



ENGLISH
HERITAGE

FEBRUARY 2023

GUARDIANS NEWSLETTER

Events and celebrations

Find out about the
recent festive reception
at Wellington Arch
and other events





ENGLISH
HERITAGE



Welcome

Happy new year to you all, and I hope you had a safe and restful festive season. It has been such a pleasure to meet so many of our warm and inspiring Guardians over the past 12 months at events hosted across the country at some of our extraordinary sites.

Late last year, in December, we said goodbye to our Chair, Sir Tim Laurence. Under Sir Tim's stewardship, our membership has grown to a record 1.2 million, volunteer numbers have doubled to over 4,000, and we have spent many millions of pounds to conserve the sites and objects in our care and to improve accessibility. We're looking forward to introducing you to our new Chair, Gerard Lemos, at events later this year.

Since the start of the year I have been working to reinvigorate our Guardians scheme, which brings together a cohort of like-minded supporters who champion our work and benefit from exclusive experiences and bespoke events that take them to the heart of England's heritage. We are very excited about this year's programme of events – you can find out what we've got planned on pages 8-9. Please do check your calendars and RSVP to the events you would like to attend.

As ever, we are so grateful for your continued generosity. Your support and advocacy contributes to a wide range of activities, from major conservation projects to new experiences for visitors, and from the acquisition of new items for the collection to efforts that will secure a sustainable future for our extraordinary heritage.

We are so pleased that you are part of the community helping us to deliver this vital work, and you can read more about what we've achieved together over the past year in this newsletter. I will be also shortly be sending you a copy of our 2021/22 Annual Report, which contains much more detail about our work.

We love hearing your stories about your support for English Heritage, so please do keep in touch, and don't hesitate to contact us with any questions you might have.

With warm regards

Holly Kavanagh, Guardians
and Legacies Manager

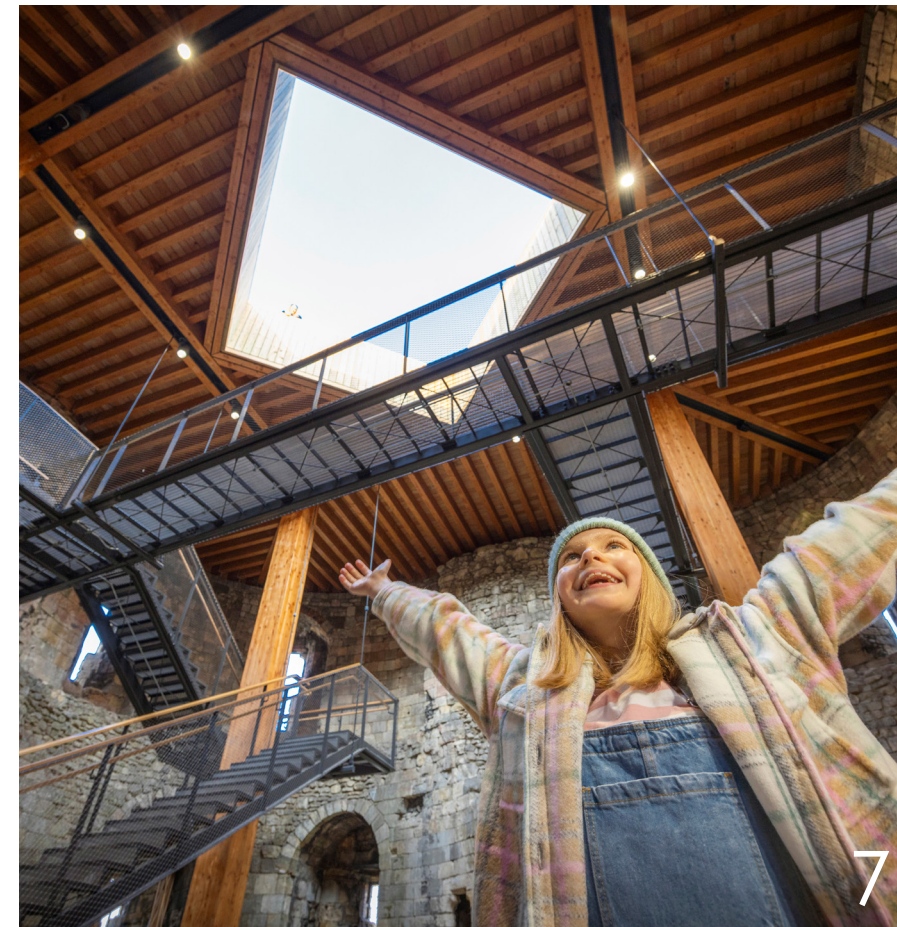
On the cover:
Wellington Arch in London.

