messages about further and higher education, apprenticeships and the university of life. Growing dissent about the cost and quality of higher education is encouraging teenagers who would otherwise have gone to university to consider diving straight into the workplace.

Our advice is to take your time choosing the next step, whether it's at university or elsewhere; there are many paths to a rewarding job and they can be circuitous. If you really think you know what you want to do when you're 18, you're probably wrong (whatever your parents might say).

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Wiltshire's *Cherhill White Horse*, depicted at harvest-time by Bob Rudd, is among the 400-plus works in the Royal Institute of Painters in Water Colours' 206th annual selling exhibition, at Mall Galleries, London SW1, from April 6 to 21. COUNTRY LIFE readers can claim free entry by mentioning the publication at the gallery desk

How Labour can win over the countryside

NOT everyone would consider the Countryside Alliance (CA) and the Labour Party natural bedfellows, but the rural campaigning body has been working with the Socialist-supporting Fabian Society, Britain's oldest think tank, on how the party might improve its rural policies, play a more constructive part in shaping post-Brexit policy and reconnect with voters outside cities.

The party only holds 32 of the 199 rural constituencies in England and Wales and trails the Conservatives by 54% to 31% in those areas and by 49% to 35% among C2DE voters.



The report, *Labour Country*, points out that the movement has not always had 'such a fraught relationship' with the rural community, citing the Tolpudde Martyrs, William Cobbett's *Rural Rides* and its roots in pit villages in South Wales, but says there is a prevailing view that the party 'hasn't a clue' about the countryside and ignores 'the plight of the rural poor'.

'It's painful to put on a red rosette and walk through farmland festooned with Tory posters, but this is the reality of campaigning for Labour in the countryside,' reveals Liam Stokes, who,

last year, stood (unsuccessfully) to be a Labour councillor in Wiltshire and whose day job happens to be head of shooting at the CA.

'Labour has treated the countryside with a polite disinterest for too long, only raising rural issues as animal-rights issues against which to define themselves. This report is not about telling Labour to change its position on controversial animal-rights issues, it's about recommending that the party stop fixating on them and instead focus on developing credible rural policy.'

In an article for *Labour Uncut* last year, Mr Stokes suggested that the Tories' repeated manifesto commitment (now dropped) to repeal the Hunting Act 'simply isn't interesting' to rural voters—ranking far below wind farms, the green belt, broadband or HS2—and that Labour shouldn't obsess over it. No respondents to a You-Gov online poll on behalf of the Scottish CA in February mentioned hunting as a voting consideration and the report describes it as 'a settled issue' (*Agromenes*, page 95).

The party should 'learn to speak in the language and the priorities of rural England and Wales', says the report. Policies should focus on small-scale enterprise and technical education, better rural transport, such as restoring lost bus routes and reviewing Dr Beeching's cuts, affordable housing, small-scale development on disused land, architectural form that fits the environment and an agricultural support system that favours small-scale farms and the provision of public goods—territory already appropriated by Defra Secretary Michael Gove.

Interestingly, the report recommends being wary of large-scale rewilding projects, with their potential for the displacement of humans, and says that, of all parties, Labour should be mindful of the role working people have played in managing landscape.

Many Labour voters are fieldsports enthusiasts, especially in Wales, the South-West and the North of England, and it's suggested that aggressive support for animal-welfare campaigns—against hunting and the badger cull in particular—has left 'a negative impression on certain communities, including working-class rural communities'. Instead, Labour should focus on 'more constructive' interventions—such as on sheep

worrying, abattoir standards, items dangerous to animals, such as Chinese lanterns, and post-Brexit trade deals that would damage farming standards—that are not seen as urban impositions. *KG*



Paint the trees red

TREES FOR LIFE is aiming to raise at least £22,000 to facilitate the reintroduction of red squirrels (*right*) in woodland areas in the north-west Highlands of Scotland.

Funds raised from the Reds Return appeal (www.treesforlife.org.uk/appeal) will enable the charity to target up to eight woodlands north of the Dornoch Firth and on the Morvern peninsula with healthy squirrels that it will source from strongholds in Inverness-shire and Moray.

'Red squirrels are missing from suitable woodlands across the Highlands. They cannot reach isolated havens on their own, because they avoid crossing large open spaces,' explains Steve Micklewright, Trees for Life's chief executive.

Up to 200 squirrels are expected to be released in the new three-year project, which will be run along similar lines to the successful Heritage Lottery-funded Red Squirrel Reintroduction Project. Launched in 2015, this has seen 140 red squirrels released into new woodland homes in Wester Ross. *Sciurus vulgaris* inadvertently aid the natural expansion of the region's pine forests when they bury winter stores of nuts and seeds.

'We know from our existing project that what we are doing works,' says Becky Priestley, wildlife officer. 'By creating new populations of red squirrels free from squirrel pox and the disease-carrying grey squirrels, the results have been extremely positive.' *Julie Harding*



Good week for

Labrador lovers

It's been deemed the most obedient breed at Crufts; finalists included toy poodles, Cavalier King Charles spaniels, miniature long-haired dachshunds, Jack Russells and Manchester terriers

Footpaths

Well-trodden routes, such as Hadrian's Wall, could soon achieve corporate sponsorship with 'discreet' logos, which will help to maintain them amid funding cuts (down 30% since 2012)

York

Taking schools, broadband, jobs and culture into account, the minster city has been named the best place to live in 2018 by *The Sunday Times*. Meanwhile, Rutland is the safest, most affordable place to buy, says emooov

Bad week for

Justice

As courts and tribunal buildings are closed, rural communities could be shut off from the criminal-justice system, warns the National Rural Crime Network, which argues that public transport and technology won't mitigate the impact

Supporting local industry

An announcement last week, that a Franco-Dutch company has won the £490 million deal to manufacture the new blue British passports, has angered 200-year-old Gateshead-based company De La Rue, our current passport and banknote producer

Mall Galleries; Life on White/Alamy; incamerastock/Alamy; Paul Beville/Alamy; Historic England Archive



Best foot forward: this colossal marble appendage, over 3ft long and thought to have been originally part of a 36ft-tall Greek deity, has hopped back to Chatsworth, Derbyshire, which opened earlier this week after months of conservation ahead of the new season. The matching right foot is at the Pergamon Museum in Berlin and this one was sold to the 6th Duke of Devonshire in 1839, by Carlo Finelli, the sculptor, in Rome

Flying the flag

HISTORIC ENGLAND has announced 14 new and upgraded listings to mark the centenary of the formation of the Royal Air Force on April 1 (*'Flying high'*, page 134). A memorial to the most decorated British pilot of the First World War, James McCudden, and his three brothers, at Chatham, has been newly listed as Grade II, as has Swinstry Cross, near Egton Bridge, evocatively located on the Yorkshire Moors to mark the crash site of 19-year-old Francis Titcomb. He died from injuries after he came down on his first solo training flight from Redcar Aerodrome in 1917.

The most striking of all the memorials, upgraded from Grade II to II*, is the Aviator's Memorial at Eastchurch, Kent, with its figures of Zeus and an airman's head in full flying

gear and its detailed reliefs of early aircraft and aviators. Another airman looks skywards in Stanley Park, Merseyside (*right*).

Formed via the amalgamation of the Royal Flying Corps (RFC) and the Royal Naval Air Service (RNAS), the RAF became the world's first air force run independently from navy or army command. It came at the tail end of the First World War, which brought a growing recognition of the contribution air power could make to the defence of the nation.

At the outbreak of war, the combined aircraft of the RFC and the RNAS amounted to less than 2,000. By November 1918, the RAF had 22,000 aircraft and recorded air casualties across the war stand at more than 14,000. *Jack Watkins*





Gardens such as Flaxbourne Farm helped the NGS raise £3.1 million for charity in 2017

How does your garden grow?

READERS of COUNTRY LIFE must be largely responsible for last week's announcement from the National Garden Scheme (NGS) that its 3,600 open gardens raised a record £3.1 million for charity in 2017, almost doubling the figure from a decade ago. The amount of money donated by the NGS since it was founded in 1927 is now more than £55 million.

Macmillan Cancer Support, Marie Curie and Hospice UK will receive £500,000 each from the 2017 pot and other beneficiaries include Parkinson's UK, Leonard Cheshire, Maggie's Centres, ABF The Soldiers' Charity and MS Society.

'The National Garden Scheme is hugely grateful for everything our garden owners and volunteers have done in 2017,' says chief executive George Plumptre. 'They have worked tirelessly to open their exceptional gardens to the public and provide delicious tea and cake to thousands of visitors, come rain or shine!'

Even more garden openings are planned for 2018; see our unmissable events section (page 91) or buy the *NGS Garden Visitor's Handbook 2018* (£13.99, www.ngs.org.uk).

Chelsea tickets competition

The RHS Chelsea Flower Show will soon return to the grounds of the Royal Hospital (May 22–26) and two pairs of tickets are up for grabs, courtesy of Brewin Dolphin. The two winners can each attend the members-only day, Tuesday, May 22, with a guest and enjoy all-day hospitality at Wren House, with magnificent views across the gardens and out towards the River Thames. To enter the competition, which closes on April 16, visit www.countrylife.co.uk/chelsea-flower-show-competition



Remembering Repton

HUMPHRY REPTON, the man credited with inventing the term 'landscape gardener' (*COUNTRY LIFE*, January 10), is being remembered across the country in celebrations to mark the bicentenary of his death last weekend (March 24, 1888). 'Humphry Repton: Art & Nature for the Duke of Bedford', an exhibition at Woburn Abbey, Bedfordshire (until October 28), explores the relationship with the 6th Duke of Bedford, one of Repton's major clients (*Exhibition*, May 9, 2018) for whom he also

worked at Endsleigh, Devon, and Russell Square in London WC1.

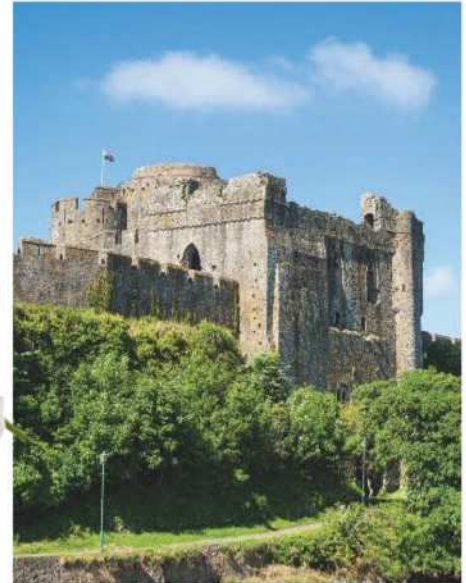
At Tatton Park, in Cheshire, head gardener Simon Tetlow will lead a cycle ride around Repton's design of 1792 and Wicksteed Park, Northamptonshire, will host a family picnic on June 30. St John's, Ryde, on the Isle of Wight, has a heritage open day on Sep-

Kings of the castles

THE Castle Studies Trust has announced the award of £22,000 towards six research projects this year. Two of the projects concern castles in which English kings were born: a survey of earthworks in and around Bolingbroke Castle, Lincolnshire, birthplace of Henry IV, and the excavation of a late-medieval house at Pembroke (*below*), birthplace of Henry VII.

'Despite being historically important castles, so much is not known about these two sites,' says the Trust's chair Jeremy Cunnington. 'The Trust is delighted to fund these projects and looks forward to the projects bringing to light important and exciting discoveries.'

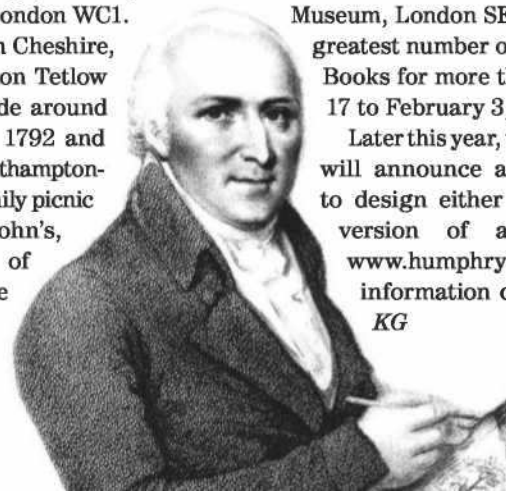
Other grants have been given to try to locate and establish the plan of the Castle of Keith in the grounds of Keith Marischal House, East Lothian, a survey of the castle remains at Laughton-en-le-Morthen, South Yorkshire, and a digital reconstruction of Ruthin Castle, Clwyd. *JG*



tember 15 and an exhibition at the Garden Museum, London SE1, brings together the greatest number of Repton's famous Red Books for more than 30 years (October 17 to February 3, 2019).

Later this year, the Landscape Institute will announce a schools competition to design either a physical or digital version of a Red Book. Visit www.humphryrepton.org for further information on celebratory events.

KG





Farms on red alert

DURING the past 70 years, England has lost almost 50% of its small farms, reports the CPRE. The charity has teamed up with other farming, conservation and environmental groups to make it widely known that further ‘dramatic loss’ is inevitable after Brexit, unless safeguards are put in place and the enhancement of farm diversity is at the core of the new Agriculture Bill. Loss of English farms in a range of sizes threatens the industry, landscape, employment and habitats.

‘With the future so uncertain, farms are an endangered species,’ comments Vicki Hird, Sustain campaign co-ordinator. ‘We owe a debt of gratitude to the small farmers who have done so much to shape our countryside.’

Defra Secretary Michael Gove has already announced that, after March 2024, farmers will no longer be paid subsidies based on the amount of land they own, but for ‘public goods’. However, the organisations are calling for measures to rebalance support, including accessible grants for smaller enterprises, low- or zero-interest loans

and affordable training and mentoring. Interestingly, although 95,000 farms were lost in England between 1950 and 1980, numbers in Ireland and Scotland increased.

Meanwhile, the NFU has given ‘a cautious welcome’ to the news, last week, of a 21-month transitional period for leaving the EU, from March 29, 2019, to December 2020, with president Minette Batters calling for further ‘clarity on the details’. Highlighting ‘the impact of the loss of key agencies and the focus central Government puts on rural economic and community issues’, says the CLA’s Shane Brennan, the House of Lords Committee has recommended that the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government should take over responsibility for rural policy from Defra.

‘More can be done and the restructuring that Brexit requires is an opportunity. Where the responsibility sits within Whitehall departments is less important than there being a dedicated Minister to focus on championing rural affairs,’ added Mr Brennan

NGS: GL Archive/Alamy; Maribus Beck/Alamy; Shutterstock; Discovod/Alamy; Malcolm Brice/Alamy; Margaret Rouse/Getty

Country Mouse

Terrierism



THE terrier doesn’t like wearing clothes—he’s a Jack Russell, for goodness’ sake. He enjoys other comforts—a basket by the stove, his blanket washed with fabric conditioner, appropriating a chair that’s on eye level with the television—but when we bought him a dark-green quilted coat for wintry outings, he walked around stiff-legged and suspicious and refused point-blank to go out in it in public, planting himself on his haunches and looking offended.

This attitude presents a challenge for the vet. At the weekend, I took him in to have a loose dew-claw removed. He stood still and patient on the slippery table as the vet tweaked off the claw and applied ointment and powder, but was having none of a stripey, toddler-sized sock. ‘Gosh, he’s strong for a little dog,’ the vet puffed, struggling to tape it on his paw.

This is a dog that can disrobe himself of the dreaded veterinary ‘cone of shame’ in less than five minutes and, by the time I’d paid the bill, he was charging merrily around the surgery *sans* sock. Number two sock made it as far as the car, but was mysteriously unconnected to the patient by the time we got home. ‘Next time’, threatened the vet, ‘it’ll be a bandage’, but the terrier wasn’t listening. **KG**

Town Mouse

Snow time to waste



IBOARDED a plane in Ottawa and thought I was saying goodbye to snow and intense cold. I was wrong. Dropping through the cloud over England, the whole landscape looked like a winter wonderland and, within minutes of landing, I was donning all the layers I had with me. I pressed straight on from Heathrow to a meeting at nearby Harmondsworth.

There, a resident explained the drastic effect on the village of the proposed airport-expansion scheme. She also showed me historic photographs of the modern airport site. Both the past and the future seemed totally removed from present reality. How could there have been a ploughing competition on the site of what is today a runway? And how could this village be half-raised to the ground by the construction of another in the future? It felt suddenly uncomfortable to have—effectively—flown to the meeting.

I returned home by way of a splendid reception at Skinner’s Hall in the City, a breathtaking contrast to the world of international airports. The children’s welcome became enthusiastic when I produced a gift of maple syrup. The accompanying ‘moose droppings’ were greeted with bemusement, until they realised they were chocolates. **JG**



Quiz of the week

- 1) Otoplasty is the surgical correction of which body parts?
- 2) Which famous novel begins 'When he was nearly thirteen, my brother Jem got his arm badly broken at the elbow'?
- 3) The courts of England and Wales divide the legal year into Hilary, Easter, Trinity and what?
- 4) Ergophobia is a fear of what?
- 5) Which British Prime Minister wrote *A History of the English-Speaking Peoples*?

100 years ago in COUNTRY LIFE March 30, 1918



A COMPARATIVELY recent addition to the growing list of manufacturers of purely British-built motor tractors and ploughs is the firm of Boon Tractors, Limited, Eagle Works, Warwick, which is marketing the Boon motor plough. This machine is of the type in which the plough is coupled up to the power unit; the power unit being controlled from the seat of the implement in use. The illustration shows the driver seated on the plough. The two tractor wheels are also the steering wheels. Paraffin fuel can be used, but the engine must first be started and warmed up on petrol.

The nature of things Ammonite

ONE of the favourite things in my small rock collection is a rounded, dull grey boulder. When you prise it apart, it reveals a perfect ammonite on one side, with its segmented, spiralled imprint embedded on the other. At some 170 million years old, this neat little 'shellfish' fossil is a direct link with the age of the dinosaurs. Its former location however, more than 12,000ft up in the High Atlas mountains of southern Morocco, serves as a reminder of Earth's turbulent tectonic activity in ages past, lifting such things from the ocean's floor to the sky.

Mathematicians like ammonites, as their spiral pattern, like that of the modern-day nautilus, neatly demonstrates the Fibonacci sequence of numbers, as well as the 'golden section' that was studied by the ancient Greeks. In the 1st century AD, Pliny the Elder called the extinct fossils 'horns of Ammon', recalling the Egyptian god Amun, who is typically depicted with a curled ram's horn on either side of his head.

Ammonites are found in marine sedimentary beds across the world and range in size



from less than 1in to more than 8ft across, with each shell containing chambers that the predatory mollusc could adapt to control its buoyancy. In medieval times, ammonites were thought to be curled-up snakes, turned to stone; pedlars of such superstitious paraphernalia added carved snake's heads to the 'open' end, to complete the deception. **KBH**

Illustration by Bill Donohoe

Time to buy

Triple Flask Set,
£299, Rigby (020-7720 0757; www.johnrigbyandco.com)



New Hairdo print,
from £75, Anna Wright (0131-557 1572; annawright.co.uk)



'Choice was dangerous: you had to forgo all other possibilities when you chose'

The Casual Vacancy,
J. K. Rowling

Navidad Leather Collar, £39.95, Orvis (0333 400 4177; www.orvis.co.uk)



Wicked words

For a politician to complain about the press is like a ship's captain complaining about the sea

Enoch Powell

- 1) Ears 2) 'To Kill a Mockingbird'
- 3) Michaelmas 4) Work 5) Sir Winston Churchill



Oh, the agony!

Resident agony uncle Kit Hesketh-Harvey solves your dilemmas

Here's to you, Mrs Robinson

Q My mother has announced that she intends to remarry, which I wouldn't object to in principle as my father died quite some time ago. However, her beau is approximately the same age as me. How can I tell her that I'm uncomfortable with the whole scenario? *S. M. G., London*

A What's good enough for Rupert Murdoch should, we know, be good enough for Gina Lollobrigida. And ageism is despicable. And the sexes are now equal. And women are masters of their own destinies. We know.

Is she rich? Is she past childbearing age? So many issues, which... yes, we know, they shouldn't matter. It's just that... no, I'm sorry. My heart is with you and suggests that you insist on calling him not by his Christian name, but Stepfather, as often as possible and within her range of hearing. My head says you're just going to have to take this one on the chin and be happy for her.

What to drink this week 2016 northern Rhône



Harry Eyres recommends some elegant wines of enticingly pure fruit

There was some dramatic weather in France in 2016, but the northern Rhône got off relatively lightly. The vintage stretched on until November, but many exceptional wines were produced once again (after the superb 2015). In fact, several of the growers I spoke to at a recent *en primeur* tasting told me they preferred 2016 to 2015. 'They would say that, wouldn't they?' is one response, but I can confirm that these are wines of beautiful elegance and enticingly pure fruit.

Why you should be buying them

The 2016s have a notch less power than the 2015s (no bad thing, for those who balk at more than 14.5° of alcohol) and will, for the most part, be ready for drinking sooner. They will provide, as one grower put it simply, 'much pleasure'.

What to buy

The northern Rhône whites in 2016 have lovely freshness and good ripeness. The 100% Roussanne St Joseph Blanc Domaine Pierre Gaillard (£84 per six IB; www.bbr.com) is beautifully textured and complex. For the reds, I once again recommend St Joseph and Crozes-Hermitage as offering exceptional value. You can't really go wrong with the wines from Gaillard, Coursodon, Combiér, Darnaud, Ogier and Chapoutier in this vintage. I especially recommend Crozes-Hermitage Domaine Combiér 2016 (£72 per six IB; www.bbr.com) and Crozes-Hermitage Les Meysonniers Rouge Chapoutier 2016 (*right*, £60 per six IB; www.bbr.com): both are fresh and floral and extremely good value. At a higher level, St Joseph Clos de Cuminail 2016 Domaine Pierre Gaillard (£84 per six IB; www.bbr.com) and St Joseph La Dardouille 2016 Domaine Emmanuel Darnaud (£240 per dozen IB; www.bbr.com) are both extremely fine, scented, elegant and long.



Unmissable events

Exhibition

March 31–June 27 'Gerald Scarfe: Stage and Screen' (*right*), The Gallery, Winchester Discovery Centre, Hampshire. Exploration of the *The Sunday Times*' political cartoonist's extensive work in film, opera and ballet design, from Pink Floyd's *The Wall* to English National Ballet's *The Nutcracker*. Free admission, suggested donation £3 (01962 873603; www.hampshireculturaltrust.org.uk)

March 30–September 30 Outdoor Sculpture and Indoor Art Exhibitions at The Walled Gardens, Croome Court, near High Green, Worcestershire. A series of exhibitions showcasing the works of various artists, including sculpture, landscapes, wildlife paintings, glasswork and embroidery. All pieces will be offered for sale. Standard admission applies (www.croomewalledgardens.com)

Easter festival

March 30–April 15 A Big Day Out With Peter Rabbit, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Richmond, Surrey. Discover the illustrated world of Beatrix Potter's Peter Rabbit against a backdrop of crocuses, daffodils and magnolias, with activities and workshops including the chance to plant seeds and create monster vegetables. General admission prices apply (020-8332 5655; www.kew.org)

Talk

April 10 So houseplants are back – now what?, Garden Museum, Lambeth Palace Road, London SE1. Jane Perrone, of houseplant podcast *On the Ledge*, and Catherine Horwood, author of *Potted History*, discuss the trends to come in the great indoor-plant revival. Tickets £10, 7pm–8.30pm (020-7401 8865; www.gardenmuseum.org.uk)



Garden

April 10–May 23 Fife Spring Trail, various locations. Twelve privately owned gardens will open for charity as part of Scotland's Gardens Scheme, with bluebell and daffodil woodlands, natural plantings of rhododendrons and spring-flowering shrubs and formal plantings. Tickets £25 (scotlandsgardens.org; 0131-226 3714)

Book now

May 16 Buxton International Festival Spring Recital, Haddon Hall, Bakewell, Derbyshire. Recital by a string quintet from the Northern Chamber Orchestra, with drinks

and canapés, plus an opportunity to explore the Rose Garden and grounds. Tickets £50 (01298 70395; www.buxtonfestival.co.uk)

July 28–August 25 Dartington International Summer School and Festival concerts and events, Dartington Hall, Totnes, Devon. Bumper celebration of the Summer School's 70th anniversary with a different theme each week: The Heavens, Moon and Stars; Bach's *St Matthew Passion*; powerful women; and the history of Dartington and Dorothy Elmhirst's influence. Visit website for programme and prices (01803 847080; www.dartington.org)



Haldon Grange, Dunchideock, Devon EX6 7YE. March 31–April 2, 1pm–5pm. Admission £4.50, children free

There's a host of gardens open over Easter, but this is one of the best. Through 12 acres, there's a wonderful array of plants and the magnolias and camellias will be in full flower. The woodland setting of mature oaks offsets the flowering trees and shrubs; add to this luxuriant ponds and cascades and you're guaranteed a memorable afternoon.

Country Life Picture Library; Gerald Scarfe





Living National Treasure

Ship-figurehead carver

Photograph by
Richard Cannon

ANDY PETERS is probably the only person in Britain who could describe himself as a full-time ship's carver. In his expert hands, pine is sculpted into a glorious array of decorative items, from show-stopping figureheads that stand up to 15ft high to simple name boards. Although a lot of his original work is done for collectors, he also assists with restoration projects and has carved panels out of Brazilian mahogany for modern superyachts.

'I looked into it and realised that ship's carver used to be a profession and every port would have had one, but now it's a dying art,' muses the craftsman, who honed his skill as a furniture restorer and practised on his own boats before setting up his business, Maritima Woodcarving, in 1990. His largest contract to date has been carrying out the historical research and carving for a replica of a Swedish East India Company ship from 1738 called the *Götheborg*. 'Re-creating period pieces so precise that they could be mistaken for the original is one of the things I enjoy the most,' he enthuses.

Figureheads can be many things beyond the buxom beauties of children's storybooks. 'Many British warships had lions, figures from Greek mythology were popular and merchant ships tended to have a portrait of the owner or his wife,' he explains.

Having established himself as an authority on the subject, Mr Peters has written a book entitled *Ship Decoration 1630–1780* and will be exhibiting his work at Craft in Focus, RHS Wisley, Surrey, from May 3 to 7. *Tessa Waugh*
www.maritimawoodcarving.co.uk



Letter of the week



A comedy of earls

YOUR article about telegrams (*'Wars, weddings and boiled eggs'*, February 28) brought to mind a story of a friend of ours, whose surname was Earl. He intended to stay for a short while in Blairgowrie in Scotland, so he sent a telegram stating the time of his arrival. As there were others of the same surname, he added the words 'of Croydon' to his message. Word quickly spread around the little town that an illustrious guest was about to arrive and, in some cases, appropriate action was taken!

