

COUNTRY LIFE®

EVERY WEEK

FEBRUARY 3, 2022

Birdsong for a desert island Which tunes would you take?



'He'd fight anyone': Keats's surprising side
Daffodil heaven at Anne Boleyn's home
How Canaletto won British hearts

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FUTURE

The art of the hearth

Designers tell Amelia Thorpe how they get the most from their fireplaces

Max Rollitt Favourite logs?

Ash burns best.



Kindling or firelighters?

Dried moss and kindling, as long as it's dry, or firelighters if the tinder is damp.

Dream fire surround?

Any carved, wooden, 18th-century Kentian fire surround with marble slips.

Must have?

A poker is essential for the all-important pushing and prodding of logs to create the perfect blaze, but an old sword or even a bayonet will do. A log basket is also vital. Ensure it is as big as is practical, to save time going outside for more supplies and to keep some logs drying inside the house.



Bespoke Howard chair, £4,725 plus fabric, Max Rollitt (01962 791124; www.maxrollitt.com)

Crowded or minimal chimneypiece?

Crowded adds character. I like to include candlesticks, tea lights, small lamps, small Staffordshire figurines, postcards, photographs, small paintings

and invitations (at least when parties are allowed).

Key decorating advice?

I always have an overmantel mirror, ideally one with a soft mercury silver plate. A wing chair

or a pair of Howard armchairs, antique tripod or side tables for drinks and an antique woven or jute rug give colour, texture and comfort to the room.

Style of fender?

An antique club fender, with an upholstered seat in leather that's worn with age.

Max Rollitt (01962 791124; www.maxrollitt.com)

Woven wicker basket on wheels, about 1900, £360, Max Rollitt (as before)



Rosanna Bossom Favourite logs?

Ash, beech, sycamore and pine all smell good and burn well.



Kindling or firelighters?

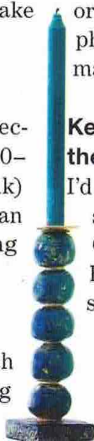
Pine kindling creates a great smell, but firelighters do make it that much quicker.

Dream fire surround?

An antique to suit the architecture of the room. Jamb (020-7730 2122; www.jamb.co.uk) has a wonderful collection, can reproduce almost anything and can also age the stone.

Must have?

Antique fireside tools, which come with a history of doing the same job over the years.



Crowded or minimal chimneypiece?

I like to mirror the whole chimney breast, as this will reflect lots of light, and hang a piece of art over the top to create a striking focus. I also like to set out some china and candlesticks, such as those by Margit Wittig (07779 690846; www.margitwittig.com) or Stephen Antonson (www.stephenantonson.com), but avoid making it too cluttered.

Key decorating advice for the fireplace area?

I'd choose a club fender or some slipper chairs, such as The Cushion Chair by Soane Britain (020-7730 6400; www.soane.co.uk).

Cast Resin candlestick, £175, Margit Wittig (07779 690846; www.margitwittig.com)



The Cushion chair, £4,400 plus 4m fabric, Soane Britain (020-7730 6400; www.soane.co.uk)



The Bobbin fender, £1,260 plus 3m fabric, Rosanna Bossom (020-3691 4552; www.rosannabossom.co.uk)

Style of fender?

Our Bobbin fender has legs that can be spray-painted in any colour, making a playful take on a traditional design.

Rosanna Bossom (020-3691 4552; www.rosannabossom.co.uk)