



The Blickling Scrapbook: A community project

"It takes one thought, one second, one moment or positive memory to act as a catalyst for the light to gradually seep in again." Fearne Cotton, Happy

The Blickling Scrapbook: what it is

The Blickling Estate is many things. It is a workplace and a welcome, a place to experience, to learn and to explore. It is a home: for tenants and for nature, for families and friends. It is a complex working estate, a visitor attraction, a gathering place, and somewhere that anyone can make a difference. In short, it is a community.

Our Aim: to celebrate, share and enjoy

In the year of the National Trust 125th anniversary and 400 years after the start of the construction of the Hall, we want to celebrate one of the most important things that makes Blickling special: it's people. We are also experiencing an unprecedented time in our history – both here at Blickling and across the world – giving us time to reflect on what is special to us and giving many of us time to improve existing and develop new talents.

To mark these milestones, we want to create a scrapbook: an assembly of memories and skills, data and ideas, ephemera and art. It is a place to encourage all the people that form the Blickling Estate to share who they are or what they do, thoughts about what makes Blickling special to them, and to take a snapshot of Blickling in 2020 as a record of who we are. It is an opportunity for us to share with ourselves and with others what an incredible place Blickling is, and to encourage future generations to do the same. It also represents a way for us to stay connected with each other whilst we are far apart, and to celebrate when we can come together again.

What you can do

We are asking anyone who lives, works and volunteers at Blickling to take part. This could be individuals or groups, and can take whatever form that people want it to – as long as it fits on an A4 piece of paper (Or perhaps cloth? Or metal? We're open to ideas!). We are asking for people to share something that represents their place at Blickling and/or what they love about it. It could be demonstrative of their role, their contribution or the space they occupy, and could be any range of media / contribution, for example:

- Poetry or prose (a haiku? A limerick?)
- Painting, sketching or photography
- Textile
- Descriptions or words
- Other ephemera (book pages, pamphlets, stamps, newspaper clippings)

We are happy to talk about what the contribution might look like, including everything from materials to content. The key point is for contributions to be positive and representative of what – and more importantly who – makes Blickling special.

Our timescale

The National Trust is planning a thematic celebration of Home in 2021 which hopefully will go ahead and which we would want to use this to celebrate. To do so, we ask that all contributions be done by the end of October to allow time to compile and potentially to create an exhibition, digitise or bind depending on future plans.

What happens when it's done

We want the Blickling Community Scrapbook to become an important fixture of our modern 'collection' and find a safe place for it to live long-term. We are exploring the potential to digitise it and have it available online (perhaps on the Blickling Estate website) and perhaps even display it in a short-term or longer-term exhibition. We want to be able to share what we're doing with each other, the wider community and our visitors. Therefore, we would ask that any contributions are made with the knowledge that they would be publicly accessible. We are excited to share what makes us great!

If you have any questions, or want to send us a digital image of a completed contribution (you can keep a hold of the real thing until we are all 'back to normal') please do get in touch with Angela Brook, who is our lead on this work.

Angela.Brook@nationaltrust.org.uk

Thanks in advance!

The scrapbook represents an incredible opportunity for us to celebrate Blickling at a time when such joy and celebration is much needed. So, from the bottom of my heart, thank you in advance for your time in contributing to this amazing piece of history.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Heather Jermy". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid and legible.

Heather Jermy, General Manager, Blickling Estate