Muriel White, Surrey

The writer of the letter of the week will win a bottle of Pol Roger Brut Réserve Champagne



The flight of the finch

IN the lovely article *'Charmed, we're sure'* (January 24), David Tomlinson noted that chaffinches were introduced to New Zealand from 1862–80.

Almost every bird in the article was also introduced over that time and most are doing well here as our winters aren't as severe as those in the UK. Goldfinches, in particular, don't come anywhere near bird feeders—I am currently being charmed by a family that comes to feed on my cosmos.

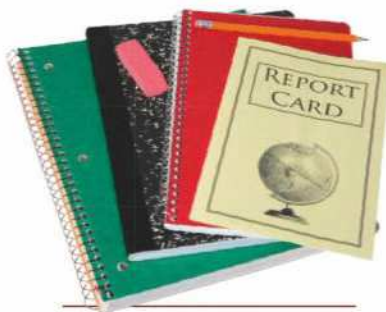
Beverley Blair,
Christchurch,
New Zealand



Shoulda, woulda, coulda

ON reading Michael Johnstone's letter about the article on school reports (*'Must try harder'*, February 28 and *Letters*, March 14), I was reminded of a story my mother used to tell of her father and his twin brother. On receiving their prep-school end-of-term reports on one occasion, they were somewhat surprised to read two brief but pointed remarks by the headmaster. One read 'He would if he could' and the other 'He could if he would'.

Patrick Deedes, Limeray, France



Fanning the flames

IMUST applaud Harry Wallop's advice that, in order to achieve the maximum potential from a fire and stove, it is essential to burn bone-dry firewood (*'Seeing the wood for the trees'*, February 14). I have lost count of the number of times I have had to endure the erroneous assertion that ash is the best timber because 'you can burn it when it's green'. Poppycock—the hissing logs belie this. It's true that it will burn, but the energy expended by the fire in order to drive off the sap results in a pitiful amount of heat.

Paul Sargeantson, Oxfordshire



This bliss

LAST summer, events conspired together so that, with unopened copies sitting neglected, I reluctantly cancelled my subscription to COUNTRY LIFE. But, oh, how I've missed its voice of reason in these troubled times. I re-subscribed two weeks ago and the joy when it arrived was something akin to putting on warmed Wellingtons to venture out in this inclement March weather. Best of all was Simon Hopkinson's guide to cooking perfect steak and chips (*'Raising the steaks'*, March 14). I followed his steps, substituting venison for beef and adding foraged wild garlic to the Béarnaise. A glass or two of a reasonable Côte d'Or and, to misquote Wordsworth, bliss it was in that evening to be alive.

Mary Gwynn, East Sussex

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Breathing life back into Leatherhead

I WAS surprised to see the comments about Great Bookham, then I read that Tony Moorby was describing Leatherhead (*Letters*, February 21 and March 7). We moved to Leatherhead in 1961 and lived there for 50 years—why does everyone always rubbish it? A few years ago, a national newspaper said it had the worst town centre in the country. However, had Mr Moorby visited now, he would have seen how it is being rejuvenated. It has much easier parking, countless eating outlets and is full of diners and theatre-goers in the evenings. It still has a long way to go, but it will get there, mostly thanks to forward-thinking local shop owners and business people.

Frances Presley, Surrey



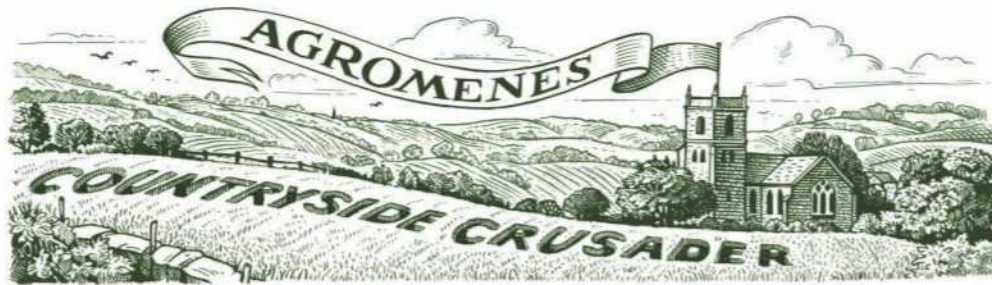
Read all about it

I CAN recommend two titles to help Jonathan Self while away the hours (*My week*, February 28 and *Letters*, March 14): *Versailles: The View from Sweden* and *Highlights in the History of Concrete*.
Chris Gebbie, East Sussex

COUNTRY LIFE APRIL 4

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The antis are chasing their tails

THE latest attempts to harry hunts have failed. As self-proclaimed saboteurs continue their attempts to disrupt the legal activities of countrymen and women, others try to drag decent people through the courts. In both cases, the intention is intimidation: physical, in the case of the balaclava-wearing jobs who scream publicly at the local hunt, and psychological when, after causing months of private worry, campaigners try to get the courts to brand decent, law-abiding individuals as criminals.

That's why most hunting people would prefer the Hunting Act (2004) to be repealed. It was a class-motivated operation fuelled by memories of the miners' strike. Tony Blair thought it was an easy hit, but then discovered, once people began to understand the realities of country sports, that the backlash was enormous, so much so that by the time it went through Parliament, the majority of voters did not support it.

Now, we're back in the usual position, in which the scare stories of the animal-rights campaigners are taken as gospel by most urban people, for whom the realities of country life are distant and foreign.

However, this month, we can celebrate the fact that two cases brought against hunts have been thrown out by the courts. This means that it is three and a half years since anyone has been convicted under the Hunting Act. Under the watchful eyes of the RSPCA and the League Against Cruel Sports (LACS), hundreds of hunts over thousands of days are making the Act work.

They're hunting legally and properly under legislation dictated by their opponents, but instead of celebrating their success, the antis are claiming that the fact that there are so few prosecutions and even fewer convictions is proof that we need a new and more draconian act.

These people hate those who hunt. It's not animal welfare that motivates them, but a deep dislike of traditional country sport and the people who enjoy it. Two recent cases show the lengths to which they go.

In one, staff at the Portman Hunt were accused of breaking the law. The complainants who made the allegations are old hands. They've been chasing hunts for years under various guises, often supported by wealthy campaigning organisations. Happily, Poole magistrates threw out their case without further ado.

Much more concerning was the case involving three members of the Grove and Rufford, who had to appeal against their convictions. Their case had dragged on for months, causing great distress to them, their families and friends.

The prosecution case was a shambles in that 50 photographs, which had been taken by the main prosecution witness, were not produced in court, nor was their existence disclosed.

The Crown Prosecution Service went ahead with the case without having had sight of this evidence and used a well-known 'expert' witness to support them. This was Prof Stephen Harris who, in a case in 2015 that subsequently collapsed, had failed to disclose his connection with the LACS. Without the crucial photographic evidence, the three defendants were found guilty.

Only afterwards, with a great deal of hard work and support, were the defendants able to discover the existence of the photographs that entirely exonerated them and showed that the law was being obeyed and that they were behaving legally. The case caused months of anguish for law-abiding citizens and at huge cost for the courts, all to satisfy a vendetta against hunting. We country people must not allow these fanatics to win.

“ Fifty photographs, taken by the main prosecution witness, were not produced in court ”

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Athena Cultural Crusader

Turning the pylon park to purpose

TRAVELLERS on the railway between Oxford and Reading will feel their train slow as it makes its way over the junction with the mainline at Didcot Parkway in Oxfordshire. For a brief and fleeting moment, the train affords them the passing opportunity to enjoy the prospect of one of the country's latest urban phenomena: a pylon park.

As no one wants to live under electricity pylons, for fear of hidden and unknown medical consequences, housing developers have found that building houses beneath them is unpopular; the houses don't sell and they lose money. Large development sites, especially those located close to former power stations, such as at Didcot, are often criss-crossed

with high-voltage power lines. In these situations, therefore, it can be easier for the developer simply to leave the land beneath them unused. The result is a pylon park.

Athena finds it hard to imagine a more perfect example than that at Didcot. A sudden and unbroken sward of green extends from the railway line through a substantial housing estate with its meandering cul-de-sacs and closes. The effect is a shaft of sunlight breaking through the clouds of monotonous development. It's as if the original plan of the housing layout was torn in half and not stuck back together again.

“These parks could become the linear village greens of the future”

Medieval villages were often developed around greens and 18th- and 19th-century towns are laid out around squares and gardens, yet it seems that only a pylon route can lead to the creation of a meaningful urban park in

housing today. Land is otherwise too valuable. The tragedy is, however, that when a pylon park is created, no meaningful attempt is made to use it. Look at one carefully next time you pass.

None of the houses face onto this new green sward as—understandably—who would wish to open their front windows onto the metal base of a pylon? Pylon parks are therefore useful chiefly for dog walkers and bicycle trails, assuming that the pre-existing pylon route directs users to somewhere they might wish to go. Athena is maddened by this wasted opportunity.

Were the electrical cables to be buried beneath the ground and the ugly metal structures removed, these parks could become the linear village greens of the future, providing an attractive form to the layout for the new houses. With a modest dose of imagination, and a more generous developer, the Didcot pylon park might even have been attractive.

However, it remains a sad and missed opportunity to turn adversity to advantage and is yet further illustration as to why house builders should not be left to their own blinkered visions of development where basic cost is the only determining factor.

Fred van Deelen; Benaki Museum 2018

Charmed Lives in Greece: Ghika, Craxton, Leigh Fermor is in Room 5 at the British Museum, Great Russell Street, London WC1, until July 15 (020-7323 8000; www.britishmuseum.org)

Patrick Leigh Fermor is best known for his writings, but this small show includes four drawings of Cretans by him, plus one of his wife Joan and some other doodles, displayed alongside the boldly coloured canvases of his friends John Craxton and Niko Ghika, both of whom shared his love of Greece and, like him, spent much of their lives there after the Second World War.

Through Craxton's distinctive angular portraits, jagged landscapes and famous jacket designs for Paddy's travel books, Ghika's more decorative oils and pastels (*Study for a poster, right*), as well as books, photographs, letters and other ephemera, this charming exhibition explores the close friendship between the three men and the places—Kardamyli, Crete, Hydra and Corfu—where they lived and spent time together, entertaining an international cast of friends from the worlds of art, literature, music and dance and jointly collaborating in a golden age of Anglo-Greek creativity. The accompanying book of essays, illustrated album-like with a profusion of images, is a delight.

What to see this week



Elisabeth Frink: sculpture, drawings, prints is at Buckinghamshire County Museum, 9, Church Street, Aylesbury, until April 21 (museum@buckscountymuseum.org; 01296 331441)

Horses, heads, human figures, animals and birds are explored in magnificent bronze sculpture, prints and drawings in this retro-

spective marking the 25th anniversary of Frink's death.

Patron Saints: Collecting Stanley Spencer is at Stanley Spencer Gallery, 16, High Street, Cookham, Berkshire, March 29–November 4 (01628 471885; www.stanleyspencer.org.uk) Spencer's art appealed to a broad spectrum of collectors and this exhibition examines his relationship with his patrons, many of whom lived in Cookham and influenced his life and work more than has previously been realised. The show includes some wonderful loans and a work not seen in public for more than 50 years.

The Turn of Women Artists 1837–2018 is at Chris Beetles Gallery, 8–10, Ryder Street, St James's, London SW1, until April 14 (020-7839 7551; www.chrisbeetles.com) Marking the centenary of the Representation of the People Act, this selling exhibition celebrates the work of female artists active around 1918, including Helen Allingham, Mabel Lucie Attwell, Jessie Dunlop, C. F. Gordon-Cumming, Kate Greenaway, Florence Harrison, Beatrix Potter and Eileen Soper. Also on show are works on the theme of women's suffrage by George Belcher and Sir Bernard Partridge.

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The super agent

Knight Frank's retiring regional chairman on what makes the Cotswolds special

THE Cotswold property market will never be the same again. As from tomorrow, Atty Beor-Roberts, regional chairman of Knight Frank and in the business for 33 years, is retiring, although he will remain involved as a consultant. 'I have never known a single agent to dominate a region so convincingly,' says global head of residential, Andrew Hay.

Mr Beor-Roberts offers simple pointers to success: never be afraid to employ someone better than you and always be positive. 'I tell my team "No one will instruct a negative agent",' he explains. 'My glass is always half full—there's always something positive you can say. If you constantly tell people the market is dire, they won't use you. I've no time for moaners. I'm healthy! What more do you want?'

He's chairman of Maggie's Cancer Care in Cheltenham: 'If I have a bad day, I go down there. Everyone is so positive. That's my attitude, too. I speak my mind. If people don't like it, bad luck. Not everyone can like you.'

His other strength is his willingness to be available. 'You've been entrusted with someone's most valuable asset and, quite often, that person will be a recent widow. I give them my home number and say "If you have a sleepless weekend and wait to ring me on Monday morning, I'll be very cross". I'm available 24 hours a day and that's the service you should give. Knight Frank's ethos is to treat others as you'd like to be treated yourself.'

Mr Beor-Roberts—the Beor part is ancient, the Roberts Welsh—was once described by a journalist as 'the Boris Johnson of the Wolds' and there is a similarity in the humour and no-nonsense approach, although his mane of silvery hair is far tidier than the Foreign Secretary's.

He first came to the area at the age of eight, having been

home-schooled by a governess in the Brecon Beacons, to Beaudesert Park prep school (*Happy days*, February 28), thence to Radley College (he's chairman of the school's beagle pack) and the Royal Agriculture College at Cirencester. He worked for the Bathurst estate at Cirencester before joining Knight Frank when he was 26.

‘My glass is always half full—there’s always something positive to say’

He lived temporarily in west Berkshire—I sold that house, my first, after four months, as I realised all my mates were around Cirencester, and made 10%—one of my best deals!—and spent time in London and Exeter before returning to Gloucestershire in 1992.

'When I left the Bathurst estate, Kemble station [in Gloucestershire] had an acre-sized car park, which was always full. When I came back, it was five acres and still full. People star-

ted commuting on a daily basis around then and that's when I'd say that the Cotswolds started to become the home of captains of industry. Before that, they'd move out [from London] as far as places such as Marlow [in Buckinghamshire], but, as they rose to become chairman, they'd want to be further away from the people they worked with.'

Mr Beor-Roberts suggests that, since Brexit, 'City boys' have stopped buying in the Cotswolds: 'They feel they've lost money in London, but there's always someone making money in London—they're in the media or IT—and they move to the part north of the A40, around Soho House and Daylesford, which has had a fantastic year. It's tougher south of the A40, but then the prices are more modest.'

He adds: 'Media types tend to wait and see what happens, but the City boy will want to do a deal there and then. I find most deals take place between 6pm and 9pm. They've got a glass of whisky in their hand, they're thinking about their family and they're in "home mode". I once did a deal with [the entrepreneur] Peter de Savary, who was a great client of mine, at midnight.'


Disparaging the Cotswolds as a playground for wealthy incomers annoys him. 'It really gets me, the

people who slam the rich because of the income they bring. Often when someone buys a house, they buy new white goods and they employ a builder, a landscape gardener, a decorator—sometimes on large-scale projects that can go on for years.

'Those who moan about "rich bastards" are short-sighted because these people are probably supporting their own jobs. You need people who want to go hunting with the Beaufort and keep horses and so on. And the big estates employ a lot of people to keep the countryside looking beautiful. We sponsor cattle classes at Moreton-in-Marsh show and I said to the farmers last year "It's you who all keep the place looking so beautiful". And that's what makes the Cotswolds so special. I think the farming community has been so clever in doing that. The true Cotswolds person is not socially driven; everyone mixes.'

Mr Beor-Roberts has presided over the sales of some of the most magnificent properties in the area, but doesn't suffer from house envy, nor, despite his kindly bedside manner—I've taken instructions from the bedside, actually—does he have a problem with getting emotionally involved. 'I look on property as a commodity. You can't fall in love with every house any more than you can with every girl,' he points out.

He's lived in the same house, in the tiny village of Hampnett (population 47) for 25 years, with his wife, Celia, children, dogs (including five whippet puppies) and chickens, while also running a farm in Wales. He doesn't like going out on Sundays: 'I'm famous for it. It's a family day: church [he's church warden], home and gardening with the dogs. In fact,' says a man facing a significant change of life tomorrow, 'I hate change.'

He will be missed. 
Kate Green

On the record

Atty Beor-Roberts is succeeded as regional chairman by Bruce Tolmie-Thomson (Knight Frank Cirencester, 01285 659771; www.knightfrank.co.uk)

Where is your favourite place? Exmoor—we got married on a Friday because I just had to go there on the Saturday—and the west coast of Scotland

What is your favourite building? The 13th-century St Illtud's Church on Caldey Island off Tenby, Pembrokeshire

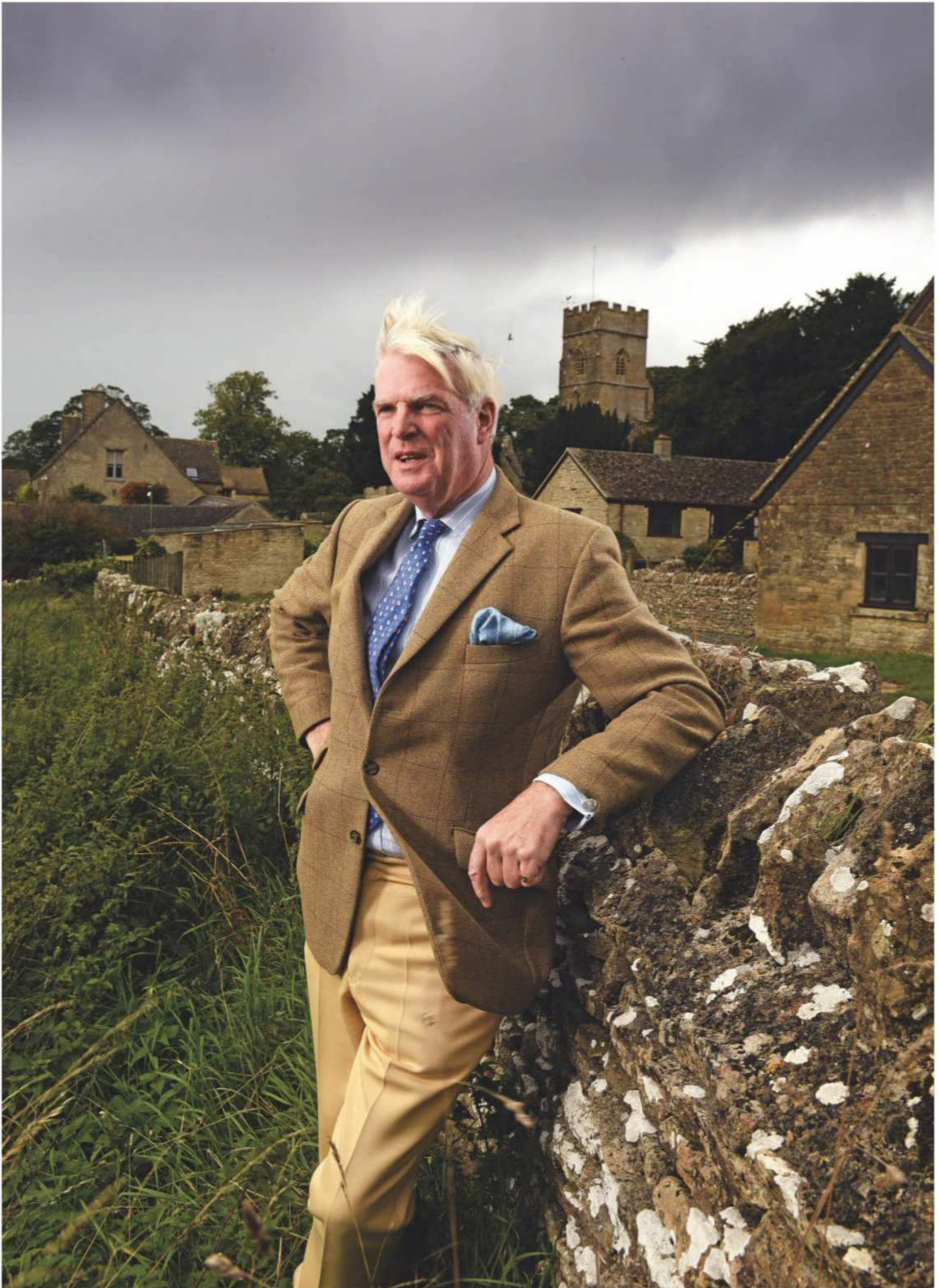
Book? I love to lose myself in a Dick Francis

Music? *Sweet Caroline* (Neil Diamond)

Food? Potted shrimps, calves' livers and crème brûlée

Holiday? Pembrokeshire, with boat and family

Dinner guest? Sir Winston Churchill or The Duke of Edinburgh—people who speak their mind





I'm with the band

HAD it not been for the fact that she was carrying a ukulele, we'd not even have looked up from our drinks. She was unassuming, maybe 50 years old. This was a quiet pub, in Surrey, mid-week, mid-evening.

She took off her sensible coat and sat down. I rose to fetch another two Bishops Fingers. Crossing to the bar, I paused, watching three more arrivals, all students, all three carrying ukuleles, foolish little instruments, plastic, toy-coloured, trite. By the time that the beers were poured, 140—140!—ukulele-players had set up their stands.

Albion held its breath. It was as if the Spice Girls had been abducted

'Something weird is going on in this place,' observed my drinking partner, who is usually more intelligent. At that moment, the pub landlord arrived and took his place at the drums. And, by pub landlord, I mean, The Pub Landlord: capital letters. Al Murray, star of my comedy generation for 30 years, although so very off duty, so conspicuously incognito, that I politely ignored him. He did that clicky thing with his drumsticks. 'Three-four...'

And they were off: all 140 ukuleles. Would that I could say they sounded as sweepingly romantic as those massed balalaikas playing *Lara's Theme* in *Doctor Zhivago*, but they didn't. They merely sounded 140 times sillier than one ukulele, but, also, 140 times as innocent, as joyful. There were two ukuleles lying spare so we grabbed them and joined in.

Did you know that, now that the fashion for pub quizzes has



come and gone, the latest craze in country taverns is to hold a Uke-Jam? Ukes, so easy to play, are inconsequential enough for individual mis-fingerings to be drowned out and everyone sings along raucously. It's not all George Formby, Tiny Tim and Iz Kamakawiwo'ole; it's Chuck Berry, The Beatles, Adele, every generation. No one gets left out: the old girl on the next table was 95, my companion 19. I had the headiest fun in a decade.

Little wonder: I can boast, after all, a dazzling family connection. Kitty Brewster is my cousin.

Kitty Brewster was queen of the halls at the very end of Queen Victoria's reign. She taught the Queen-Empress herself to play the ukulele, on the terrace at Osborne House. If that image does not delight you, then damn your heart of flint.

Kitty topped the bill at the Trocadero in Piccadilly, mere yards from where I sing at the Brasserie Zédel. And then, while she and her all-girl troupe of ukulele players, The Flying

Brewsters, was touring the Continent, the Great War was declared and they found themselves caught behind enemy lines.


News of their predicament gripped the nation. (I know this, because the Imperial War Museum has been onto me. They're producing a small book about her.) Trapped in Belgium, The Flying Brewsters pawned their jewellery, they evaded capture as spies, they tried to pass themselves off as Americans and then as nuns, but still they could not get across the Channel.

Albion held its breath. All communication ceased. It was as if the Spice Girls had been abducted. But then—oh rapture!—newspapers breathlessly reported that 'Using only their ukuleles and their feminine wiles, the young ladies made it through the battle-lines of the Hun, to a heroines' welcome at Harwich.'

We escaped the worst of the Beast from the East—or 'Wednesday', as it's called in Finland. The Leela, on the southern Goan peninsula, is the

17th best hotel on Earth. It beats the Sandy Lane, Barbados, and at a third of the price. There are three and a half staff to every guest—heedless luxury never came so cheap.

We returned, reluctantly, for the clear-up, in time for Easter. Tiles were down at the Cornish beach house and the roses needed tying back. As I laboured, our friend Sarah, the livest wire of St Merryn society, asked what my plans were for the evening: 'I don't know if you're interested, but we're having something called a Uke-Jam.'

Lo and behold, here I am, at the Farmers Arms, amid a gaggle of lustily singing Cornish, thrashing my little pink ukulele to the (approximate) sounds of Blondie. My ancestress is smiling down. The tide is high, but I'm holding on. 

Kit Hesketh-Harvey is a society cabaret entertainer, lyricist, opera translator and regular broadcaster for the BBC. He lives in Norfolk

Next week Jonathan Self

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Let's go forward



My favourite painting The Rt Revd Prof Bishop Irenei

The Ninth Wave by Ivan Aivazovsky



The Ninth Wave, 1850, by Ivan Aivazovsky (1817–1900), 87in by 131in, State Russian Museum, St Petersburg, Russia



The Rt Revd Prof Bishop Irenei of Sacramento is the Administrator of the Diocese of Great Britain and Ireland of the Russian Orthodox Church Outside Of Russia. His seat is the Cathedral of the Dormition of the Mother of God and the Holy Royal Martyrs in Chiswick

John McEwen comments on *The Ninth Wave*

‘I never cease to be evoked of deep emotion by the sea, whether in its calm stillness or its maddening ferocity. In this painting, Aivazovsky seems to capture both at once: the ninth wave, which sailors’ legend claimed was always the most terrible, looms over wreckage to which the helpless survivors cling for life; and yet the water, right where the cross-shaped wreckage floats, is almost placid, and in the distance there is a radiant sun that makes the vicious sea appear almost a beautiful mountainscape. I have found few artistic works that capture the sense of hope in the midst of despair, or beauty in the midst of the terrible, as this’

IN 2017, a poll revealed Ivan Aivazovsky as Russia’s favourite painter. He was also the most famed in his lifetime and was acclaimed and honoured internationally. He met Turner, who dedicated a rhymed eulogy to him in Italian, was richly honoured with a papal gold medal and was the first non-French Chevalier of the Legion of Honour.

Today, despite popularity at auction (record price, \$5.2 million (£3.7 million)), he’s virtually unknown outside Russia, unmentioned in Clark’s *Civilisation*, Gombrich’s *The Story of Art*, *The Penguin Dictionary of Art and Artists*, Kemp’s *The Oxford History of Western Art* and so on. Such is the influence of fashion. The excuse that Russia is not Western is hogwash. Look how we revere her writers.

