

# The Rugby National Trust



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## Spring Newsletter 2018

Including our Programme of summer outings



Photos by Isobel Palmer ©

Cottesbrooke Hall  
and  
Gardens



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## **The RNTA Database**

Full details of our membership are kept on personal computers for the purpose of membership subscriptions, circulation of Newsletters, and the management of coach trips and other activities of the Rugby National Trust Association. Such details will not be disclosed to any third party.

### **Trips and Visits**

We would like to remind all members that our outings can be quite tiring. We often visit places with old and uneven floors, stairs that can be difficult with no lift options and gardens and tours that may involve quite a lot of walking. Always check with the organiser if you have mobility problems. Members who need assistance should bring a companion.

### **Departure Point**

The Committee has made arrangements with St Mark's Church, Bilton for the use of their car park so, *unless stated*, we depart from there. We try to use as little space as possible, so please park on the side away from the church and as close together as possible.

Association Committee

### **Printer Cartridges and Mobile Phones**

The National Trust has a scheme for collecting used printer cartridges and mobile phones (preferably with charger) that contributes towards fundraising. A collection box will be available at meetings.

## Chairman's Letter

At the time of writing, late November, the first real signs of winter are upon us with the first snow shower. The year began when we held our 30<sup>th</sup> AGM on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2017 with many members attending. The minutes of which were printed in our Autumn 2017 newsletter. Many thanks to all who attended and for returning myself and members of the Committee back into office for another year. The Committee work very hard behind the scenes to make all our meetings and outings enjoyable.

The AGM was followed by a very interesting talk entitled 'Alice Suffragette'. The speaker was Peter Barratt the great grandson of Alice Hawkins. Peter had many interesting photos and information on the Suffragette movement. At our meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2017 Isobel gave a briefing on the visits for 2017 and a review of the 2016 visits. At this meeting we marked our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a cake and also did a rolling presentation on the screen during the interval of many points of interest and visits over the previous 30 years.

Thank you to all our members for your continued support and also for passing on information about our Association to your family, friends and the various clubs to which you belong. Some Associations are finding difficulty in recruiting new members, so your Committee really do appreciate all your efforts. Please keep up the good work to enable our membership to grow.

Once again, our outings were well supported and proved to be popular. Unfortunately we had to cancel the visits to Bowood House and the Watts Gallery and Artists Village near Guildford as there was insufficient uptake for them to take place.

This is my final letter to you as Chair as I will be standing down at the AGM. The committee does need new blood to fill vacancies that arise. I can assure you it is a worthwhile and enjoyable experience. So please, if you feel you can offer support please contact any Committee member.

The Committee look forward to seeing you at our meetings until the end of March and recommence in October 2018 and on the visits that have been arranged for the summer.

Roy Deacon

## Association News

We have 332 paid up members currently. This is a healthy number but in the past we have been around 400 so we would like some additional members.

The Association welcomes the following **new members**:

Mrs S Whitfield

Ms B Reeves

Mr and Mrs A Foote

We hope you will enjoy our programme of events.

### *NEW ORGANISERS WELCOMED*

#### **Visits Planning Meeting**

Wednesday, 11 April 2018 at 7.30 pm

Our Planning Meeting for 2019 visits will be in the Sports Lounge at the Dunchurch Village Hall. To find us enter through the main entrance and turn left towards the kitchen, the Sports Lounge is directly behind it.

We are looking for new people with new ideas who are willing to organise or help with a visit. Why not start by supporting the organiser of a visit or getting together with a friend to plan one.

There will be plenty of help and advice to get you started if you need it.

## RNTA Website

To produce and maintain a lively, effective and up-to-date website is quite a demanding task for a layman and, like matrimony, not to be undertaken lightly!

During 2017, we experienced technical difficulties with the mail system after it was transferred to another company by our software provider and in November a serious and critical event occurred. The front **Welcome** page, which is the hub for the whole website, was maliciously removed by Chinese hackers. **As a result the page was no longer accessible to visitors; this made the site completely unviable.**

The good news is that this particular hack will not affect your own computer.