For more information please contact
Holly Kavanagh:

✉ Holly.Kavanagh@english-heritage.org.uk

📍 English Heritage, 6th Floor,
100 Wood Street,
London EC2V 7AN

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GUARDIAN'S EVENTS

We take a look at some of the Guardian's events which have been held over the past few months.

Hauser and Wirth

In August we visited Hauser and Wirth's gallery in Bruton, Somerset, for an exclusive evening tour of their exhibition 'Henry Moore: Sharing Form'. In 1921 Moore was inspired by a moonlit visit to Stonehenge, the most famous site in our care, and fifty years later he returned to the subject in a series of lithographs. The tour was wonderfully delivered by Hauser and Wirth's director Elly Hawley, who pitched her talk perfectly for art experts and neophytes alike. Afterwards, our Guardians made the most of the balmy summer evening and explored the beautiful gardens created by Piet Oudolf next to the gallery, before enjoying delicious refreshments from Durslade Farm in the cloisters.

Blue Plaques Walking Tour

In October we hosted a guided walking tour of the blue plaques of St James's in London, led by historian Dr Susan Skedd. We were then treated to a fascinating tour of Fortnum and Mason, and a mouth-watering visit to their world-famous confectionary and fresh food counters. Here's Dr Skedd's account of the tour:

'It was a real pleasure to devise this walking tour which explored the blue plaques in St James's in Westminster. The plaques in the area are unsurprisingly dominated by politics, and we started with the rare Royal Doulton plaque to William Ewart Gladstone at his favourite London home in Carlton House Gardens.

The wartime HQ of the French government in exile prompted discussion about different forms of commemoration, because the building is home to several plaques and also overlooked by a statue of Charles de Gaulle. We also took in the home of another French leader – Napoleon III – whose 1867 plaque is the oldest surviving one in London, though sadly currently hidden by scaffolding. A highlight of the tour was the recent plaque honouring Ottobah Cugoano, who lived and worked as a servant in Pall Mall while campaigning to end slavery and the slave trade. Rounding off the tour were plaques to two contrasting figures from the world of science – Ada Lovelace and Sir Isaac Newton.'

The English Heritage London Blue Plaques scheme is generously supported by David Pearl and members of the public.

Guardians Festive Reception at Apsley Hous and Wellington Arch

Kate Mavor and our trustees invited Guardians and potential new joiners to celebrate the festive season at two of our sites on the edge of Hyde Park. Curator Olivia Fryman and expert volunteer Martin led us on a guided tour of the collection at Apsley House, which was once home to Arthur Wellesley, 1st Duke of Wellington. Afterwards, we crossed the road for a warm and welcoming reception inside the iconic Wellington Arch.



Clockwise from main image Wellington Arch; Musician at Guardians Festive reception; Blue Plaque commemorating Frederic Chopin; Outside Hauser and Wirth's gallery; the walking tour hear about William Huskisson; Guardians chat with Sir Laurie Magnus.

Marble Hill Revived

Thanks to the support of the National Lottery Heritage Fund, the National Lottery Community Fund and many generous donors, our 4-year, £8 million Marble Hill Revived conservation project concluded with the reopening of Marble Hill in May 2022.

The newly conserved and re-presented Palladian villa reopened with a focus on celebrating the life of its owner, the remarkable Henrietta Howard, Countess of Suffolk.

What's new?

Alongside essential maintenance and conservation works, a new interactive interpretation scheme has been presented throughout, the 66 acres of gardens have been revived with new habitats to improve the park's biodiversity, and improvements have been made to the public sports pitches and café.

Visitors are greeted by a specially commissioned portrait of Henrietta in the entrance hall. Marble Hill was very much built as Henrietta's home, unusually for a woman of her time, and it became the centre of Georgian society.

Marble Hill today

Marble Hill is the last complete survivor of the elegant riverside villas that were

common in the area during her lifetime.

The project allowed us the opportunity to reconnect Marble Hill and Henrietta's life with the local community. The garden of Marble Hill was a grand space used for entertainment and had an important place in Henrietta's life.

Based on research and archaeological digs, we have rejuvenated the shell-adorned grotto in which Henrietta hosted her friends for tea and poetry readings, and recreated a ninepin bowling alley for visitors to use. Both additions give visitors a fascinating insight into the life and pastimes of Henrietta and her Georgian contemporaries.

