

SURREY GARDENS TRUST



1991 – 2021

CELEBRATING THIRTY YEARS



SURREY
GARDENS
TRUST

IN THE BEGINNING

The catalyst for the creation of Surrey Gardens Trust (SGT) was the arrival of Mike Dawson at Surrey County Council in 1989 as Assistant County Planning Officer. He and Lorna McRobie had previously started Avon's Garden Trust.

With the enthusiastic support of Lady Heald CBE, who had been Hon. County Organiser for the National Gardens Scheme (NGS) for more than thirty years, an inaugural meeting of interested people was held in March 1990 at her home, Chilworth Manor, and a Steering Committee was formed.



*Lady Heald became the first
President of SGT*

SURREY GARDENS TRUST



you are cordially invited to the launch of the
SURREY GARDENS TRUST
at Great Fosters, Egham,
from 6.30 p.m. to 8.30 p.m.
on Wednesday 15th May 1991

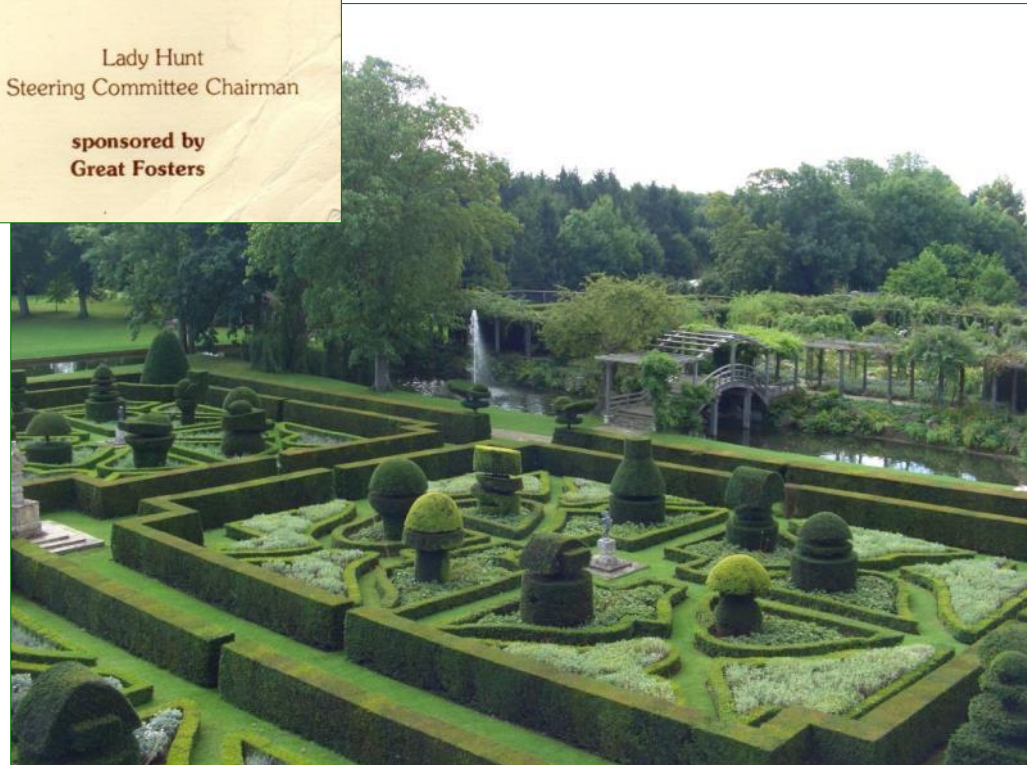
R.S.V.P. by 30th April to Brenda Lewis,
Secretary Steering Committee,
Surrey Gardens Trust,
Surrey County Planning Department,
County Hall, Kingston upon Thames, KY1 2DT

Lady Hunt
Steering Committee Chairman

sponsored by
Great Fosters

15 May 1991
SGT LAUNCH AT
GREAT FOSTERS

Landscape architect Kim Wilkie, responsible for the restoration of the grounds at Great Fosters, guided guests around the site.

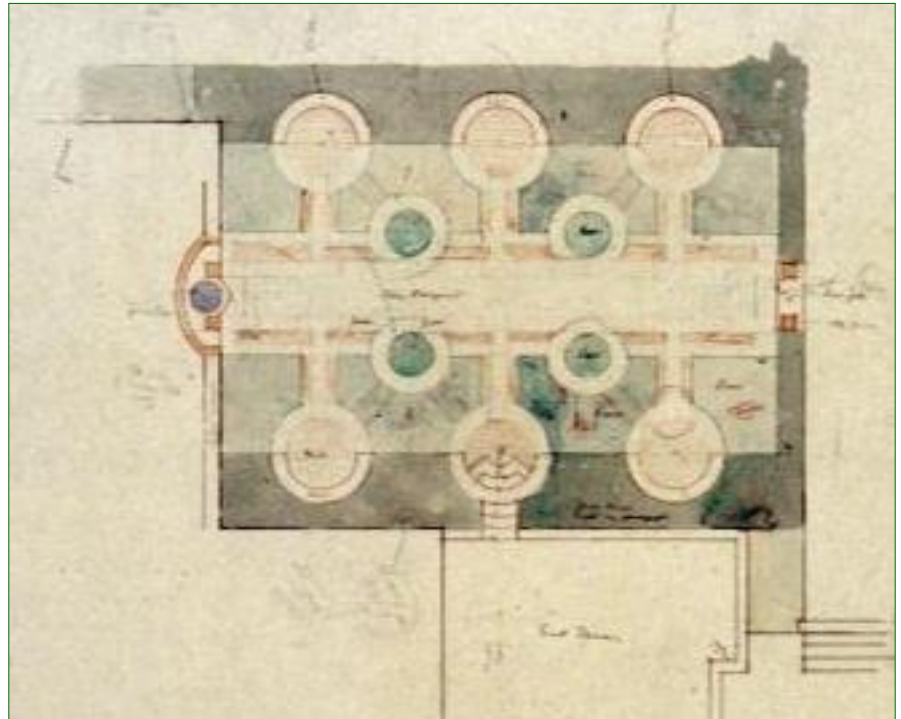


OUR LOGO

This was based on a sketch by Sir Edwin Lutyens for the gate to the Dutch Garden at Orchards.



