

COUNTRY LIFE

EVERY WEEK

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How to survive winter

Our practical guide to beating the chill



The great dressmaking renaissance
Astonishing sculptures and timeless interiors

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FUTURE

A spirit of the past

The best restoration services and suppliers of timeless furniture and fittings, selected by Amelia Thorpe



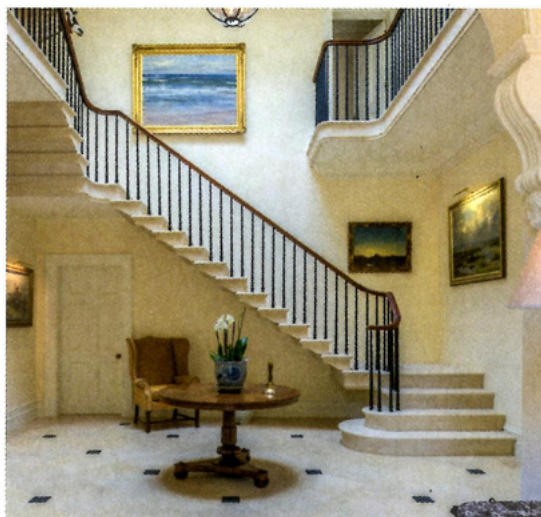
▲ Perfectly polished

The timeless Usk bath, fully clad in gleaming brass, would take centre stage in any bathroom. It costs £10,740, from Drummonds (020-7376 4499; www.drummonds-uk.com)



◀ New life

Blake & Bull takes the three classic Aga range-cooker styles, installed since 1941, renews them to their original standard and converts them to run efficiently on electricity. This Heritage Reimagined electric model in Northern Counties Cream costs £9,054, including delivery and installation (01225 541006; www.blakeandbull.co.uk)



◀ Top floor

Family-run British stone specialist Artorius Faber creates bespoke flooring, paving and internal architecture from its Somerset base, including this elegant Cradley English limestone flooring with black-slate cabochon, £285 per sq m (01935 847333; www.artoriusfaber.com) →

► Rare find

Attributed to Giles Gren-dey (1693-1780), this fine George II bureau cabinet features an exceptional red japanned surface with extensive chinoiserie gilt decoration, including birds and figurative and architectural motifs. The secretaire fall front opens to reveal an assortment of pigeon holes and drawers, arranged around a central shaped mirrored cabinet and lock, and secret compartment. It costs £265,000, from Jamb (020-7730 2122; www.jamb.co.uk)



▲ Gilt edged

The Traditional Giltwood coffee table, £1,540, is by classical furniture specialist Brights of Nettlebed, featuring a solid mahogany base, oil gilded using Dutch metal over a red foundation (01491 641115; www.brightsofnettlebed.co.uk)