He was born Aivazian (Russianised in 1840), the son of an Armenian merchant, in the Crimean port of Feodosia. War and plague had devastated the

city and his impoverished childhood on the outskirts was redeemed by the view over the Black Sea. His precocious artistic talent was nurtured by an architectural apprenticeship and later by local patronage, enabling him to study at St Petersburg’s Imperial Academy of Arts.

The French marine painter Philippe Tanneur proved an influential teacher. Aivazovsky earned a gold medal and official right to be called ‘artist’ following an exhibition of his own marine paintings.

The Ninth Wave—the ninth legendarily the most cataclysmic—is Aivazovsky’s masterpiece. Does the mighty wave promise annihilation or the rising sun hope? Dostoevsky compared him with Alexandre Dumas: ‘Both produce works that are not dissimilar to fairy tales: fireworks, clatter, screams, howling winds, lightning.’ His museum, founded by himself, is in Feodosia. 🐦



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These treasured woods

Among royal gardens, the Savill Garden is the jewel in the crown, encompassing great plantsmanship and unparalleled excellence in its development, says Charles Quest-Ritson

Photographs by Marianne Majerus

THE tradition of 'woodland gardening' was established by such writers as William Robinson and Gertrude Jekyll in the 30 years before the First World War. Woodland gardens were popular in the 1920s and 1930s among landowners of a horticultural disposition, as it was a time when new species and cultivars of important genera such as *Rhododendron* were pouring out of Asia into the gardens and nurseries of Britain.

The Savill Garden, in Windsor Great Park, is one of the finest examples, dating from 1932, shortly after Eric Savill's arrival as deputy ranger of the park. Savill discovered that, within the royal park's 15,000 acres, there were no gardens, other than some ornamental plantings at Frogmore, also part of the Crown Estate, half a mile south of Windsor Castle.

He therefore set out to create a woodland garden for spring-flowering trees and shrubs—although it's much more than that now—and chose a 25-acre site for the combination of features that made it ideal: sandy soil, abundant water and good shelter from handsome, established trees to provide the leafy canopy that woodland plants enjoy.

Work began by fencing the site against rabbits, badgers and deer—vital protection that persists to this day. He then set about identifying the good trees that should be preserved and cleared away the rest. At the same time, he tackled the brambles and ➤

The garden focuses on spring-flowering trees and shrubs, such as azaleas

thinned the ubiquitous *Rhododendron ponticum* to create broad rides and vistas. Streams were channelled and damned to create a lake.

Many of the rhododendrons for Savill's new garden came from such amateurs as Sir John Ramsden at Bulstrode, the Earl of Stair at Castle Kennedy and Lionel de Rothschild at Exbury. Soon, it was the shape of the rhododendrons themselves that gave form and direction to the layout. Paths and glades are still defined by these plantings, as are the vistas and glimpses of other areas as one walks along.

6 Woodland gardens were ideally suited to survive the Second World War 9

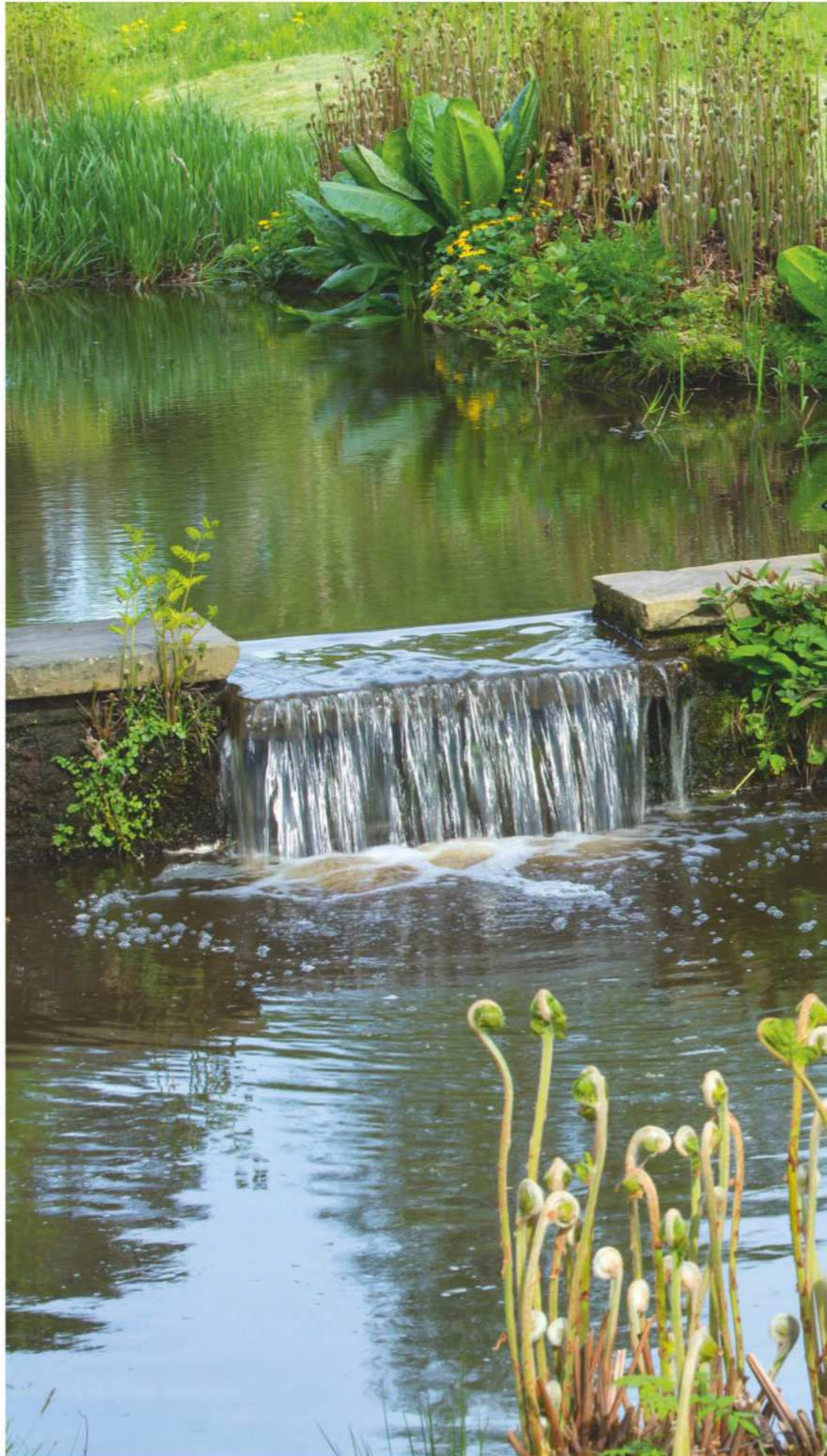
When George V and Queen Mary visited the garden for the first time in 1934, they made little comment as they toured the new plantings. It was a tense moment for Savill and his staff. Then, just before leaving, Queen Mary remarked: 'It's very nice, Mr Savill, but isn't it rather small?' With such a positive royal endorsement, Savill was able to extend the garden to its present size of 35 acres. Later on, he was handsomely supported by George VI and Queen Elizabeth, both of them keen and knowledgeable gardeners, and eventually knighted by Elizabeth II in 1955.

Woodland gardens were ideally suited to survive the Second World War and the years of austerity that followed. Herbaceous underplantings might be lost, but the trees and shrubs just got on quietly with the task of growing, as did the wild bluebells and wood anemones, which are as much an asset in late spring today as they were then.

In 1951, George VI commanded that the original Woodland Gardens should, in future, be known as the Savill Garden. Shortly thereafter, Lanning Roper wrote that there were 'no gardens in Britain today where there is a higher standard of cultivation and maintenance, good taste and a true comprehension of the basic principles of landscape gardening'. The same is no less true today, more than 60 years on.

There is much more to the Savill Garden than rhododendrons, although its National Collection of *Rhododendron* species exceeds 600 different taxa, and it also has a National Collection of Glenn Dale azaleas. The garden's magnolias, hardy ferns (nearly ➤

The garden has abundant water, which helps to support several National Collections, including one of hardy ferns







Spring is the best time to enjoy the garden's famous collection of tree-like rhododendrons, before the oak canopy closes over

300 species and cultivars), Fuji cherries, Himalayan and Chinese birches and rowans are all recognised by Plant Heritage as National Collections, as are its mahonias.

The popular *Mahonia x media* Charity, a chance hybrid between *M. lomariifolia* and *M. japonica*, was first noticed when it flowered at the Savill Garden. It went on to become one of the most widely grown of winter-flowering shrubs.

All the plantings at the Savill Garden should be understood in conjunction with the adjoining Valley Gardens, developed from the late 1940s onwards as an extension of the Savill's woodland. In a sense, it's an overspill, but with its own distinct character and an equally formidable collection of trees. Here, the original 'Wilson 50' Kurume azaleas are planted together around a sandy amphitheatre called the Punch Bowl; their flowers are borne in wonderful profusion in

late April or May. Nearby is a stand of more than 50 *Metasequoia glyptostroboides*.

Many would say that the Savill Garden is best seen in spring, when thousands of evergreen azaleas dazzle in crimson, salmon, purple, white and shocking pink. The woodland is open and full of light, with lots of spacious glades; protection comes from internal windbreaks of tall rhododendrons.

Spring is also the season to enjoy its famous collection of tree-like *Rhododendron x loderi* cultivars and its blue and purple forms of *Rhododendron augustinii*, when all is bathed in light and colour before the canopy of ancient oaks closes over. They are backed by *Halesia carolina* and *H. monticola*, sometimes known as snowdrop trees, many enkianthus, corylopsis, stewartias and *Paulownia* species. The flowering dogwoods bring the woodlands of New England to mind. All are enhanced by the different colours of

the young, emerging maple leaves in every shade of yellow, green, red and copper.

Perhaps it's more surprising to come across one of England's oldest and largest gravel gardens, worth exploring in every season, but especially in spring. The gravel makes it possible to grow plants that would not normally survive England's damp climate, even in a sandy soil. Some benefit from the mulching effect of the gravel, but others are simply drought-tolerant. Many of them are rare, but sharp drainage is key to their success. One might expect South African kniphofias and Mediterranean *Euphorbia characias* to flourish, but the sight of *Puya chilensis* from the Chilean Matorral and the Mexican *Beschorneria yuccoides* in full flower beggars belief.

The Savill Garden has always attracted brilliant plantsmen to the post of keeper. John Bond was in charge for 27 years and ➤

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Rhododendron* Roma underplanted with *Hosta sieboldiana* St George's Gold and the hardy fern *Matteuccia struthiopteris

substantially enriched the collections. He was particularly good at using plants to enhance the garden's landscapes, so that they in no way resembled a museum of plants. He was followed by Mark Flanagan, who died suddenly in 2015. Each is commemorated by a magnolia hybrid that bears his name, as is Savill himself.

The tradition of plantsmanship is continued by John Anderson, the present keeper,

who arrived via Mount Usher in Ireland and Exbury, Hampshire. Mr Anderson is keen to intensify the diversity of the plant life, so that the Savill Garden remains interesting and exciting in all seasons. He has also realised that most of the views and vistas run in a north-south direction and has begun to open up new ones from east to west, cutting out the ever-present *Rhododendron ponticum* in so doing.

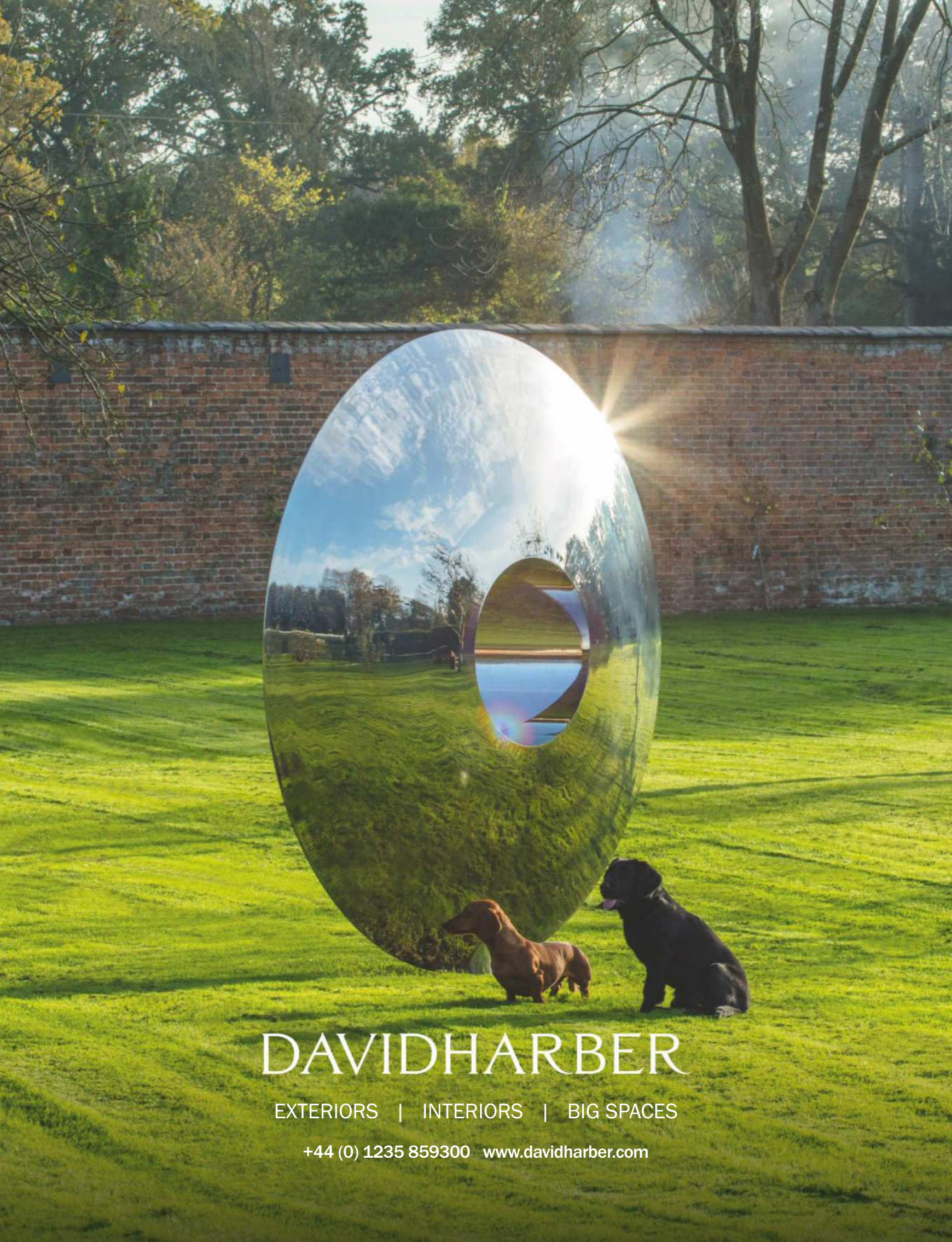
Maintenance throughout the garden is of a high standard, sustained by a dedicated team of 10 gardeners and three trainees. Good plants, good plantings and good management combine to make it, quite simply, the finest woodland garden in England.

The Savill Garden, Wick Lane, Englefield Green, Berkshire (01753 860222; www.windsorgreatpark.co.uk). The garden opens daily, 10am–6pm

The colourful understorey

Extensive underplantings are another great feature of the Savill Garden, unmatched by any other woodland garden. Tiarellas, hostas and trilliums in abundance grow alongside heliobores, epimediums, bergenias, meconopsis, smilacinas, lily-of-the-valley and much else. This is also where to find the best display of primulas in England. Early spring brings broad plantings of the drum-headed *P. denticulata*, purple-leaved *Garryard Guinevere* and several strains of *P. sieboldii* (right), cultivated and developed in Japan for several centuries. However, pride of place, a few weeks later, goes to the astonishing sweeps of candelabra primulas from the Himalayas: bright-yellow *P. prolifera*, deep-purple *P. pulverulenta* and various forms of *P. japonica* are among the most spectacular. All the primulas are regularly split and replanted in mono-specific masses, so that they give much colour to the garden's underplantings.





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Is the cure worse than the disease?

The UK is bracing itself for a serious plant disease, but we should be wary of applying the 'slash and burn' policy being used in parts of Europe



No incidences of *Xylella* have been found in UK plants so far, although increased inspection of nursery stock would be sensible

DEFRA, the RHS and the Forestry Commission have been issuing alerts about a disease that has not yet been discovered in the UK, but which, if it spread here, could pose a severe threat to our wild and cultivated flora. A bacterium, *Xylella fastidiosa* colonises vessels in the tissue xylem, through which plants transport water and nutrients.

This can result in stunting, wilting, withering, leaf scorch (dehydrated brown areas on foliage that ought to be fresh), premature leaf-fall, desiccation of buds and fruit and die-back of stems and branches. Affected plants may perish. *Xylella* inflicts this damage on a wide

range of trees and shrubs, among them many valued for ornament and fruit.

It can also infect herbaceous species, which it leaves largely free of symptoms, but not of taint, as they become reservoirs of the pathogen and so potential sources of contagion.

The disease is not necessarily fatal for woody plants. Some seem able to live with it, successively replacing branches that die back and especially kinds that are stout-trunked, multi-stemmed or suckering. The victims' regeneration and survival rates have been shown to improve with enhanced cultivation—feeding, watering, pruning, ameliorating the soil and treating

the other diseases to which debilitated plants become susceptible.

However, no cure has yet been found for *Xylella* itself, nothing that will purge it from a plant's system. The one small mercy is that the disease isn't borne by wind, water or far-roving creatures. Its transmitters (vectors in plant pathology parlance) are cicadas, spittle bugs, leaf-hoppers, froghoppers and other sap-sucking insects that aren't great travellers.

I remember being shown grape vines with *Xylella* on a visit to California in 1992. Since then, its various strains have progressed through the USA, attacking a broad spectrum of species. Apart from one

case in Taiwan, it was believed confined to the Americas until 2013, when it was found to be responsible for ravaging olive groves in southern Italy.

Subsequently, it has been reported on a range of hosts in Corsica, the Balearics, mainland Spain, France and Germany. The EU response has been predictably authoritarian.

Scant regard is paid to growers who find that the disease doesn't always prove fatal if one gives its sufferers extra care. Still less regard is paid to those who suspect that, as in the USA, we may just have to put up with *Xylella*, seeing it not so much as the green Black Death as a sad fact of life. Instead, con-

trol and prevention are the order of the day.

Of the measures proposed, two seem sensible: increased inspection of cultivated stock and stricter health-passporting for plants carried into and within the EU. That said, they'll inevitably add to the cost and bureaucracy faced by suppliers and buyers and there's no guarantee that they'll be effective against a disease that can spread by other routes and that may, indeed, currently be far more widespread than is supposed.

Although it's likely that such efforts will be shutting the stable door after the horse has bolted, it's certain that other measures are already discarding a great many babies with the bathwater.

In parts of southern Europe, *Xylella's* vectors have been subjected to mass insecticide, action that has turned a local, if deleterious, plant disease into an ecological disaster. Pity those Spanish groves where the cicada has sung its last and the nightingale starves. And it

doesn't even work: the woods decay, the fauna falls, but *Xylella* endures.

Equally unsound is the policy of fighting the disease by eradicating everything that might possibly succumb to it. Often, the destruction of infected plants will be the best practice, but it's another thing entirely to condemn all the symptomless and very probably uninfected examples in the vicinity of any species in which *Xylella* has ever been found.

‘ The disease doesn't always prove fatal if plants get extra care ,

Two facts need to be drummed into would-be slashers-and-burners. First, as Defra says, the disease's 'incidence is highly sporadic and, often, trees surrounding a severely affected

tree may remain free of the disease.' Second, American scientists have observed that individuals and varieties of some *Xylella*-prone species appear to be resistant to it. Such resilience offers potential lifelines, but plants possessing it are likely to be consigned, without prior investigation, to the indiscriminate inferno that Europe calls a firewall.

Rather than gold-plating these measures, the UK Government proposes recasting them in solid 24-carat gold. Infected plants would be destroyed, but so would be all plants within a 100m (110-yard) radius of them that are capable of becoming infected. Given *Xylella's* diverse, long and fast-growing list of known hosts, this would amount to razing parks, sizeable gardens and the greenery of whole neighbourhoods.

Proposals in respect of our horticultural industry are characterised by a cure-by-kill zealotry that recalls the foot-and-mouth tragedy. Restrictions on the movement of plants

would be imposed for five years on any nurseries and garden centres within a 5km (three-mile) radius of an outbreak.

Some imagine that *Xylella* will boost the UK nursery industry as, in the face of stricter plant-passporting, Continental imports will decline and we will buy British, but the above proposals could massively outweigh any such gain.

Moreover, UK growers know that, if their industry is to flourish as it deserves, they'll need not only to continue receiving plants from abroad for development, but also, and above all, to sell vastly more of their own output into overseas markets. The costs and other difficulties associated with increased biosecurity would affect them as gravely as any foreign competitor or, more gravely, as they'd be starting from a weaker position, having enjoyed nothing like the governmental support that some EU member states give to their horticultural sectors.

We should be buying British in any event. As for the presumption that homegrown plants are *Xylella*-free, I'm afraid it probably won't stay safe for long. The bacterium may be here already, but undetected. Its symptoms closely resemble those of several common diseases (something to bear in mind as the authorities call for citizen vigilance).

If not here yet, it will be: no free nation could tolerate or afford such controls as would keep it out—not even an island nation and least of all one whose renewed mantra is 'worldwide trade'. When its presence is confirmed, we'll need sensible debate and action in which the cure isn't deadlier than the malady.

We've been somewhere like this before, and not long ago, when the serious diseases *Phytophthora ramorum* and Ash Die-Back began to spread in Great Britain. With both, COUNTRY LIFE counselled against alarmist reactions and destructively draconian proposals. In both cases, time is proving us right. 🐦



The disease, both directly and indirectly, has wiped out thousands of plants in mainland Europe

Cream of the crop

Farrington's Farm Tulips, Farrington Gurney, Somerset

A West Country family has diversified its farming business to include an altogether more colourful enterprise, finds Jacky Hobbs

Photographs by Clive Nichols





Facing page: Filled with spring light, the long-lasting tulip Cerise Parrot. *Above:* White Marvel, Juan, Negrita, Ruby Prince and Ile de France. *Below:* The sunset colours and crumpled petals of Irene Parrot

IF you're tired of finding a lack of choice among shop-sold tulips, Tish and Andy Jeffery have created a solution. At their Somerset farm, they've planted more than 50,000 tulips in 40-plus varieties, representing some 30 different colours in what is surely one of Britain's first dedicated 'pick-your-own' tulips enterprises.

If you haven't the space, or don't want to decimate your own garden-grown displays, harvesting someone else's flowers provides an attractive alternative. Farrington's has long been a family-run mixed farm, a business that the present generation has extended to include a farm shop, tea room and artisan bakers. As well as the dairy herd, there are grazing donkeys that appeal to visitors young and old plus numerous hens, ducks and geese.

The inspiration to add fields of flowers to this corner of the Somerset countryside came via the flower-bulb company Peter Nyssen (www.peternyssen.com), which was keen to explore growing tulips in the Bath area. Initially, a half-acre plot was selected and an eclectic assortment of surplus, end-of-season bulbs was delivered for planting in November 2013, for which the Jefferys also received specialist Dutch equipment designed to cut channels through grass,



peel back the sward and drop the bulb. The trailing wheels are then meant to pad back down the uprooted turf.

Unfortunately, the heavy local soil, weightier than the sandy loams the machine was designed for, defied the re-turfing part of the process, which initially needed to be done by much stamping and kicking of turf in the machine's wake. (The machinery has since been successfully modified to cope.)

Following the first planting, the Jefferys' efforts were duly rewarded when April arrived with a glorious, dolly-mixture meadow of springtime tulips. The original 'pick and mix' was opportunistically thrown together from available stocks to provide an assortment of colour, style and, more deliberately, flowering time, with a combination of early-, mid- and late-season bulbs for longevity.

'Tulip selection is totally random—basically, we plant what's left at the end of the season, but they're high-quality, reliable bulbs that produce a fantastic, ever-changing field of flowers,' explains Mrs Jeffrey. The bulb assortment ranges from showy tulips—including parrot types, which are very popular with the pickers—to 'bullet-proof' bulbs, which stand up in all weathers and are fantastic for mass-planting. 'The more select tulip bulbs come in fiddly little bags, but they're so gorgeous in bloom that they're worth the extra trouble.'

