

PRESS RELEASE

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SAVE
BRITAIN'S HERITAGE

SAVE shines Spotlight on Neglected Heritage with Latest 'Lonely Hearts' List of Buildings at Risk

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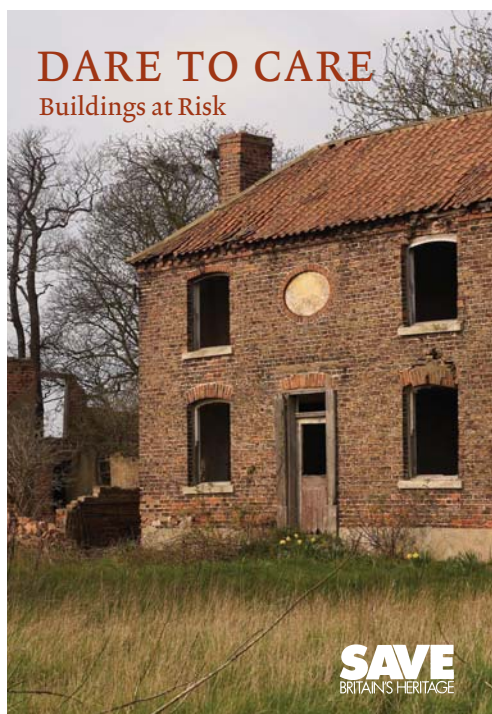
Available from 1 June 2012 priced at £15 (£13 for Friends of SAVE) or in advance from the SAVE website.

The UK's savage property recession has a silver lining. SAVE's imminent report (1/6/2012) on historic properties in urgent need of new owners or fresh uses reveals an array of exciting opportunities for restoration-minded buyers. This is the ultimate 'lonely hearts' list for buildings at risk.

Buildings featured in the 2012 report, *Dare to Care*, range from enchanting cottages, farmhouses and town houses to forlorn country piles, deserted chapels and crumbling mills – all crying out for restoration. These neglected treasures, ripe for sensitive repair, often lie in idyllic locations, surrounded by fields or in country villages or beside rivers and canals.

SAVE's latest report contains almost 100 new cases, resulting from a major consultation with local authorities in England. It also features up-to-date case histories of buildings rescued since appearing in earlier SAVE reports. Finally, the report highlights the scandalous waste of several historic buildings over the past twelve months. These include the demolition of a 19th - century brewer's villa in Hungerford, Berkshire and the imminent destruction of Charles Barry's elegant Royal Sussex County Hospital in Brighton.

A must read for anyone interested in Britain's heritage and an essential tool for prospective restorers, SAVE's reports play a critical role in the conservation of Britain's historic buildings. Some two-thirds of the country houses included in SAVE's first report, published in 1977, had found new owners or uses within three or four years and good news has continued ever since. This is the 23rd of SAVE's annual reports on buildings at risk, each one illustrating a remarkable selection of endangered properties in varying states of repair, but all candidates for immediate action.



Highlights from the 2012 report include:

Milton Damerell House, Devon: this treasure trove of architectural detail and history is currently on the market for £495,000. Dating back to 1500, this handsome Grade II listed house is an amalgamation of four centuries of architecture. Thought to have been a vicarage at one time, and located within beautiful countryside, this building boasts extraordinary surviving features and the promise of a mysterious hidden tunnel.



Shellards in Essex: This historical gem, a charming thatched cottage built around 1500, is situated at the end of a country lane and would make a delightful home or rural bolt hole.

Ivy Cottage in County Durham: When this idyllic house – which dates back to the 17th century – was listed in 1987 the Inspector recorded that it was already empty and derelict. Two decades later, this picturesque sandstone building, in a small rural village, continues to cry out for a new owner and a new life.





The Georgian Toll Cottage at Marple, near Stockport: stands in a picturesque position next to a hump bridge at the junction of the Peak Forest and Macclesfield Canals. Pathetically boarded up, it cries out for some TLC.

Overstone Hall, on the outskirts of Northampton: is a majestic Italianate mansion in a 40 acre walled park but poses a considerable challenge. It was built in 1866 to the designs of W M Teulon, younger brother of the great Victorian 'rogue' architect S.S. Teulon. After suffering a fire it was put up for sale two years ago. It would make for a magnificent hotel, offices, or could be adapted sensitively for multiple residential use.



NOTES TO EDITORS

Dare to Care is a report by SAVE Britain's Heritage. Approx 200 pages, full colour. Available for pre-order now priced at **£15** or **£13** for Friends of SAVE. The report can be ordered on line at www.savebritainsheritage.org or direct from the SAVE office.

SAVE Britain's Heritage has been campaigning for historic buildings since its formation in 1975 by a group of architects, journalists and planners. It is a strong, independent voice in conservation, free to respond rapidly to emergencies and to speak out loud for the historic built environment.

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