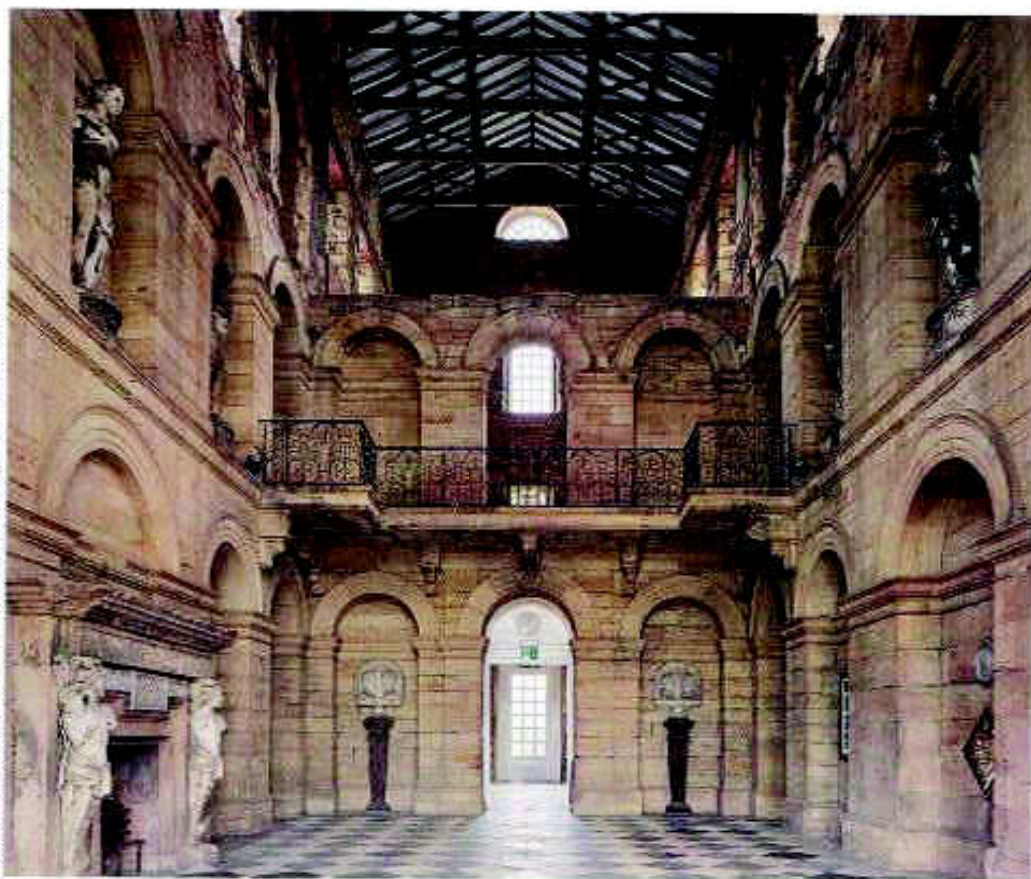




The COUNTRY LIFE Olympics

As an antidote to the sporting events dominating public consciousness during the coming months, we offer an alternative Olympics, with medals awarded for creativity, conservation and campaigning. Our panel argues the case for roses, racehorses and restorations—in short, the best of British over the past four years



Dennis Gilbert/National Trust Photo Library; The Robert Collection/See-Saw Films

Best film



The King's Speech

Being king isn't easy, especially when you have to battle a speech impediment and crippling shyness. This depiction of George VI's brave battle had Oscar written all over it, especially for Colin Firth, who made us feel every last painful moment of the struggle.

Silver The 'Harry Potter' series
The final films in the series showed how far Harry and his film-makers had come and were a showcase for Britain's talented wizards on and off screen.

Bronze Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy
Screenwriters Bridget O'Connor and Peter Straughan did an excellent job of compressing the novel into a film full of 1970s atmosphere. Stars Gary Oldman, Tom Hardy and Benedict Cumberbatch all gave standout performances.
Jane Watkins

Heritage/Arts campaign



Saving Seaton Delaval

There was a hugely enthusiastic public response to the campaign to save this Vanbrugh masterpiece, which was taken on by the National Trust in November 2009. Contributors to the £3 million of public money, much of it local, included schoolchildren giving their pocket money as well as The Prince of Wales and television cooks the Hairy Bikers.