Flowering lasts perhaps four weeks, according to the weather, in April and May; once the first bud pops, 'flowers just keep coming, long and lovely if it's damp, shorter stems in drier seasons'. Blooms are best picked just before they pop open. ➤



A cut above

Recommended tulips for a long and varied cutting season

Single Early (short, don't bend): White Marvel, Princess Irene, Purple Flag, Apricot Beauty

Double Early Verona

Fosteriana (long, elegant-stemmed): Orange Emperor, Rosy Dream, Purissima

Triumph Pallada, Abu Hassan, Mistress, Café Noir, Happy Generation, Couleur Cardinal, Negrita

Single Late (strong stems, large flowers): Maureen, Menton, Temple of Beauty, Recreado

Fringed Carousel, Swan Wings, Cuban Nights

Multi-head (tend to bend; 3–5 flowers per head make great cut stems): Candy Club

Lily-Flowered Ballerina, Burgundy, Lasting Love, Purple Dream

Double Late Akebono, Angelique, Carnaval de Nice

Parrot Irene Parrot, Crème Lizard, Rococo, Black Parrot

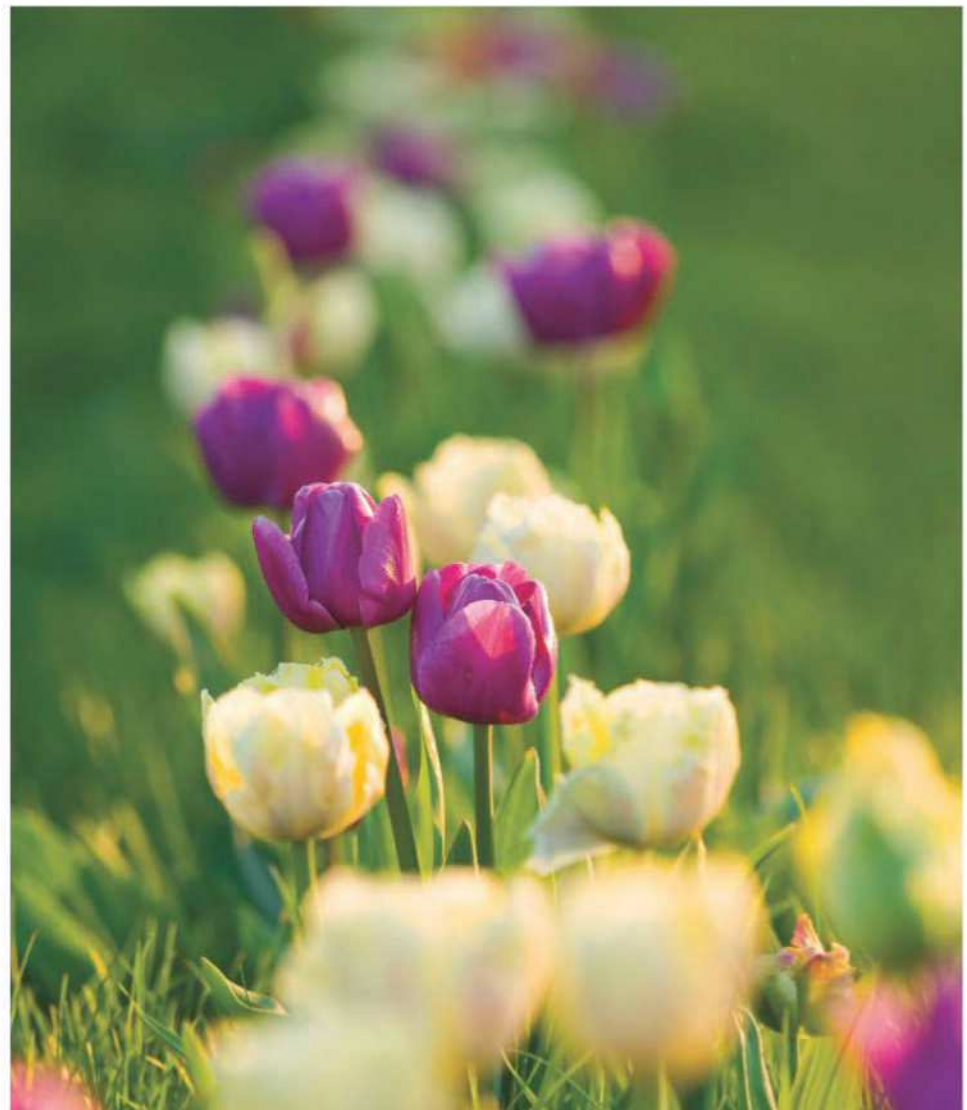
Viridiflora Artist, Flaming Spring Green

'If you reach well down and pull the stem from the ground rather than snapping higher up, you will reveal a blanched whiter area of stem that maximises the tulip's drinking power. Re-cut the stems, underwater, midway through this blanched area, for longer-lasting blooms, up to 10 days.'

When the tulips are all plucked and spent, the field reverts to pasture, the donkeys and goats keeping the grass down and the earth well fertilised. 'We did put our kunekune pigs in after our first crop, but they destroyed the field, digging up and eating all the remaining bulbs,' recalls Mrs Jeffery. 'If planting your own bulbs for cutting, it's easier planting through soil than grass, but meadow tulips do have a charm of their own.'

Farrington's Farm, Home Farm, Main Street, Farrington Gurney, Somerset (01761 452266). Visit www.farringtons.co.uk for notice of picking days

Above: Juan, a fosteriana type with streaked leaves. Below left: Picking White Marvel. Below: Negrita, a popular purple Triumph tulip, joined by double-flowered white Verona



Varieties for planting in grass

Planting through grass is tricky.

Select tough, robust varieties,

such as the Darwin hybrids Apeldoorn, Golden Apeldoorn and Pink Impression, which are strong enough to push through turf and can withstand being in the ground for several seasons.

If leaving tulips in situ, be vigilant about avoiding tulip diseases; plant out in late October/November, 6in–8in deep and 2.5in–4in apart. Deadhead as soon as the flower starts to fade and leave foliage in place for six weeks to regenerate next year's flower, then remove all plant debris.





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People in glass houses

The joy of the greenhouse and conservatory can hardly be overestimated, writes Mark Griffiths

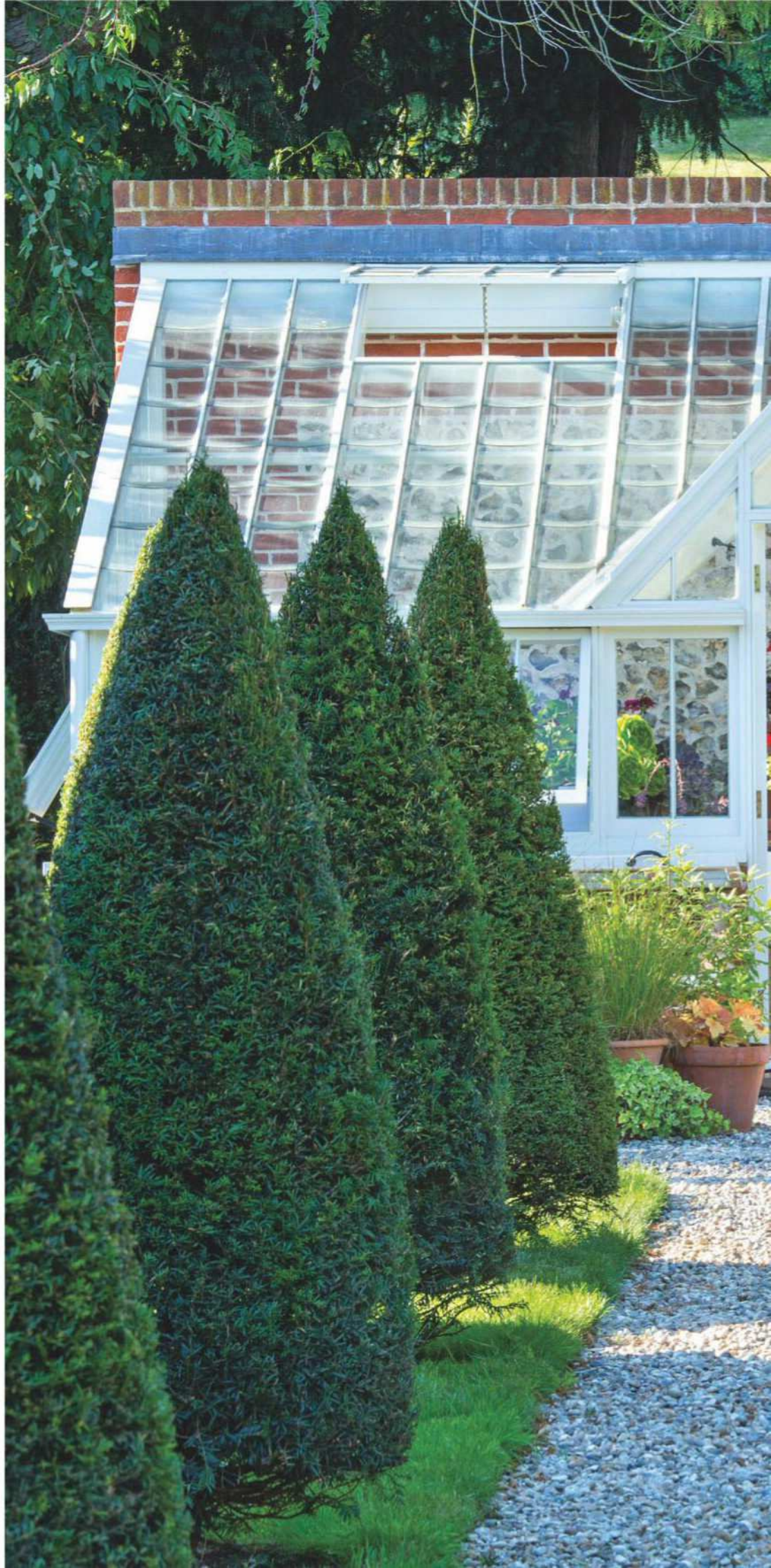
ONE of the books that I treasure most is an Edwardian edition of *The Encyclopedia of Gardening* by T. W. Sanders. It's not a rare book, and my copy is badly battered, but I value it as a document of a time when British gardeners regularly performed miracles of cultivation under glass. It's made even more precious to me by the odour of its foxed and brittle pages—cedarwood, absorbed over the decades that this volume spent on a potting bench in a greenhouse framed of that timber. Proust had his madeleine; I have my Sanders. One whiff of it conjures the enchantment I felt as a child when I first wandered into that glazed Eden and the momentous day, many visits later, when the book's original owner, by then as old as Adam, made a present of it to me.

Asking around, I find that friends have a similarly strong emotional attachment to greenhouses, whether lifelong or recently acquired, and their own nostalgia triggers: among them, the musk of vine-ripened tomatoes and pelargonium leaves and the scent of parched earth slaked by a summer downpour.

'I don't mean to throw stones,' says one of those friends in her long and elegant lean-to, 'but I wouldn't swap my greenhouse for any of the yurts, designer sheds and shepherd's huts on wheels that have become so popular.' Hers acts as the control centre, nursery and winter storage depot in a busy and beautiful garden. It's also her happy place and favourite retreat, as evidenced by the vintage Roberts wireless, the kettle and teapot, the cat dozing in its basket under the staging and her wickerwork receptacle, an elaborate peacock throne that would shout 1970s boho were it not for the tartan throws.

'I see my greenhouse as being like a ship,' she says, 'that lets me sail in all weathers, in the garden but without being out in it and >

The 'ship that sails in all weathers', a greenhouse is a welcoming retreat





surrounded by favourite plants. I might just sit and stare or read, but there's always something practical to do if I feel like it and that can be a wonderful antidote to the bad times when there's not much happening outdoors. And don't forget pottering, which, I think, is how we Britons meditate and come up with bright ideas. There aren't many places more liable to make one potter than a greenhouse.'

We've been experiencing such amenities and joys since the 17th century and most notably in Victorian and Edwardian times, the great era of horticultural glass, private and public. However, all was almost lost when, for a while, we forgot that, with greenhouses, what works aesthetically also tends to work practically, pleasing plants and people alike.

‘The first greenhouse to steal my heart was framed with aromatic cedar’

I've already mentioned that the first greenhouse to steal my heart was framed with aromatic cedar. The glass sat on brick walls that were waist deep on three sides and, at the rear, ceiling-height and covered with climbers and orchids. Such plants, whether swarming up from the ground or hanging in pots and baskets, also festooned the glazing bars and brackets. The latter were cast iron ornamented with cutwork curlicues, as were the plaques that ran along the cobbled floor, covering channels that contained the hissing and steaming heating pipes.

Lining the lower walls and standing at the same height, wide staging, flagged with vast slates and dressed with gravel, supported legions of plants in clay pots. Beneath it were humidity-boosting beds full of ferns and other shade lovers and bottomless-seeming tanks of rainwater, run-off from the roof saved as suitably soft, pure and *chambré* irrigation for tender ornamentals. Along the rear wall ran a deep, floor-level bed dense with palms, cycads, tree ferns, bananas and bird-of-paradise flowers.

This was how we used to do it and how it ought to be done, but, at about the time I was falling under their spell, glasshouses such as these were everywhere being demolished. If at all, they were replaced with floor-to-apex glass, plastic-and-aluminium constructions that might be good enough for factory-farming flowers on a Dutch polder, but which were soulless and sorry additions to our beloved gardens.



Ideal retreat: many 'miracles of cultivation' have been performed under glass

Then, as the millennium approached, we realised what we were missing. In one of those characteristically British reversals-with-improvements, like the triumphant return of the Jermyn Street shirt after polyester's mercifully short-lived primacy, manufacturers such as Hartley Botanic and Alitex revived the art of the glasshouse and took it to new heights by deploying advanced technology to revisit the Victorian ideals of gracious design and liveability for plants and people.

And so, like my friend in her peacock chair, we're once again set fair and sitting pretty under glass. Not that there aren't difficult choices to be made. Is the greenhouse to be purely practical and hard-working, full

of things in production for the kitchen and garden? Or might it become home to a specialist collection, say, of alpines or orchids (according, of course, to one's tolerance of fuel bills)? Perhaps something along the lines of an orangery sounds preferable, mingled with other perfumed delights such as jasmine, tuberose or, to begin the year, pots of paperwhite narcissi?

Then there's re-creating desert in microcosm or its antithesis, an out-and-out interior jungle. Whichever you choose, let's celebrate the most varied, enabling and exciting period in British gardening under glass since Sanders felt moved to swap his dibber for a pen. 🐦



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Tunnel vision

Garden designer Anthony Noel extols
the virtues of floral arches that
delight the senses



Tunnels of pear trees create an intimate path around the vegetable beds at West Dean Gardens in West Sussex

LUXURIOUS tunnels of flowers take you into a different world, for this form of gardening is always a talking point and brings French chic to the most unremarkable space. If the tunnel is placed at the start of the garden, like the foyer in a cinema or theatre, it encourages you to focus on what is ahead and forget about life outside. Tunnels are frequently less challenging to create than you might imagine and it is hard to beat laburnum (though beware of its toxicity), wisteria, apple or pear, all of which are especially inviting in the changeable weather and light of a British spring.

Ideally, the way through a tunnel needs to be at least 6ft wide, so that two people can stroll together, with another foot either side for the trees themselves—totalling 8ft. These are minimum dimensions for comfort; clearly, a large garden may accommodate a much broader tunnel comfortably.

Floral tunnels look superb along a boundary wall or near a hedge, but a wide, open kitchen garden provides classic opportunities for shady walks and fruitfulness. At West Dean in West Sussex, for example, tunnels of pear trees span the paths between the vegetable beds in a most charming manner.

‘Lilac alliums and red tulips enhance the laburnums and wisteria’

To make a setting, generous underplanting is desirable: lilac-coloured alliums and red tulips famously enhance the laburnums and wisterias at Barnsley House near Cirencester, whereas at Haseley Court, near Oxford, I very much admired perennial

wallflowers in lilac and cream, joined by Welsh poppies.

In the case of apple and pear tunnels, underplantings of primulas and different daffodils can be planted to coincide with the blossom. When choosing daffodils, I favour white-flowered Thalia, but Pipit, Oxford Gold and Minnow would all work well. For early summer, a frothy row of *Alchemilla mollis* is hard to beat—with various *Nicotiana* and silver *Helichrysum* nearby to lead the season on. Add *Cyclamen hederifolium* and autumn crocus for late summer, when your trees are fruiting.

When planning such a feature, ask yourself: will there be good views, either side, from within the tunnel? Or do you need to focus on the end of the vista? Where does it lead? Is it terminated by a step up or down, a bench, a summer house, sundial or even a large, open space? The openness of the latter will be enhanced ➤



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The 180ft-long laburnum arch at Bodnant Garden in Conwy, north Wales, was created in 1882 and is at its best in May and June

if approached by an enclosed area. I once used this idea in a wide passage beside the house, opening onto the garden proper. The overhead branches gave privacy and masked the neighbours. It's all about playing with scale.

If you have a really large garden, you might create a curved vista, like the famous laburnum tunnel at Bodnant in Wales.

Walk this way

Where to see great floral tunnels

Laburnum tunnels:

- Barnsley House (Gloucestershire)
- Bodnant Garden (north Wales)
- Haseley Court (Oxfordshire)
- Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew (Surrey)

Wisteria tunnels:

- Waterperry Gardens (Oxfordshire)
- Hampton Court Castle (Herefordshire)
- Kawachi Fujien Wisteria Garden (Kitakyushu, Japan)
- Bardini Gardens (Florence, Italy)

Fruit tree tunnels:

- Heale House (Wiltshire)
- Highgrove (Gloucestershire)
- West Dean (West Sussex)

gardens/Alamy

Remember, even the shallowest curve is exaggerated once on the ground.


The ideal framework to support your plants will be of iron, with the centre of the arch being a minimum of 8ft above the ground. Often, it's best to commission a local blacksmith, bearing in mind that galvanised angle iron is both strong and rustproof. Paint the frame in black or darkest grey, in order to contrast with pale branches in winter.

What is your path surface to be? Grass, though beautiful, needs light and air and is high maintenance. Gravel or hoggin is good as it is non-slip and gives visual sparkle. At Barnsley House, the path is cobbled and bordered with old paving, a time-honoured country-house look that is also hard-wearing.

In 2015, the laburnums at Barnsley were 50 years old and past their best, so they were removed and a new tunnel was planted. It will be established by 2020. Without doubt, Rosemary Verey, the garden's creator, would have approved. Five years doesn't seem too long to wait for such a feature to develop its allure. Once the laburnums have finished flowering, something for summer-into-autumn might be persuaded to take over the show: a late-

flowering clematis would fit the bill, or the annual cup-and-saucer flower, *Cobaea scandens*, scrambling through the branches. But don't be tempted to try this in the first few years—give your host trees time to get established.

Fruiting tunnels are delightful when they bloom in the spring and have the bonus of being laden with luscious fruit in August and September. For apples on a dwarfing rootstock (M26), I would set the trees at 3ft distances apart; for those on moderately sized (MM106) rootstocks, I would place them at 5ft intervals. Quince A, a semi-vigorous rootstock for pears, is fine for both close and wider spacings of, say, 3ft to 5ft between each tree. With apples and pears, almost all varieties work, but you need to acquire young, cordon-trained trees, all of which are roughly the same size and they should not be tip bearers—the trees should fruit all along the branches. Plant with a couple of shovelfuls of John Innes No. 3 compost, avoiding manure.

Laburnum, wisteria, apple and pear have few demands soil-wise and everyone likes easy-going plants. Have a go. Your sumptuous, stylish, floral tunnel will be the envy of your friends. 

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Image shot on location in the Isles of Scilly



Plant pears for your heirs

I SOMETIMES think of the pear as a sort of Cinderella fruit in this country. Lots of people grow apples in their gardens, but the pear remains a footnote—something we might get round to one day and therefore don't, yet they're easy enough to grow.

Part of the reluctance derives from the fact that, whereas an apple can simply be picked up and eaten, the sight of a pear generates uncertainty in the human mind. Edward Bunyard, the Edwardian fruit expert and epicure, who gave these matters more subtle thought than I will ever manage, thought that there was half an hour in the life of a pear when it was in a state of perfection. Before this, it was a stone; after, it was hairwash.

We've all eaten pears in both states or grimly regretted a particularly gritty specimen. As Bunyard put it: 'The pear must be approached with discretion and reverence: it withholds its secrets from the merely hungry.'

When we've guessed right, however, all the doubts dissolve in that melting, tender juice, which I favour eating with a piece of cheese as an ideal balance. This all begs the question of which pear to choose, both for eating and for growing. I'm coming to that.

To see pears at their happiest, a trip to France is required. The Loire Valley is where they seem perfectly at home. Some of the best cultivars were bred there, including the *ne plus ultra* of all pears, Doyenné du Comice,



Laden with buttery juice, 'the pear withholds its secrets from the merely hungry'

which first saw the light of day in an Angers nursery in 1849. Bunyard spends three pages wondering how the first bite must have tasted on that famous day.

However, to spread your wings to their fullest extent, a visit to the Potager du Roi, the royal kitchen garden at Versailles, is the destination for the pear connoisseur. Here, dozens of cultivars are grown to perfection in every conceivable trained form in row after admirable row. Each October, the fruits are displayed side by side on benches, labelled with name and eating characteristics: firm or fondant, the degree of perfume, how juicy, how sugary and so on. It's spellbinding.

On the way back, you should look in at the National Fruit

Collection at Brogdale Farm in Kent, where you can spend yet more time sniffing and slurping.

You can't grow them all and some aren't worth bothering with. I also think there's little point in growing pears you can readily buy in the shops, such as Conference, Concorde and even lovely Comice. Better by far to indulge in the pleasure of research, both from the flavour and texture point of view and from that of practicality. Gradually, you'll come down to a list of cultivars you enjoy and that will do well in your garden.


I have a few particular favourites to start the ball rolling. I recently discovered what a good pear Bristol Cross is and I very much enjoy Louise Bonne of Jersey, which started life as Louise Bonne d'Avranches. Anything with Beurré in the name is my cup of tea: buttery is just the texture I'm looking for.

There are plenty of fruit nurseries online that carry a good range of cultivars and those excellent people at Brogdale (www.brogdalecollections.org) will gladly graft any of their immense collection for you.

The form of the tree is another important consideration. The sensible way to grow it is as

a trained tree, probably against a reasonably warm wall, facing west or south. Buy it grafted onto Quince A rootstock, which will control the vigour of growth to just the right extent. You can buy it as a maiden and train it yourself, which isn't difficult and is very enjoyable, or get it ready-trained.

The form in which you train it is worth debating. An espalier always looks lovely, especially in late April when the flowers illuminate the pattern, but there are many alternatives. You could go the whole hog and try the three-dimensional Lorette system, as displayed in the magnificent kitchen garden at West Dean, near Chichester, if you become obsessed. These things do happen.

Whichever method you opt for, be patient. We plant pears for our heirs. The tree will take a few years to come into bearing. If you're in a rush, we part company at this point. Pears are worth the wait. Approach the subject with discretion and reverence and the prize will be yours. 

Steven Desmond is a freelance landscape consultant, specialising in conserving historic gardens

Next week: Cut-and-come-again salad leaves

Nathan King/Alamy Stock Photo; iStock/ra3rn

Horticultural aide memoire

Propagate perennials

Now is an excellent time to propagate many herbaceous perennials from existing stock. Take an old knife and neatly remove little groups of new shoots from the edge of a big clump. Each piece should consist of at least a single shoot and root. Tidy up the new specimen and the parent plant. The new portion can either be lined out in a nursery row in the kitchen garden or potted and placed in a cold frame. Progress will be rapid and a year will produce good new plants for the border. Good labelling and a record book are essential. **SCD**



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The art of the great British Sunday roast

Satisfying, nourishing and good for the soul, the Sunday roast is much more than just a meal. Flora Watkins explores our national obsession and asks top chefs how to cook the perfect plateful

Illustrations by Annabelle King



IT may have been a French king who promised his subjects ‘a chicken in every pot’ on Sunday, but, in these isles, a chicken in every oven—or, indeed, a joint of beef, pork or lamb—need not appear on any manifesto, for it has become the birthright of our nation.

Celebrated as a symbol of Britishness since at least the time of Shakespeare, through William Hogarth, Henry Fielding and George Orwell, the tradition of roasted meat is a constant running throughout our culinary history. In our hurried, hyper-connected times, a juicy, nicely crisp joint still has the power to call us to the table on a Sunday, commanding family members to put tablets and smartphones to one side and sit together, to commune as they consume this weekly feast.

For Orwell—that great articulator of our national character—the Sunday roast was one of our great delicacies. ‘Where else do you see potatoes roasted under the joint, which is far and away the best way of cooking them?’ he asked in his 1945 essay *In Defence of English Cooking*. (Arguably, discerning home cooks of today would parboil their spuds before roasting them in dripping or goose fat.)

‘Oh, the roast beef of old England!’ runs the refrain from Fielding’s patriotic ballad of 1731 and, in Shakespeare’s *Henry V*, the French attribute the fighting power of the English to their ‘great meals of beef’.

Foreign travellers to Britain have long attested to our fondness for and skill at roasting meat. ‘It is common practice,’ wrote Henri Misson in 1698, while staying in London, ‘to have a huge piece of Roast-Beef on Sundays, of which they stuff until they can swallow no more, and eat the rest cold... the other six Days of the week.’

One of the reasons that the British had a reputation for ‘being incredibly skilled at roasting was because of our plentiful supply of wood’, explains food historian Dr Polly Russell. ‘Being able to have roaring open fires allowed for roasting as a technique,’ she continues. ‘People might have an idea of roasting [in the days] before ovens as rather primitive, but it was actually incredibly skilful to be able to roast a valuable food on a spit in front of a fire.’

Indeed, as Heston Blumenthal argues in his book *Historic Heston*, the French moniker for the English, *les rosbifs*, began as a compliment, not an insult—because we taught them how to cook meat over an open fire.

Dr Russell is cautious of being ‘too definitive’ as to when the Sunday roast, as we know it, became an immovable family fixture, but its importance ‘ties in with Sunday as the day of rest, of going to Church, putting the meat in the oven beforehand, and

Simon Hopkinson’s roast beef

‘It has to be roast beef with Yorkshire puddings and homemade horseradish—I don’t think I could eat roast beef without it. Any leftover meat is almost as nice as having the roast itself’



Roast beef

A nice rolled rib of beef with the bones left in; ask the butcher to run a knife around the edges of the bones (to help with carving). A good layering of fat is essential and put plenty of salt and pepper on it before cooking.

Put about 200g of cheap stewing meat around the joint, to help with the gravy, bung it in a high oven—220°C/425°F/gas mark 7—for about 20 minutes, then turn it down to 180°C/350°F/gas mark 4 for about one hour (for a 2kg joint) for medium rare. If it’s medium rare, it’s better when it’s hot; if it’s rare, it’s much better cold. Resting is of the utmost importance; for beef to be perfectly carved and served, it has to be almost room temperature.

Cover loosely with foil (but not tightly or it will keep on cooking) and leave it at the back of the stove for as long as you like. When carving, I go along until I get to a bone, then take the bone out. I don’t like beef thickly sliced, but old-fashioned thin, like smoked salmon.

Gravy

Take the joint out, leaving those little chunks in. Tip off the excess fat for the potatoes and Yorkshires, stir in a little flour and beef stock or vegetable water, then leave to simmer for 40 minutes and strain. You’re basically making a small, thickened stock. I don’t put wine in the gravy—I like it tasting of meat.

Horseradish

Use at least half a root of fresh horseradish and grate it by an open window, so it blows the fumes away. Very few people know that the addition of sugar makes horseradish really hot as it does something to the enzymes—use a couple of teaspoons. Add cream, a squeeze of lemon juice and salt—it really doesn’t need pepper.

Roast potatoes

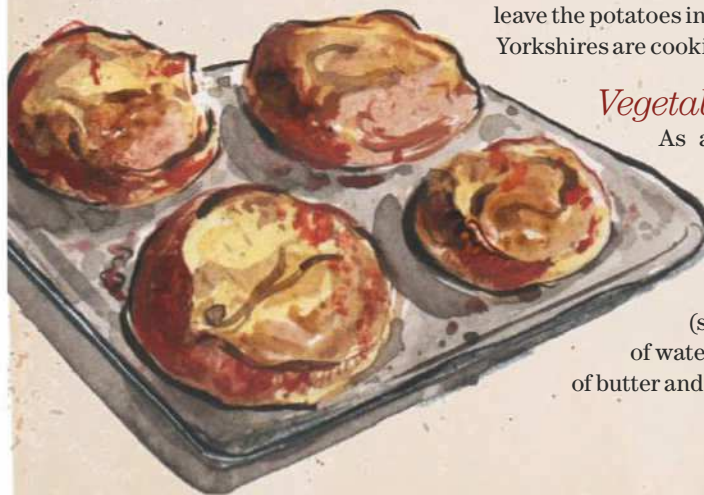
Desirees make the best roast potatoes. Simmer them in salted water, in not-too-big chunks (I’d get three pieces from a medium-sized potato). Cook them daringly, so they’re almost cooked through. If some pieces fall off, they’re always the best bits. Lift the potatoes into a colander with a slotted spoon, then shake them around. There’s nothing better than beef dripping to cook them in and roasties do best in the bottom of the oven. Turn them over once the undersides are going nice and golden and put them back. Then, drain off all the fat—this way, they go really ‘rustly’.