The motive of the perpetrators was unclear. I believe it was probably random and we were unlucky.

Unable to summon the energy required to undertake the technical work necessary to by-pass the problem and re-build the site from scratch, I felt obliged to 'consider my position'.

Our website was constructed in 2012 when Bob Davies, the then Web Editor, asked me for help with the work. He managed the site for a couple of years and I took over in January 2015. Its scope widened & we welcomed an increasing number of visitors (c.32,700 at 30/11/2017).

I am very sad to resign at the AGM from my role of Web Editor for Rugby National Trust Association. After all, it's partly 'my baby'. But I hope I have explained why it was necessary.

My wife Jill, who has nobly sustained me, and I have renewed our RNTA membership and will help it to prosper as best we can.

Tony Birch

It is with regret that we accept Tony's decision. He has done great work in raising our profile through the website but we acknowledge that volunteering should give us fulfilment not worries. We hope one of our members may have the expertise to continue your good work.

THE RUGBY NATIONAL TRUST ASSOCIATION  
31<sup>st</sup> **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2018

at 2.30 pm in the Dunchurch Village Hall

**Agenda**

**Apologies for Absence**

**Minutes of the last AGM**

**Matters Arising**

**Treasurer's Report**

**Chairman's Report**

**Election of Committee** – The members of Rugby National Trust Association that are put forward for election in the year 2018 are:

Vacant (Chair),

David KNAPP (Treasurer)

Anne TURNER (Secretary)

Patricia DOWNTON (Membership Secretary)

Jean KORTEGAS (Deputy Membership Secretary)

Pam SOUTHERN (Bookings Secretary)

Vacant (Publicity Officer)

George BRUNAVS (Meetings Secretary/ Vice chair)

Pauline SPRINGETT (Visits Co-ordinator)

Malcolm TENNANT (Sales Table)

Vacant (Web Editor)

Isobel PALMER (Newsletter Editor).

**Appointment of Independent Examiner**

**Subscription**

**Any Other Business**

**Next Annual General Meeting will be Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2019**

## TREASURER'S REPORT 2016/17

The accounts for 2016/17 show a net surplus of £2,781.29, a decrease of £1,078.82 from the previous year's surplus of £3,860.11, and a decrease of £1,853.60 over a two year period. Whilst membership numbers have remained relatively constant at about 365, this reduction is an inevitable consequence of the increase in printing costs, speaker's fees, hall hire charges and postage. In addition, there has been a significant reduction in income from trips and visits, again reflecting an increase in costs and a slight fall in numbers. However, the commitment, effort and hard work of many individuals and groups of members within the Association continue to raise significant funds in support of the work of the National Trust at local, regional and national level.

As at 30 September 2017, the total financial reserves of the Association stood at £9,024.31, an increase of £2,781.29 over the previous year. However, no donations were made to local properties during the year. This follows on from donations totalling £11,650.00 made in 2015/16 and, during the year, several visits were made by Committee members to see how these donations had been spent. This means that we are now in a very favourable position to be able to consider a number of requests for funding that have recently been forwarded to us by the Midlands Region of the National Trust.

It has been agreed by the Committee that the current subscription rates of £10 for an individual and £15 for couples will remain the same for 2018/19 but due consideration will be given to other forms of fund raising and any ideas or suggestions that you may have will be most welcome.

Finally, thanks go to Ian Stimson for examining and approving the accounts and bank records of the Association. If any member would like a copy of the full Balance Sheet, please do not hesitate to contact me.

