Monthly Newsletter—Conservation at Hardwick Hall

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Date

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Editorial Welcome to the Autumn season at Hardwick. October is harvest time and we are enjoying a bumper crop of fruit and vegetables grown in our gardens. Read on to discover how we are sharing this bounty across the estate. Do look out for Halloween events at the end of the month too! Just a reminder that the hall is closed during November, but we look forward to seeing you during December when you will be able to enjoy our spectacular Christmas decorations and Christmas fun for all the family!

Nigel Wright - House & Collections Manager

Did you know? Hardwick has a large collection of Civil War armour. This photograph shows two bullet indentations in a breastplate. The manufacturers of the armour used to fire bullets at it in order to demonstrate its efficacy to potential buyers. An early marketing technique!

Update on our Gideon tapestry The news from the National Trust Textile Studio in Norfolk is that conservation work is continuing apace. Progress on the top border and the main field of the tapestry is beyond the mid-point. Conservation work includes re-warping sections of damaged work and re-stitching of the design. Where sections of the tapestry cannot be re-stitched, fabric is dyed to exactly blend into the background and is carefully attached to fill the holes. It is painstaking and specialised work! The condition of the Gideon tapestries has reached ‘critical’, without conservation they will be lost. We need your help to continue the work so please donate if you are able. Thank you.

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Before

After
Get with the beet!

Visitors in October may be lucky enough to come across one of our special displays of home-grown produce in the Great Kitchen. Beetroot has already been featured. Newly harvested beets were on display together with the opportunity to taste some freshly prepared beetroot relish and even some chocolate and beetroot cake! Both recipes were made by the innovative chefs in our restaurant. There were also some handy hints and tips available for growing your own beetroot and all the health benefits. Recent studies have shown that beetroot juice may help to enhance exercise performance and help to lower blood pressure.

Ecclesiastics Research  Recently, some of the team visited the textile conservator who has been carrying out work on our very fragile and rare ecclesiastical textiles. From the stitching techniques used and the style of dress the figures are wearing it is possible to date the textiles to the 15th century. Some are badly worn, but we believe this may be the result of them being stitched together and draped over the altar rail in the Chapel. An early 20th century photograph confirms that this was how they were displayed.

Meet a Volunteer. This is Barbara and Ann, two of our fantastic team of flower arrangers. The flowers we use in the hall are all grown in the gardens and beautifully arranged each week by this dedicated team of ladies. Barbara coordinates the creation of our spectacular Christmas decorations too. Visitors often comment on how lovely the flowers look, so thank you ladies - your work is very much appreciated!

If you have any questions about Conservation work at Hardwick Hall, please do not hesitate to ask.
If you would like to volunteer to help, we would love to hear from you!

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/hardwick/join-in/