Yorkshire puddings

Make up the batter first thing and get it out of the way, but cook them at the last minute, while the beef is resting. I use a 12-muffin, non-stick tray. Put a bit of fat in the bottom of each one; you must get the fat really hot. Use a jug and don’t overfill. When everything’s done, whack the oven up to 220°C/425°F/gas mark 7 and leave the potatoes in the bottom while the Yorkshires are cooking (at the top).

Vegetables

As a child, we used to have a lot of mashed carrot or swede. I love those two; just boil in salted water, drain well (swede throws out a lot of water) and mash with lots of butter and pepper.



eating fish on Fridays'. For poorer families, Sunday would often be the only day that they ate meat, which would last the rest of the week, in terms of leftovers, and so the roast took on a symbolic importance.

Our idea of the Sunday roast as ritual probably dates from the Victorian era and those images of the paterfamilias standing at the head of the table, wielding a silver carving knife over a spectacular roast rib of beef. Take Dickens's description of the Cratchits' Christmas dinner (itself a super-sized version of the Sunday roast): 'Mrs Cratchit made the gravy (ready beforehand in a little saucepan) hissing hot... Miss Belinda sweetened up the apple-sauce' and, when the carving knife is plunged into the breast, 'the long expected gush of stuffing issued forth, one murmur of delight rose all round the board.'



6 Dunking bread into the gravy at the end was such a treat

A Sunday without a roast is as unthinkable as the hour between four and five slipping by without a cup of tea, as unthinkable as toast without marmalade, as a Test Match at Lord's uninterrupted by rain.

'I had a fairly radical mother, very Bohemian,' recalls chef Gizzi Erskine. 'During the week, we'd have really unusual food—I'd have to beg her to make fish fingers and peas. But, on Sundays, we would always have an amazing roast.' Thomasina Miers's most potent memories of childhood Sunday lunches are of her mother's delicious gravy; 'the ritual of her telling my father to open the bottle of wine that she poured into the pan, scraping away the bits, bubbling away and dunking bread into the gravy at the end, which was such a treat'.

Miss Miers, who has three young children, will slow-roast a shoulder of lamb

Tom Parker Bowles's roast chicken

'With roast chicken, the key is to get the best bird you can afford. We either go to The Ginger Pig in Shepherd's Bush or HG Walter (Barons Court). The truth is, a bird that's bred outdoors and walks around will taste so much better'



Roast chicken

Get a lemon and chop the end off. Season the inside of the bird and shove the lemon up its bottom. Massage the chicken with soft butter and season well. I whack it in the oven for about 20 minutes at 200°C/400°F/gas mark 6, then turn it down to 170°C/325°F/gas mark 3 for about 40 minutes. Chickens never really take more than an hour, unless they're huge. People get terribly worried about chicken overcooking, but it's the old thing of piercing the body between the leg and the breast and checking the juices run clear. Rest the chicken for 10–15 minutes while you're making the gravy. Chicken is easy to carve—chop off the legs first, take off the wings, then carve the rest. The best bit—the two little chicken oysters underneath—are the cook's privilege; they're wonderful.

Gravy

Take the bird out and rest it, then spoon off most of the fat. Put the pan over a high heat. Chuck in a glass of wine to deglaze and take all those nice crispy bits off. Add a big whack of chicken stock, bring up the heat and let it bubble for 5–10 minutes, until it's got a depth to the flavour. Don't use flour—it will be quite a thin gravy, but you just want the essence of the chicken.

Roast potatoes

A proper roast potato starts with the right floury potato—a Maris Piper or a King Edward. Cut them up into quite small pieces, bring to the

boil in salted water and cook until they're nearly falling apart. Leave them to dry for at least half an hour, then shake them in a colander; that's the key to getting the really crispy, burnished edges. Get the dripping or goose fat smoking (heat for 5–10 minutes), then, when you chuck your potatoes in, use two spoons to make sure they're coated in fat. Leave for 20 minutes, then you can start turning, checking and fiddling with them.

Vegetables

Peas are key—there's something about the combination of chicken and peas. We always have cabbage, cooked quickly so it has a bit of bite, and I love Brussels sprouts, too. Cut into pound-coin-sized slices. Cook in butter and, as they begin to soften, chuck in a bit of chicken stock, lemon juice, thyme, salt and pepper.

Accompaniments

I make a classic bread sauce; stud half an onion with a couple of cloves, put a bay leaf in, add milk and bring to the boil, then take off the heat and add your breadcrumbs.



Angela Pham/BFA/REX/Shutterstock

Five Sunday roasts with the most

• **The Strathearn, Gleneagles, Perthshire (01764 662231;**

www.gleneagles.com) Suitably grand, the roast, including sirloin of Scotch beef, is served on a trolley. Three courses, £45

• **The Poet at Matfield, Kent (01892 722416;**

thepoetatmatfield.co.uk)

Roast rump of beef is the centrepiece in this pub, named in honour of Siegfried Sassoon. Two courses, £23.95; three courses, £26.95

• **Roth Bar & Grill, Bruton, Somerset**

(01749 814700; www.rothbarandgrill.co.uk)

All the joints—beef, leg of lamb, pork shoulder or roast chicken—come from animals born and bred on the restaurant's own Durslade Farm. Main course £17–£18

• **The Hind's Head, Bray, Berkshire (01628**

626151; hindsheadbray.com)

Roast sirloin of dry-aged Aberdeen Angus with Yorkshire pudding and horseradish cream is followed by a proper pud at Heston Blumenthal's Michelin-starred gastropub. Three courses, £44

• **Hawksmoor, various locations, London and Manchester (www.thehawksmoor.com)**

The steak experts start their roast rump off on charcoal to achieve a flavour similar to the spit-roasted joints of old. Served with bone-marrow and onion gravy. £21

Gizzi Erskine's roast lamb

'Over the past few years, I think we've become obsessed with a slow roast—I'm back into having my leg of lamb served pink with a charry crust by cooking it for less than an hour and resting it for a long time. I'm more interested in my accompaniments—and gravy. If I have bad gravy when I go out, I get livid'



Roast leg of lamb

I'd pierce the leg of lamb all over, maybe 30 to 40 times, and put in twirly bits of rosemary, squashed together with garlic and anchovy. Rub it with vegetable oil, season and put it in a really hot oven for 15 minutes, then turn down to 170°C/325°F/gas mark 3 for 40 minutes for your average leg of lamb. Rest it for half an hour.

Gravy

Gravy's the most important thing for me. I make it in the pan the lamb was roasted in, with really good fresh stock made with lots of roasted bones. Use a tiny bit of flour to emulsify and thicken it, plus a glass of white wine, maybe half a glass of red. Cook it until it's stick-your-lips-together gelatinous—almost tacky—and pour in all the excess lamb juices.

Roast potatoes

My mum's trick is to use a blend of goose fat and vegetable

oil—it's almost deep-frying them in the oven. It's obscene, but it makes really good roast potatoes.

Gratin

I'd serve the lamb with a flageolet gratin, similar to a Dauphinoise, but with flageolet beans. Toss the cooked beans with cream, milk, garlic, rosemary, bay, salt and pepper. Put them in a low gratin dish, cover with Gruyère and cook in a hot oven until it's bubbled up and got a nice crust.

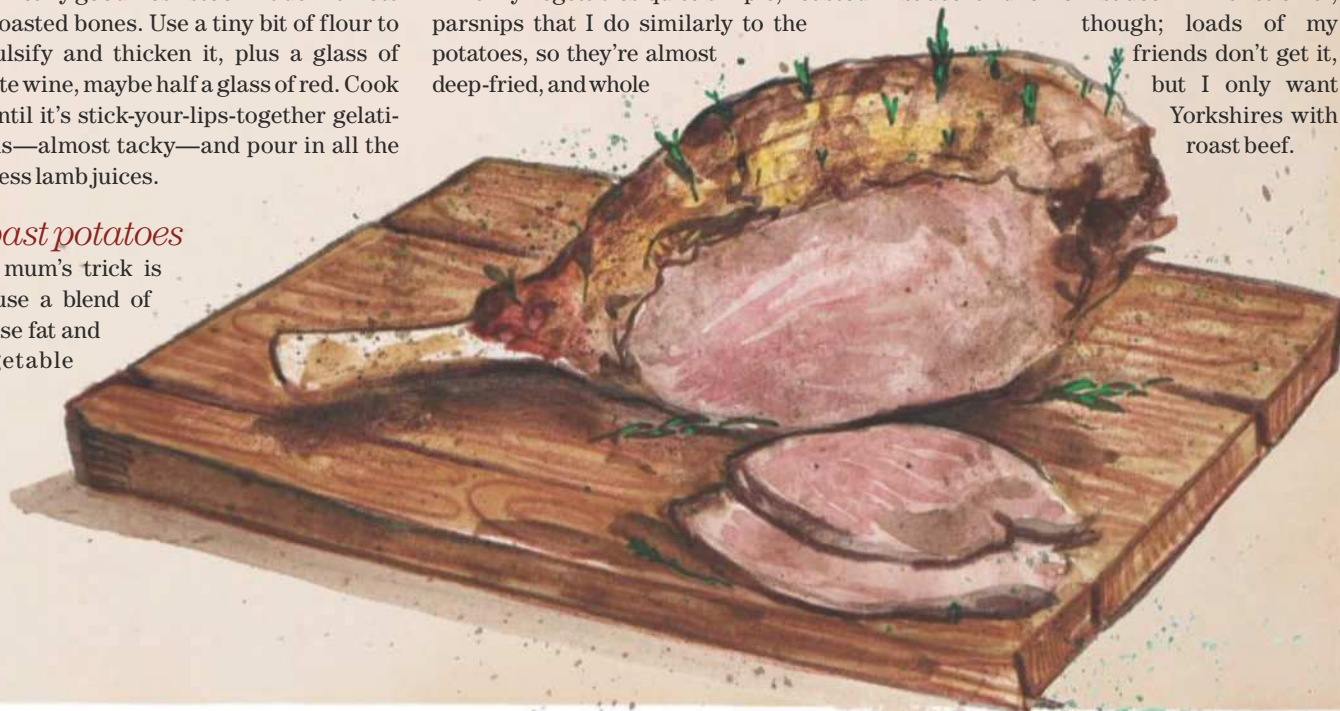
Vegetables

I like my vegetables quite simple; roasted parsnips that I do similarly to the potatoes, so they're almost deep-fried, and whole

carrots with the hair on. I roast them in butter, with a splash of either carrot or orange juice, or wine, for about 25 minutes. They're poached to begin with, then the liquid eventually becomes a glaze. I also like a pickled red cabbage; my book, *Season's Eatings*, has a lot of these recipes in. It's shredded, cooked in a bit of vinegar, brown sugar, juniper berries and allspice, and cooked down for about an hour.

Condiments

If I'm going to do it, I want to do it all properly—redcurrant jelly, mint jelly, mint sauce and onion sauce. I'm a stickler, though; loads of my friends don't get it, but I only want Yorkshires with roast beef.



with Moroccan spices or Mexican chillis on a Sunday or, 'if going classic, garlic, rosemary and anchovy' on a layer of sliced onions and potatoes (see her recent book, *Home Cook*, for recipes). 'When you're busy, that [slow-roasting] really works; you can go off to the park and it doesn't matter if you get held up, if the kids have a meltdown.'

Cooking the perfect joint does require a certain amount of prinking and testing, if it's to be brought to the table pink, rather than what Elizabeth David referred to as 'English Sunday lunch grey'. Simplicity (as well as timing) is also key to a really first-rate roast; in the foreword to his seminal *Roast Chicken and Other Stories*, Simon Hopkinson says that he settled on the title because it sounded 'inviting and

uncomplicated'. Uncomplicated it might be, but get a roast wrong and it's unspeakable.

Tom Parker Bowles shudders as he recalls the Sunday roasts at his prep school, which 'should have been banned under some sort of human-rights act. They were always pre-sliced—you could just about tell what they were from the colour; pink was pork, brown was beef'. Happily, matters improved when he went to Eton, thanks to a food-loving housemaster. On Sundays, 'each year had a roast on their table and someone would carve'.

Chef and restaurateur Mark Hix serves possibly the best crackling in London on top of the roast pork belly with fennel at Hix Soho (tip: extra portions can be ordered from the bar snacks menu), but it's a far cry

from the 'crucified' beef that he ate growing up. 'A lot of people, especially the older generation, don't pay attention to getting the cooking time just right,' Mr Hix sighs. Even pork loin, he counsels, 'can cook until it's slightly pink, like veal'. He advises ignoring the timings given on packaging and investing in a meat probe to ensure the perfect roast.

These days, church attendance might have slipped, but, come Sunday, succulent sirloins and shoulders will be slid religiously into Agas and ovens around the country. For when the former Chancellor Nigel Lawson quipped that the NHS was the 'closest thing the British people have to a national religion', he was quite wrong. It's the roast—and Amen to that.



TIM GRAY



Flying high for 100 years

From noiseless gliders to pilotless drones, the Royal Air Force has come a long way. Nick Hammond visits the UK's largest base on the eve of the Force's centenary

Photographs by Mark Williamson



THEY wrestled Spitfires through blue skies over Britain, dodging the Luftwaffe and stalling Hitler's invasion. They helped shape the Second World War, perhaps even the world as we know it. The RAF suffered the largest casualty rate of all British armed forces during it—55,000 aircrew died on bombing missions against Germany.

Since then, magnificent men and women in their flying machines have flown millions of miles, carrying everything from soldiers, helicopters and nuclear bombs to water bottles, blankets and baby food. On April 1, Her Majesty's Royal Air Force celebrates its centenary.

On the day of my visit to RAF Brize Norton in Oxfordshire, there's a blizzard brewing and Storm Emma is gleefully flouncing her skirt across the Cotswolds; even the armed guard on sentry looks cold. However, the weather would have to be truly historic to affect operations here.

Built in 1937, originally to train glider pilots, Brize Norton is the UK's biggest RAF base, with nearly 6,000 regular service personnel on the ground at any one time. Combine this with contractors and civil servants and there are about 8,000 people a day coming through these gates. They perform a mind-blowing diversity of jobs.

‘The RAF is a forward-thinking force, open to all, doing extraordinary things in extraordinary situations’

‘Dogs are not the first thing you think of when you mention the RAF,’ points out Cpl David Parton over a warming cup of coffee at the RAF Police Dog Section. The dogs patrol this and other RAF bases and detect drugs and explosives. Some are trained to track and attack, like the fearsome looking Belgian malinois giving me the eye, thankfully from behind bars.

‘After chatting to my local career centre, I realised there was every kind of job imaginable,’ continues Cpl Parton, aged 26, who joined up at 18. ‘The options for travelling, the lifestyle—it really appealed. After basic training, I began working specifically with dogs.’

Cpl Richard Peregrine might ply his trade in a gym class, on a mountainside, in a river or on the sports pitch. The physical-training (PT) instructor—all 6ft 7in of him—drove his mother mad with his excessive energy



Preceding pages: Flt Lt Tim Gray and a C-17 Globemaster. Facing page: Cpl David Parton with his dog Rui. Above: Flt Lt Beth Handsley-Smith in front of a C-17 engine

as a lad. After a spell of semi-professional rugby, he graduated from the School of Physical Training at RAF Cosford in Shropshire. It's now his job to find the best ways to deliver holistic physical training to RAF personnel.

‘It's a fantastic job,’ Cpl Peregrine says. ‘I get to help others keep in shape and, at the same time, I've learned a whole range of new skills myself. I box, climb, kayak, play rugby. Keeping everyone literally “fighting fit” is the job of a PT and I love doing it.’

Inside Base Hangar, which stretches alongside the runway for more than a quarter of a mile, a beast lies quiet. The Boeing C-17 Globemaster, which can carry 102 paratroopers, takes 134,556 litres of fuel, weighs 141 tons, cruises at 515mph and requires a 3,000ft runway to land, is so big its tail won't fit inside. Developed in the 1980s for the US Air Force, its cavernous belly can swallow Chinook helicopters or Challenger tanks and Sgt Sim Rezazadeh-Wilson is responsible for getting them in there. ➤

Ricky Deacon/Alamy; Andy Lid/Getty; VanderWolf/Imagery/Getty; Russell102/Getty

'I'm a mover,' she says cheerfully. 'We're responsible for all the logistics—getting things where they're supposed to be, when they're supposed to be there. I build the load, whether it be passengers, tanks, food, weapons or whatever.'

Married to another mover, Sgt Rezazadeh-Wilson can spend months away from her husband and young daughter at any time, but when she's away he's scheduled to be based at home and vice versa. The RAF extended family plugs the gaps. 'It's the life, you get used to it,' she says. 'We don't think anything of it anymore. And everybody around us is in the same boat. You all look after each other.'

Women in the RAF have a clear and achievable career path. Ranks are paid the same, regardless of sex, and, although there aren't many female movers yet, there are plenty of women in senior positions. 'Joining the RAF doesn't mean you'll be covered in oil,' says Flt Lt Beth Handsley-Smith, an Engineering Officer. 'There is equal pay and opportunity here and the grades and promotion are transparent.'



Above: Station Commander Group-Capt Tim Jones with a model of an Atlas A400M. Facing page: Sgt Sim Rezazadeh-Wilson, pictured with the pallet dollies used for loading freight



Cpl Richard Peregrine, one of the physical-training instructors at Brize Norton

‘When I was on holiday, aged about eight or nine, I remember seeing this Harrier and thinking “wow, that is so cool”’

Although she may not get covered in oil, she does get to sign off when the mighty C-17 is fit to fly. 'My family has a long history with the RAF,' Flt Lt Handsley-Smith explains, 'and I have had a fascination with planes since I was a little girl. When I was on holiday, aged about eight or nine, I remember seeing this Harrier zoom overhead and thinking "wow, that is so cool".'

Over the years, the force's focus has shifted between transport, reconnaissance, bombing and fighter capabilities and Station Commander Group-Capt Tim Jones believes it's more relevant today than ever before. 'When Hurricane Irma hit the Caribbean last year, we had people on the ground within 24 hours,' he points out.

'We had thousands more out there providing life-saving aid within the next few days. I'm very proud of that. That ability—to reach anywhere on the planet, with the right people, the right equipment, at the right time—has never been more important.'

'And aeronautical engineering and related technology move at an incredible pace—there were only 50 years between the Wright brothers and Concorde,' he says. 'The RAF is a forward-thinking force, open to all, doing extraordinary things in extraordinary situations. And, after more than 20 years, that's still what I love about it most.'

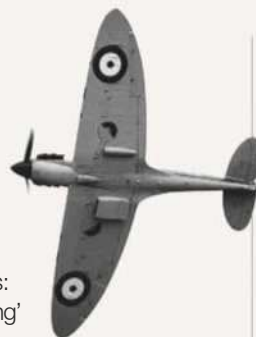
Milestones in courage

1918 The RAF is founded, the most powerful service in the world, with nearly 300,000 personnel and 23,000 aircraft. Its first task is to support ground troops over the Western Front during the First World War



1919 Capt John Alcock and Lt Arthur Whitten Brown make the first non-stop transatlantic flight (from Newfoundland to Connemara in 16 hours 27 minutes) in June in a modified Vickers Vimy bomber. On August 4, the Air Ministry introduces the rank titles that are still in use today

1936 The RAF's most iconic plane, the Supermarine Spitfire, is first flown. Test pilot 'Mutt' Summers allegedly climbs from the cockpit and tells designers: 'Don't touch anything'



1939 On September 5, the RAF makes its first attack on a German U-boat

1940 In June, more than 300,000 troops are evacuated from Dunkirk. Winston Churchill tells the House of Commons: 'Wars are not won by evacuations. But there was a victory inside this deliverance, which should be noted. It was gained by the Royal Air Force.' During the Battle of Britain, only the bravery of the pilots and the ground crews prevented Hitler's planned invasion



1943 Avro Lancaster bombers are used in the famous Dambusters raid of May 16, manned by aircrew from 617 Squadron

1950 On May 1, the first British Operational Helicopter Unit is established in the Far East

1952 Plt Off Jean Lennox becomes the first woman to be awarded RAF pilot's wings

1959 The Red Arrows are founded on March 1

1968 RAF Bomber and Fighter Commands merge on April 30 to create RAF Strike Command, based at High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire

1969 The Harrier, the world's first operational vertical take-off and landing (VTOL) aircraft, enters service on April 1



1979 The Tornado, a two-seater, day or night, all-weather attack aircraft, is introduced

1990s The RAF is involved in several large military operations, including the Gulf, Kosovan, Afghanistan and Iraq wars and in Libya

2015 The first Atlas plane, *City of Bristol*, is received. The RAF retires its UK-based Sea King helicopter fleet—since 1941, RAF Search and Rescue helicopters have responded to 34,122 callouts and saved thousands of lives



The meaning of Maundy money

Matthew Dennison explores the Easter tradition of Royal Maundy, observed religiously by The Queen throughout her reign

APPROPRIATELY, on the eve of the Church's great festival of Easter, the Royal Maundy celebrates the Christian service of elderly men and women within their diocese and local community. At Leicester Cathedral last year, Tobago-born octogenarian Mary Benn received The Queen's Maundy money in acknowledgement of two decades as a Lay Canon and cathedral guide. Mary Hall's award at Christ Church Cathedral in 2013 commemorated her long-term supervision of the flower rota in her parish church and her role as a Sunday-school teacher.

‘Formerly, monarchs did indeed wash their subjects’ feet,’

Inspired by the Bible's account of the Last Supper, the name Maundy derives from the Latin *mandatum*—a command. Having washed his disciples' feet, Christ instructed the 12 men 'I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done unto you', an injunction that they humble themselves in the service of others. Formerly, monarchs did indeed wash their subjects' feet, a tradition last practised by James II. In 1556, devout Mary I was reported as 'ever on her knees' as she bathed in scented water the feet of 41 poor women of London.

Today, Maundy consists of a symbolic gift of alms—replacing an earlier donation of food and clothing—and silver coins specially minted in denominations of one, two, three and four pence. Their design of a crowned numeral was introduced during the reign of William and Mary and modified, but not significantly, in 1822 and 1888; the obverse features the monarch's head. Recipients receive coins to the value, in pennies, of the sovereign's age, but, given their rarity, Maundy coins far exceed surface value.

Held on the Thursday before Easter, the service is a colourful affair. The Queen is attended by the Yeomen of the Guard, dressed in their Tudor livery of red and



The Queen distributing Maundy money to 91 men and 91 women at St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, last year. The number of recipients matches the monarch's age

gold, and carries a large nosegay of scented flowers, once intended to ward off unpleasant odours and perhaps even the plague. Anthems, including Handel's great *Zadok the Priest*, are sung by the choir of the Chapel Royal, dressed in their scarlet State uniform.

Royal biographer Hugo Vickers, Captain of the Lay Stewards at St George's Chapel, Windsor, where this year's service will be held, described to me the impressiveness and beauty of the occasion and the well-oiled precision of its ceremonial aspects, in addition to the 'enormous pleasure' it gives to the recipients.

Through seven decades, The Queen has placed the Royal Maundy in the front rank of her devotional duties as sovereign and supreme governor of the Church of England. She was nine years old when, in her grandfather George V's Silver Jubilee year of 1935, she attended her first service. As Queen, her attendance has been assiduous, with only four absences—twice on account of pregnancy and twice due to overseas engagements.

Her record is unparalleled in royal history. George I was present on a single occasion, in 1715; his son and great-grandson, George II and George III, not at all. For our Hanoverian kings, the service of Royal Maundy, with its biblically ordained foot

washing, came too close to the kind of sacred monarchy associated with the Stuarts. Even George V attended only once, in 1932.

It should come as no surprise that Royal Maundy appeals to Elizabeth II—duty and service have provided her watchwords since 1952. The Royal Maundy enshrines a concept of the monarch's duty of care to the people and, uniquely in the royal calendar, is an occasion when The Queen travels to make awards (in all other circumstances, recipients travel to a royal palace).

This year, 92 men and 92 women will receive the Maundy money, presented in white-and-red leather purses (*right*) made by Royal Warrant-holder Barrow Hepburn & Gale, which also makes The Queen's red-leather despatch boxes. Their emotions can be imagined easily. As Mercia Tapsell commented in 1992, following her award for services to the Salvation Army: 'It surpassed anything that I ever thought.'



Arthur Edwards/AFP/Getty; Tim Graham/Getty; Richard Pople/WPA Pool/Getty; Ivan Vdovin/Alamy



Sylvia strikes back

**Medical Secretary gives something
back to research and treatment**

Sylvia's friends remembered her for her kind heart, and her strong desire to help others. Even though she suffered lifelong poor health, while also caring for her critically ill mother.

But Sylvia did more than put on a brave face: she struck back against illness by working as a medical secretary, and following medical advances keenly. That's how she found out that with conditions such as stroke, the right treatment and back-up can make all the difference when given promptly.

So it's not surprising Sylvia decided that **one of the best things she could do would be to strike back again, by supporting the work of the Stroke Association – and leave us a generous gift in her Will.**

Today, we take time to remember her. Because Sylvia is still playing an important part in helping us create a future free of stroke, and turn around the lives of thousands of stroke survivors each year.



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A recent return to splendour

*The Chapel of Trinity College, Oxford
In the care of the President and Fellows of Trinity*

One of Oxford's most admired interiors has been revived, as John Goodall reports

Photographs by Will Pryce

WRITING in his diary on April 12, 1694, the Oxford antiquarian Anthony Wood noted that 'Trinity college new chapel was consecrated for a pious use... The chapel door being opened, the bishop [of Oxford] entred, knelt downe, and said something; and then in the choir knelt again; and so to the altar... When service was done, Dr Thomas Sykes one of the senior fellows preached. Afterwards went to dinner in the hall, where the company was nobly entertained. The president built the outside, which cost him 17 hundred pounds; and the inside by benefactors.'

