

Birkbeck Garden History Group Newsletter



Autumn/Winter 2019 No 53

BGHG Garden visits

Tythrop Park and Turn End

Buckinghamshire, 27 June



Parterre at Tythrop House. Photo: Patricia Maitland

On our schedule this day were two markedly different but equally delightful gardens. **Tythrop Park**, rarely open to the public, is 17th century and has 10 acres of gardens which we saw with head gardener, Phil Kusmishko, as our guide. **Turn End**, by contrast, is contemporary and smaller, with just over half an acre of gardens to which we were introduced by its owner, the architect, Peter Aldington, OBE, and his gardener, Jackie Hunt.

We started our visit to **Tythrop Park** with coffee beside the luxuriant pool garden. Over the last 12 years the owners, with horticultural guidance from Phil, have restored and developed the garden to a master plan by landscape architect, Robert Myers, with a view to blending contemporary and traditional styles.

Our arrival through the park had already provided tantalizing glimpses of what we would encounter next – the sweeps of lawn giving onto a series of special garden

features harmoniously integrated. These included a wild flower meadow with a ha-ha and a paved area with an ancient, pollarded mulberry leading to a terrace with a profusion of lavender growing out of the gaps in the stone and overlooking a box parterre set out in a multitude of patterns. There was also a pleached-lime walk against a backdrop of beech hedges and another wild flower meadow with orchids and a maze cut out of the lawn by the side of the drive to the house, where the entrance was enhanced with a superb collection of white roses. Then there was a walled garden with green and white planting, lush vegetables and fruit trees.

At **Turn End**, we gathered beneath a huge walnut tree where Peter Aldington explained his philosophy of house and garden, the design being integrated to create an indivisible whole. The house, one of a set of three, and built in timber, concrete, glass and local materials, received a RIBA Award of Excellence in 1970 and was listed Grade II in 2006 with the garden following with a Grade II listing in 2017. A dry garden, filled with pots as well as planting, leads onto the surprising contrast of the main garden with curving lawns giving the illusion of greater space. There the summer border was at its best at the time of our visit. Designed around existing old trees, paths lead on to a series of rooms each differing from the other and where the sharply geometric is set against the informal. These rooms include a woodland area, a curved glade, a courtyard with a naturalized pool and raised and sunken beds for well-chosen sun or shade plantings. Water is saved in a tank pumped from a borehole. A studio is let to the artist-in-residence, Heather Hunter. A huge *Sequoia* surveys the scene.

A small paved area with a water feature gently trickling over stones was the perfect setting for our tea. Both these very special gardens were a tribute to the imagination and inspiration of their owners, designers and the head gardeners who were so generous in sharing their knowledge with us. It was a truly memorable day, blessed by sunshine.

Elizabeth Newlands

Fullers Mill and Chippenham Park

East Anglia, 2 July

Fullers Mill is situated by a weir on the River Lark where the process of 'fulling', or finishing woollen cloth, was carried out from the 15th century. The river is no longer navigable but the lake provides water for the garden and the sound of flowing water over the weir is ever-present in the background.

In 1958, Bernard Tickner, a brewer, and his wife bought Fullers Mill and began the process of making the garden, gradually enlarging it by purchasing Forestry Commission land. The top garden has free-draining soil and Mr Tickner saw the potential to grow Mediterranean plants such as the autumn snowdrop, *Galanthus reginae-olgae*, from Greece and wild, late-May tulips. In the top garden by the lake there is an elegant and atmospheric

grove of *Betula* 'Silver Grace' which was developed from a single birch. A multi-stemmed *Cryptomeria japonica* stood out and there are many flowering shrubs and a great variety of lilies.