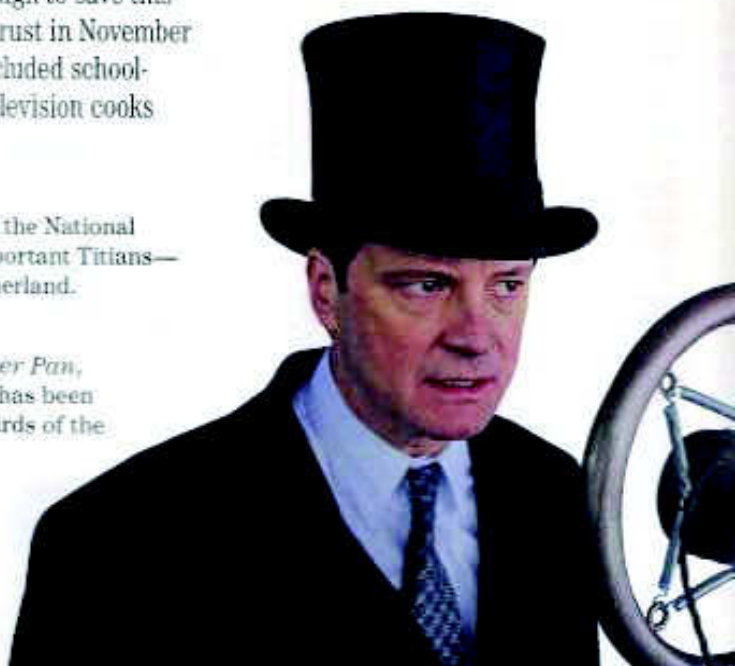
Silver Saving the Titians

The purchase this year of *Diana and Callisto* by the National Gallery and the National Galleries of Scotland successfully concluded the negotiated sale of two important Titians—the other was *Diana and Actaeon*—for £95 million from the Duke of Sutherland.

Bronze Saving Moat Brae

This derelict Georgian town house in Dumfriesshire, an inspiration for *Peter Pan*, was threatened with demolition. Following an energetic local campaign, it has been bought by the Peter Pan Moat Brae Trust, which has already raised two-thirds of the money needed. The plan is to open it to the public in 2015.

Marcus Binney





Garden restoration

Wrest Park, Bedfordshire

A complex and extensive restoration by English Heritage showcasing the evolution of landscape gardening across 300 years.

Within a short period, key features have been restored, returning the Grade I house in Bedfordshire to its elegant setting in a fascinating long-term project.

Silver Croome Park

A serene Capability Brown landscape and pleasure ground in Worcestershire, magnificently and sensitively restored by the National Trust.

Bronze Horniman Museum and gardens

Intelligent regeneration of well-loved Victorian gardens around one of London's most enthralling natural history and ethnographic museums.
Kathryn Bradley-Hole



Meat producer

John and Patricia Stanley, Leicestershire

The Stanleys started their Blackbrook herd of pedigree Longhorns in 1989 and have worked tirelessly to establish it as one of the best in Britain, winning prizes with their cattle and praise for their meat. In 2009, Longhorn beef won Country Life's Best British Steak competition. Now, beef from the breed, one of Britain's oldest, is internationally renowned for its flavour and tenderness. As Mr Stanley has said: 'Once you've tasted Longhorn beef, you've tasted real beef. Nothing else compares.'

Silver Oliver Whiteley, Harrogate, North Yorkshire

He has spent the past few years building up the largest herd of Gloucestershire Old Spots there has ever been (soon to reach 750 sows), and has a contract to supply pedigree pork to Marks & Spencer.

Bronze The Butchery in Malby Street, London SE16

Although Nathan Mills's establishment is only open on Saturday mornings, you can choose from Belted Galloway, Dexter or traditional Hereford beef, Gloucestershire Old Spot pork and Llanwenog lamb.

The Countess of Cranbrook and the Traditional Breeds Meat Marketing Company's Richard Lutwyche