6 Bathurst reported that Pope, the founder, was a kleptomaniac 9

Wood, who knew Oxford and the university well, had watched the entire process of the chapel's construction. Perhaps that explains why his entry merely states the extravagant cost of the new building. Other visitors marvelled at the new interior. Celia Fiennes, writing the following year, described it as 'a Beautifull Magnificent Structure. It's Lofty and Curiously painted—the Rooffe and Sides ye history of Christ's ascention a very ffine Carving of thin white wood just Like that at Windsor... The whole Chappel is Wans-coated with Walnut tree and the fine sweet wood... like Cedar and of a Reddish Coullr'.

The President who oversaw the construction of the chapel—and the main college gatehouse that stands like a tower immediately beside it (**Fig 3**)—was an outstanding figure in the life of the 17th-century university. Ralph Bathurst first came to Trinity in 1634 and would remain closely associated with the life of the college for the next 70 years. Trinity was the successor institution to Durham College, a medieval monastic foundation suppressed at the Reformation. It was established in

the medieval collegiate buildings by Sir Thomas Pope in 1555.

In 1644 Bathurst was ordained priest and then, during the Civil War, took up the study of medicine. Such were his interests in natural philosophy that he formed part of the founding circle of the Royal Society in 1662. In 1664, Bathurst became President of Trinity and took the opportunity of his office to marry Mary Tristram.

Bathurst immediately embarked upon architectural improvements at Trinity with the help of Sir Christopher Wren, another fellow of the Royal Society. That Bathurst was conscious of the architectural image of his college is implied by a curious anecdote he related to Wood in 1661. Bathurst reported that Pope, the founder of the college, was a kleptomaniac who, 'wheresoever he went a visiting his friends [would], steel one thing or other that he could lay his hand on, put in his pocket or under his gowne'. Making reference to this, a scholar of the college in the 1580s, Henry Cuffe, jested in company: 'Apox! This is a poor beggerly College indeed: the plate our founder stole would build such another'. The joke cost him his fellowship.

More certainly, Bathurst was well-attuned to the complexities of fundraising and a letter of 1665 famously highlights the fact that he wanted Wren to design a 'quadrangle', because it was a project that benefactors would pay for. Through the intercession of the Duke of Devonshire in 1670, Bathurst additionally became Dean of Wells, a plum appointment.

The redevelopment of Trinity continued by stages into the 1680s and ran concurrently with such other projects as the repair of the choir of the university church of St Mary, to which he contributed £300 as Vice Chancellor.

According to a biography by Thomas Warton published in 1761, Bathurst first laid down a deposit of £200 to begin a new college chapel in 1682. In his later fundraising letters, Bathurst asserted that the medieval

Fig 1: The chapel interior with its exquisitely inlaid altar reredos





chapel was 'Homely enough, but of late grown very infirme and ruinous'. Certainly, it seems to have suffered particularly badly at the hands of iconoclasts in the Civil War, the interior having remained apparently unaltered from its Catholic re-foundation in 1555.

It's possible that the 'Glorious Revolution' of 1688 played a decisive role in making the chapel a reality. Bathurst was a sufficiently adept political survivor for the temper of his Protestantism to be difficult to divine. Yet in creating and furnishing a chapel at this moment, he was making a very public statement of his religious conformity in a manner calculated to win the approval of the new regime (and his patron, the Duke of Devonshire). Many donors must have understood that too.

‘They found three bodies, one of which was Lady Elizabeth, widow of the founder’

Work began to the demolition of the old chapel and gatehouse beside it in 1691. On June 15 Bartholomew Peisley, the local master mason overseeing the work, invited his drinking companion Wood to explore the crypt of the old building. The next morning, the workmen opened the vault, shovelling debris off the steps to allow the two men in with candles. They found three bodies, one of which Wood presumed was Lady Elizabeth, widow of the college founder, Pope.

The foundation stone of the new building was laid on July 9, by which time a design for the building must have been agreed. In one letter Bathurst refers to Dean Aldrich—the arbiter of architectural taste in Oxford—‘and other able judges in architecture; have thought it most advisable to begin our worke wholly upon New Foundations; thereby to enlarge it both in Length and Breadth; and withal to make it range bettere [with the] Quadrangle’. This discussion hints at the probable nature

of the design process: rather than employing an architect, Bathurst himself devised the building and developed his ideas in discussion with those whose expertise he valued.

By August 10, 1691 these designs had been worked up as a model. This was used as the basis for a competitive building tender between two builders. Peisley, who had demolished the medieval building, offered a much lower price for the work and was duly contracted.

Bathurst put up the money for the architectural shell of the building himself, but in the winter of 1691 he began fundraising for its fittings. Several of his letters are transcribed, along with key documents relating to the building, in a recent book *The Chapel of Trinity College Oxford* by Martin Kemp (2013). An illustration of the proposed building by the Dutch artist Michael Burghers was sent out with the begging letters. This engraving, which differs in some particulars from the completed building, was also sent to Bathurst's former architect, Wren. Their correspondence makes it clear that Wren had not as yet been involved in the project and further underlines the discursive character of the design process.

On February 25, 1692 Bathurst wrote to press Wren for his comments on the design and, in particular, the pinnacles, which were ‘superadded to our first Draught, so I must confesse I would be well content to have omitted with your Approbation’. In his reply, dated March 2, Wren politely observes that ‘your work is too far advanced to admit of any advice’. He goes on tactfully to correct what he must have regarded as three woeful inadequacies of the ‘printed design’: the design of the cornice (that proposed looks bizarre), the structural support of the gate tower and the design of the parapet.

In this last regard, Wren dismisses the pinnacles, which he comments ‘are far too slender’, and effectively redesigns the upper section of the building, aligning the parapet divisions with the half-columns that rise between each window. Wren's suggestions were incorporated on a completely updated version of the original engraving (confus- ➤

Fig 2: A detail of the framing reredos. Fig 3 right: The chapel exterior and gateway tower. Fig 4 facing page: Pierre Berchet's Ascension is executed directly on to the plaster of the ceiling





ingly dated 1691, but necessarily made the following year).

This revised engraving, which shows the chapel as built (almost), also records a thorough reworking of the chapel interior that must have occurred at the same time. As part of this change, the furnishings were made taller, the decorative plasterwork extended further down the walls and the ceiling reconfigured with a central painting of the Ascension by the Huguenot artist Pierre Berchet (*Fig 4*).

Internally, the chapel followed in the medieval Oxford tradition. It was partitioned with a screen to create a vestibule at one end, the so-called ante-chapel. Running along the sides of the building and returning against this screen are stalls for the members of the college. At the opposite end of the interior is the communion table (explicitly described in the engravings as an 'altar'), which is enclosed by a rail and set against a framing reredos (*Figs 1 and 2*). To either side of the altar are two wooden cubicles, one enclosing the founder's alabaster tomb and the other a private pew for the President's wife. Bathurst had been widowed in 1690, but his wife had claimed a similar seat at Wells, the chantry chapel of Bishop Bekyngton.

‘Perhaps the most striking change to the interior has been the conservation of the fittings’

Work to the revised joinery of the chapel must have been underway from 1692 and clearly involved numerous different specialists (almost certainly including Grinling Gibbons), many of them working from London. The whole was assembled, however, under the direction of the Oxford joiner Arthur Frogley. On November 9, 1693, probably at the moment of its instalment, he signed a contract agreeing to maintain the furnishings for the next ten years. On the same day Peisley likewise contracted to lay a marble floor 'according to the printed design'. After the consecration ceremony, on May 24, 1694, Frogley received the final payment for the enormous sum of £1,140 owed to him for the chapel work.

In the three centuries since its completion, wear and tear, cumulative repairs and redecoration have gradually compromised the appearance of Bathurst's chapel. When a thorough survey of the building in 2010 identified the need for widespread emergency repairs, therefore, it was proposed—where appropriate—to return the chapel and its fittings to their 17th century appearance.



*Fig 5: The screen and organ. The restoration has brought out the rich colouring of the ante chapel screen and its carvings of the evangelists. The panels to each side of the door have been returned to their original orientation and an 1870 copy of *Lamentation with Saints* by Andrea del Sarto is visible through the central opening*

This ambitious project has been overseen by the chapel surveyor Martin Hall and the college buildings' manager Steve Griffiths.

Perhaps the most striking change to the interior has been the conservation of the fittings by Alan Lamb of Swan Farm Studios, Northamptonshire. These have been cleaned of later paint and colouring, returning the original finish of plant resin varnish that was so important to the interior aesthetic. Of particular note is the work to reredos and the screen, including repairs to the exquisite limewood sculpture on the reredos and the repair of sculpture in Bermudan cedar. An old supply of this rare wood, now unavailable, was generously made available by a donor. Griffiths undertook structural repair to the stalls.

Cliveden Conservation repaired the plasterwork, which has been repainted with distemper according to the colours identified by paint scrapes. Such was the fragility of Berchet's ceiling paintings, assessed

by Catherine Hassall, that these simply underwent a surface clean. Similarly, the 19th-century stained glass of the chapel has been cleaned and one window, removed in 1940, restored to its former position. The 1965 organ by Harrison & Harrison, with a case designed by Stephen Dykes Bower (*Fig 5*), has been restored by Peter Collins Ltd and F. H. Browne and new lighting has been designed by Sutton Vane Associates.

Bathurst died in 1704, 10 years after the consecration of the chapel. The diarist John Evelyn, noted that he was 'the oldest acquaintance now left me in all the world, at 86 years age, both start blind, deafe and memory lost'. In his will he asked for burial at Garsington outside Oxford, but in the event he was laid to rest in the ante-chapel at Trinity. An inscription and armorial form a modest grave marker, but the building itself—now restored to a condition that he would recognise—is really his memorial. ✎

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Interiors

The designer's room

Louise Jones was asked to reconfigure a Georgian house in order to create a number of ensuite bathrooms in a country-house look that offers every modern comfort

SET on a small estate, this house hadn't been touched for more than 30 years. 'We wanted to create a room that was welcoming, comfortable and inviting,' explains Louise. 'We used casein paint that was washed over the walls for a softer, more aged finish and introduced pattern and texture to provide interest.' The blinds of the double-aspect room are in Strypes by Claremont Furnishing (www.claremontfurnishing.com; 020-7581 9575). The floor was laid with honed and tumbled Crema Marfil marble.

As part of the reorganisation of the first floor, which included introducing a secondary staircase, this master bathroom was repositioned to provide space for a dressing room. The bath is the Paris design from Bathrooms International (020-7838 7788; www.bathroomsint.com) and is positioned to afford views of the orchard.

The lighting scheme is deliberately subtle; decorative wall lights by Charles Edwards (020-7736 8490; www.charlesedwards.com) are combined with downlighters that were fitted above the vanity unit designed by Louise. A Gustavian-inspired bench by Chelsea Textiles (www.chelseatextiles.com; 020-7584 5544) provides a place to sit and catch up at the end of the day.

Arabella Youens

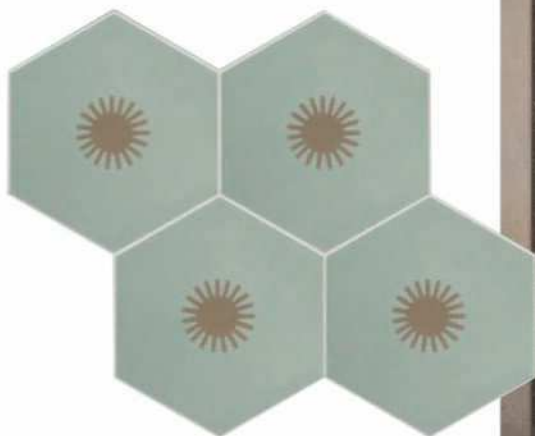
Louise Jones Interiors (www.louisejonesinteriors.com; 020-7351 6858)





Interiors

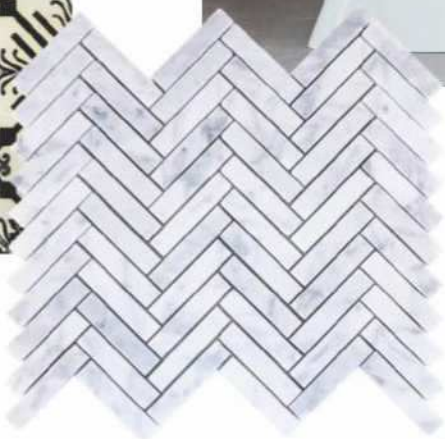
Pattern and colour are brightening up the bathroom



↑ Jigsaw Sun Pattern tiles by Neisha Crosland, 20cm by 23cm (8in by 9in), £6.84 each, Artisans of Devizes (01380 735888; www.artisansofdevizes.com)



↑ Black Basco tile, 20cm by 20cm (8in by 8in), £7.06 each, Bert & May (020-3744 0776; www.bertandmay.com)



← Kennet Carrara Marble Herringbone tiles, £79 per 33.5cm by 22.5cm (13in by 9in) sheet, Neptune (01793 427450; www.neptune.com)



→ Nordic Glass Bergan Fjord mosaic, £10.96 per 32cm by 19.5cm (12.5in by 8in) sheet, Fired Earth (01295 814365; www.firedearth.com)

↑ Floris hand painted tiles designed by Neisha Crosland, various sizes from 10cm by 10cm (4in by 4in), from £9 each, De Ferranti (020-7384 4424; www.deferranti.com)



→ Series S Illaria 1 hand-painted tile panel, £12.59 per 15cm by 15cm (6in by 6in) tile, Balineum (020-7431 9364; www.balineum.co.uk)



↑ Pastello Mix tiles, 22.3cm by 22.3cm (9in by 9in), £38.37m sq, Mandarin Stone (01600 715444; www.mandarinstone.com)



All white can a clinical bathroom make, so why not inject some warmth and individuality with pattern? These Made Modern Field Ribbed Triangle tiles in New Bronze Luster, 20cm by 20cm (8in by 8in), £952 per sq m, have a burnished beauty sure to pep up the plainest of spaces, from Ann Sacks by West One Bathrooms (020-3055 0802; www.annsacks.com)

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Interiors

The best new ideas for a stylish bathroom

Proof that industrial style is having an impact on bathrooms comes in the shape of the Drench Frahm shower panel, from £1,389, New York Wall Street tiles, 20cm x 10cm (8in x 4 in), £75.60 per sq m, and MGS Black shower fittings, from £399.60 for the pencil hand shower and hose, all C.P. Hart (0345 873 1121; www.cphart.co.uk)



Luxury retailer West One Bathrooms celebrates its 40th anniversary with a new design service, using the latest virtual reality technology to create a true sense of how your new room will look before any work begins, plus the launch of a raft of products, including the Bijoux bath, £10,869, designed by Kelly Hoppen (0333 011 3333; www.westonebathrooms.com)



Interior architect Martin Brudnizki (the starry designer of, among other things, The Ivy and the new Annabel's) has created the timeless Leawood collection for Drummonds, including this classic shower rose (*below*) and wall-mounted arm, £684, and shower plate with thermostat, £1,740 (020-7376 4499; www.drummonds-uk.com)



Neptune's new store in Chichester (01243 904417; www.neptune.com) displays its latest bathroom piece—the Edinburgh 1490 closed washstand, £1,540, alongside a tempting selection of dining, living, kitchen and bedroom furniture and accessories



A play on a ship's engine room, the Regulator wall-mounted basin mixer has robust black wheel handles, £1,267, Waterworks (020-7384 4000; uk.waterworks.com)

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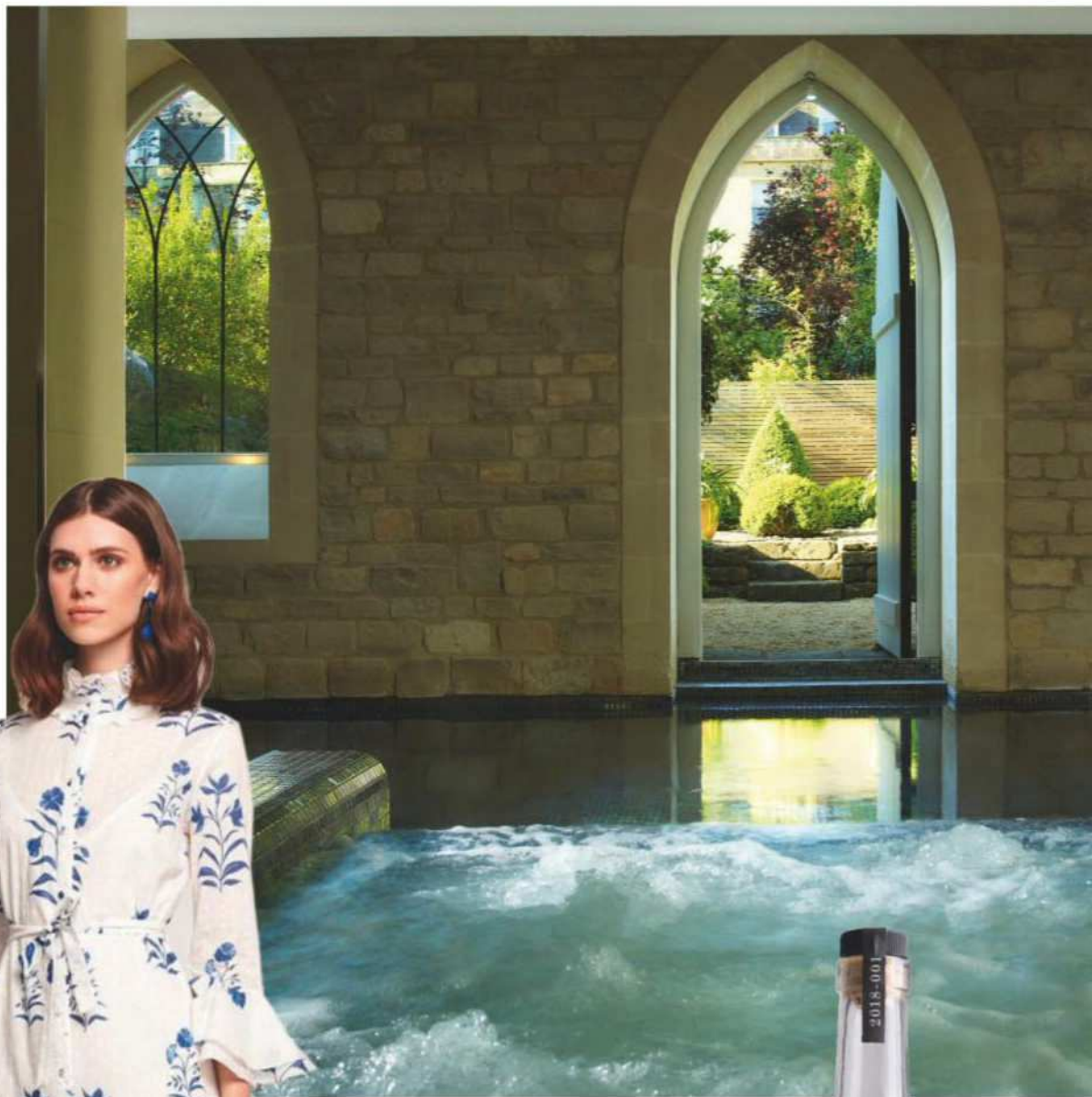
FOR more than a millennium, visitors have been drawn to Bath for health and leisure. The Royal Crescent Hotel is the quintessence of everything that makes this former Roman spa and Georgian resort so special. From my suite, handsomely furnished with a four-poster bed, I looked out through long sash windows to the twinkling panorama of the Southdown hill and contemplated all the luminaries who have loved this place, after whom the rooms are named.

Behind the hotel (which occupies two houses at the centre of the crescent), a delightful tea garden leads to the mews buildings, now an elegant restaurant, bath house (*right*) and spa. Top marks to the—all with genuine French accents—waiters, the sommelier and for the imaginative culinary presentation.

The spa, disguised as an orangery, offered the full holistic experience of ancient Chinese medicine meets state-of-the-art therapies based on the Five Elements. Like some Roman noblewoman, I lay on my couch in a state of bliss as the therapist massaged wood body oil and other unguents from Elemental Herbology into my weary back and limbs, and the tension melted from my muscles. *MM The Royal Crescent Hotel, 16, Royal Crescent, Bath. Rooms start from £330 per night on a bed-and-breakfast basis. (www.royalcrescent.co.uk; 01225 823333)*

High rollers

Rolls-Royce has created a new high-sided car intended to make luxury travel 'effortless'. Three years after its announcement, the launch of the Cullinan—named after the largest flawless diamond ever found, extracted from South Africa's Magaliesberg Mountains in 1905—is finally imminent. The 3,106-carat diamond was made into nine stones, with one set in the British Imperial State Crown and another in the Sovereign's Sceptre With Cross. 'It tells of rarity and preciousness,' says Torsten Müller-Ötvös, CEO of Rolls-Royce. The car will have a viewing suite in the boot—watch this space (www.rolls-royce.com).



Wine and spirit merchant Berry Bros & Rudd has revived its own-label 100-year-old gin. The original recipe, known as Berry's Best, was crafted in 1909 and a vial of it was given to Thames Distillers to recreate. The spirit is 'a complex, well-balanced gin with a wonderful combination of botanicals and flavours,' says chairman Lizzy Rudd. 'We are seeing a real gin revival and we hope that people will enjoy the heritage and history.' Berry Bros & Rudd London Dry Gin, £25 (0800 280 2440; www.bbr.com).



BEULAH, the ethical fashion house favoured by royals and celebrities alike, is opening a new store on London's Elizabeth Street, SW1, next month. The label's floaty numbers are perfect for holiday packing and solve that 'what to wear to Henley Regatta' conundrum. Every garment sold also helps vulnerable women around the world to find employment through The Beulah Trust. Maia floral broderie anglaise shirt dress (*left*), £450 (020-7730 0775; www.beulahlondon.com).



Alamy/Emma Ecarvshau



The forager

Ryder & Hope, Lyme Regis

Every month, Jemima Sissons discovers a new boutique nestled in a different part of Great Britain

When Dorset-born Alice Meller saw an empty store on Lyme Regis high street in 2014, she admits that 'the idea of having a shop by the sea followed me around in my dreams'. The doors opened in May 2015, and Alice—who is married to chef Gill Meller—and her business partner Michelle Blyth now cater to stylish locals and holiday-makers. The eclectic stock includes homeware, beauty products, jewellery and clothing with a spotlight on local craftspeople. Take the flora-and-fauna-themed work of Cameron Short and Janet Tristram, whose block-printed cushions add a bucolic flourish to any sofa (£90), or the elegant sycamore and beech rolling pins of Nettlecombe-based Alice Blogg (£42). For soigné house presents, look to the Trill Farm rose-hip facial oil (£22), by Neal's Yard founder Romy Fraser, or the pink-hued hand-thrown porcelain mugs of Edit Juhasz (£18) (01297 443304; www.ryderandhope.com).



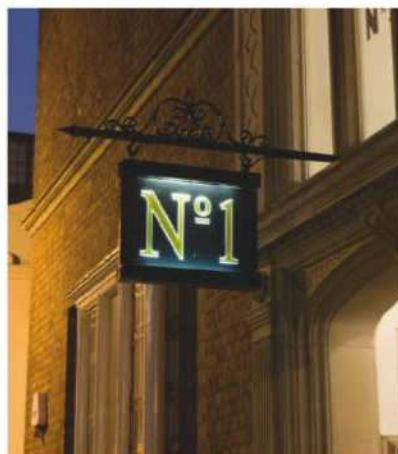
DEVELOPED by top scientists, Bioeffect's new two-step serum regime is charged with the formidable power of the company's award-winning barley-grown epidermal growth factor (EGF). It plumps, fights free radicals (the ultimate enemy, apparently) and provides your skin with an age-defying defence system—perfect for those who spend much of their time outdoors. £195 (0844 815 8456; www.bioeffect.co.uk).

Cufflinks are having a moment, so show you mean business and take a look at Deakin & Francis's new Dreamcatcher collection (left). 'Mother of pearl isn't only elegant and sophisticated, it's timeless,' says creative director James Deakin. 'Reminiscent of a dreamcatcher, the stone is associated with positive fortune and good luck.' Each pair is set in silver or rose gold and finished with a central aquamarine, blue sapphire, pink sapphire or yellow sapphire. £270, available at the Piccadilly Arcade shop (www.deakinandfrancis.co.uk; 020-3784 9369).



Spring clean skin

If the prolonged winter weather is playing havoc with your skin, Ushvani Spa in Chelsea, London SW3, has the answer. In a town house off Sloane Street (right), the award-winning day spa offers treatments based on ancient Asian culture and the décor incorporates woodcarvings, warming oranges and chocolate browns. Try the deep-tissue-style Balinese massage, from £180, or the signature facial from £130. Post-treatment, enjoy a cup of signature hibiscus tea and leave feeling ready for spring—when it finally arrives (020-7730 2888; www.ushvani.com). *RP*



New Armand de Brignac Champagne Blanc de Blanc magnum, £1,650 (www.armandebrignac.com)

Kemplay vanity case, £45, Otis Batterbee (020-7431 8563; www.otisbatterbee.com)



Golden Light earrings are sure to transfix the room, £2,200, Daou Jewellery (contact@daoujewellery.com; www.daoujewellery.com)



167 mini jade, sky-blue and Malibu crocodile bag, £18,000, Asprey (020-7493 6767; www.asprey.com)



Disposable razors, perfect for travelling, £15.99 for five, Truefitt & Hill (www.truefittandhill.co.uk; 020-7493 2961)

A few of my favourite things



Julia Bradbury

Best known for her love of the outdoors and for co-presenting BBC's *Countryfile*, Julia recently fronted ITV's *Britain's Favourite Walks: Top 100* and her book *Unforgettable Walks* is out now. An ambassador for Keep Britain Tidy, she lives in west London with her husband and three children

Illustrations by Ollie Maxwell



← I've always loved watches. Papou (my grandfather) bought me my first one when I was about seven years old. My **Elliot Brown Canford** is made in Britain, with a Swiss movement, designed by Ian Elliot and Alex Brown. The watches are put through rigorous testing to survive the harshest of conditions. Elliot Brown shock-tests every one by whacking it with a 6lb hammer—twice—and an outdoor website apparently put one in the deep freeze for 48 hours to see if it would survive... and it did. When you buy the Canford Mountain Rescue Edition, a donation is made to Mountain Rescue teams in England and Wales. £385 (www.elliottbrownwatches.com; 01202 338600)

→ Don't laugh, but I'm President of the Camping and Caravanning Club, which was formed in 1901, and am the first female president in the club's history (Scott of the Antarctic and Sir Robert Baden-Powell, founder of the Scouts, are former presidents). I'm passionate about encouraging people to embrace the benefits of green spaces and walking—the physical and mental-health benefits are undisputable—and I have co-founded www.theoutdoorguide.co.uk with my sister, Gina. I'm a 'glamper'—I've done my fair share of sleeping under bivouacs and twig shelters, but there's nothing like creature comforts when you're in the great outdoors. This state-of-the-art, blow-up **Outwell tent** takes all the stress out of camping. There are no complicated poles (why is one always missing?), just a pump to inflate the structure. Greycliff 7SATC, £2,799 (www.outwell.com)



↑ **Rejuvenated** makes this magical marine-collagen, acai-berry, hyaluronic-acid and vitamin drink that I swig down every morning, along with its H3O hydration and night-repair supplements. The idea is to keep the skin hydrated from within for a healthy complexion. It's a British family brand headed up by the lovely Kathryn Danzey—I like to buy British whenever I can. The company is based in Sheffield, where I went to school, and the ingredients are 100% natural, traceable and ethically sourced. Collagen Shots, £39.95, H3O Night Repair, £30, both for 30 days supply (0114 235 6585; www.rejuvenated.co.uk)





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‘Our purpose is to inspire people to get even more from their country passions’

David Robinson CEO talks to Hetty Chidwick

DAVID ROBINSON was six years old when he discovered his love for the countryside, after spotting some boys catching a fish in the weir near Newark. ‘The countryside is where I am energised,’ says the new CEO of Le Chameau, who joined the company nine months ago. He now owns a smallholding with his wife, is a recent convert to shooting and feels incredibly lucky to be working in an area that he loves.