What happened to the peacocks?



SURREY GARDENS TRUST



NEWSLETTER

Spring 1991

Chairman - Lady Hunt

Issue No. 1



BEGINNINGS - The Chairman

10 July 1989 was an auspicious day. A group of four sat in a Surrey garden and worked out a plan which would have an important impact for the County of Surrey. It was the start of the Surrey Gardens Trust. From that moment events moved swiftly and the steering committee has worked hard to reach the next stage, beginning with the launch on May 15, 1991.

A committee of enthusiastic Surrey dwellers is planning to stimulate owners of historic gardens and parks. Together with members and officers of the County Council, they will look at properties in greater depth in order to safeguard their future. All this follows the lead of Hampshire and other counties. We shall be the 14th County Gardens Trust.

The Trust will need further administrative support and it welcomes members. By becoming a member you will be supporting a charity which could greatly benefit the people, gardens and parks of Surrey. The steering committee will encourage anyone who feels able to devote time and energy to help us through these early days.

I must thank members of the steering committee for their efforts to make all this happen. They have laid the ground for an exciting new era.

A Note From Lady Heald CBE

As County Organiser of the National Garden Scheme for Surrey, I work closely with Lady Hunt. We wish the Garden Trust every success in its important work.



AIMS - The Hon. Secretary

Surrey is rich in historic parks and gardens. Many, however, have considerable problems, - ageing trees, lack of woodland management, scrub invasion, silting lakes or water courses and decaying garden buildings. Which are the significant original layouts? What is their background? Where is practical work needed? They must be surveyed whilst evidence survives, then conserved and maintained.

We would like to promote interest among landowners in the potential of their sites. It is hoped that they will see the Trust as an organisation with expertise to assist them in restoration and management. Already we are promoting conservation projects in specific parks and gardens and are able to assist with grant aid and professional advice.

We want to involve young people, helping them to appreciate gardens and encouraging gardening projects in school and college grounds.

The Trust will also foster widespread interest in parks and gardens through the media, by mounting exhibitions, holding open days and other events of interest.



Painshill Park, Cobham - Mavis Collier

By 1740, relying on borrowed finance, the Hon Charles Hamilton (1704 - 86), artist, gardener and farmer, acquired the land and laid out Painshill Park. Eighteenth century visitors experienced changing scenes, invoking a variety of

moods. Funds were augmented by viticulture, brick-making and selling trees.

Today Painshill Park, a Registered Charity, is employing many skills to restore Hamilton's work. Tree surveys, extensive archaeological and documentary research preceded restoration; horticulture and arboriculture have been essential to the scheme.

Visitors can see 18th century Painshill in embryo. Vineyard reinstatement, grotto restoration and replanting continue, and our large team of volunteers is happy to welcome newcomers.

The park is open on Sundays only from 2.00 - 6.00 pm, mid April to mid October; Private group tours (min. 10 people) on other days and illustrated talks by arrangement; Tel: Cobham (0932) 864674.



The Gothic Tower at Painshill Park, built circa 1760.

NEWSLETTERS have been produced twice-yearly to publish research articles and events. Since 2015 they have been published electronically.

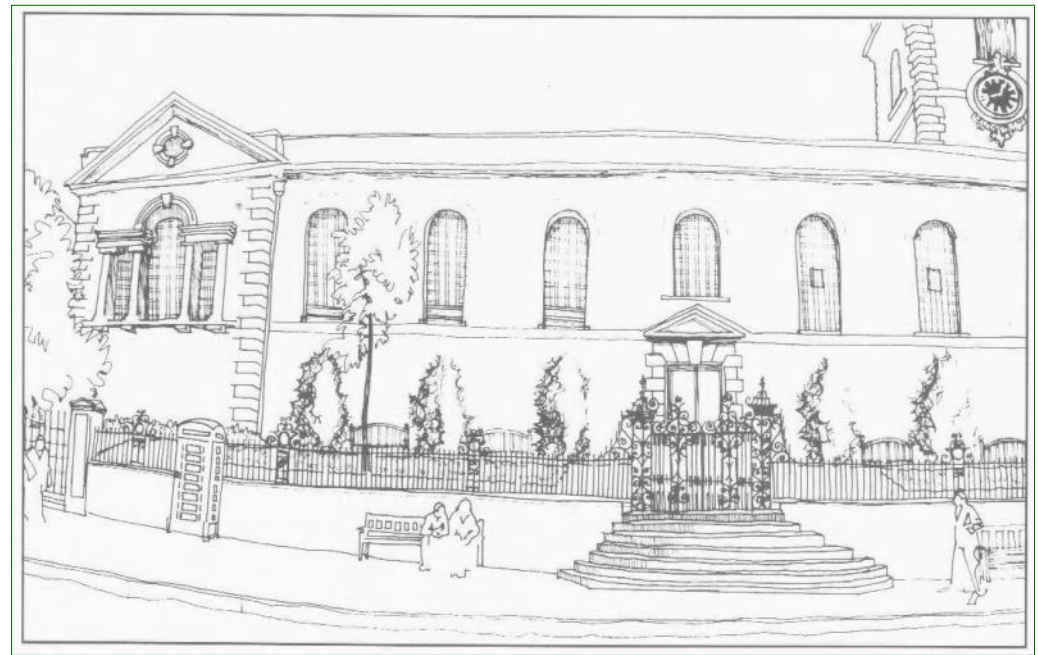
In 2020 SDS & IA Group, a digital archive management company, scanned and indexed all the SGT Newsletters (free of charge) and these are now available to browse on the website.