David Knapp  
Honorary Treasurer

## SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS 2016/17

	<b>2016/17</b>	<b>2015/16</b>
<b>SUBSCRIPTIONS</b>	3,030.00	3,066.00
LESS expenditure on meetings, newsletters, etc	2,979.84	2,652.91
	<b>50.16</b>	<b>413.09</b>
 <b>INCOME from fund raising</b>		
Trips and Visits	1,207.00	1907.00
Sales Table	222.60	231.50
Talks given by Members	35.00	180.00
Collections at meetings	793.00	643.00
Bank Interest	0.43	1.39
PC Recycling	37.60	50.13
Refreshments	345.50	302.00
Donations	90.00	132.00
	<b>2,781.29</b>	<b>3,860.11</b>
<b>Net surplus for the year</b>		
Donations to N.T. Projects	-	6650.00
Transfer to N.T. Supporter Group Account	-	1500.00
	<b>2,781.29</b>	<b>-4,289.89</b>
Balance brought forward	6,243.02	10,532.91
 <b>Balance carried forward</b>	<b>9,024.31</b>	<b>6,243.02</b>

# PROGRAMME of OUTINGS for 2018

## Walk from Hatton Locks

Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2018

By car, meet in the Hatton Locks Car Park for a 10 am start

Organised by Mark Furber (01788 812839)

Supported by Flick Furber

The walk starts from the Hatton Locks car park, charge £1.50. It is 4½ miles long with no stiles and only gentle slopes.

We commence along the Grand Union Canal towpath, passing four locks and a canal side café which has toilet facilities and you can purchase an early cup of tea.

We then leave the canal and have a short walk along a quiet road passing the entrance to Hatton Country World. Leaving the road we cross several fields and then join a wide track. After three cattle grids we reach one of the original lodges to the Grove Park estate. Warwick Castle and St Mary's Church in Warwick can be seen in the distance.

Leaving the track we cross more fields and reach a country road which takes us to Budbrooke Farm, passing the farm the path goes into woodland and then reaches the canal again. There is a gentle climb back to the car park.

If the weather is fine we can then get lunch at the Canal café or, if you prefer, take a picnic to eat beside the canal. The Hatton Arms, close to the canal, provides an excellent meal but is very busy and fairly expensive. If you prefer to eat there I would suggest you ring and book a table, tel. 01926 492427.



Hatton Locks

## Renishaw Hall and Gardens

Monday, 18<sup>th</sup> June 2018

By coach departing 8.30 am

Organised by Janice Snell (Tel 07758601744)

Supported by John Snell, Janet and Ken Wayland

Renishaw Hall is a Grade 1 listed Jacobean mansion. It sits in 5,000 acres of land with 10 acres of gardens. It is now the family home of Sitwell, her husband Rick, and their children Rosie and Bertie.

Renishaw has been the home of the Sitwell family for nearly 400 years. There are more than 70 works of the artist John Piper. It is an extrovert house with gilded Italian furniture, classic English pieces and vast, priceless tapestries. More than 30,000 books, collected over hundreds of years, line the wall, "this is the house of books".

The present owners use as many rooms as possible, putting in more lamps to make it into a home. Like us, they lie around on the sofas with the dogs and watch telly. Sitwell tells us, that such cosiness was unknown to her parents, for whom the house was so cold they had to retreat to the car after breakfast to keep warm!

We have coffee and biscuits on arrival (included) followed by a guided tour of the Hall which is the ground floor only and will take approximately one hour. (Folding walking sticks can be provided – if any member would like one please contact Janice). After the tour, we will meet at the Stable Yard café for our two course lunch (included). After lunch, you have free time to look at the lovely gardens.

The classical Italianate gardens were designed and laid out at the end of the 19th century, by the great grandfather of the current owner. Garden highlights throughout the season include bluebells, delphiniums, camellias, roses and the stunning 'white garden'.

After enjoying the gardens, most members are ready for a cup of tea (not included). I suggest you make your way to the Stable Yard café by 3.30 pm, to give yourselves plenty of time for a more leisurely cuppa and the necessary visit to the toilet before boarding the coach.

Renishaw have asked that we leave at 4.30 pm. The coach will be ready for boarding at 4.15 pm for a prompt departure at 4.30 - traffic permitting arriving back in Rugby at 6.15 pm.