‘The countryside puts things in balance. I think people live busy lives—much of it online—so it’s important to switch off,’ explains Mr Robinson, who believes that getting in touch with the environment is empowering. Time in the countryside is a luxury for many and *COUNTRY LIFE* Editor Mark Hedges describes the moment he puts on his boots as ‘emotional’—they hold memories of great times at leisure.

The company was started in 1927 by Claude Chamot, an agricultural supplier. Fed up with complaints about uncomfortable footwear, he made the Chamot boot—durable and comfortable, these were the first quality rubberised boots that didn’t fail their wearers. The company has seen much change in the world, but its boots have stood the test of time. ‘We offer all-day comfort, performance and, above all, pride in wearing,’ assures Mr Robinson, who believes that feeling proud of your gear makes for a better day in the field, whether you shoot, fish or ride. Le Chameau boots are loved by the country set worldwide, from dog walkers to horse owners, and are often seen gracing the feet of our own Royal family (the company is also set to launch a junior collection).

These boots aren’t a status symbol, but wearing them shows an understanding of quality—each pair is handmade by a single master bootmaker, who sits the metal last on their knee and wraps the rubber by hand. This is what makes them so comfortable, as well as more than 90 years of development to give unprecedented flexibility—so no digging in—and an elegant shape. If you’ve never tried a pair, go and put some on—you’ll soon realise why people keep coming back for more.

Jason Baxter



David Robinson’s tips for looking after your boots

If you’re wearing hand-crafted, premium boots made from natural rubber with a separate sole, always use a boot jack—they will last longer. They should also fit you snugly enough so you need a jack to take them off—you should have to push your foot through the ankle, not just slip them on. Wear a good sock (preferably one with few seams) and clean them occasionally—we have a sponge and a spray that conditions the rubber to get a longer life out of your boots. Look after your boots and they will look after you.

The leather lining (the company was the first to bond leather to rubber properly, rather than using glue) is warmer than cotton and cooler than neoprene. After some wear, it shapes to your leg, making them truly your boots.

Chasseur leather-lined boot, £340 (0330 331 0707; www.lechameau.com)

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How time flies

Celebrating 100 years of the RAF

Styled by Hetty Chidwick.

Photographed by John Lawrence Jones





From left to right:

Type XXI Flyback Chronograph in steel, £10,400, Breguet (020-7355 1735; www.breguet.com); **Bremont 1918** in stainless steel, £8,495, Bremont (0845 094 0690; www.bremont.com); **Pilot Cronometro Tipo CP-2 Flyback** in bronze with brown oily nubuck leather strap, £6,800, Zenith (01204 424051; www.zenith-watches.com); **Black opalin dial, 42mm steel polished case, brown camel strap**, £4,050, TAG Heuer (01204 861168; www.tagheuer.co.uk); **Pilot's Watch Chronograph Edition 150 Years**, £4,650, IWC (020-3618 3900; www.iwc.com)



More ways with spring onions

Super-speedy breakfast frittatas (below)

Beat 6 eggs together in a jug with a tablespoon of double cream and seasoning. Pour into 4 oiled muffin-tin holes and sprinkle in 2 chopped spring onions (you could add ham or smoked salmon at this stage, too). Cook in a hot oven for 8–10 minutes, until they've puffed up considerably, and serve immediately.



Asian-chicken and spring-onion salad

Cut the breast meat from a rotisserie chicken into bite-sized pieces. Mix together in a bowl with a handful of red-veined sorrel, 2 handfuls of mixed salad leaves, 50g of chopped peanuts, three chopped spring onions and 2tbspns of toasted sesame seeds. To make the dressing, combine half a teaspoon of sesame oil, 3tbspns of olive oil, 2tspns of soy sauce, 1tspn of honey, 1tspn of grated ginger and 1tbspn of red-wine vinegar. Pour over the salad, mix well and serve.

Spring-onion and pea potato salad

Boil 450g of new potatoes until cooked. Halve them and mix with 4 chopped spring onions, a cup of cooked peas, 200g of Greek yoghurt, 2tbspn of mayonnaise, 2tbspn of lemon juice, lemon zest and seasoning. Tastes great served with pheasant goujons.

Melanie Johnson

“ The kitchen garden is coming to life again at last and the first offerings are fabulous spring onions, which add a wonderful twist to classic fishcakes ”



Spring-onion, salmon and cauliflower fishcakes with garlic sauce

Serves 4

Ingredients

For the fishcakes
 2 salmon fillets
 A quarter of a cauliflower
 4 finely chopped spring onions
 450g cold mashed potatoes
 Zest of 1 lemon
 1tbspn lemon juice
 1 beaten egg
 200g fresh breadcrumbs
 A handful roughly chopped fresh parsley

For the garlic sauce
 100ml Greek yoghurt
 1tbspn mayonnaise
 2 cloves crushed garlic
 1tbspn lemon juice

Watercress and caper berries to serve

Method

Preheat your oven to 180°C/350°F/gas mark 4. Wrap the salmon fillets in foil and bake for 18 minutes. Once cooked, open the foil to cool and set aside.

Break the cauliflower into tiny florets and put them in a bowl with a splash of water. Microwave for two minutes, drain off the water and set them aside.

Remove the skin from the salmon fillets and flake the flesh into a large bowl with the spring onions. Mix in the mashed potatoes, cauliflower florets, lemon zest, lemon juice, beaten egg, a quarter of the breadcrumbs, parsley and seasoning. If the mixture is warm, chill in the refrigerator for about an hour.

As you shape the fishcake mixture into patties, drop them into the remaining breadcrumbs to coat all over, then put them in the refrigerator until ready to cook.

To make the garlic sauce, combine the yoghurt, mayonnaise, garlic, lemon juice and a pinch of salt in a bowl.

Fry the fishcakes in a generous amount of butter and oil, until golden on all sides and warmed through. Serve immediately with watercress, caper berries and the garlic sauce. 🐟

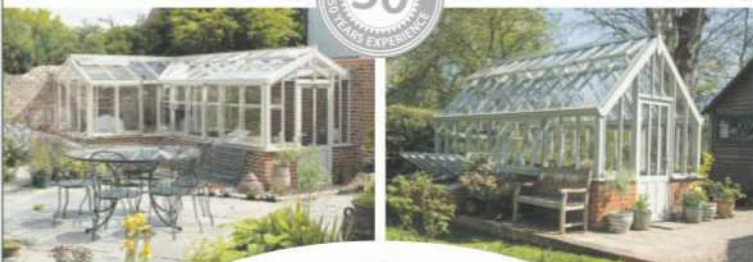
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Stairway to Heaven

Highly desirable old rectories in Norfolk, Suffolk and Leicestershire

BACK in the 18th century, it wasn't unusual for a wealthy rector with good landowning connections to devote his energies to living the life of a country gentleman, leaving the work of the parish in the hands of humble curates. Certainly, in our more secular age, you don't need to be a regular churchgoer to appreciate the fine proportions, practical layout and prime location of a classic Georgian rectory, which remains the ideal of many a city homebuyer who dreams of moving his family to the country.

Norfolk probably boasts more old rectories to the well-tilled acre than any other county in England and, for provenance and prestige, few can match The Old Rectory at Blickling, near Aylsham, north Norfolk,

currently on the market with Savills (01603 229229) at a guide price of £1.5 million. Originally part of the 3,500-acre Blickling estate, now owned by the National Trust, the charming former rectory dates from the 17th century, when the Blickling branch of the Hobarts of Hales Hall, Norfolk, was established by the judge Sir Henry Hobart, who built Blickling Hall, arguably Norfolk's grandest country house, in the 1620s.

The rectory, which stands next to the Church of St Andrew on the edge of Blickling Park, is surrounded by estate parkland and was altered and extended in the 19th century by Hobart's descendant, Lady Caroline Suffield, who left the estate to her great-nephew William Kerr, 8th Marquess of Lothian, on her death in 1850.

In 1930, Blickling passed to Philip Henry Kerr, 11th Marquess of Lothian, who was a leading statesman between the wars, forging a career as Secretary to Prime Minister Lloyd George, and as Ambassador to the USA in 1940, when he helped to persuade the Americans to support Britain's war effort.

For lovers of country houses, Lord Lothian is best remembered as the driving force behind the National Trust Act of 1937 and the creation of the Country Houses Scheme, which enabled the first large-scale transfer of mansion houses to the Trust in lieu of death duties, thereby preserving some of Britain's most beautiful buildings for the public to enjoy in perpetuity. Unmarried and leaving no heirs, he left the



Above and below: Grade II-listed The Old Rectory at Ingham in Suffolk stands in 2½ acres of well-maintained gardens and is surrounded by open countryside. £1.895m

overlooking the gardens, a large master bedroom suite, six further bedrooms, four further bathrooms and a games room. Included in the sale is a Grade II-listed 17th-century stable block.

Across the county border in Suffolk, the Ipswich office of Savills (01473 234800) is handling the sale of elegant, Grade II-listed The Old Rectory at Ingham, six miles from Bury St Edmunds, at a guide price of £1.895 million. The imposing, 6,257sq ft house was built in the grand Georgian manner in the early 1840s, either by Richard Benyon de Beauvoir, who was lord of the manor from 1831, or his heir, the Rev E. R. Benyon, who succeeded him as lord of the manor and chief local landowner and was rector of Ingham from 1844.

Like many of his wealthier peers, the Rev Benyon employed a curate, who was housed

in the cottage (now converted to two apartments), which stands next to the rectory and is included in the sale. Nevertheless, the rector clearly took his ecclesiastical obligations seriously, for, in 1861, he extensively restored the 14th-century village Church of St Bartholomew, now listed Grade II*.

Set well back from the road behind a solid bank of trees that provides a high degree of privacy and seclusion, The Old Rectory stands in some 2½ acres of beautifully maintained gardens and grounds on the edge of the village, with magnificent views from the main reception rooms over the surrounding open countryside. White electric gates open onto a gravelled carriage drive that sweeps round to the front of the house, with a spur leading off to the coach house, the original stables and other out-buildings. During their tenure, the present ➤

The Old Rectory was originally part of the National Trust's 3,500-acre Blickling estate near Aylsham in Norfolk. £1.5m

Blickling estate to the Trust on his death, aged 58, in 1940.

In 1999, The Old Rectory was acquired by its present owners, who are now downsizing. They have sympathetically refurbished it throughout, installing new showers and bathrooms, building a heated swimming pool and commissioning the landscaping of its 1.3 acres of gardens and grounds by designer Verity Hansen-Smith. The house offers 6,868sq ft of spacious and well-arranged accommodation, including four elegant and well-proportioned reception rooms, a splendid kitchen/dining room



Property market



Situated in the Welland Valley, The Old Rectory at Medbourne, Leicestershire has four reception rooms. £2m

owners have renovated the house and grounds to a high standard.

An impressive reception hall leads to the main reception rooms—all light and airy, with 12ft-high ceilings, triple-glazed sash windows, polished wood floors and wide-panelled doors. The kitchen, which has retained its original stone floor, has a bespoke fitted base and wall units, with a large central island, a gas range, built-in fridges and two dishwashers. A wide brick staircase leads off the main hall to a large cellar with slate-shelved wine bins. The sweeping main staircase leads to the first-floor bedrooms, including the master bedroom, which has lovely views over the gardens, six further bedrooms and four further bathrooms.

The seemingly endless A47—well-trodden by Norfolk parents ferrying their offspring across the fens to the popular public schools of Oundle, Stamford and Uppingham—trundles across the picturesque Welland Valley into Leicestershire, where The Old Rectory at Medbourne, seven miles from Market Harborough, is for sale through the local office of King West (01858 435970) at a guide price of 'excess £2 million'.



Historically one of the best-endowed in the area, the living of Medbourne was in the gift of the Nevills of Holt from 1565, but, as Roman Catholics, later Nevills were barred from making presentations and, in 1706, the rectory was sold by the family to St John's College, Cambridge. Listed Grade II with origins from 1710, the main part of the house was built in 1780, with the Georgian façade added in 1810. It was further improved in the 1800s by Rector L. P. Baker, who reputedly 'gave much money for charitable uses'.

Home to the present owners for the past 42 years, the charming former rectory is entered and exited via the stable yard, and was used to house the huntsman of the Billesdon hounds during the mastership of the legendary Sir Bache Cunard. Set in some 4.2 acres of private landscaped gardens, The Old Rectory offers 6,542sq ft of generous family accommodation, including three main reception rooms, eight bedrooms and four bathrooms. It comes with a paddock, outbuildings, stabling and a one-bedroom stable apartment.

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Winchester is the latest location to benefit from 'the Ivy effect', with a new restaurant opening on the High Street at the end of spring



The lolly and the Ivy

A new Ivy restaurant is a mark of honour for an area, says Eleanor Doughty, who explores the growing empire

THERE are, according to Strutt & Parker, a few modern elements that, quite simply, make an area, reflecting (and sometimes impacting on) house prices and demand. Not so long ago, the one to watch was Waitrose, but, today, the signifiers of a smart area range from independent cinemas to gluten-free bakeries.

The latest, and perhaps more unusual, game-changer is something that agents are calling 'the Ivy effect'. Following the rapid expansion of the Ivy chain, which originated with the Covent Garden haunt popular with big names of the Arts firmament from Noël Coward to Angelina Jolie, 'the restaurant's offshoots are now becoming a benchmark for a fashionable area'.

The original Ivy opened in 1917 on West Street, Covent Garden; today, with 18 branches open or set to open outside London, from Edinburgh to St Albans, it's a national brand. In the capital alone, there are 11—including one by Tower Bridge, one

on King's Road and one at St John's Wood. There's even one in Wimbledon and, seven miles away, on the other side of the park, in Richmond.

However, there's more to the Ivy effect than the popularity of luxury brasserie food. 'Mobile working means there's more demand for these places,' says Mark Parkinson, head of London for Middleton Advisors (020-7370 4242). When walking past any of the Ivy restaurants during the week, he points out, 'all you'll see are business breakfasts'.

The locations chosen are of interest to Hugh Blake, associate partner at Carter Jonas Cambridge (01223 633495), where a branch of the Ivy is set to open this spring. 'Cambridge has seen a 60% capital growth in the past 10 years, so the Ivy is targeted at the people who are moving to the town and have disposable income. They're the sort of market to focus on.' The Cambridge Ivy will rarely be quiet, Mr Blake predicts. 'Even in the summer, when

the students leave, you'll have Japanese and Chinese tourists booking a table for eight. I don't think there will ever be a quiet time for it.'

In London, there is such a range of chic restaurants and cafes that the addition of yet another Ivy makes little to no difference. 'In our particular neck of the woods,' says Jamie Hope, managing director of Maskells Estate Agents (020-7581 2216), who is based in Walton Street, Knightsbridge, 'there's such a wealth of amenities that something such as the Ivy moving in will have little effect. However, in for example, Marlow in Buckinghamshire, an Ivy has opened and it will undoubtedly become a real anchor, as there is far less choice.'

For the county towns, a little bit of metropolitan sophistication can go a long way. The announcement of an Ivy approaching denotes that a town is 'a certain sort', says Mr Parkinson. This is often reflected in the existing high streets. On Cheltenham's



The Ivy Cafe in London's Blackheath: dining decadently all day long holds great appeal to many potential house buyers throughout the UK

tree-lined Promenade, a host of smart brands, including Hotel Chocolat, Jo Malone and Toast, have set up shop. The Ivy Montpellier Brasserie is located just an eight-minute walk away. To boot, the average house price in Cheltenham, where prices rose more rapidly than in any other part of the UK in 2017, is £313,150.

In Winchester, *The Sunday Times*'s 'best place to live' in 2016, house prices averaged £546,962 in 2017, according to Zoopla. On its high street, alongside Savills—long the mark of a smart town—sits a branch of Gieves & Hawkes and the Ivy Winchester is due to open this spring. In York, an Ivy opened in December, around the corner from the famous Bettys tea room in the pretty town centre of cobbled streets.

Unlike the 2015 launch of Soho Farmhouse, near Chipping Norton in Oxfordshire, there is no evidence that new branches of the Ivy are actually driving house prices up in particular areas. 'Soho Farmhouse's effect is a one-off,' says Mr Parkinson, but what

an Ivy does seem to do is award 'a stamp of approval to an area' that has perhaps already arrived, which really makes a difference to some people, says Louisa Brodie, head of home search for Banda Property (020-7937 9600). And an Ivy is a 'far more

exclusive validation' than a Waitrose or John Lewis, adds Mr Parkinson.

'We saw an increase in potential buyers when the Ivy announced it was opening nearby and again when it actually opened,' says Miss Brodie. 'That's the Ivy effect!'

Ivy league

Where to find fine dining (and a solid property market)

London

Covent Garden WC2

Chelsea SW3

Kensington W8

Soho W1

Tower Bridge SE1

City EC2

Marylebone W1

Wimbledon SW19

St John's Wood NW8

Richmond TW9

Blackheath SE3

Further afield

Bristol

Cobham

Marlow

(Buckinghamshire)

Edinburgh

Bath

Tunbridge Wells

Harrogate

Cheltenham

York

Coming soon

Guildford

Cambridge

Dublin

Birmingham

Leeds

Winchester

Brighton

St Albans

Norwich



Is this life as we know it?

Tate Britain's new show is a fascinating survey of British figurative art—yet it lacks humanity, finds Laura Gascoigne

IN 1976, the American artist R. B. Kitaj, a former student at the Royal College of Art, curated a memorable exhibition for the Arts Council titled 'The Human Clay'. In the catalogue, he banged the drum for British figurative art, claiming 'there are artistic personalities on this small island more unique and strong... than anywhere in the world outside America' and christening this constellation of talent the School of London.

More than 40 years on, Tate Britain is celebrating the continuation of that native tradition in 'All Too Human: Bacon, Freud and a Century of Painting Life'. Focusing on painting in oils, the show starts by introducing some formative influences. One of the most important was Walter Sickert, a believer that the arts 'flourish in the scullery [and] fade at a breath from the drawing room', who banished the ghost of Victorian propriety with seamy Camden Town paintings such as *Nuit d'Été* (about 1906).

Equally influential was David Bomberg, the Birmingham-born son of Jewish refugees from Poland, whose expressionist brushwork—dashing displayed



Michael Andrews achieved the fluid rendering of *Melanie and Me Swimming* by spraying quick-drying acrylics onto the canvas with a nitrogen-powered gun. It shows the artist and his daughter in Scotland

in his confident *Self-Portrait* (1931)—would shake British painting to its foundations.

For much of the 20th century, Britain was a battleground between two painting schools. The first was led by the Slade professor William Coldstream, who promoted meticulous underdrawing 'to get something on the canvas you can believe in'; the second was commanded by Bomberg, who exhorted his students to capture 'the spirit in the mass' by attacking the canvas with a loaded brush.

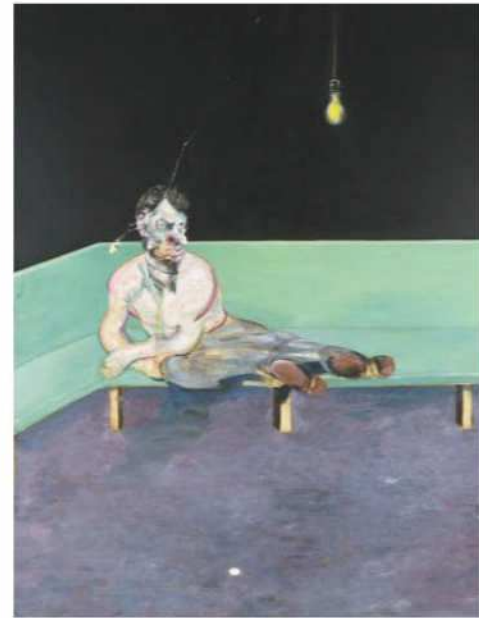
The school of Coldstream produced Euan Uglow, whose coolly clinical painting *Georgia*

(1973), five years in the making, bears the telltale scars of his teacher's 'anchor points'. The school of Bomberg produced Frank Auerbach and Leon Kossoff, who moonlighted from the Slade to attend Bomberg's evening classes at the Borough Polytechnic. The master's elegiac *Evening in the City of London* (1944), showing a defiant St Paul's rising over the ruins of the Blitz at sunset, shares a gallery with views of London building sites painted by his pupils during the reconstruction boom of the early 1960s. In contrast with Bomberg's soft smudges of colour, their can-

vases are thick with newly affordable paint.

Despite the optimism of the period, Kossoff's boisterous *Children's Swimming Pool, Autumn Afternoon* (1971) is the only upbeat painting in an exhibition that is titled after a book by Nietzsche and dominated by Francis Bacon and Lucian Freud. Existentialism rules.

Bacon's early and late work is spread across two galleries, though between the rough handling of his early *Figure in a Landscape* (1945) and the slickness of his later *Triptych* (1974–77) the theme of human savagery remains unchanged.



Left: Freud's *Girl with a White Dog* (1950–51), a portrait of his first wife Kitty Garman. **Above:** *Study for Portrait of Lucian Freud* by Francis Bacon (1964)

Freud is more versatile, stylistically and psychologically. From the 1960s, the disturbingly heightened clarity of *Girl with a White Dog* (1950–1), a portrait of his pregnant wife Kitty Garman with her bull terrier, gives way to the sensuous brushwork of *Naked Portrait* (1972–3) as he swaps his sable brushes for hog's hair and shifts attention from the eyes to the body.

For much of the 20th century, Britain was a battleground between two painting schools,

However, Freud shows himself capable of tenderness in *Girl in a Striped Nightshirt* (1983–5), a touching portrait of Celia Paul, his former student and lover, asleep, and in the heartbreaking *The Painter's Mother IV* (1973), part of a series chronicling his mother's descent into dementia.

Humanity is hard to portray in a vacuum; a context helps.

Michael Andrews and R. B. Kitaj, who share a gallery, tackle social interaction in group scenes—Andrews in *Colony Room I* (1962), which recreates the boozy bohemian atmosphere of the Soho watering hole where Bacon held court, and Kitaj in *The Wedding* (1989–93), which features cameo appearances by

Freud, Auerbach, Kossoff and Hockney (the latter's only appearance in the show).

We have to wait until Paula Rego's arrival for human relationships to come into the frame. She wickedly turns the tables on the dominant male artist with her images of emasculated men, but our view of the male victim

in *The Family* (1988) changes when we realise that it was painted while her husband, the artist Victor Willing, was dying.

She clears the way for four very different contemporary women painters—Jenny Saville, Celia Paul, Cecily Brown and Lynette Yiadom-Boakye—all squeezed into the final room. They deserve more space. Jenny Saville is represented only by a giant self-portrait, *Reverse* (2002–3), when her more recent Mother and Child drawings might have expanded the show's emotional range—if drawing, that most human of media, had been included.

Celia Paul contributes a *Family Group* (1984–6) and a self-portrait in paint-stained smock, *Painter and Model* (2012), but no example of her most poignant subject, her ageing mother. What I missed in this exhibition was the human touch.

'All Too Human: Bacon, Freud and a Century of Painting Life' is at Tate Britain, Millbank, London SW1, until August 27 (www.tate.org.uk; 020-7887 8888)



Kitaj's *The Wedding* celebrates his marriage to the American painter Sandra Fisher. Among the guests depicted are Auerbach, Freud, Kossoff and Hockney, all artists he rated highly

Next week: British studio pottery at the Fitzwilliam

Ash to ashes

John Lewis-Stempel is moved by this very personal account of disease and the threat of extinction in our natural world

Nature

Epitaph for the Ash

Lisa Samson
(4th Estate, £12.99)

A TERRIBLE symmetry runs through Lisa Samson's book. As the cover declares, *Epitaph* is a eulogy for a beloved British tree threatened with extinction due to disease, so-called ash dieback. The parallel? When researching *Epitaph*, the author noticed progressive hearing loss. Eventually, a life-threatening brain tumour was diagnosed. So she, herself, was faced with obliteration.

I'm not a fan of the tendency in women's nature writing to double-up the genre with misery memoir. Modern male nature writers seem to have heroic times outdoors, but the girls just don't wanna have fun. Think Helen Macdonald's *H is for Hawk*, Katharine Norbury's *The Fish Ladder* and, most recently, Miriam Darlington's *Owl Sense*. However, there's no wallowing in Samson's book, perhaps because she's a gritty northerner, a Yorkshire lass. After all, clichés are clichés because they are true. Equally, although Miss Samson loves trees and 'communes' with them, she's not an airy-fairy sentimentalist.

She came early to trees. Her uncle was the xylophile Gerald Wilkinson, author of *Epitaph for the Elm* (1978), who wended Britain in his campervan observing trees. Writing travelogues that catalogue the dolorous plight of our landscape trees, then, is a family affair.

Chalara fraxinea, the fungus that causes ash dieback, was first found in the wild in Britain in 2012. In the irony of ironies, the place the fungus was initially noticed was Ashwellthorpe, Norfolk. Arriving there three years later, Miss Samson feels



The author mourns the ash tree, 80% of which will die within 20 years

she is 'visiting a sick relative or a friend in hospital'. Trees stricken with the disease develop lesions and blackened wilted leaves; death is often top to bottom, leaving the crown a pale mass of 'antlers'. Depressingly, plague trees become hyper-susceptible to other pests and pathogens. The educated guess of tree experts is that 80% of Britain's 80 million ash trees will die in the next 20 years.