A conventional index to the Newsletters is also available on the website



1991 THE FIRST SGT PROJECT

to improve the frontage of
Holy Trinity Church,
Guildford



Sketch by Carol Newman

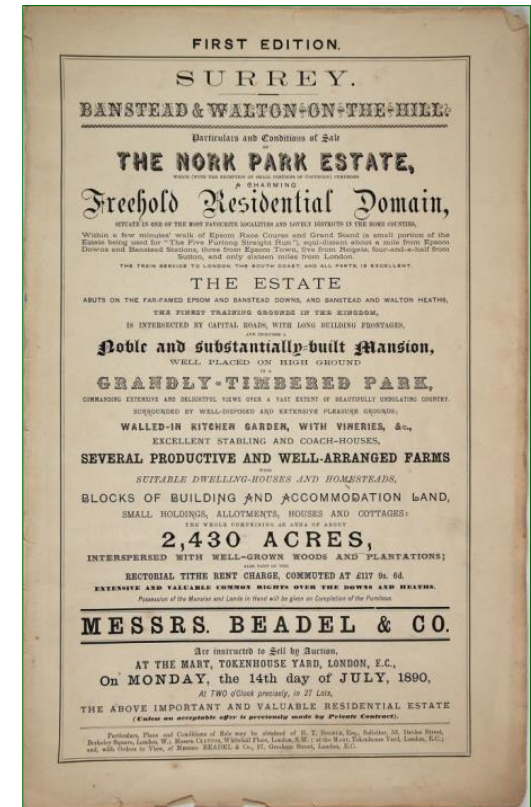


Presentation of the Guildford
Heritage Award to SGT – Joint
winner in the Environmental and
Other Improvements category by
The Bishop of Guildford, the
Right Reverend Michael Adie.

RESEARCH and RECORDING

From the start one of the primary aims of the Trust has been to identify and research historic gardens within the county with a view to adding them to either national or local lists. This work is undertaken by the Research and Recording Group whose members received training, either from other researchers or on organised courses.

There are currently 42 Surrey gardens on Historic England's *Register*, some of these added as a direct result of research carried out by SGT volunteers. This group meets regularly to discuss and share the work being carried out by the members.



Some of the many resources for research are illustrated here

1993 PUBLICATION OF *NATURE AND TRADITION* by Guildford BC, sponsored by SGT

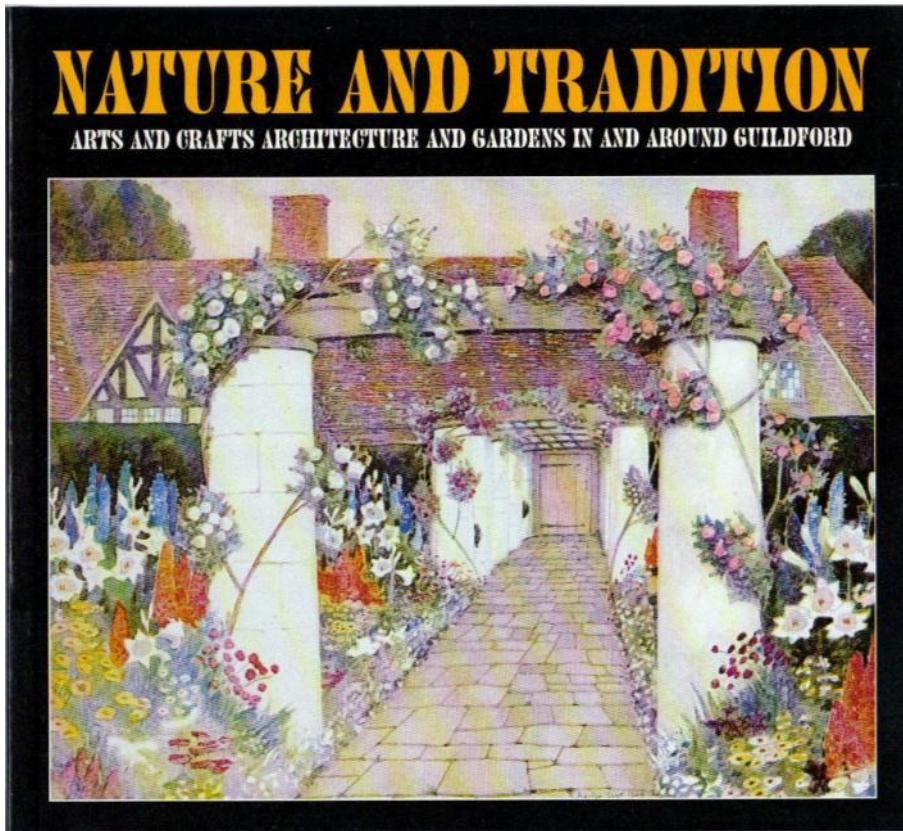


Photo from *The Advertiser*, dated 6 August 1993: *From left to right* – Lady Leggatt, chairman SGT, the Mayor of Guildford Richard Marks, the Countess of Onslow, co-author Dr Nigel Barker, book picture editor Sheila de Kretser, authors Meryl Spier and Brenda Lewis, and John Davey, borough council planner.