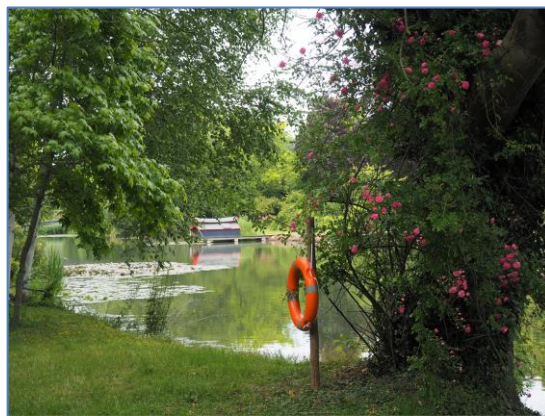
Bernard and Bess Tickner dedicated many years to creating this fascinating garden but, having no heirs, they donated it to The Fullers Mill Trust to secure its future. In 2013 the garden passed to Perennial, the Gardeners' Royal Benevolent Society, for its long-term preservation. The garden is beautifully maintained. I said to one of the gardeners that Fullers Mill was not just lovely – it also seemed really loved. He assured me that it is.

Chippenham Park was founded at the end of the 17th century by Admiral Edward Russell, one of the Immortal Seven that brought William III to power. Victorious in a naval battle against the French, he planted an avenue in Chippenham Park set out to show how his fleet was drawn up for battle.

The estate was bought in 1791 by John Tharp and has remained in the family. The Park was originally laid out in the Anglo-Dutch manner with canals and formal gardens but in the 18th and 19th centuries it was made less formal. The designers William Eames and Samuel Lapidge, who had worked with 'Capability' Brown, were among those employed. More recently, the gardens have been further restored.

After an introductory talk by a member of the family, Hugo Nicolle, himself a garden designer, we were set free to explore the estate which is only open to the public twice a year. I first walked down to the long lake, which seemed to be developed from an 18th century formal canal. The lake is well stocked with carp and the water lilies were just coming into bloom. At one end of the lake, past the fine trees in Adrian's Walk, there is a wooden building where one can sit and admire the view. A humped-back bridge leads to the wilderness, various walks and the grand canal. There is a fine long mixed border with a sentinel avenue of slim conifers which opens into a large walled garden divided into quarters containing an impressive colonnade of arched clipped leylandii, a mound and orchards.

On the far side of the lake, through a garden of some 500 roses, there is a new area with a formal layout of clipped yew hedging surrounding the Millennium Fountain, a frog pond with an arbour and a pergola draped with *Rosa* 'Sissinghurst Castle'. It is a very tranquil place to sit on a sunny day. There is also a fine flower garden by the house. There is a good deal of statuary in the garden, much of it modern. Altogether a day full of interest and delight.



View of the lake at Chippenham Park. Photo: Barbara Deason

Theresa Quinn

The Deepdene and The Hannah Peschar Sculpture Garden

Surrey, 20 August

Fortunately, the weather was sunny as we set off into the hilly terrain of the Surrey hills for our visit to **The Deepdene**. Our guide, Alexander Bagnall, Parks and Landscapes Manager for the District Council and author of *The Deepdene – a landscape rediscovered* (reviewed in BGHG Newsletter No. 52) had overseen its restoration.

The gardens were laid out in the 1650s in the Italianate manner with a terrace and grotto (said to be one of the first in England) by the amateur scientist and plant collector the Hon. Charles Howard (1630–1713). A laboratory was also built for him in the surrounding natural tunnels which was later used as a communications centre by Southern Railway during World War II.

John Evelyn visited in 1655 and the natural philosopher, John Aubrey, made a plan of the garden in 1673 that shows a formal design laid out with fruits, rare flowers and a vineyard. Charles Howard's grandson Charles, 10th Duke of Norfolk (1720–1786), built a Palladian mansion on the site. In 1807 the estate was bought by the Anglo-Dutch designer and art collector, Thomas Hope. With the purchase of the neighbouring estates of Chart Park and Betchworth Castle, he extended the grounds until they covered the twelve miles between Box Hill and Brockham. He developed the gardens in the picturesque style with lush plantings, statues, a temple and Coade stone lions. He also added a mausoleum to his son Charles who died aged seven. The last owner, Thomas Hope's great grandson, Lord Francis Pelham Clinton-Hope, let the house to Lily, Dowager Duchess of Marlborough but he finally went bankrupt in 1894, leading to the decline of the estate. The garden and parkland were sold for housing development in 1920. The temple and terrace were demolished and the house, a hotel since 1939, was replaced by a modern office block in 1960.

