

Stay at home

The Dial House Hotel, Bourton-on-the-water, Gloucestershire



Set in a Saxon village that wouldn't look out of place on a postcard, the hotel is one of the oldest buildings. There are 15 individually designed bedrooms and a charming walled garden, perfect for sitting quietly with a good book. The eight-course tasting menu is not to be missed, and the nearby yew-hedged Dragonfly Maze makes for a great family day out. Rooms from £155 a night, including breakfast.

(01451 822244; www.dialhousehotel.com)

Get away

Little Whale Cay, Bahamas



A fully staffed private island, for up to 12 guests in three houses. A sea-view infinity pool, tennis court, private airstrip, harbour and flotilla of boats for fishing, cruising or water sports complete this picture of paradise. A personal chef sources ingredients from the mainland daily. From £6,680 a night (\$10,500). Includes food, drinks, boats, island facilities. There is a minimum stay five nights in low season, seven nights in high season.

(www.littlewhalecay.com)

Good to know: Flag Fen and the first wheel

THIS photograph shows the excavation of the earliest known English wheel, which was found at Flag Fen, just outside Peterborough, Cambridgeshire. The wheel was made in about 1300BC and incorporates three types of wood: alder for the main segments, ash for the dowels that connect them and oak for the braces and axle. The wheel structure and design compares with Bronze Age examples discovered in modern-day Germany and Holland.



The natural conditions of Flag Fen have preserved an astonishing array of prehistoric finds, including a Bronze Age causeway created with some 60,000 timbers arranged in five closely packed lines. The wheel was one of many objects that were apparently deposited deliberately beside this remarkable structure. A small surviving section of this causeway and some finds from it—including the wheel—remain on display within the museum on the site (www.flagfen.org). **JG**

The wheel was made in 1300BC

What they said

'Summer ends now; now, barbarous in beauty'

Gerard Manley Hopkins from his poem *Hurrahing in Harvest*



Unmissable events

Exhibitions

Today until December 1 'Austerity and Invention: Illustration between the Wars', Stanley & Audrey Burton Gallery, University of Leeds, Leeds (0113-343 2778; www.leeds.ac.uk/gallery)

September 26-30 'Sea Change', photographs by Michael Marten, Gallery@Oxo, Oxo Tower Wharf, London SE1 (020-7243 3070; www.michaelmarten.com)

Show

September 23 Classic car, bike and vintage tractor show, Shalbourne Manor, Shalbourne, Wiltshire. 12pm to 5pm (01672 870825; www.shalbourne.org)



Open studios

September 21-23 OpenArt, East Dean and Friston, East Sussex (www.openartevents.org)

Festival

September 24-30 The Henley Literary Festival, various venues, Henley, Oxfordshire. Featuring Michael Palin and Sir John Major (0118-972 4700; www.henleyliteraryfestival.co.uk)

Open stables

September 23 The Betfair Newmarket Open Day, Newmarket, Suffolk. Various racing trainers open their stables to the public in aid of New Astley Club, Racing Welfare and the East Anglia Air Ambulance (www.newmarketopenday.co.uk)

Talk

September 26 'Scott and Shackleton's journeys to the Antarctic', The Royal Geographic Society, London SW7. A talk by historian Rob Caskie, in association with Abercrombie & Kent and Smith & Williamson. Tickets £25 in aid of The Haven Trust (01242 547864; www.abercrombiekent.co.uk)

Three wishes British chocolate



Chocolate bundle trio, £16.81, Amelia Rope (www.ameliarope.com)



Framboise truffle box, £13.50, William Curley (www.williamcurley.com)

Milk chocolate wafers flavoured with Earl Grey, £10.50, Prestat (0800 021 3023; www.prestat.co.uk)

