# **Town & Country Notebook**

## Stay at home



### Launceston Farm, Blandford, Dorset

Everything about this highly regarded B&B, from its valley setting to the homemade biscuits and hot-water bottles laid on for guests, is delightful. The spacious property, which stands in the heart of a working organic farm, has six supremely comfortable double rooms, each with its own bathroom. Stylish informality is the name of the gamethere's not a whiff of chintz to be seen. Breakfast is a feast of locally sourced food (sausages from the resident rare-breed pigs, eggs from the chickens in the orchard and seasonal fruits) and, afterwards, you can request a tour of the farm with the owner's son, who manages it. Rooms from £90 per night, including breakfast.

(01258 830528; www.launcestonfarm.co.uk)

# Words of the week Charientism (noun) A veiled insult

Escargatoire (noun)

A place where snails are reared

Macilent (adjective)

Extremely thin



Place your present on top of the ribbon. Bring both ends of the ribbon up and form a cross by twisting them together

## A debutante's diary

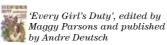
Thursday October 1st, 1868

Y retriever alluded to our last scene in the cedar room, which I for my part had almost forgotten. 'Do you remember that thick gold bracelet of yours falling off, and my picking it up and clasping it for you? Looking back I wonder how my selfpossession ever carried me through.' He then went on to tell me the sort of reputation Kelham bears in the county, as being a house no woman under forty should venture into. Poor Kelham! Its morals were certainly d'occasion but still it didn't strike me

Of course, Morland interspersed his conversation with several pretty little nothings which coming from a man of his stamp mean so much, to all of which I listened with downcast eyes, smiling mouth, and the general air of soft contentment you may remark on the countenance of a cat when she is being petted. The train meanwhile rushed along with the most unnecessary speed, and was in London before we thought we were halfway.

as being as bad as all that.

He stayed till the last, only leaving us at the Paddington Hotel, and I declare I could have cried when we said goodbye. Alas! With my last glimpse of his handsome face fades away my last English flirtation, and I may make up my mind now to Paris and those insupportable Frenchmen for the next six months, to say nothing of an indefinite period beyond!



**Next week** Country Life's new series, 'Forgotten Heroes', begins

## **Unmissable events**



#### **Exhibitions**

November 12–15 'A Portrait of Highgrove', Jeremy Houghton, Broadway, Gloucestershire. 25 watercolours (above). Proceeds go to The Prince's Countryside Fund. Viewing by appointment only (www.jeremyhoughton. co.uk; 07981 655515)

November 13-December 7 'Warts and All: The Portrait Miniatures of Samuel Cooper', Philip Mould & Co, 29, Dover Street, London W1. Works by the artist (right) once referred to as 'Vandyck in little', including a portrait of Oliver Cromwell (020-7499

Until
November
21 'Tim Bowen
Antiques Winter
Exhibition', Aberglasney
Gardens, Llangathen,
Carmarthenshire. Selling
exhibition from the specialist in oak and country
furniture (01558 668998;
www.aberglasney.org)

6818; www.

philipmould.

com)

#### Talk

feeling', Ely Museum, Ely, Cambridgeshire. With coastal ecologist Dr Pat Doody, in assocation with the Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire. 7.45pm–9.30pm, suggested donation £2.50 (01353 661339; www. wildlifetrusts.org)

#### Fair

# November 17 The National Vintage Fishing Tackle

Fair, Kingsley Sports Centre, Woodrow, Worcestershire. 9am–2pm, £2 entry. 40 stalls, plus free valuations (07980 274383)

November 19 Heythrop & Countryside Alliance Christmas Fair, Batsford

> Park, Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire. 11am– 8pm, £5 for adults and free for children under 15 (www. countrysidealliance.org)

1644 self-portrait by Samuel Cooper/Royal Collection

Highgrove Piggies' by Jeremy

#### Book now

November 20 Plant Propagation Workshop, Osborne

House, East Cowes, Isle of Wight. Hands-on demonstrations of techniques. 10am—1pm, tickets £20 for English Heritage members and £25 for non-members (0870 333 1183; www.english-heritage. org.uk)

November 26 'Twentieth Century Castles', Sackler Centre, V&A, London SW7. Amicia de Moubray on modern fortifications and visionary restorations. 6.30pm, tickets £9 (020–7942 2002; www.vam.ac.uk)

# How to... tie a ribbon around a present

Turn the present over. Pass one end of the ribbon under the horizontal ribbon





Repeat with the other end, then tie a knot above the centre

Finally, tie a bow and trim the ends



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