In 2015, a Heritage Lottery Fund grant enabled the restoration of the garden. The Hope Mausoleum, long since buried, was rediscovered by our guide, Alexander Bagnall, and has since been uncovered. Historic paths have been reopened to the public and the dramatic view from the ridge above the grotto down the amphitheatre garden can now be appreciated. The essence of this once-great garden has been revealed.



'Ammonspiralite' by M. Hodgkinson and W. Foot at The Hannah Peschar Sculpture Garden. Photo: Ruth Brownlow

On our arrival at **The Hannah Peschar Sculpture Garden**, curator Vikki Leedham explained that the philosophy of the garden was to be at one with nature. There are no herbaceous borders nor any hard landscaping but broadleaved plants and mature trees surrounding areas of water provide the framework and enhance the changing collection of sculptures. This garden is about texture, shades of green, shadows and reflected light. The 15th century Grade II listed cottage nestling by the side of a pond is the only permanent architectural structure.

The garden was part of the large estate laid out in 1915 by Dick Trotter, the then Secretary of the RHS. When later split up, one 10-acre plot, which included the cottage, a pond, weir and rock garden, was purchased in 1980 by Hannah Peschar, a political journalist at the time, and Anthony Paul, the award-

winning landscape architect. They set about restoring the weir and digging out the pond, adding three more and planting a variety of grasses along with giant hogweed and *Gunnera manicata* around the areas of water. After five years, Hannah began visiting London art schools looking for pieces of sculpture to add a new dimension to the garden. This passion has grown from a handful of sculptures to over 200 by 50 different artists from Britain and Europe being exhibited every year. This year they vary from a bronze life-sized race horse to the completely abstract. Over time the waterside plantings have become lush, virtually concealing the pathways around the ponds, making it a paradise for wildlife including kingfishers, herons and buzzards. A particular favourite of the ducks is a wooden sculpture, *Ammonspiralite* by Marigold Hodgkinson and Winslow Foot, the design being based on a snail in 35 expandable sections.

Linda Sherwood-Page

Hatfield House

Hertfordshire, 14 September

The visit to Hatfield House on a blustery day in September was a delightful experience in several ways. Our meeting point was at the vast new fountain *Renaissance* by Angela Connor, commissioned in 2015, on the north front of the house. It is one of her controversial 'Kinetic Sculptures' and there was a mixed reaction to it. The kindest comment was 'bold to put it here' but it was a talking point. It should have had a golden orb in its centre which rises and sends out mists, but it was out of order, leaving the two steel arms to rise and fall, shedding their water like an outsized mechanical creaking Japanese Shishi-odoshi.

We were met by Andrew Turvey who was in charge of the park and landscape and who proved to be an interesting and knowledgeable guide. He described the history of the old palace, and how it came into the possession of Robert Cecil, 1st Earl of Salisbury, who built the present house in just seven years. Andrew was frequently sidetracked by the robotic lawn mowers which were clearly very efficient and fascinating, describing to us how they were good for the environment (costing only £25–35 per year in electricity) and working in the rain. They were linked to a weather app and, if conditions were not right, they would go back to their docking stations.

Fortuitously, we were able to visit the East Garden, the main family garden, which is only open on Wednesdays. Andrew described the changes to the garden as we walked around, reminding us that gardens constantly change and adapt to new gardeners, new owners, new styles. We heard about Mollie, 6th Marchioness of Salisbury (1922–2016), an accomplished and influential gardener in her own right, who had started gardening at Cranborne Manor (review of Cranborne Manor garden visit on page 4) in Dorset when she married Robert Gascoyne-Cecil. She was one of the main driving forces of the Garden Museum whose latest Journal (Summer 2019) is dedicated to her.

