

Landmark News

The Landmark Trust newsletter

Issued twice yearly

Autumn 2010

First French Landmarks now open

Our first Landmarks in France are now open for holidays. These three buildings comprise Le Moulin for 12, La Maison des Amis for 4 and La Cèlibataire for 2 and were formerly the country residence of Edward, Duke of Windsor and his wife Wallis Simpson. We were honoured to welcome Sir Peter Westmacott, British Ambassador to France, to a well-attended reception at the site in September to launch Landmark in France. The buildings' refurbishment as Landmarks was funded by their philanthropic British owner under our guidance, with furniture and fabrics that evoke the Windsors. Easily accessible from Paris, Le Moulin de la Tuilerie is already proving popular, including as a stopover en route to the rest of France.



The site at Le Moulin de la Tuilerie (top), Le Moulin's sitting room (left) and kitchen (right).

The Landmark Trust is a building preservation charity that rescues historic buildings at risk for everyone to enjoy, giving them a new life by letting them for inspiring holidays.

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Landmark Holidays

Letter from the Director

Never has it been more true that we rely on your support. We are not immune to the recession any more than you are; and as an independent charity receiving no government support we are entirely reliant on your goodwill. We are extraordinarily fortunate that you have continued to support us through these difficult times by making bookings and contributing to our appeals. But it is getting tougher.

We made cuts to our budgets in 2008 to prepare for the recession, but the pressure remains. Costs inexorably rise, including increasing taxes which fall on us too despite being a charity. We are having to work ever harder, and on straitened means, to care for these precious and often difficult buildings.

Landmarks depend on you for their continuing place in the historic fabric of Britain. We are determined that the recession will not deflect us from rescuing and caring for them. Every time you book a holiday in one you support it, and this charity, in that task. Thank you for doing so; every single booking, and every single donation, matter - more than ever.



Peter Pearce at Cavendish Hall with Landmark's Katie Arber and Ian McCulloch of the Pamela Matthews Trust.



Clytha Castle, Monmouthshire

Following their secret wedding and flight to Italy, Elizabeth and Robert Browning settled in **Casa Guidi**. Here they spent most of their marriage, and completed many of their best known works.

Clytha Castle was built in a beautiful spot by a grieving widower "with the purpose of relieving a mind afflicted by the loss of a most excellent wife" and, in a similar vein, **Peters Tower** was built as a memorial to a lost wife. Both now have a happier purpose.

Daphne du Maurier spent her wedding night on a boat in **Frenchman's Creek**, not far from our Landmark of the same name, and wrote her best-selling novel of the same title.

These, and many other Landmarks, are places of romance - whatever you may have in mind.

Romantic Landmarks

It is always a happy moment to find an entry in a Landmark's Logbook recording that a couple has become engaged or spent their honeymoon there. Still more romantic is the fact that many of these lovers return to the Landmark, to celebrate their anniversary or even to share it with their children.

Of course, some Landmarks have also been the scene of famous historical romances and *grands passions*.



Casa Guidi, Florence

Landmarks for special occasions

Larger Landmarks provide the perfect setting for special celebrations with friends and family, whether for Christmas, New Year, a birthday or anniversary, a reunion or just a spectacular dinner party. Many Landmarks theme their celebration according to the building they choose – Jane Austen for **Cavendish Hall** (for 12), a medieval banquet in **Wortham Manor** (for 16), Noel Coward dinner parties at **Goddards** (for 13) or bagpipes and kilts at **Auchinleck House** (for 13). Our online search facility makes it easy to search by size of building.

Pick an apple at a Landmark



Apple trees planted at The Grange in 2006

Orchards complement our Landmarks well, at once historically suited and easy to maintain. They also allow us to make a small contribution to the survival of traditional fruit varieties, so different from ubiquitous supermarket offerings. This year we have planted a number of orchards with specially grafted, evocatively named varieties bred in the same locality as the Landmark. So, for example, at **Obriss Farm** you will find Colonel Vaughan's dessert apple, first bred in Kent in the late 17th century, Ashmead's Kernel (Gloucestershire, c.1700) at **Field House**, and Byfleet Seedling, a 1915 Surrey cooking variety, at **Goddards**. Enjoy them!

