



ENGLISH
HERITAGE

MARBLE HILL REVIVED COMMUNITY UPDATE

November 2021



The last of this summer's flowers bloom on the walkway up to the house.

EXCITING FINDS

The 18th-century grotto at Marble Hill had been lost for many years but was re-discovered in the 1940s. Limited excavations took place in the 1980s, when shells and corals used to decorate the walls were found, but limited funds meant that the grotto was only partially re-constructed.

This August, archaeologists from Historic England and AOC went back to investigate further and uncovered huge lumps of coral, fully intact exotic shells from the Caribbean and a three hundred-year-old floor encrusted with flint, pebbles and knuckle bone.

We know from letters that Marble Hill's then owner, Henrietta Howard, and her great niece were instrumental in decorating the grotto, so these finds are an exciting link to the past. Over the next few



Archaeologists excavate the grotto at Marble Hill.

months, samples will be taken and casts made to reconstruct elements of the finds, and these will be incorporated into the new interpretation scheme in the house.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

To find out more or to get involved, visit
[english-heritage.org.uk/marblehillrevived](https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/marblehillrevived)

WHAT IS MARBLE HILL REVIVED?

Marble Hill is a much-loved space for both locals and Londoners, young and old, to relax and play. However, before the Marble Hill Revived project started, the site had seen little investment since the 1980s.

Opening times for the historic house were limited and much of the park's original character has been lost. Right across Marble Hill, the facilities needed upgrading.

A £5m grant from the Heritage Fund and Community Fund presents a unique chance to revive Marble Hill, to bring its stories to life, to involve more local people in it, and to invest in its long term future.

Marble Hill Revived is about keeping what makes Marble Hill so special, but also making it better.

Step into England's story



POPPIES IN THE PARK

This November, Poppies in the Park will again remember the fallen from our local community. Spread throughout the grounds, each of the 897 poppies will record the names of those who sadly lost their lives. Many thanks to our volunteer researchers who helped us uncover the names of several men who had not previously been commemorated in the local memorial book of names in the borough archives. The poppies will be in place from 2 November until 22 November.

The volunteer-created exhibition about Marble Hill during the wars will return this year, with new research into the links the site had with local internment camps and the Royal Star and Garter Home in Richmond. We're also going to be marking the five bomb sites again, and all are welcome on both 11 November and Remembrance Sunday to join us in our commemorations.

PLANTING SPRING BULBS

This autumn you can help us bring colourful new life to Marble Hill. We're planting a diverse mix of spring bulbs that will spread naturally throughout the grounds over the coming years, and we'd love you to help out. You can sponsor some of the bulbs by donating to the project. Thank you to those who joined us for the community planting days in October.

www.english-heritage.org.uk/support-us/our-appeals/marble-hill-appeal



WE'VE BEEN JOINED BY THREE NEW FACES AT MARBLE HILL

We're so pleased to be joined by Sinead, Antony and Hannah. Sinead from Feltham is one of our two childcare apprentices. Antony joins us on a 'Kickstarter' placement as our community engagement officer and Hannah is about to start her English Heritage-funded PhD at Hull University to research Marble Hill's mahogany staircase as well as the flooring both here at Marble and at Kenwood House in north London.



Sinead



Antony



Hannah

THE CAFÉ

Our café will open throughout the winter months, providing all your usual favourites. This winter, the café is hosting a youth art exhibition, along with wreath making workshops and carol singing sessions from local nurseries and the U3A and The Richmond Community Choir.

CONSERVATION WORK

Inside the house, the team has been hard at work waxing the floors, carrying out extensive conservation cleaning and rehanging silks and chandeliers. Elsewhere, our expert art conservators have been at work using skilled techniques to clean paintings from the collection to ensure they look their best when the house reopens.

VOLUNTEERS

We're looking for volunteers to share the stories of Henrietta Howard and her house with visitors once the house reopens. To find out more head to

www.english-heritage.org.uk/support-us/Volunteer/marble-hill-explainer-volunteer

YOUR FEEDBACK

Scan the QR code to complete a short anonymous survey on Marble Hill Revived.



English Heritage cares for over 400 historic monuments, buildings and places. Through these, we bring the story of England to life for over 10 million visitors each year.

KEEP UP TO DATE

To find out more about our Marble Hill Revived project and for all the latest news, visit

english-heritage.org.uk/marblehillrevived

facebook.com/MarbleHillHouse

[@EHMarbleHill](https://twitter.com/EHMarbleHill)

If you have any questions or comments or would like to meet and hear about our plans, contact Rachel Morrison, our Audience Development Manager at

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NATIONAL LOTTERY HERITAGE FUND

Marble Hill Revived has been awarded a £5 million grant by The National Lottery through the Parks for People programme.