How we will miss the ash tree, the way it holds the winter moon at night, its geometric leaf-dapple filtering of June sun. A few of us will also mourn the ash's practicality. One of the absolute hardwood strengths of *Epitaph for the Ash* is its author's appreciation of *Fraxinus excelsior* in British history. As she notes, the multitude of place names associated with the ash 'bear testimony to the part the ash has played in our civilization'. Funnily, I was on Eurostar passing through Ashford in Kent when I read that line.

Aside from its renowned qualities as firewood, ash was the staff for wheels, hand implements, sheep hurdles, hop poles and

ploughs. Miss Samson visits Richard Richardson, a retired Cumbrian farmer who foddered his sheep with ash until the 1980s. I still cut ash for our livestock, less as belly fill, more as mineral rich tonic. You have your echinacea and white chia, the ewes and moos have ash.

There is a moment in this book that stopped me in my reading tracks. On farmer John Greenslade's holding in Devon, the ash dieback is so pronounced he needs a specially constructed pit, 43ft by 20ft, to burn affected trees. Ashes to ashes. He feels shame at having to hang a red warning sign for ash dieback at every entrance to his property.

Ash dieback is not a theoretical, future problem. For some out in the countryside, it's a horror plague, right here, right now.

In folklore, the ash is the magic tree, with healing powers. Miss Samson's tumour, operated on, is in remission. We should pray that the long story of the ash tree in these islands also has the same happy and miraculous ending.

Society

Reimagining Britain

Justin Welby
(Bloomsbury, £16.99)

THIS IS a book that a courageous Archbishop of Canterbury should write at this time of national and international bewilderment. Of course, it's a risk. Any attempt to see the modern world through the lens of the Gospels can easily be portrayed as inevitably irrelevant. Yet, Justin Welby's business background gives him street cred that breaks through that expectation. He shows an understanding of contemporary politics and current social mores that engenders real confidence in his analysis of how we might reimagine Britain.

His key word is hope. Not falsely cheerful optimism, but hope rooted in an understanding of mankind and its aspirations, leading to an informed indictment of the way our society frustrates the fulfilment of so many.

This is not a simplistic attack on consumerism, nor a lazy affirmation of traditional values. Instead, it is a remarkably open and informed challenge to the secular world. Like the Pope in his encyclical, *Laudato Si'*, the Archbishop applies the insights of Christianity to the muddled values and attitudes of our dislocated world. The result makes uncomfortable reading for politicians of every hue—here is the voice of the disrupter, fully aware of the world as it is and yet determined to seek the world as it could be. Mr Corbyn won't like his understanding of the need for market economics if we are to eliminate poverty and Mrs May will be deeply troubled by his attack on an unregulated free market as a driver of social disruption.

By covering such a canvas, centering on the family, education and housing, and recognising the global challenges of extreme inequality, climate change and social disintegration, the Archbishop has set himself a huge task. He has succeeded in giving real hope that Britain will be sufficiently motivated to change.

Lord Deben



Dorothy Brooke's buying committee assesses a horse in 1932

History
The Lost War Horses
of Cairo

Grant Hayter-Menzies
 (Allen & Unwin, £16.99)

MANY PEOPLE have heard of Dorothy Brooke's hospitals for sick horses, but very few know the background or the extent of her achievement; this book tells the story—and quite a story it is.

Her husband, who had distinguished himself as a cavalry officer in the First World War, was posted to Cairo in 1930 and she went with him. She was shocked to see the state of so many of the horses on the streets, which were often towing cabs or heavy loads while suffering from extreme malnutrition and injuries. The fact that many of them had been left behind as 'obsolete equipment' by the British Army after they had served gallantly in the war made matters worse.

Brooke wanted to intervene and do something to improve their lot. She was worried that, as a hostess and social figure in the ex-patriate community, interference in local affairs might be inappropriate, but, undaunted, she pressed on.

She was not the first to show concern for mistreated horses and other animals. Ada Cole, a nun living in Antwerp, had been horrified to see elderly British horses being force-marched to Belgium for slaughter and human consumption. The director of the Cairo zoo was so shocked at the ill-treatment of the animals

there that he threatened to throw the head keeper into the lions' den to provide them with a good meal.

The two immediate problems facing Brooke were raising funds for the hospital and securing mistreated horses without inflicting greater hardship on their impoverished owners.

“This book tells Brooke's story—and quite a story it is ,

The first was solved by writing a letter to the press appealing for contributions from readers. The response was unexpectedly generous and included donations from George V and Queen Mary. Solving the second problem involved paying a compensatory price to those who had been exploiting the horses in the first place—this was controversial and upset many friends.

Some of the horses were beyond saving and had to be put down—Brooke was, in her own words, 'not just an angel of mercy but an angel of death'. As Britain's relations with Egypt deteriorated over the Suez Canal, her Cairo hospital was sequestered, but by then her good works had spread to 11 countries. She deserves this book as a tribute.

John Ure



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Starting as they mean to go on

An upturn in the quality of pieces on offer drove sales at TEFAF Maastricht

BY the end of the first weekend, the fears of exhibitors at TEFAF in Maastricht had largely dissipated: the division of the former preview party into an early-access day well supplied with food and drink, but with dealers limited to 10 invitations each, followed by a preview with a larger ticket allocation, but no free refreshment, seems to have worked. There were reports of clients staying away because they no longer had first access and there were noticeably fewer American accents to be heard, but numbers were more manageable, with serious collectors unimpeded by partying browsers.

Major sales were recorded in all fields from the outset

It is certainly the case that under the previous arrangement, networking and socialising got in the way of the most important aim of such events, which is to sell; this year, major sales were recorded in all fields from the outset and continued to March 18. Even so, some exhibitors did wonder whether invitations from the fair's sponsors had been similarly limited, since bank and insurance guestlists would be less likely to include potential buyers than their own.

As much to the point as the structural reorganisation—which included a partial reallocation of some of the best stands—seasoned observers believe this to have been one of the better fairs for overall quality and certainly a distinct advance on last year's rather lacklustre edition. Some previous exhibit-



Fig 1: Foggini's pair of monumental marble lions attacking a horse and a bull. About €1.75 million

ors were also absent this year, for a variety of reasons, but many who remained had noticeably raised their game, with fewer things that had been seen before, and they were rewarded.

There was no lack of evidence for those who argue that pre-1947-ivory works of art should be exempt from any proposed bans. They came from many periods and cultures and one of the older examples was a rare 2nd or 3rd century AD Roman carved relief measuring 2½in by 6½in—unusually large for this kind of survival. It showed the drunken Silenus being carried by naked satyrs from a debauch, with a temple and torchbearers. This was with the London antiquities dealer Charles Ede. Martin Clist, the managing director, could not recall anything comparable on the market for a long

time: 'The preservation of ancient ivory is uncommon; as an organic material, it can easily decay. The material was then, as now, seen as a material of luxury and therefore would have been attached to something of high value.' Despite considerable damage, it sold to a French collector for €110,000.

Among the gallery's other sales were a 22in-high Cypriot limestone votary figure dating to around 6th century BC (asking price: €68,000) to a Dutch national collection; a 6th-century BC black-figure Athenian terracotta eye kylix (€36,000) to a German state museum; and a 1½in high 4th century BC Egyptian head of a prince in green peridotite

from the Ptolemaic Period (€85,000), bought by a Dutch private collector. Other antiquities dealers, including Rupert Wace from London, also attracted museum and private buyers.

The Parisian dealer Kugel's stand was undoubtedly the most splendid of the fair; the reputation of many a museum would be made by just this sample showing from the gallery's stock. I was particularly impressed by a cabinet and table made—composed rather—for the Elector and Electress of Bavaria by their architect and cabinet-maker Marx Schingel between 1658–59. Schingel's architecture may not have been particularly distinguished, but this was a masterpiece in comparative miniature, the oak feet and lime table top embellished with veneers of snakewood, ebony, olive, boxwood, tortoiseshell on gold foil, brown-stained tortoiseshell, mother-of-pearl, ivory, brass and tin, the cabinet alive with columns,

Fig 2: Japanese Showa period cast-bronze dish. €5,500





Fig 3: William Lewin's *The Birds of Great Britain, with their Eggs, accurately figured*. Undisclosed

finials and obelisks (**Fig 4**). Despite the elaboration, all was sensitively ordered and controlled. The gallery would give me no indication of price, but it will have been one of the more expensive works of art.

Tomasso Brothers of Leeds and London made a flying start with the sale of a pair of monumental marble groups of lions attacking a horse and a bull by Giovanni Battista Foggini (1652–1725), for which about €1.75 million was asked (**Fig 1**). Another early success, at around €425,000 paid by a collector, was the 9ft by 10ft 4in painting of Castor and Pollux by Giovanni Battista Cipriani (1727–85). One of my favourite items

was a 21in-high Qianlong wooden figure of a mandarin carved with extraordinary sensitivity, which was dated 1741 and sold by Vandervan for €100,000. Another Oriental favourite was the mid-6th-century pottery caparisoned terracotta horse with Ben Janssens, (*COUNTRY LIFE*, February 28), which sold to a British collector for €50,000.

Along with the highest prices to be found around the fair—the New York Hammer Galleries parted with van Gogh's *Lilac*, which had a \$9.5 million (£6.5 million) asking price—my impression was that there were more comparatively low priced items this year than has sometimes been the case. For instance,

Ben Janssens sold a Japanese Showa period (1926–89) 16in diameter cast-bronze dish for €5,500 (**Fig 2**). From a distance, the reddish-brown patina resembled lacquer, but the weight was a considerable surprise to anyone picking it up.

The art-reference bookseller Thomas Heneage of St James's reported the best opening day in 27 years at the fair and older book and manuscript dealers also sold well. Also from St James's, Daniel Crouch sold his *Grooten Atlas* by Johannes Blaeu (1662–65) with an asking price of €730,000.

Among other major sales, the Librairie Camille Sourget from the rue de la Seine on the Paris Left Bank parted with its copy of 'the rarest of all English bird books', William Lewin's *The Birds of Great Britain, with their Eggs, accurately figured* (**Fig 3**).

Pick of the week

A stand to which I always return with delight is that of Senger Bamberg Kunsthandel from the Upper Franconian city, now part of Bavaria. It's a *Wunderkammer* of medieval carvings, paintings and later European works of art. A little thing that caught my eye this time was a polished and engraved gourd flask with a spring-loaded filigree nozzle. I agreed with the dealer that it probably dated from the 1780s, although the vetting committee thought it a little later. The consensus was that it had held sand for blotting ink. This charming bibelot was priced at €4,800.



Next week The ghosts of *COUNTRY LIFE* past



Fig 4: Cabinet for the Elector of Bavaria, by Schingel. Undisclosed

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Crossword

A prize of £15 in book tokens will be awarded for the first correct solution opened. Solutions must reach Crossword No 4522, COUNTRY LIFE, Pinehurst II, Pinehurst Road, Farnborough Business Park, Farnborough, Hampshire GU14 7BF, by **Tuesday, April 3**. UK entrants only.

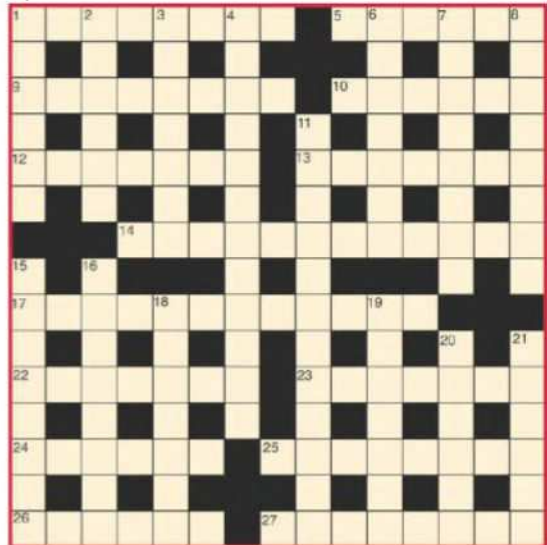
ACROSS

- 1 Childhood friend put down floor covering in gym (8)
- 5 Name a Baroque composer mentioned in speech (6)
- 9 Cut in coin is out of order (8)
- 10 Be crossing lines to dip into books (6)
- 12 Reportedly regret dig producing stewable leafstalks (7)
- 13 Mistreat domestic animal, a dog (7)
- 14 Uninjured, and sensible, with strongbox (4,3,5)
- 17 RAF officer, or a pup acting strangely? (5,7)
- 22 Grassland beyond Yorkshire river (7)
- 23 Comfort zone of the French chaps in sci-fi film? (7)
- 24 Book part of Simla unnaturally rejected (6)
- 25 Intervene, accepting time to reflect (8)
- 26 Dissertations from the present students, ultimately (6)
- 27 I refuse to admit concealing songbird's name (8)

DOWN

- 1 Be inquisitive about Brazilian port's religious house (6)
- 2 Build up a ship's company, so to speak (6)
- 3 Cosmetic mother used to cover a blemish? (7)
- 4 Stirrer beginning to talk, one minting Russian money? (12)
- 6 Publicise girl's narrow escape when flying (7)
- 7 Heavy rain from west filling our pond, perhaps (8)
- 8 Occurrence I'd talked of late in the day (8)
- 11 Skive? A jaunty dog-walker may do it (5,3,4)
- 15 Tropical growth in English factory storing goods (8)
- 16 Seven points about old rubbish (8)
- 18 Period associated with fruit and feathers (7)
- 19 Russian loses head, giving description of peninsula (7)
- 20 Asian friend in centre of Newcastle (6)
- 21 Severe set involved with cathedral city (6)

4522 TAIT



NAME (PLEASE PRINT IN CAPITALS) _____

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SOLUTION TO 4521 (Winner will be announced in two weeks' time)
 ACROSS: 8, Erode; 9, Egomania; 10, Turpentine; 11, Mull; 12, Addle; 13, Assistant; 14, Diet; 16, Betel; 17, Rash; 21, Organiser; 23, Eager; 24, Span; 25, Full-bodied; 26, Haversack; 27, Spars.
 DOWN: 1, Left hand; 2, Porridge; 3, Severed; 4, Against the clock; 5, Imperial; 6, Animator; 7, Fallen; 15, Train set; 16, Briefest; 18, Anglican; 19, Hard disk; 20, Remorse; 22, Repeat.

Winner of 4520 is Audrey Dobrzyovsky, St. Jude's, Isle of Man

Bridge Andrew Robson

ON both these two deals, beware of a poor trump split. To warm you up, our first is a game.

Dealer West
Both vulnerable

♠ 743
♥ A3
♦ A864
♣ Q973

♠ K106
♥ KQJ976
♦ J2
♣ K10

♠ -
♥ 10854
♦ 10953
♣ AJ864

♠ AQJ9852
♥ 2
♦ KQ7
♣ 52

South	West	North	East
	1♥	Pass	4♥(1)
4♣	End		
(1)	Buoyed by the void.		

Dealer North
Both vulnerable

♠ 9643
♥ AK875
♦ AK
♣ KQ

♠ -
♥ Q10932
♦ 10983
♣ 8542

♠ A875
♥ 4
♦ Q762
♣ J1096

♠ KQJ102
♥ J6
♦ J54
♣ A73

South	West	North	East
	Pass	1♥	Pass
1♠	Pass	4♣	Pass
5♣(1)	Pass	5♦(1)	Pass
6♠(2)	End		

(1) Ace-showing cue bids, looking for the Spade slam.
 (2) Seizes the initiative, knowing partner will be nervous about trump quality.

West leads the King of Hearts and you win dummy's Ace. You lead a Spade, expecting an easy ride, but East discards an encouraging eight of Clubs. You win the Ace and lead the Queen. West wins the King and promptly switches to the King of Clubs and a second Club. East wins and leads a third Club, promoting West's ten of Spades into the setting trick. Strike one.

Let's try again. After winning the Ace of Hearts and leading a Spade to the Ace, you cross to the Ace of Diamonds and lead the three of Hearts, discarding a Club. Better—but not quite good enough. West wins the Heart and leads his second Diamond. You win and lead the Queen of Spades, but West wins the King, puts partner in with a Club and ruffs the third Diamond. Strike two.

The winning line is to lead the three of Hearts at trick two, before playing a Spade, discarding a Club. The defence are powerless—say they lead Club-Club. You ruff and peacefully lead Ace-then-Queen of Spades, forcing out West's King. You can win any return and draw West's ten of Spades with the Knave—game made.

And now for the slam. Plan the play in Six Spades on the ten of Diamonds opening lead.

You win the King of Diamonds and lead a Spade to your King, expecting an easy ride, however, West rudely discards (a Club).

Seeking to ruff a Diamond, you cross to the Ace of Diamonds and lead a second Spade, East flies in

with the Ace and leads (say) a third Spade. You win in hand and ruff your Knave of Diamonds with dummy's last Spade. You cash the King-Queen of Clubs, then try to reach your hand by cashing the Ace-King of Hearts, but East rudely ruffs—down one. Strike one.

Let us replay. Before leading even one Spade, cash the Ace of Diamonds. Now lead a Spade, East ducking and you winning (West discarding). You ruff the Knave of Diamonds and lead a second Spade, East ducking again (best this time). You win and carefully unblock the King-Queen of Clubs before leading a third Spade, East winning the Ace. Think you're home? Think again.

East switches to his singleton Heart to the Knave, Queen and King. You're locked in dummy and must hope East follows to the Ace of Hearts, preparatory to a Heart ruff. He doesn't and rudely ruffs—down one. Strike two.

You're almost there. Following the second line up to trick seven, at trick eight, you must cash one top Heart before leading the Spade to East's Ace. If East holds a second Heart, you can win dummy's other top Heart, ruff a third Heart, draw East's last Spade and cash the Ace of Clubs. Here, East has no second Heart, so you can win his minor-suit return (ruffing a Diamond), draw his last Spade and claim your slam.

On both deals, you had to anticipate the bad trump split before leading even one round.

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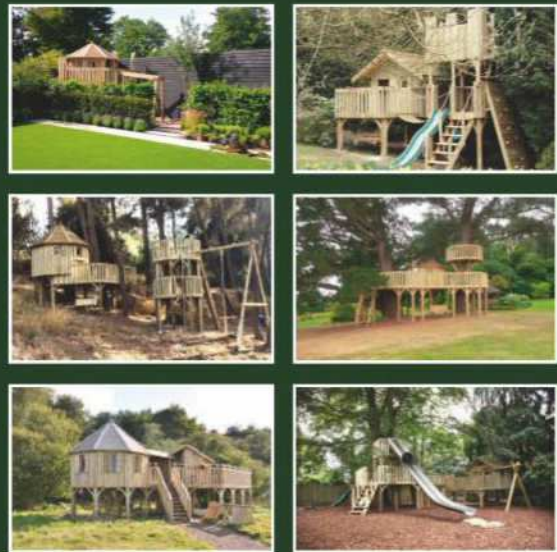


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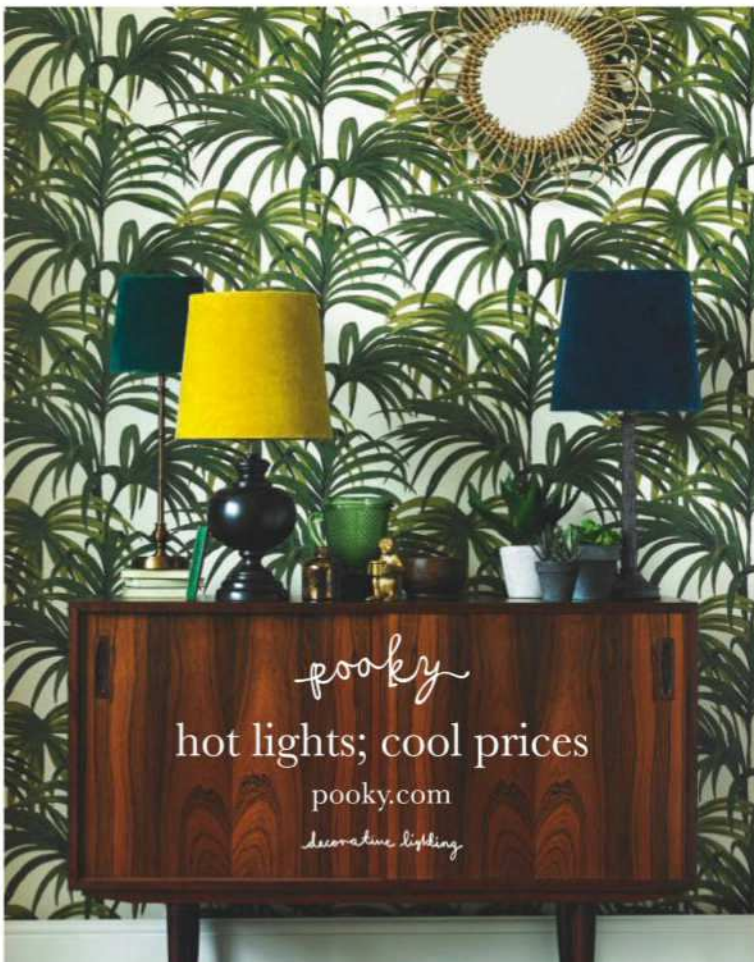
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BAR 2R	BOW I3E	COM 905E	DOR 66N	F3II DER	H44 LEY	JEII MMA	LYA IL	M0I2 AGS	OLD 3R	R4II SOM	SPE 6K	WEI I3R
BAS 3I3Y	BOY 3R	ROY 600K	D0I2 OTA	F32 RET	HAN 63R	JEI1 NER	LYN 355S	MOR 3I2A	ORG 45M	R47 HOD	SPR 46G	W3I SBY
B45I AFC	B240 LEY	COP 53Y	DOT 7Y	FII NCH	H4I2 KER	JUN I02S	LYII NNE	MOR 370N	OSC 422R	RAU IIF	S74 PLE	WEL I5H
BAT I44M	82 ADY	CIO RKE	DRU 6E	FLO 6K	HAR 220D	K422 REN	MAD 6E	MOR 264N	OSB 802N	R388 ECA	S777 ORY	W357 COT
BEA 6IE	BRA 4Y	COR 2R	DUK 5E	F24 NNY	HEA 4IY	KAR 2IIM	MAL I3Y	MOR 2I6E	OSB 802N	SUSI ACE	I23 GAN	WH08 DAY
BEA 2R	BRA 2I3R	COS 57A	DUP I3X	F214 NKY	HEC 670R	KEII SEY	MAR 4I7N	MOW 47T	OVE 270N	REN 44A	TAI2 TAN	W00 I64R
BEA 777S	820 WNE	BEN 60X	EAR 2L	F124 SER	HED I13Y	KEY 7S	MAR 20N	MOX IIE	P4I NEY	REII TON	T4 UNT	WOT 464R
BEE 2R	B2 USH	COY 7IE	EAR IIE	FRA 73R	HEE I3Y	KHA IIOA	MAR 20W	MUL I44N	P4I SEY	R3 SCU	T32 ESA	Y0II UNG

I KCW	2 KLE	998 L	LFT II	LHP I	MMG 78
I KCY	KLK I	4 LBD	I LGR	33 LD	3 MNR
I KET	59 KRM	LBF 88	I LGW	I LRJ	2 MNT
I KET	8 CJ9	8 LCJ	II LHG	I LVJ	87 MTB
I LHM	82 KWG	2 LEF	I LHM	8 LKK	I MVB

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Dior's deer isn't too dear

I WAS at the butcher, looking over the sausages and ribs, when my eye was caught by a sign for venison, stewing, £39 a kilo. I gave a guilty start, refined my order to bacon and some chipolatas and hurried home.

Kate has never really forgiven me for plucking a goose while wearing 1920s Oxfam tweeds, so I changed into gardening trousers, turned my jersey inside out and put on an apron. I looked out a saw and a really sharp knife, regretting yet again that the boys are away, at school, university or in London, and went out into the yard.

I grimly lowered the tailgate of the horsebox. To my relief, nothing seemed to have changed in the fortnight since Harry and Izzy turned up with a three-year-old roebuck they'd found on a verge near the A35.

My father mentioned this little act of self-service to a Frenchwoman, who was astonished. The law here says that you may not retrieve a beast that you have

accidentally killed yourself, but if you come across someone else's roadkill, it's fair game. In France, it has to be reported to the police; in Michigan, I'm told, you need a Highway Killed Deer Permit, but this is a free country, at least in certain small matters.

‘ We slung the beast up with baler twine in a handy horsebox ,

The beast was still warm. We slung it up with baler twine in a handy horsebox, away from cats and dogs, glad of the cold weather. A little blood dripped from its nose onto the floor. Then I shut the tailgate and forgot all about it, until the ticket on the butcher's slab reminded me that we had a 50lb deer in the yard.

I'll spare you the precise details, but I'm getting better at this. A deer is not like a rabbit. I thought of Bragadin, the Venetian commander flayed alive at the fall of Famagusta on Cyprus, whose skin was stuffed with straw and hung from the yardarm of an Ottoman ship; years later, the skin was retrieved from Constantinople and now fills an urn on his tomb in the Venetian church of San Zanipolo.

Our deerskin, and its head, merely went into the woods to be recycled with the innards. Ten days is a long time to hang, so I skipped the heart and liver. With our last deer we tried scraping and salting the skin and rubbed it with alum. It worked so well that, two months later, you could hold up the pelt without all the fur dropping off—after that we threw it away.

I jointed the deer, in fading light. Two legs, two tender filets, shoulders and the rest chopped for stewing or sausages.

At about £20 a kilo, we cleared at least £200 of meat, not to mention stock.

There are lots of good ways to cook venison, but one recipe I like comes from *Larousse Gastronomique* and is supplied, as only a French culinary bible would care to note, by Christian Dior. His parents wanted him to be a diplomat; instead, he opened an art gallery that collapsed in the Depression. He went to work for a clothes designer and, in 1946, launched the New Look: full skirt, cinched waist and yards and yards of fabric—simple and luxurious.

His recipe for 'Gigot de Chevreuil de 3 Heures' is the same. A leg browned in a casserole dish on a low hob; one hour with bacon and flamed with brandy; another hour with a little wine and lemon juice and the final hour with mustard and wine. The sauce is finished with raspberry jelly, chestnut purée and a dollop of cream: haute couture's nod to haute cuisine.

TOTTERING-BY-GENTLY By Annie Tempest

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