To purchase this book, go to <http://www.surreygardenstrust.org.uk/publications>

1993 WAS THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF GERTRUDE JEKYLL (1843 – 1932)

SGT celebrated with:-

- A weekend conference
- Workshops for Jekyll garden owners
- A Jekyll garden at the Hampton Court Palace Flower Show
- Help with the planting as part of the restoration of the Phillips Memorial Cloister at Godalming





A Celebration
of
Gertrude Jekyll

16-18th July 1993



at
King Edward's School
Witley, Surrey

1993 WEEKEND CONFERENCE

SPEAKERS:

Jane Brown	Michael Tooley
Matthew Alexander	Sally Festing

VISITS to:

Tigbourne Court	Field Place
Burgate House	Winkworth Arboretum
High Hascombe	Munstead Wood
Busbridge Church	Vann
Orchards	Phillips Memorial
Godalming Museum	

1993 WORKSHOPS FOR JEKYLL GARDEN OWNERS

8 September at Goddards, led by Jane Brown

24 September at Vann, led by Michael Edwards

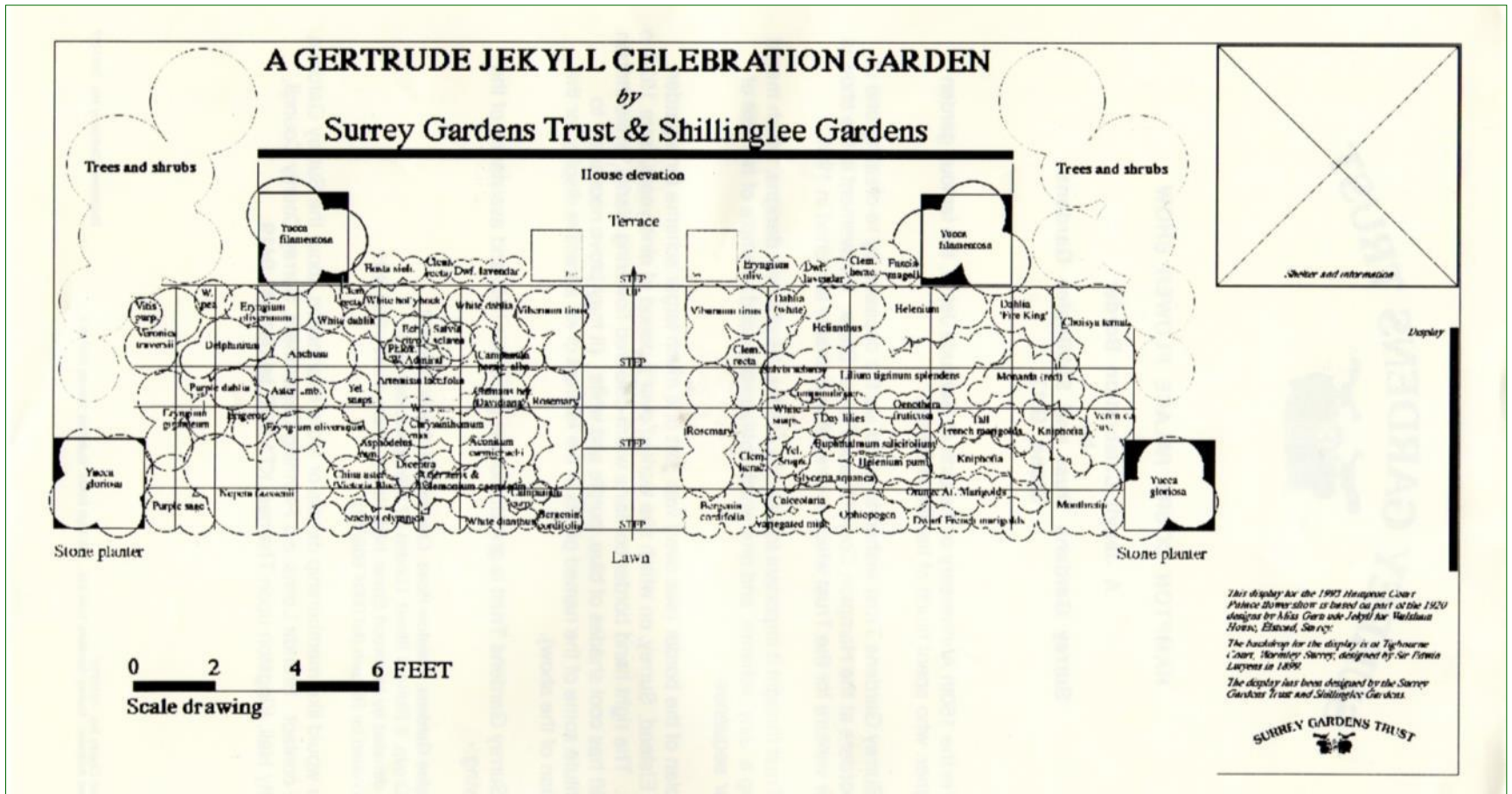


JEKYLL SURVEY

Members of SGT are involved in the on-going task of researching and recording the 140 or so gardens in Surrey with which Miss Jekyll had associations.

Jekyll garden owners with Jane Brown at Goddards

1993 HAMPTON COURT PALACE FLOWER SHOW



The planting plan is part of a scheme by Miss Jekyll for a garden near Elstead, Surrey. The right-hand border contains warm-coloured plants, while that on the left has cool shades of blue, purple and white.