In the afternoon we were privileged to visit the archives escorted by the charming and erudite Robin Harcourt Williams who was, until his recent retirement, the librarian and archivist for Lord Salisbury. Amongst the many treasures that Robin showed us were bills and accounts from John Tradescant, maps and plans of the estate, a letter, in incredibly neat handwriting, from Elizabeth I to Protector Somerset in 1549 protesting that she was not pregnant by Thomas Seymour; and a poignant letter in miniscule handwriting to James I from Walter Raleigh the night before his expected execution in 1603 (in fact he was sent to the Tower of London). We also saw a letter from Queen Victoria in 1887 complaining of a crowd, which she described as 'probably Irish or socialists', making a horrid noise called 'boosing'.

The day was fascinating and energising; highlighting the continuing evolution of a major garden that has been well cared for and well documented.

Jill Devon

Dorset Gardens Study Tour

Stourhead

17 September

The Stourhead estate was acquired by the banker Henry Hoare in 1717. The house, designed by Colen Campbell, was completed in 1725. Henry was succeeded by his son, Henry the Magnificent, whose nickname reflects his spending on art and the garden at Stourhead. After his Grand Tour, he created an informal garden after the new fashion in a valley with six natural water sources, a short distance from the house. These were dammed to create lakes on three levels, and the garden was built around them, with ideas contributed by Charles Hamilton from Painshill and Sir John Bampfylde at Hestercombe. Henry had read Addison and Pope on gardens and was concerned to 'conceal the bounds' while encouraging his guests to explore.

Our tour followed the route taken by 18th century visitors, along the valley to the head of the lake and back, with glimpses of the existing features, the Obelisk created in 1746, the Temples of Apollo (1765), Flora (1744–1746) and the Pantheon, designed by Henry Flitcroft and built during the 1750s. These could be seen through the trees and across the lake but with no obvious means of getting to them, recreating the sense of adventure which Henry wanted to achieve. He was limited to native English trees but his successor, Sir Richard Colt Hoare, was able to plant newly imported and rare species, many of which still exist. Sir Richard also covered the woodland floor with laurel which reflects the light upwards beautifully and lightens the shade cast by the trees. These trees seen across the lake in the September sunshine formed a tapestry of greens, purples and browns, a stunning backdrop to the clear blue lake.

Ailsa Sleigh

Cranborne Manor

18 September

In contrast to the open vistas of Stourhead, at Cranborne we enjoyed a series of enclosed gardens surrounding the Grade I listed manor house. The Manor, home to the Viscounts Cranborne, heirs of the Earls and Marquesses of Salisbury of Hatfield House, began life as one of King John's hunting lodges. It was gifted to the 1st Earl of Salisbury, Robert Cecil (1563–1612) by James I. Cecil subsequently employed John Tradescant and Mounten Jennings to remodel the gardens. The small Mount and Bowling Allée are thought to be surviving elements of his design.

The entrance to the gardens is through a well-stocked garden centre, leading to a walled kitchen garden divided into sections. Beyond this, an allée of trees points to the front of the house, where stone elephants flank gatehouses giving on to a large stone courtyard edged with shrubs and flowers.

Mature trees surround the estate, while yew hedges and tunnels further enhance the feeling of intimacy as they lead you through various enclosed gardens including the Rose Garden, Croquet Lawn, Magnolia Garden, Cottage Garden and Chalk Walk, while 'windows' cut into the hedges give views out onto the surrounding landscape. The Church Walk was particularly pretty – linking the Manor House to the local church by a grass walk edged on both sides by beautifully planted borders containing late summer perennials, and hedged by low-growing apple trees.

Paula Sewell

Athelhampton House

The present house at Athelhampton was begun in 1485 with additions completed by 1550. Further extensions were built at various times to the north and east. The garden as we saw it, however, goes back no further than 1891, when Alfred Cart de Lafontaine commissioned Francis Inigo Thomas to design formal gardens in keeping with the origins of the house. Much of this remains but inevitably some things have been lost, some added, and many changed.