Recent improvements

Our programme to freshen and update our buildings as well as maintain them continues. Showers have been newly installed at **Crownhill Fort**, **South Street**, **Garguncock House**, **Saddell House**, **Castle of Park**, **Monkton Old Hall** and **The Old Parsonage**.

Ford Cottage at **Coombe** has been rethatched, and **Methwold Old Vicarage**, **Houghton West Lodge** and **New Inn** at **Peasenhall** have been redecorated using traditional limewash.

A significant programme has begun on **Goddards**, the Lutyens' house near **Guildford**, to repair and limewash its render.



Methwold Old Vicarage, Norfolk

New Handbook in production

Online booking has made booking a stay in a Landmark easier for many but the Landmark Trust Handbook remains an essential aid. We are already working on the next, 24th, edition due out next Spring 2011. A Handbook supplement is also available, which details the three new Landmarks at **Le Moulin de la Tuilerie** as well as **Oxenford Gatehouse** and **Cavendish Hall**.

Five Landmarks with walks from the door



Lower Porthmeor, Cornwall

Edale Mill

Close to the start of the Pennine Way and Mam Tor, this is the perfect base for walking the wild Peak District.

Lock Cottage

For more sedate walks, the towpath passes the front door and continues along the Worcester & Birmingham Canal and up the longest flight of locks in Britain.

The Ruin

The picturesque and newly restored Hackfall Woods are strewn with Gothic follies, waterfalls and dramatic scenery, making it a magical place to discover.

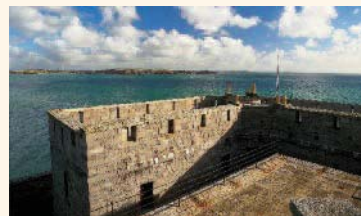
Lower Porthmeor

Surrounded by National Trust land, and on the South West Coast path, there are moors and rocky bays to explore.

West Blockhouse

There are plenty of bracing cliff top walks and panoramic views from the Pembrokeshire Coast Path in either direction.

For many more examples, visit www.landmarktrust.org.uk.



West Blockhouse, Pembrokeshire

Wind dial at Fox Hall restored

The Duke of Richmond's weather vane at Fox Hall in Charlton, West Sussex, was connected to a dial above the ornate fireplace. It allowed the Duke to assess from his bed whether the wind direction was favourable for a good day's hunting.



Fox Hall wind dial

We tried but failed to get this mechanism working when we acquired Fox Hall in 1983 - the original vane had vanished long since. Now at last this unfinished business has been resolved, thanks to the skill of Thwaites & Reed, a small firm of Brighton clock repairers. A fine new vane of a fox was designed by artist Caroline Hill and the missing needle on the fireplace dial replaced. We hope you will choose to get out of bed at some stage, but at least now you will first know which way the wind is blowing.



Fox Hall's fireplace with the dial above

Work underway on the new

2010 has been a year of great activity at Astley Castle and work has now begun on the creation of a Landmark for the 21st century within the ruined shell of this ancient building.



While the project team was refining the scheme in all its aspects and taking it through the tender process, Landmark's Len Hardy steadfastly continued the work of gentle repointing and consolidation on site. Scheduled Monument Consent was obtained and various preparatory works were carried out on the moated site, including clearance of vegetation by British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV). Thanks to the Heritage Lottery Fund's support, there has also been our widest range of activities ever, involving Landmark Friends and supporters, local adults and children, and led by our Education Officer, Kasia Howard.

The scheme

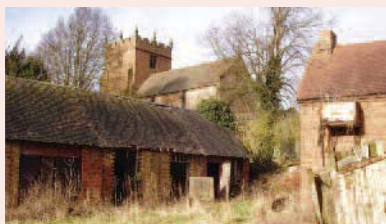
Astley Castle was so decayed that any future use required an approach radically different from our usual restoration schemes. We are working closely with Witherford Watson Mann Architects on their bold and imaginative plan to create exciting, modern accommodation within the ancient shell of the castle, utilising many of the original window openings and retaining a sense of the texture and evolution of the castle. You can see the detailed plans on our website.