1993 HAMPTON COURT PALACE FLOWER SHOW



Richard Ingle mows the plot



Jill Leggatt completes the planting of the border



The completed garden with the façade of Tigbourne Court as a backdrop



Members of the public admire the garden

1993 RESTORATION OF THE PHILLIPS MEMORIAL CLOISTER AT GODALMING

The cloister was designed by local architect, Hugh Thackeray Turner, to commemorate the radio officer on the *Titanic*, Jack Phillips, who lived in Godalming, and the planting was designed by Gertrude Jekyll.



The pool was restored and SGT replanted the surround according to the Jekyll plan. SGT was again involved when the planting of the whole site was renewed in 2012 (*see below right*)



By 1993 the pool had been filled in and planted with conifers



1995-7 THE VICTORIA GARDEN, FARNHAM

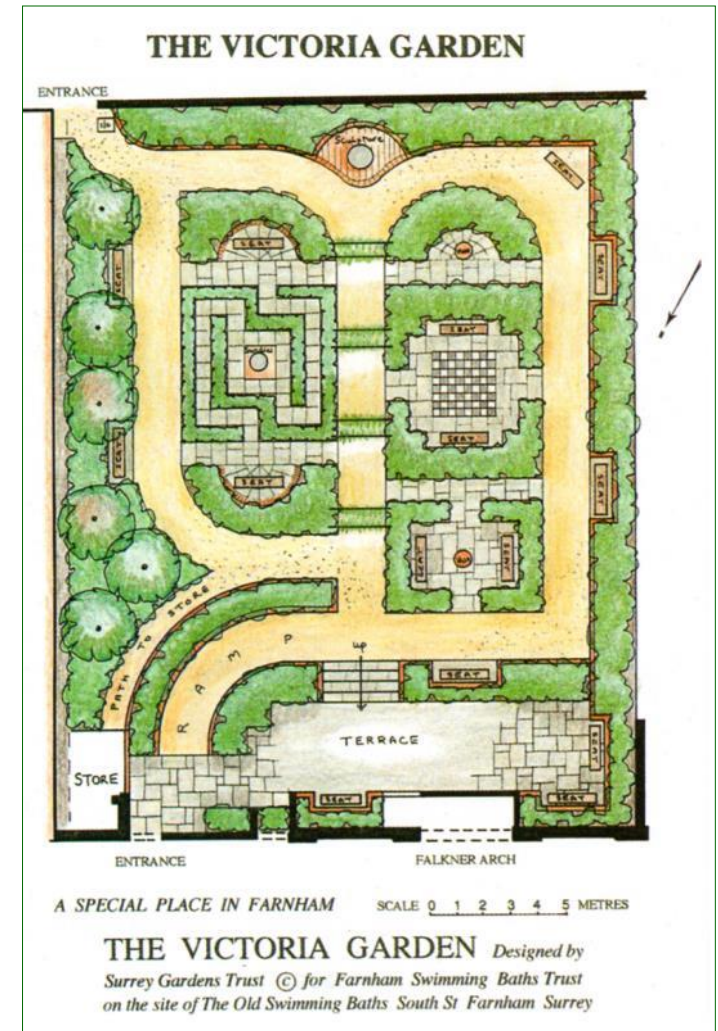
In 1897 the people of Farnham built an open-air swimming pool to celebrate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee with an entrance arch designed by local architect Harold Falkner.

In 1995 the Farnham Swimming Baths Trust asked for help from SGT to design a garden for the site. Marion Woodward produced the layout shown right and the new garden was opened in 1997.