Thomas planned four rectangular enclosures with coordinated vistas, the central pivot being the Corona Garden with its cirlet of obelisks, admired by Gertrude Jekyll. What has been lost is a large enclosure north-west of the house, balancing the Private Garden and in line with it. Also missing is planting detail, especially in the Pyramid Garden, where the twelve topiary yews originally punctuated a four-square pattern of rose beds. The yews have grown imposingly, but without sufficient staff to maintain the beds the pyramids now stand alone on grass. On the other hand, gardens have been developed to complement the north-east extension of the house built in the 1920s. A White Garden was made in the 1960s in memory of the wife of owner Robert Cooke and a straight canal on axis with the Private Garden was added in 1969–1970. An Octagonal Cloister Garden, with pleached limes surrounding a central pool, was created in 1971 to act as a link between the White Garden and the large kitchen garden to the south-east, recently restored.



Athelhampton House. Photo: Linda Wade

Katherine Myers

Hardy's cottage

19 September



Hardy's Cottage. Photo: Linda Wade

We paid a brief visit to the secluded birthplace of author Thomas Hardy (1840–1928), a thatched cottage sitting in a hollow surrounded by tall trees and high hedges, with a relatively new visitor centre nearby. Built by Hardy's great-grandfather in 1800, the Cottage remains largely unchanged externally and now resides in the care of the National Trust. Internally, its small rooms are fitted out with furniture and fittings from the period to give a flavour of the family's life there.

The garden itself certainly lives up to most people's idea of a cottage garden with roses round the door – although now gone over – with tall cottage garden perennials and shrubs filling the garden in front of the cottage. An introduction by the Trust's part-time gardener, Hannah, explained their ongoing plans to further enhance the garden's

'quintessential cottage garden' character and restore the surrounding orchard which contains the rare local apple, 'Dorset Warrior'. A vegetable garden has been added to give visitors an idea of what the family would have grown, and the Trust plans to increase the garden's biodiversity by introducing wildflowers for the bees they are attempting to keep (having already lost one colony).

Hannah, who works in the garden and orchard one day a week with a team of six volunteers, is currently removing invasive *Rhododendron ponticum*, while waging a continual war on ground elder – something that apparently dates back to Hardy's time. Although many of the cottage garden plants were fading, it is a pretty garden and Hannah's joy at working there with the 'continually evolving colours' and the 'beautifully changing light' – even in the rain', was evident.

Paula Sewell

Shute House

Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe designed the garden at Shute House for Captain Michael and Lady Anne Tree in the late 1960s in two parts. A densely planted area with streams and ponds fed by a mysterious source pool contrasted with the open lawn with extensive rural views. Jellicoe saw it as an opportunity to unite opposing currents in garden design – classical and romantic, rational and instinctive, active and contemplative, open and enclosed. In the main, he remodelled existing features, employing water in all its aspects, but he introduced one entirely new axis, the Rill Garden which, with its musical cascades and geometric pools, ties the design together. Paths are entwined with running water and vistas offered, including views between the two sections of the garden. Jellicoe also brought the water into the landscape, as a lake and pools reflecting the sky.

In 1992 Shute was sold to John and Suzy Lewis, who persuaded Jellicoe to return from retirement to reconsider the garden. They have since conscientiously preserved Jellicoe's intentions, apart from a few changes which occasionally dilute the original vision. Jellicoe placed at the end of the Italianate canal garden, above two grottoes and a tiny amphitheatre, quotations from Virgil, Ovid and Lucretius as instigators of the western gardening tradition. These have been replaced by heads of Roman gods. His Allegorical Garden inspired by Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, with its primordial ivy-covered temple and mystical topiary abstractions, has become a Pre-Raphaelite garden containing a copy of the Kensington Peter Pan. Shute was Jellicoe's favourite among his garden designs, and his last; it remains inspirational to this day.

Katherine Myers

Sherborne Castle

In 1592 Sir Walter Raleigh was given the old castle at Sherborne by Queen Elizabeth I but, as he could not afford to renovate it, he chose instead to build on the site of a hunting lodge and commissioned the architect Simon Basil (of Hatfield fame) to design an Elizabethan tower house. Raleigh was a great plantsman and landscape gardener and he laid out a formal garden in what is now the east garden, with canals, exotic trees from his travels, and features such as his seat, which survives.