Keep up to date

We will be bringing you an online webinar about the extraordinary Henrietta and her creation at Marble Hill in January. Keep an eye out for a save the date coming soon. You can learn more about the project at:

youtu.be/D32IWFZarw



The Great Room

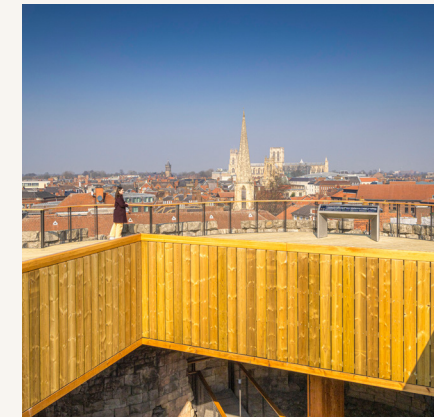


Portrait of Henrietta Howard, in the Tetra style Hall

Clifford's Tower



Clifford's Tower stands atop an earthwork mound and is the largest surviving part of the great York Castle which governed the north of England for centuries.



Images clockwise from top: Clifford's Tower; the suspended walkways; the wall walk with 360-degree views of the city.

The present stone tower was commissioned by Henry III in the 13th century, and over the decades was used as a storehouse, a military garrison, a royal mint and a gaol. A 1684 fire and subsequent centuries of neglect left the tower roofless and exposed.

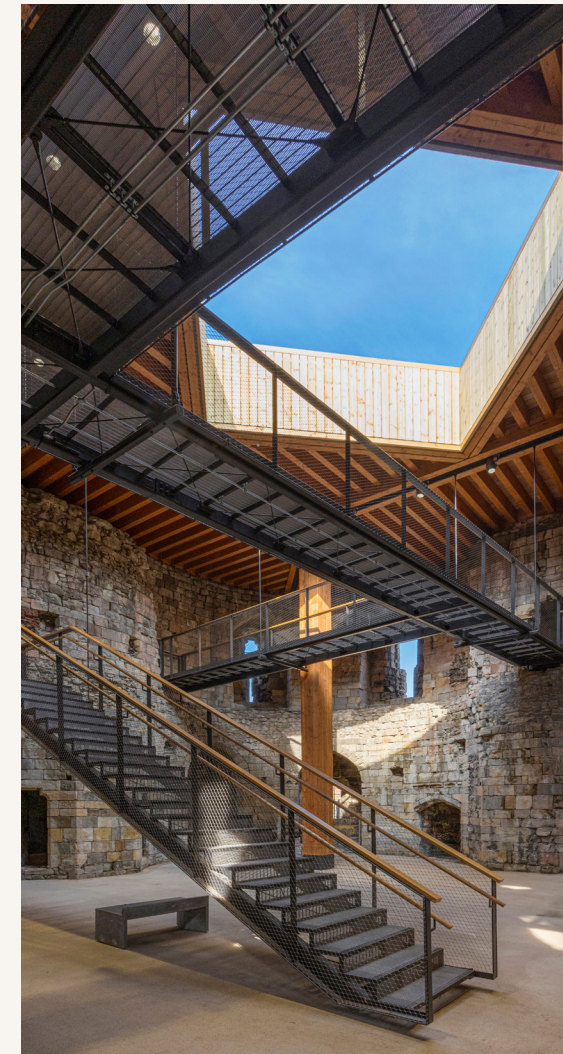
This year saw the culmination of a major three-year project to conserve and repair the tower, particularly focusing on the existing stonework and the royal chapel – and at the same time, enhancing the visitor experience.

The major additions to the tower include suspended walkways, a new timber roof deck with breathtaking 360-degree views of the city, and a fresh approach to telling the stories of the tower. These stories have been created by Gobbledock Theatre and feature the voices of local residents

exploring fictional first-hand accounts of key events seen within the tower, including Edith, a young woman living in York during the time of the Norman invasion, and Elias, a Jewish citizen of Lincoln recounting what happened to his family during the massacre of the Jews in 1190.

Clifford's Tower reopened to the public in April 2022. Find out more about this fascinating site on our website:

www.english-heritage.org.uk/cliffords



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Programme of events exclusively for Guardians in the forthcoming year.

MARCH

Thursday 2 March 2pm



Guardians at Collect, Somerset House

Book by 13 February

Organised by the Craft Council, Collect is the leading international fair for contemporary craft and design. In addition to entry to the fair, Guardians can join us for a private tour of the highlights and meet gallery directors and artists.

www.somerset-house.org.uk/whats-on/collect-2023

APRIL

Tuesday 18 April 2pm



Guided tour at the York Cold War Bunker

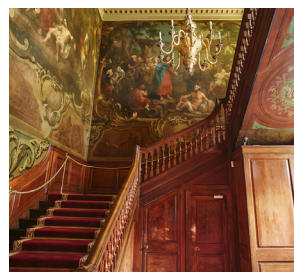
Book by 28 March

A guided tour of the youngest – and most spine-chilling – site in our care to explore the secret history of Britain’s Cold War. Followed by light refreshments.

www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/york-cold-war-bunker

MAY

Wednesday 3 May 6 – 7:30pm



Barts Heritage, London

Book by 13 April

Join us for a private tour of St Bartholomew’s North Wing as they celebrate 900 years of the hospital and prepare for a major capital project. Including the Great Hall and Hogarth Stair showcasing massive paintings by Hogarth. Followed by refreshments.