Discussing the scheme (left) and the architect's model (right).

Landmark at Astley Castle

Lundy update



Cart shed repairs

The cart sheds underwent major repair work. They were completely re-roofed and the rear walls partially rebuilt.



Moat

Vegetation and self-seeded trees which had choked the moat have been cleared with help from BTCV, opening up the views to and from the castle.



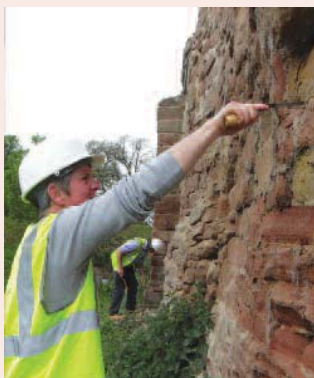
Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Lundy 40th Anniversary Appeal, which has now closed after raising just over £72,000. With funding from the appeal, a new exhibition in the beach building about the island's ecology above and below the water has opened.

In June, we were also delighted to hear that the project to repair the Lundy road was named Civil Engineering Project of the Year 2010 in the minor project category of the Institution of Civil Engineers South West regional awards. Thanks to your support the island's lifeline is safe once again.

Other projects are getting underway and need your support. For example, we hope to provide environmentally friendly volunteer accommodation and an electric quad bike to be charged by solar panels in order to support the volunteers' work.

The Friends

Volunteers from the Landmark Friends have helped with a programme of minor repair works around the site.



Interior clearance

A vast amount of rubble and debris had to be cleared from the interior. Previously unknown features have been uncovered and a careful and full examination became possible.



Schools' involvement

Over the summer, Higham on the Hill Primary School, Newlands Primary School, Redmoor High School and Westfield Juniors, all worked with local artist Garry Bedford to produce four panels reflecting the history of Astley Castle from the Saxon settlement to 1554. Their work, along with that from the Astley Art Club, was displayed at Hinckley Library.

Besides this, a project involving Milby School began in July and will continue during the autumn term. The children have visited the site and are helping in the creation of interpretation boards for the circular walks.



Hear first

To receive our regular emails including special offers and project updates, please register on our website at: www.landmarktrust.org.uk.

Projects & Restoration

Llwyn Celyn: the next Welsh Landmark?



© RCAHMW

Llwyn Celyn, Monmouthshire

Landmarkers may hear much about Llwyn Celyn in the next few years. This late-medieval Grade I timber-framed hall house in the Brecon Beacons National Park is of great importance and fragility, miraculously intact after years of extreme neglect. Intriguingly, the building incorporates two former open halls, one a solar (parlour) range adjacent to the main hall. The building is full of rare survivals – a plank and muntin screen passage, a spere truss, a dias bench, and elaborate carved spandrels in the door heads. Reflecting the building's significance, Cadw and the National Heritage Memorial Fund have provided grants for us to buy the house and facilitate a new house for the owners, who have farmed here for two generations. If we are successful, we will enter a period of intense archaeological and documentary study to learn more about the building and its history. This will be a demanding and long-running project – but such challenges are why Landmark exists.



Llwyn Celyn, Monmouthshire

Re-roofing the Shore Cottages

Our appeal to save the Shore Cottages, remnant of the Caithness fishing industry, is now past the halfway mark. Thanks to the generosity of our supporters we have raised £322,000 against our £600,000 target. The cottages stood on the cusp of total loss and to prevent this, we are using some of the funds raised so far to carry out major repairs to the roof before another winter sets in.



The Shore Cottages, Caithness

One question we had was whether the cottages were originally thatched. We know that in 1905 the Duke of Portland undertook a programme of re-roofing on the Langwell Estate, mostly to replace thatch with slates. While it is possible our cottages were originally thatched, we found to our surprise that the roof joists were machine sawn not hewn, suggesting a mid 19th-century construction date when the estate saw mill opened. This makes slates more likely than thatch originally and reinforces our view that their like-for-like slate replacement is appropriate. We now urgently need your support to raise the balance required to complete their restoration, before we can proceed with confidence to the next and final phase of work and create two new Landmarks in a stunning coastal setting.