The property came into the Digby family in 1670 and in the 18th century Edward, 6th Lord Digby, hired Lancelot Brown to further develop the landscape. Brown put in a 50-acre lake using the spoil to create terracing on the north side, with the ruins of Sherborne Old Castle (destroyed in the Civil War) as a backdrop. Brown also put in Pinford Bridge at the end of the lake and a cascade, and he 'improved' the remains of the Old Castle by the addition of a mock ruined tower and a crenelated wall in 1755–1756.

We were taken around the garden by the current owner, Maria, Lady Wingfield Digby, who explained how they were trying to keep the landscape intact while planting for the future by creating different areas of the garden for seasonal interest. Yet the garden as a whole remains much as Brown envisaged.

Ailsa Sleight

News

Grottoes for BGHG Study Day

The theme for the BGHG Study Day on 29 February, 2020, will be the ever-intriguing subject of grottoes in garden history from classical times through the Italian Renaissance to the heyday (in Britain) of the 18th century, and will include a session on the problems and practicalities of their restoration. The Study Day will be held at the Institute of Historical Research (IHR), Senate House, Malet Street, London, WC1E 7HU. The full programme and booking details will be sent to members in early January. This event is open for everyone and information will also be forthcoming on the BGHG website: <https://birkbeckgardenhistorygroup.wordpress.com/>

New Gardens Trust/Grapevine course on the history of commercial horticulture

The Garden History Grapevine will be running a course on the history of commercial gardening for The Gardens Trust. This course was set up with contributions from the Worshipful Company of Gardeners and the International Association of Horticultural Producers. It will be held at the IHR (address as above) in spring. Visits to the Museum of English Rural Life (MERL) at Reading University and to a major commercial plant nursery will be included. Tickets will be going live on Eventbrite from Saturday, 16 November and will also be on <http://thegardenstrust.org/events>

Road-quietening scheme for Painshill after two-year battle

The last two years have been challenging for the Painshill Park Trust. In 2017 Highways England and their consultants, Atkins, put forward road-widening plans for the M25/A3 interchange near Cobham, which would bring it perilously close to the historic Gothic Tower and the recently restored Temple of Bacchus, both in the most sensitive part of Painshill's landscape.

While recognising the need to improve the road network, the Painshill Park Trustees put forward alternatives that would not impinge upon the landscape. A campaign was launched and, within weeks, a petition was signed by over 7,000 members of the public. The Painshill volunteers worked tirelessly to make sure every single visitor saw the petition. Awareness was generated through social media, interviews on BBC and ITV London News and various radio stations. The campaign was also featured on the front page of the Surrey Advertiser. The Trustees remain immensely grateful to their many supporters and, in particular, to Elmbridge Council, Friends at The Gardens Trust and Surrey Gardens Trust who wrote powerfully on their behalf. Discussion throughout 2018 and 2019 eventually resulted in Highways England looking for another solution and more satisfactory proposals to minimise damage to Painshill. Additionally, it has been affirmed that there will be noise-attenuating road surfacing laid down this stretch of the A3 carriageway in the important western aspect of the Painshill landscape.

The current status is that the Development Consent Order (DCO), which includes the current plans, has been approved and this is now being reviewed by the Planning Inspectorate (Reference TR010030). There are still other points of issue to debate along the way but we are hopeful of a positive outcome which is anticipated for autumn of 2020.



The Gothic Tower at Painshill

Louise Russell, Trustee, Painshill Park

Latest news Wörlitzer Park in Saxony-Anhalt, a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2000 and one of the first English landscape parks in Germany, has recently been 'twinned' with Painshill. Wörlitzer Park was landscaped for Prince Franz of Anhalt-Dessau (1740–1817) and was built between 1769 and 1773. The park had an educational purpose as part of Prince Franz's great enlightenment project known as the 'Gartenreich'. The Prince made an extensive Grand Tour and an additional trip to England to study the landscape garden at source, first-hand. Spread over several sites, the park shows many influences. These include Rousseau Island on a lake, the Gothic House (based on Strawberry Hill), and classical references inspired by Stowe and Stourhead. There is even a fake volcano on an artificial island representing Vesuvius. The plan for the twinning is to create a collaboration of practical use and for scholarship between the German and British gardens of the 18th and early 19th centuries.