Left: *The Open-air swimming pool*

Above: *The derelict site showing the garden side of the Falkner arch*



VICTORIA GARDEN



1999



2015

Visit of Duchess of Gloucester



1996 LEAFLET FOR NONSUCH MANSION

A WALK ROUND THE GARDENS OF NONSUCH MANSION

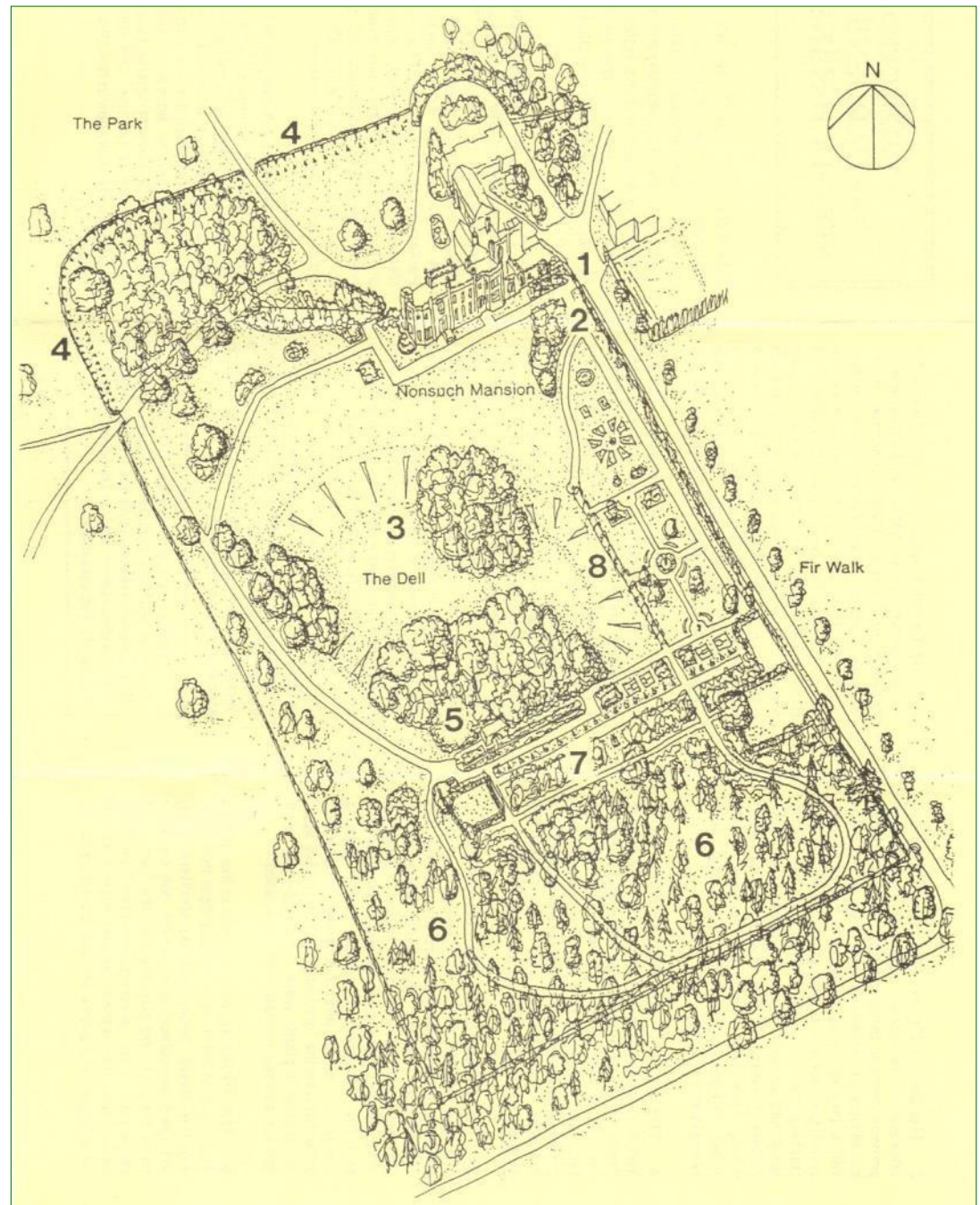
When you step through the gate at Nonsuch you not only enter a beautiful garden but one which was famous in both the 18th and 19th centuries. By following the route shown inside this leaflet and the notes which start below, you can trace the past glories of Nonsuch while enjoying the pleasures of the present garden.

1 The black and white sections of the garden wall and the blocked up door

These date from the 16th century. The 18th and 19th century houses may have been built on the site of a Keeper's Lodge described in the Parliamentary Survey of 1650 as "a pretty distance remote" from Henry VIII's great Palace of Nonsuch. The Palace site itself, which was completely excavated in 1959-60, can be found to the south of the Ewell gate of the park, indicated by two stone markers.

2 The wisteria on the garden side of the wall

Swete's *Handbook of Epsom* (1860) describes a 120 feet (36.5 metres) long wisteria, probably planted here in the 1840's when William Francis Farmer owned the Mansion (you can see his initials nearby above a small first floor window). The present splendid wisteria may be a descendant of the first. The shrub bed in the lawn opposite is shown in the Ordnance Survey map of 1913.



1996 SCHOOLS' AWARD LAUNCHED

One of the Surrey Gardens Trust's principal aims is to encourage the county's schools to develop horticultural and environmental projects in their grounds in which children can become involved.

Since its inception the Trust has awarded some £33,000 under this scheme.

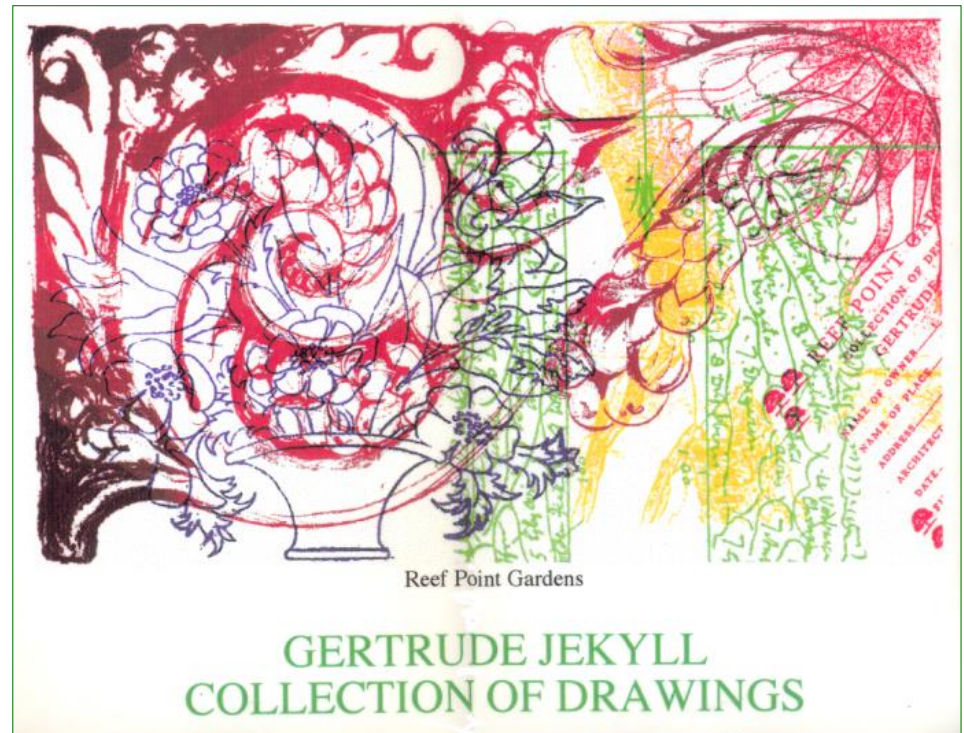
Applications are welcome from any Surrey maintained nursery, infant or primary school and academy planning to create, or develop further, a garden that will facilitate children's learning through talk, play and environmental awareness.