Accolades for Queen Anne's Summerhouse



Queen Anne's Summerhouse, Bedfordshire

Our work at Queen Anne's Summerhouse, the 18th-century folly whose restoration we completed last summer, continues to attract appreciation. The RICS judged it the winner of its East of England Building Conservation Award 2010 and it was Highly Commended in the 2010 Museum and Heritage Awards.

Warder's Tower

Our long campaign to rescue Warder's Tower in Staffordshire has hit a snag, possibly a terminal one, and on our last lap. A large colony of Daubenton's bats, one of our rarest, has taken up residence in the top floor room and cannot be disturbed. In this tiny tower there is not room for both Landmarkers and the bats, and it seems that legislation gives the bats the stronger hand. We still hope to find a solution with the help of Natural England and English Heritage, and will be in touch with further news as it emerges.

Work progresses well at Cowside

Work is continuing apace on the restoration of Cowside, a high status 17th-century farmhouse perched on a fellside in Langstrothdale in the Yorkshire Dales National Park. As an initial phase of work, we renewed the roof re-using many of the original stone slates before the worst of the winter. Since then we have continued negotiations with the authorities about access arrangements in this Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and aim to provide discretely hidden parking at the foot of the fell. The interiors, windows and doors have been carefully repaired or, where unavoidable, renewed using traditional materials and techniques.



Cowside, North Yorkshire

The last, most fascinating, piece of the jigsaw will be the revealing of the late 17th-century wall paintings, their survival discovered by tantalising glimpses through later layers of paint and limewash. This uncovering will be accomplished before our first visitors arrive, but for now we impatiently await the stabilisation of humidity levels in the building to discover their secrets.

Cowside is exactly the sort of imperilled building Landmark exists to save and its transformation was only possible due to your tremendous response to our appeal to save it. Its remote location in one of Britain's most beautiful landscapes, with walks from the doorstep, will appeal to many. For five, Cowside will open in 2011. Keep an eye on the website or contact the Booking Office to register your interest and we will let you know when bookings open.



Belmont, Dorset

Plans drawn up for Belmont

Intensive work has continued all year to understand the evolution of Belmont in Lyme Regis, a late 18th-century seaside villa formerly associated with Mrs Eleanor Coade (renowned manufacturer of artificial stone ornamentation) and most recently the home of author John Fowles. The house had seen many changes over the years, including considerable demolition of later additions in the 1960s, which left it a jumbled compromise. Based on archaeological and paint analysis of the building, and after much consultation, we have now drawn up our restoration scheme and in September submitted it for Listed Building Consent. You can view our plans on our website, and we welcome your views as part of our consultation process.

Order your Handbook

To order a Handbook or make a donation to help us rescue buildings at risk, please complete the form below, telephone the Booking Office or go online.

The Handbook costs £10 plus postage and packing:

- £3 UK second class post
- £5 UK first class post
- £10 to Europe and rest of the world

Please send me ____ Handbook(s) £ _____
Postage and packing (per item) £ _____
I would like to give a donation of £ _____
Total enclosed £ _____

Simply tick the Gift Aid box below and the Landmark Trust can claim an additional 28% from the Government until 5 April 2011 and 25% from 6 April 2011 onwards.

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I would like the Landmark Trust to reclaim the tax on any qualifying donations made by me in the previous four years and all donations I make hereafter as Gift Aid donations until further notice*.