Gertrude Jekyll's planting plans for Sussex gardens available to view

When Gertrude Jekyll died in 1932, the American landscape architect, Beatrix Farrand, acquired a collection of her letters, photographs, drawings and illustrations, as well as six photo albums, for the archive and library at Reef Point, Bar Harbor, in Maine, USA. Here they were catalogued, stored in folders, then moved to the Environmental Design Archives (EDA), at the University of California. The collection includes close to 1,000 planting plans for gardens in Surrey, where Jekyll lived, and some 350 in Sussex. Some were photographed in black and white on microfiche by the EDA in recent years and were made available to the Godalming Museum in Surrey where there is already a fine collection of Jekyll memorabilia. The Surrey Gardens Trust set to work and has since completed the digitization of the Surrey garden plans in full colour and high resolution with the assistance of Michael Edwards, a conservation architect specializing in Edwin Lutyens. In 2018, he approached Sussex Gardens Trust with a view to rounding off the collection, with the addition of the Sussex gardens plans. Following fundraising, the work was completed and the full collection can be viewed at <https://calisphere.org/collections/26864/?q=>

Wentworth Castle opens its magnificent gardens once more

Wentworth Castle, in South Yorkshire, a Grade I listed mansion, has struggled to keep its fabric in good order despite massive grants over the years. The formal gardens, which closed since 2017 due to insufficient funds, are also Grade I, and contain 26 listed monuments and follies. The plan was begun by Thomas Wentworth (1672–1739), first Earl of Strafford, a staunch Tory who put in The Union Jack Garden to celebrate the union of England and Scotland in 1707 and an obelisk dedicated to Queen Anne, as well as an early sham castle. His son William, a Whig by contrast, took advice from Lord Burlington, William Kent and from Humphry Repton, whose three sets of proposals made in 1791–1794 are preserved in a single Red Book. It is believed that Lancelot Brown worked on the landscape and the serpentine lakes. Horace Walpole described the results as 'a compendium of picturesque nature, improved by the chastity of art'. The gardens have now been reopened thanks to the National Trust who stepped in to help the owners and the conservation team with their expertise, having taken on a 25-year lease. <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wentworth-castle-gardens>

Rooftop tour of Hampton Court with Kip and Kniff views of the gardens



The Fountain Garden



The Privy Garden



View of Hampton Court by Leonard Kniff c.1702–1714

A new tour at Hampton Court takes you to the roof with views over The Great Fountain Garden and The Privy Garden, plus panoramic vistas to the horizons. From this heady vantage point it is fun to imagine the garden plans of George London and Daniel Marot, Henry VIII's kingly sports of hunting, hawking, hare coursing, archery and jousting, and Charles II's gondolas on the Canal. Though not for the very young, the unsteady or vertiginous, the roof and the stairways have been made very safe for visitors. Our group, descended windswept but elated. See <https://www.hrp.org.uk/hampton-court-palace/whats-on/guided-tours/#gs.b08iy1>

Caroline Foley

Events

BGHG Programme 2019/20	
12 November	Annual Lecture on Maria Merian
13 February	Wakehurst, West Sussex
29 February	Study Day, IHR, London
12 March	BGHG AGM
April	TBA
May	Chenies Manor House, Buckinghamshire /Church Gardens, Uxbridge
16 June	Penshurst Place/Broadview Garden, Kent
July	TBA
5 August	Pashley Manor Gardens/Great Dixter, East Sussex
September	Ramsgate, Kent
September	Wimpole Estate Study Visit, Cambridgeshire

London Parks and Gardens Trust Winter Lecture Series Mondays 7.00 pm. Next talk: **11 November** *Thamesmead – a new vision*, Dr Phil Askew. Lectures continue monthly until **9 March**. The Gallery, 77 Cowcross Street, London EC1M 6EJ. <http://londongardenstrust.org/lectures/index.htm>

Institute of Historical Research Seminars Thursdays 6.00 pm.