*Please Note – Members who have RHS (garden only) and HHA membership are entitled to a refund which will be made on the day but you must remember to bring your cards with you for inspection at Renishaw. If forgotten, no refund will be given.*

## **Hereford Cathedral**

Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> June 2018

By coach departing at 8.45 am

Organised by Barrie Bemand (01788 811961, mob 07764574014)

Supported by Lynne Bemand

We aim to arrive at the Cathedral Close at 11 am where we transfer to College Hall for tea/coffee (included)

The present Cathedral dates from 1079 when it was rebuilt by the Normans under Bishop Reynelm. An earlier church had been built in the 8<sup>th</sup> century by a Mercian nobleman Milfred on the site of St Ethelbert's tomb. In 1056 this cathedral was burnt and plundered by the Welsh and Irish under the Welsh prince Gruffydd ap Llywelyn.

The Cathedral's most famous treasure is the Mappa Mundi, a 13<sup>th</sup> century map of the world. It is drawn and painted on a single piece of vellum and shows the world as circular surrounded by water with Jerusalem at its centre. It survived the years of the Cromwell Commonwealth by being hidden under the floor in the Bishop Audley's Chantry. It was little regarded and survived years of neglect till 1855 when it was cleaned and repaired by the British Museum.

The Chained Library was built over 900 years ago, fell into disrepair and faced destruction until major repairs were made during the restoration work of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The oldest chained book found in the library is the Hereford Gospels. Written in the 8<sup>th</sup> century, it is one of 229 chained books located in this great library. The Hereford library is the largest surviving chained library with its chains and books intact.

During the 18<sup>th</sup> century the Rev Dr Thomas Bisse, was the Chancellor of the Cathedral and in 1724 he organised a "Music Meeting" which subsequently became, with the Cathedrals at Worcester and Gloucester, the Three Choirs Festival - usually held in July-August.

At 11.30 am we shall have a guided tour of Hereford Cathedral. This will take about an hour and a quarter. After which we will return to College Hall for lunch. This will be quiches, cold meats and salads with tea/coffee (included).

College Hall was originally built in the 15<sup>th</sup> century for the vicars' choral – priests specially employed to sing in services.

In the afternoon, we will have free time to visit the Mappa Mundi and Chained Library. Entry for these is included in your day. Some may wish to explore more of the Cathedral or the City.

We will be leaving at approximately 4 pm to return to Rugby by 6 pm.

## **Cottesbrooke Hall & Gardens, Northants**

Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> July 2018

By car to arrive at 2 pm

Organised by Pauline Springett (01788 814634, 07733148004)

Supported by Alec Springett

Cottesbrooke is a wonderful Queen Anne house dating from 1702 and set in delightful award winning gardens in rural Northamptonshire. The Hall remains the much loved family home of the Macdonald-Buchanan family and is lived in every day. This is quite apparent when you are on your guided tour as you will see family portraits by some exceptional artists.

Francis Smith of Warwick was the original architect and the house was built between 1702 and 1712 for the Langham family. The house also underwent development during the late 18th century, including the addition of the East and West bows in the Adam manner,

Cottesbrooke is also home to The Woolavington Collection of sporting art. The collection is arguably the finest of its type in Europe and you will see paintings by Stubbs, Ben Marshall and Alfred Munnings amongst others.

A number of distinguished designers have been involved in the development of the gardens – Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe and Dame Sylvia Crowe in the middle of the 19th century, more recently James Alexander Sinclair and Angela Collins, both locally based in Northamptonshire and Arne Maynard.

Our visit will start with a guided tour of the Hall which lasts 45 minutes. We will be split into groups, the first group starting at 2.15. After the house tour you are free to wander around the gardens. Members will be issued with a token for the tea room and can decide when they wish to have tea and cake. Members are asked to leave the site by 5 pm.