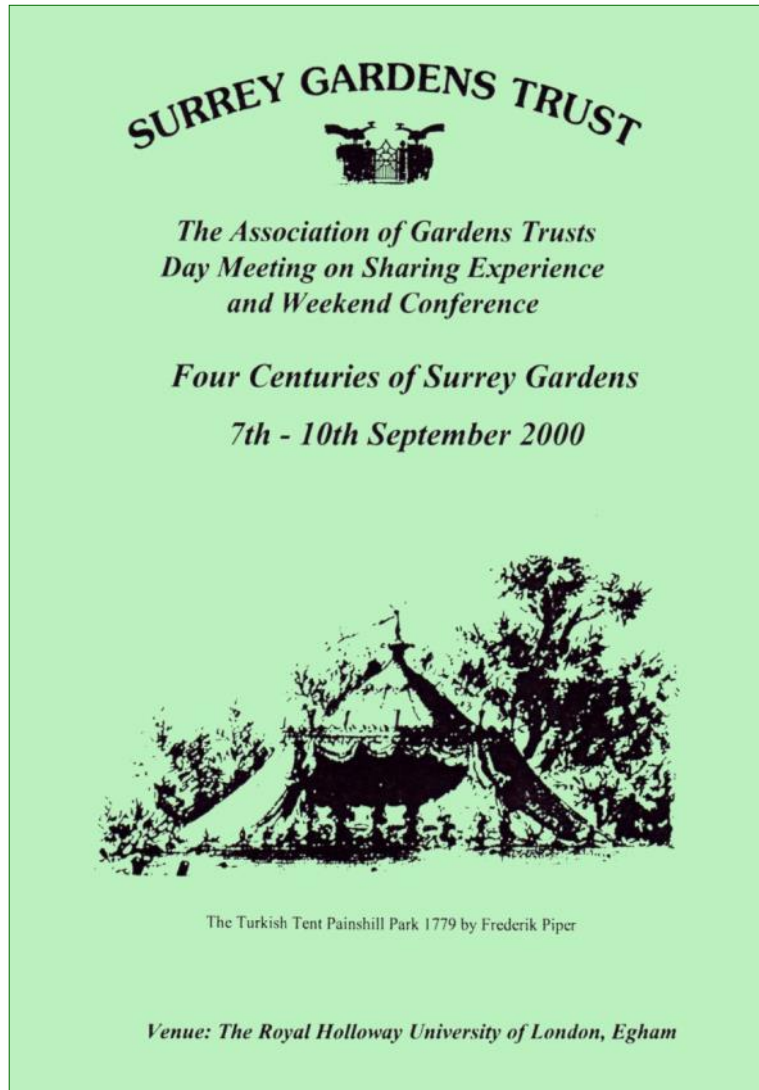
GERTRUDE JEKYL REEF POINT DRAWINGS COLLECTION

In 1997 Michael Edwards initiated a project to produce hard copies of 2,500 drawings from the microfilms held by Godalming Museum of the Reef Point Collection of Gertrude Jekyll drawings held at the University of Berkeley in California. These were collated, checked and re-indexed by members of SGT and bound copies presented to Godalming Museum on 4 December 1999.

In 2009 copies of most of the letters in the collection were copied and indexed.



2000 SGT HOSTS ASSOCIATION OF GARDENS TRUSTS' ANNUAL CONFERENCE



The conference was held at Royal Holloway College, Egham.

Friday was a study day entitled: County Gardens Trust: Sharing Experience.

Visits were made to:

Albury Park

Gatton Park

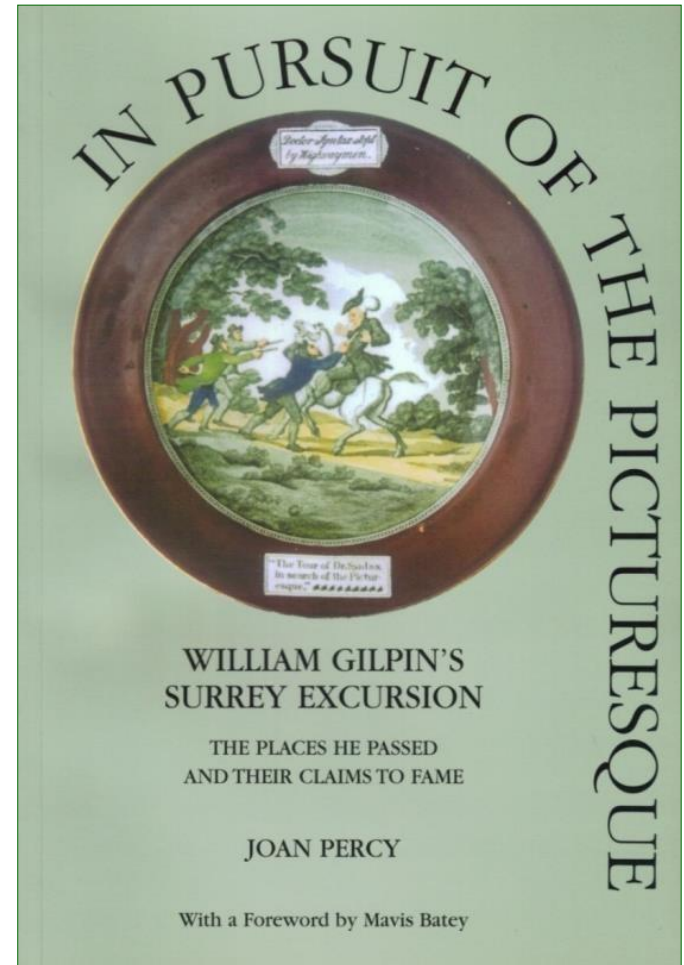
Great Fosters

Munstead Wood

Painshill Park

Vann

2001 PUBLICATION OF *IN PURSUIT OF THE PICTURESQUE*



Revd William Gilpin, headmaster at Cheam School, toured Surrey in 1768, keeping a notebook of impressions and sketches.