14 November *Exploring the relationships between early modern gardens and art galleries in England*. Dr Stephanie Bowry.

28 November *The limitations of using early modern gardening books as evidence for early modern gardening practice*. Dr Jill Francis.

12 December *'Botanick Acquaintances': the life and letters of Charles Hatton 1635–c.1708*. Dr David Marsh. North Block Senate House, University of London, Malet Street, WC1E 7HU. No booking. All welcome. Email: ihrghistory@gmail.com <https://www.history.ac.uk/seminars/history-gardens-and-landscapes>

The Gardens Trust National Networking Forum. Tuesday 19 November. *Historic Landscapes Assembly*. The Linnean Society, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London, W1J 0BF.

The Gardens Trust London Winter Lectures 6.30 pm. Wednesday 15 January *Herbariums and Garden History: the Fulham Palace experience*, Dr Mark Spencer. Series continues: **Wednesday 29, January; Thursday 13 February; Wednesday 26 February and 11 March**. The Gallery, 77 Cowcross Street, EC1M 6EL <http://thegardenstrust.org/events/>

Garden Museum Exhibition

20 November–9 February *Play, Protest and Pelicans: a People's History of London's Royal Parks*. Lambeth Palace Road, London, SE1 7LB. <https://gardenmuseum.org.uk/whats-on/>

City Lit

Saturday 23 November *Garden History in 10 Objects: a hands-on introduction to the history of British gardening and horticulture*. Dr David Marsh. **Wednesday mornings 15 January–25 March** *The Golden Age of British Gardening from 1860–1914*, Dr David Marsh. 10 Keeley Street, London, WC2B 4BA. www.citylit.ac.uk/search/go?w=garden+history

RHS Lindley Library Exhibition

25 November–24 January *Wisley in colour - the van Sommer autochromes*. 80 Vincent Square, London SW1P 2PE. <https://www.rhs.org.uk/shows-events/viewevent?EFID=1779&ESRC=CMS>

Gresham College Lectures

Mondays 6.00 pm. Lecturer: Professor Jim Endersby **2 December** *Gardens of Empire: the role of Kew and colonial botanic gardens*, **10 February** *Making new Plants: a history*. Barnard's Inn Hall, Holborn, London, EC1N 2HH. <https://www.gresham.ac.uk/series/utopian-gardens/>

Kew Mutual Improvement Society Weekly Lectures, Mondays 6.00 pm.

2 December *Marianne North: Kew's Victorian Gem*, Gina Merrett-Smith. Lady Lisa Sainsbury Lecture Theatre, entrance via Jodrell Gate, Kew Gardens. Richmond, TW9 3AB. Tickets at gate only. <https://www.kew.org/learning/talks-and-lectures/kew-mutual-improvement-society>

Oxford University Continuing Education Courses

29 January–14 April Online Course *English Landscape Gardens: 1650 to the Present Day*. <https://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/courses/english-landscape-gardens-1650-to-the-present-day-online?code=O19P473LHV>
Email: onlinecourses@conted.ox.ac.uk

V&A Course Fridays 2.00 pm.

17 January–27 March *Victorians and the Ideal Home* Dr Rosemary Yallop. Cromwell Road, SW7 2RL. <https://www.vam.ac.uk/event/8Raz68ok/victorians-and-the-ideal-home-spring-2020>

Oxford Botanic Garden and Arboretum Lecture

Wednesday 5 March *The long, long life of trees*, Professor Fiona Stafford. Andrew Wiles Building, University of Oxford, Radcliffe Observatory Quarter, Woodstock Road, Oxford OX2 6GG. <https://tickets.ox.ac.uk/webstore/shop/viewItems.aspx?cg=bga&c=talks>

The Garden Historians Trip

27 April–1 May *Gardens of Florence and Fiesole*. <https://www.thegardenhistorians.co.uk/florence-tour>

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