**DIRECTIONS** The Post code is NN6 8PF. The postcode may not come up on Sat nav but if you put in Creaton which is the neighbouring village you can follow the brown signs to the village of Cottesbrooke.

If approaching on the A14 junction 1 take the A5199, head south towards Northampton travelling through the village of Thornby. The next village is Creaton where you turn left to Cottesbrooke. Proceed through Creaton down the hill and at the bottom of the hill turn left (signed Cottesbrooke). Follow this minor road towards Cottesbrooke and as you enter the village take the right hand turn signposted to Brixworth and Cottesbrooke Hall. Turn right down this road and the public entrance to Cottesbrooke is next on your left. You will see 2 tall iron gates that are open at the end of this small public road. Drive up the driveway over the bridge and the car park is on your left.

## Drayton House, Lowick, Northants

Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> July 2018

By coach departing at 11 am

Organised by Pauline Springett (01788 814634, 07733148004)

Supported by Alec Springett

Drayton House has been a family home for over a thousand years. The core of the house, built by Simon de Drayton, about 1300 survives but the house is especially important for the transformation it had during the late 17<sup>th</sup> and early 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. Henry, 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Peterborough, a close friend of James II and Ambassador in France on two occasions, began this transformation in the 1650s. After his death in 1697 his daughter, Mary, and her second husband, Sir John Germain, reputedly an illegitimate brother of William of Orange, completed the scheme. With his Royal connections, Germain was able to bring to Drayton many of the craftsmen who were working for the King at Hampton Court; so there is architecture by William Talman, ironwork by Jean Tijou and furniture by Gerrit Jensen. The house also has a unique spiral cantilever oak staircase and a superb embroidered State Bed both of c.1700. The house passed to the Sackville family in 1770 but only two rooms were changed, being decorated in the Adam manner. The house, therefore, reflects its medieval origins and taste of the Baroque period while remaining very much a family home.

We aim to arrive at the village of Lowick for a 2 course lunch (included) at The Snooty Fox. At two pm we travel the short distance to Drayton House where we will be given our guided tour lasting one and a half hours.

After Drayton House we will arrive back in the village of Lowick to visit the church before returning back to Rugby at approximately 5.45 pm.

*Special Note – There are two flights of stairs in Drayton House which are not recommended for members with walking difficulties.*

There is no reduction for HHA members.



Photo by Isobel Palmer

## **Elton Hall and Gardens, Elton, Peterborough**

Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> July 2018

By coach departing at 10.15 am

Organised by Janice Snell (07758601744)

Supported by John Snell, Janet and Ken Wayland

This will be a leisurely day out, with a late start, which means we can have a lie in!

We hope to arrive at the Walled Garden around 11.45 am in time for our buffet lunch at 12.00 noon, in the relaxing tea rooms (included). The Walled Garden is an independent, family owned garden centre and tearooms set in the beautiful surroundings of Elton's Victorian walled garden. Head Gardener Diane, with the help of volunteers, is bringing this old Victorian kitchen garden back to life after 50 years of neglect. You will have free time later explore more.

After lunch we will be split into three groups for our guided tour of Elton Hall which is a wonderful historic house. It is a fascinating mixture of styles, reflecting the taste and interests of succeeding generations. The beautiful gardens have been restored during the last thirty years and now include mature topiary, an orangery and stunning herbaceous borders. The Hall is very much a family home which includes formal and semi-formal rooms.

The entrance to the Hall and Garden is a pleasant walk of approximately 150 metres along a tree lined path. Inside the Hall there are some narrow stone steps to negotiate which may prove difficult for some members and there is very limited visitor seating.

We meet up at 3.15 pm in the tea rooms for tea/coffee and biscuits (included).

Members will then have a little more time to wander around the garden centre and visit the Secret Garden.

The coach will be ready for boarding at 4.15 pm for a prompt departure at 4.30 pm. Traffic permitting we expect to arrive back in Rugby about 6.00 pm.

## Hartlebury Castle, Kidderminster

Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> August 2018

By coach departing at 8.45 am.