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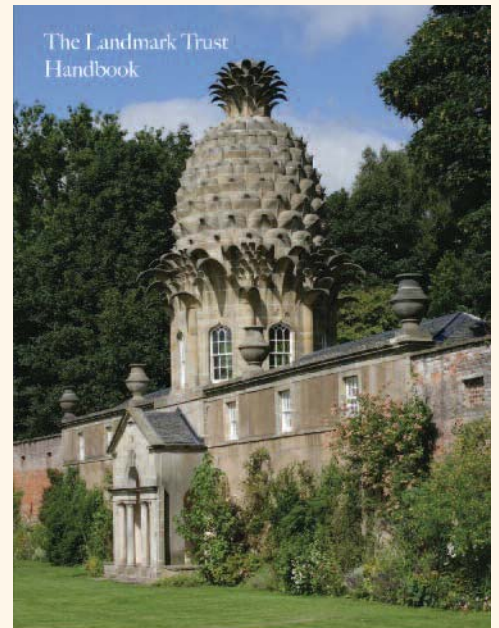
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Return to: The Landmark Trust, Shottesbrooke, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 3SW

Handbook



The 23rd edition of the Landmark Trust Handbook* features 190 historic buildings available to stay in – follies, castles, towers, banqueting houses, cottages and other unusual buildings. Through the building entries and a collection of articles, the Handbook traces our architectural heritage from the 12th to the 20th century.

The 232-page Handbook costs just £10 plus postage and packing. The Handbook cost is refundable against your first booking or you may wish to use the refund voucher to make a donation to support Landmark's work in rescuing historic buildings.



Order your Handbook

- Online at www.landmarktrust.org.uk
- Booking Office on **01628 825925**
- Or complete the form overleaf and return it to The Landmark Trust, Shottesbrooke, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 3SW

*Published in October 2008

Forthcoming legacy events

Linda Blay of Allan Janes, Landmark's Solicitors, kindly volunteers to give talks to our supporters on how to minimise inheritance tax through charitable giving, the implications of not making a Will or not keeping it updated, and other topical tax issues. These seminars are free and last about an hour.

If you are interested in attending a seminar, or would like a copy of our legacy guide, please visit our website or contact Emma Seymour on 01628 825920.

Introducing the Warren House

The Warren House is a diminutive Grade II* folly on the escarpment overlooking Kimbolton Castle in Huntingdonshire, for which it acts as an eyecatcher. We accepted the gift of its freehold in 2004 from the pragmatic farmer on whose land it stood. Though weathertight after roof repairs in the 1980s, the building was derelict, gutted and attracting vandals.

Now, thanks to very generous grants from The Monument Trust and English Heritage, we are far closer to being able to rescue this building from serious risk. Waiting in the wings since 2004, the Warren House will make a perfect hideaway for two.

We will be writing to our supporters soon with more information on our plans, and launching an appeal to raise the balance.

Clay block repairs to Manor Farm barn

The clay lump barn at **Manor Farm** is an ancillary building which has found no obvious use but is important context for the Landmark, once the home of Monica Dance, redoubtable former Secretary of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, and her husband Harry. Its greenest of construction materials, the local earth, requires regular maintenance to remain sound, though when it crumbles, the material can often be gathered up and re-worked. Now Kate Edwards and Charlotte Eve, practitioners of this reviving skill, have repaired the gable end wall of the barn for us, forming new clay blocks from wooden moulds which are then plastered with more clay and sealed with tar. Meanwhile, the 'hat and boots' (or topping and foundations) of the flanking clay block walls were proving inadequate protection against the rain, causing the clay to sag, so the walls have been given a good new 'hat', this time of clay tiles. We feel sure the Dances would have approved.



Charlotte Eve shaping the clay blocks

© Will Amlot Photography

St Edward's Presbytery acquired in Ramsgate



St Edward's Presbytery, Ramsgate

A W Pugin's house, **The Grange** in Ramsgate, is a flagship Landmark. At its main gate stands St Edward's Presbytery, which plays an essential role in its setting. We were therefore delighted to secure the future of the presbytery when it was put on the market earlier this year by the monks of the adjoining Benedictine monastery (also founded by Pugin).

The presbytery was built by Pugin in 1851 to house a Catholic priest for the community and was later used as an office by Pugin's son Edward, also a prominent architect. After Edward's bankruptcy in 1872, the Pugin family moved into the presbytery and let The Grange for income.

We were only able to make this important and defensive purchase thanks to a generous and timely legacy from the late Jacqueline Suter. We are now assessing the presbytery's condition before deciding its precise future in our care, happy in the knowledge that we have also assured the setting of The Grange.

The Landmark Trust

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