Image credit: Matthew Andrews

Wednesday 10 May 8am



Early morning private stone circle access, Stonehenge

Book by 19 April

An exclusive Stone Circle experience, with a unique opportunity to see this world-famous monument up close before the site opens to the public. Afterwards, we’ll enjoy light refreshments in the café.

www.english-heritage.org.uk/stonehenge

SEPTEMBER

Wednesday 13 September 11am



Blue Plaques walking tour, London

Book by 23 August

Dr Susan Skedd will lead a bespoke guided walk to see some of the most iconic blue plaques in an area of central London, exploring the history of the scheme and the lives of the people it commemorates. Followed by light refreshments.

www.english-heritage.org.uk/blue-plaques

Thursday 21 September 11am



Walking tour, Deal Castle to Walmer Castle

Book by 31 August

A guided walking tour along the coast from Deal to Walmer Castle will uncover the rich history of these seaside forts. At Walmer, we’ll hear a talk from our head gardener and stop off for lunch in the tearoom.

www.english-heritage.org.uk/walmer

NOVEMBER

Wednesday 8 November 6pm



The Tudor songbook, Eltham Palace

Book by 18 October

Join us in Eltham Palace’s Great Hall as classically trained opera singer and Tudor expert Jay Britton performs some of the period’s finest pieces of music, together with a special guest.

www.english-heritage.org.uk/eltham

DECEMBER

Thursday 14 December 6:30pm



Guardians Winter Reception, Wellington Arch

Book by 23 November

A private drinks reception at the iconic Wellington Arch to celebrate your continued support of English Heritage.

www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/wellington-arch

You are welcome to bring a guest to an event, and we will share further details with you when you confirm your attendance. Please let us know if you have any access requirements. To book please email Holly.Kavanagh@english-heritage.org.uk

CELEBRATING SUCCESS



Main image The launch of the Circles of Stone Stonehenge and Prehistoric Japan Exhibition
Left An education visit at Stonehenge
Below left The exhibition space at Stonehenge
Below right (L-R) Ranger Jacqui Degnan, Audience Development Manager Rachel Morrison and Property Manager Maureen Coyle

Here are a few of the most recent highlights and achievements across our sites.

Stonehenge wins a Bronze award for Accessible and Inclusive Tourism at the 2021/22 South West Tourism Awards.

In recognition of the work to provide step-free access to the visitor centre and exhibition which contains a range of tools to increase its accessibility to wider audiences. A few of the new provisions implemented by our staff at Stonehenge include tactile exhibits, Braille panels, and dementia friendly training for staff, the installation of an adult Changing Place and the adoption of the Hidden Disabilities sunflower lanyard scheme.

English Heritage education continues to shine

Battle Abbey, Dover Castle, Stonehenge and Kenilworth Castle now stand alongside five other English Heritage sites that have been successful in assessments of their education provision, gaining Sandford Awards. The awards focus on formal, curriculum

linked learning and are a prestigious quality mark. This is a brilliant recognition of our education team's expertise in bringing history to life in the places where it really happened.

The team at Marble Hill received an award for Partnership Working from Achieving for Children

The award celebrates the fantastic work in collaboration with children's centres, the Richmond Referral Unit and with vulnerable families. The team ran events for families, from spring walks to Diwali festivities and heritage morning for children under five.

Clifford's Tower project scooped up several awards

Following the completion of our conservation project, Clifford's Tower

was awarded with several accolades including The Conservation Award, The Young People's Choice and York Residents' Choice Awards. The Young People's Choice Award was chosen by secondary school pupils and York University students, making it an important demonstration of young people's interest in heritage, and a testimony to the effect the project has had on the landscape of York. The project also won the Conservation and Regeneration and Best of the Best categories at the Constructing Excellence Yorkshire & Humber Awards ceremony, which praised the project's efforts to conserve and radically transform the interior of the 800 year-old landmark, and to highlight the national and international importance of the project.





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THANK YOU

Your support will help care for the places where history was made and keep England's story alive for future generations.

To find out more please contact Holly Kavanagh:

✉ Holly.Kavanagh@english-heritage.org.uk

📍 English Heritage, 6th Floor, 100 Wood Street, London EC2V 7AN

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