Organised by Mark Furber (01788 812839)

Supported by Flick Furber

Hartlebury Castle was turned into a fortified residence by the Bishop of Worcester before the end of the 13<sup>th</sup> century and, until recently, has been the home of the bishop. To preserve the castle, the Hartlebury Castle Preservation Trust was formed and in October 2014 was awarded £5m by the heritage lottery fund to purchase the castle. The castle is also the home of the County Museum which contains many exhibits and photos of the history of the castle. In the buildings surrounding the main house there is a fascinating exhibition of gypsy caravans

On arrival you may purchase tea/coffee and then we will split into three groups; one group will tour the castle; a second will visit the Hurd library within the castle and the third will tour the County museum. Guides will be provided and access is easy via excellent lifts. Each tour will last about an hour and in between tours there will be time for refreshment.

A great deal of restoration work is in progress on the castle and a new café is being constructed. Everything will be ready for our visit but at the moment the franchise for the café has not been awarded. We can purchase our own food and drink as required or, if you wish, you can bring a picnic and enjoy the castle gardens.

We will leave Hartlebury about 3.30 pm, arriving back in Rugby for 5 pm.



Photo by Isobel Palmer ©

## Stoke Bruerne, Northants

Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> August 2018

By coach departing at 11 am

Organised by Aileen Brown (Tel 01788 811106, mob 07469 628858)

Supporter Isobel Palmer

We will be travelling back in time on this outing. We leave St. Marks to go to the Boat Inn, Stoke Bruerne in a vintage 1968 Bristol coach. As the coach contains 6 tables, passenger numbers are limited to 38. At the Boat Inn, lunch (included) is booked for 12.30 and members are asked to make their choice from the menu *included when the booking form is returned to you.*

After lunch, half the party will embark on the narrowboat Indian Queen for a trip through the Blisworth Tunnel to the village of Blisworth where they will be met by the rest of the party who will have been transported there by coach. The parties change places and both travel back to Stoke Bruerne by their different modes of transport.

There will be some free time to visit the Canal Museum and Gift shop. The Museum is very interesting but is on three floors with no lift.

We expect to be back in Rugby by about 5.30 pm.



## Windsor Castle

Wednesday, 5 September 2018

By coach departing at 8.45 am

Organised by George Brunavs (01788 811701, Mob 07885 586165)

Supported by Val Brunavs

Windsor ranks along with the Tower of London as the premier castle of England. It is England's largest castle and royal residence, covers about 13 acres, and shows an architectural development from the twelfth to the twentieth centuries. It is still in use ceremonially and as a residence.

In St George's Chapel it has a true masterpiece of late medieval architecture, magnificent both externally and inside. Ten monarchs are buried here, including Henry VIII and Charles I. We can also explore the spacious Lower, Middle and Upper Wards, the latter including the magnificent State Apartment, lavishly furnished with masterpieces of art and furniture in the Royal Collection. Especially remarkable are works by Holbein, Rubens and Van Dyck, and the tiny treasures of Queen Mary's Dolls' House. Use of the audio-visual guide (available free) is highly recommended.

We will aim to arrive in Windsor by 11.15-11.30 am, after a comfort/tea/coffee stop at the Oxford services on the M40.

The time for entry to the Castle will be announced on the coach on the morning of the trip.

As there is no catering in Windsor Castle, members will have to make their own arrangements for lunch/refreshments in Windsor town, where there is a wide choice of cafes, restaurants, etc. but bear in mind the entry time to the Castle. We aim to leave Windsor at 4.30 pm and should be back in Rugby at around 6.30 pm.



Photo by  
Isobel Palmer ©

## Real Bread by Paul Raddan

Our meeting on 15 November 2017 had a different flavour from our usual talks and an unusual hall layout. Paul came along to tell us about the Campaign for Real



Bread and to talk about sour dough bread making. He gave us a demonstration but was slightly hampered by the fact that he hadn't brought his mixing bowl! However, he used a plastic bag instead! This enabled him to mix his flour, water and sour dough starter which he then kneaded to show us its elasticity.

