

A fitting legacy

THE memory of Mark Girouard (1931–2022), the architectural historian, author and former Architectural Editor of *COUNTRY LIFE*, is honoured with the creation of a new fund for publications by the Society of Architectural Historians of Great Britain.

‘The task of publishing architectural research has become ever more complicated and expensive in recent years,’ explains *COUNTRY LIFE* Architectural Editor John Goodall. ‘It seems very appropriate, therefore, that Mark Girouard—who wrote so beautifully on architecture and through his books and articles advocated the subject to such a wide public—should be celebrated posthumously by a fund that will support future scholars in bringing their work to publication.’

Girouard won the Colvin prize posthumously in 2022 for his *Biographical Dictionary of English Architecture 1540–1640* and his daughter, Blanche Girouard, has



Paying tribute: Mark Girouard (right) at Mere-worth Castle, Kent, with photographer Alex Starkey

consulted on the fund, which must first be raised. The goal is to reach a target of £100,000 through grants, trusts and donations from the public; those exceeding £1,000 will be acknowledged in the list of Patrons. Visit www.sahgb.org.uk/sahgb-girouard-fund to donate.

Good week for

Baby bison

The first European bison conceived in a Kentish woodland was born at a nature reserve near Canterbury in November, taking the number of animals in the herd up to six; the Wilder Blean herd is the first in the English wild for millennia

Cosy knits

British Wool has seen its first sustained price recovery since the pandemic, with an increase in new buyers globally



Don't ask, don't get

A 10-year-old girl from Edinburgh has been given a year's supply of haggis-flavoured crisps after writing to Taylors Snacks (previously Mackie's Crisps), asking that they produce the limited-edition flavour all-year round

Renewable energy

Across 2023, power generated from renewable energy sources, including wind, hydro and solar, provided more than 90TWh of clean energy, enough for all the UK's 28 million homes

Bad week for

Driving us crazy

The RAC has reported a record number of breakdowns caused by rodents in vehicles—303 incidents within 11 months last year. A handful of breakdowns were caused by snakes; and in one a squirrel used an air filter to stockpile nuts



Smew and far between

The monochrome-feathered smew has been uplisted to 'scarce' on the BirdGuides sightings service. As few as 58 were present at the end of 2023, less than half the 130 predicted

Old technology

Cornwall's oldest working railway signal box, in Par, will close as part of Network Rail's digital upgrades, along with slightly younger versions at Lostwithiel and Truro. The Par building, in use for 144 years, is Grade II listed **AEW**



Tomo Campbell's *So Says You* (2023) is among works by six contemporary artists to be exhibited in 'The Guts and the Glory' at Bo Lee and Workman, Bruton, Somerset. The gallery, co-founded by Alice Workman, the former senior director at Hauser & Wirth, in 2022, moved into the town's former Methodist Chapel last year. The show runs from January 19 to March 2 (www.boleeworkman.com)

And the winner is...

Elaine Chenevix Trench of Leicester is the winner of the 2023 Christmas crossword