As you can see from the photo, he came with baked items for us to try and buy. We sampled his very tasty bread and many people dived into his delicious brownies and flapjacks in the interval resulting in a long queue at the end of the meeting to purchase the goodies he had brought along.



Photos by Isobel Palmer ©

A different seating arrangement ensures everyone sees the demonstration

## What's happening at Canons Ashby?

The gardens are beginning to show signs of life, the house is getting ready for a busy new season and we have a brand new building.



Photo by Isobel Palmer ©

The Visitor Reception building under construction in December

Our new Visitor Reception will be opening soon, and should be ready for the beginning of the new visitor season. It will have taken just under 6 months to build, and should really improve our visitors' experience, as well as improving the way the site works for the property team. Pop in this spring to see the new building in action!

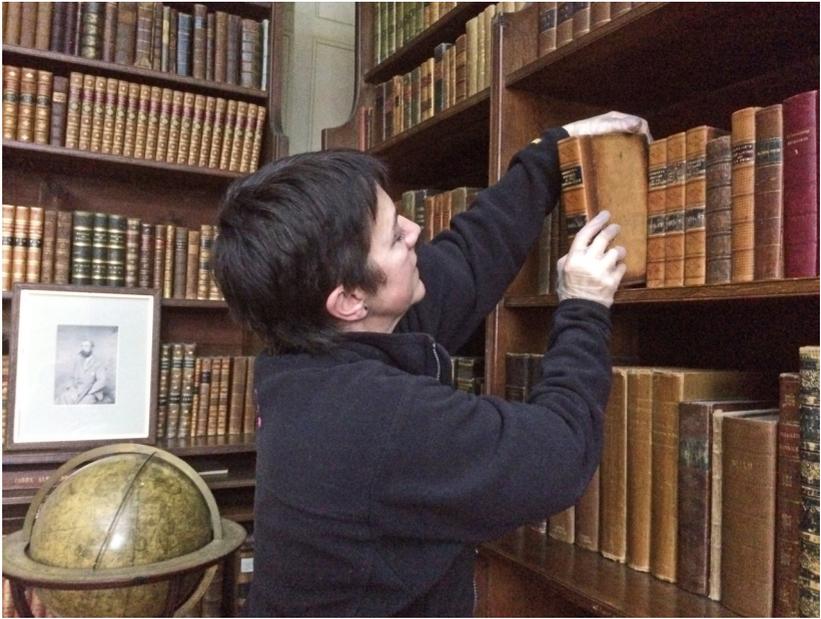
Behind the scenes: Whilst we are closed between 6 January and 10 February there may be no visitors but we are still really busy.

The house team do as much of their winter cleaning and conservation work as they can during this time. It takes a lot of work to continuously look after all the built structures, cleaning and monitoring everything we care for.

This spring they are concentrating on caring for our book collection. Every book in our collection needs to be cleaned thoroughly, examined for evidence of pests, decay or other deterioration and checked against an index to ensure that none have gone missing. We look after over 2000 books here at Canons Ashby, and many of them are extremely fragile.

## What's been happening at Canons Ashby? (cont.)

Photo supplied by Canons Ashby



Rachel caring for the book collection

Outdoors there is plenty to do to prepare the gardens and grounds for the new season. A lot of the planting happens during late autumn or winter but there are still plenty of things to be planting and tending at this season. We will also be doing some work around the new Visitor Reception to get this area looking its best.

This year the National Trust is remembering 100 years since women achieved the vote across many of our properties with the theme Women and Power. At Canons Ashby you may notice the colours of suffrage, purples, white and greens, will be very prominent in the planting in the formal garden (see back cover) and in the house we will be shining a spotlight on the women of Canons Ashby's history.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

Helena Avery-Clarke  
Programming and Communications Officer