Mavis Batey knew of the unpublished manuscript in the Bodleian Library at Oxford and gained permission for SGT to convert it into a book, which was written by Joan Percy.

To purchase this book, go to <http://www.surreygardenstrust.org.uk/publications>

2001 NEW DISPLAY BOARDS



Over the years SGT members have spent many hours using these boards to promote the Trust at events throughout the county.

2003 INFORMATION BOARD FOR JELlicOE ROOF GARDEN AT GUILDFORD

JELlicOE ROOF GARDEN

Originally created in 1958
Restored 2000-01

SIR GEOFFREY JELlicOE (1900 - 1996) was one of England's most eminent twentieth century landscape architects. He designed this roof garden in 1956-57 for Harvey's Department Store in Guildford.



In his book *Studies in Landscape Design*, he wrote : "The garden is primarily a sky garden and the underlying idea has been to unite heaven and earth; the sensation is one of being poised between the two. The area... is first flooded with the light of the sky by means of water reflection, and carved out of this light are abstract island shapes reminiscent of earth forms as seen from the air..."

"The garden was designed at the time when the first Sputnik spun miraculously round and far above the earth, and it was probably the implication of this that caused the whirl of circles that is reminiscent of the planets. Throughout there is a constant play upon illusion, whether it is that the stepping-stones apparently float like lotuses upon the surface of the water or whether it is that the water scenery does really join with the sky where it passes out of the scene to the west."



All the magical and fantastic elements of the fifties are contained in the garden which is a remarkable survival of the period.

The refurbishment has been carried out 'in the spirit of Jellicoe' by House of Fraser in conjunction with Draffin Associates Landscape Consultants and Gerry Lytle Architects.

English Heritage has listed the garden as a Grade II site on its *Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England*.

This information panel has been designed by Surrey Gardens Trust in association with Guildford Borough Council




In 2000 the Jellicoe Roof Garden at the House of Fraser store in Guildford was listed on the EH *Register* and refurbished in 2001.

SGT produced an information board explaining the history of the garden.

High hopes for water garden



MEMBERS of Surrey Gardens Trust celebrated the unveiling of a new information board about a little-known Guildford water garden.

High above the town centre streets, perched on top of the House of Fraser department store, there is a 1950s water garden, which has been registered with English Heritage.

Lady Jill Leggitt, chairman of Surrey Gardens Trust unveiled the new information board with Graham Foster from Guildford Borough Council, Marion Foster and Mary Caroon.









SURREY GARDENS TRUST

HOME PAGE



The Surrey Gardens Trust is a registered educational charity, founded in 1991, to help identify, preserve and recreate the county's outstanding gardens and landscapes, large and small, and to increase awareness of this heritage.

It is part of a countrywide network of trusts and is financed by membership subscriptions, grants and donations.

-  HOME
-  AIMS
-  SURREY GARDENS
-  PROJECTS
-  RESEARCH
-  PUBLICATIONS
-  SCHOOLS
-  EVENTS
-  MEMBERSHIP
-  LINKS



The map above shows the 39 sites of national importance which are on *The English Heritage Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest (Surrey Volume)*.

Surrey Gardens Trust has taken every care in compiling this website but makes no warranty, express or implied, as to the nature or accuracy of any material on this site and cannot accept liability for any loss, damage or injury as a result of any use made of it.

For further information, please contact the Administration Secretary [click here](#)

2004 CREATION OF FIRST WEBSITE

2005 'AN EVENING WITH DR SYNTAX'

To publicise *In Pursuit of the Picturesque* a light entertainment was devised using the poem by William Combe. Gilpin was so well known that he could be identified as the impecunious schoolmaster/curate, Dr Syntax, who sets off on his horse Grizzle 'to make a Tour and work it up' in the poem published in 1809, 'Tours of Dr Syntax in Search of the Picturesque' by Combe with illustrations by Thomas Rowlandson.

SURREY GARDENS TRUST
presents
AN EVENING WITH DR SYNTAX
LANDSCAPE, LITERATURE AND LAUGHTER

Cast in order of appearance


Narrator	Brenda Lewis
Dr Syntax	John Bridel
His Wife, Dolly	Beryl Saich
Betty - a fair maid	Beryl Saich
Hostess of <i>The Royal Crown</i>	Beryl Saich
Host of <i>The Dragon</i>	Beryl Saich
A Farmer	Beryl Saich
Nancy, a dairy maid	Beryl Saich
Nancy's Mother	Beryl Saich

Supported by Stella Rutter and Marion Woodward

SATURDAY 26TH FEBRUARY 2005
at 7.30 pm

**GATTON HALL,
GATTON PARK, REIGATE**

IN AID OF THE RESTORATION OF GATTON PARK



Performances were given at Juniper Hall, Gatton Park and Painshill Park.

John Bridel was Dr Syntax and Beryl Saich played his wife Dolly and numerous other characters, which were indicated by a change of hat.

A Brief Guide to
**THE GARDENS OF
 WOTTON HOUSE**

Wotton House, listed Grade II*, lies in the valley of the Tillingbourne, three miles west of Dorking. It dates from the late 16th century but has been extensively modified and extended. Since 1579 it has been owned by the Evelyn family. In 1640 George Evelyn created an Italianate garden around the house to the designs of his brother, John Evelyn, the eminent garden designer, writer and diarist.

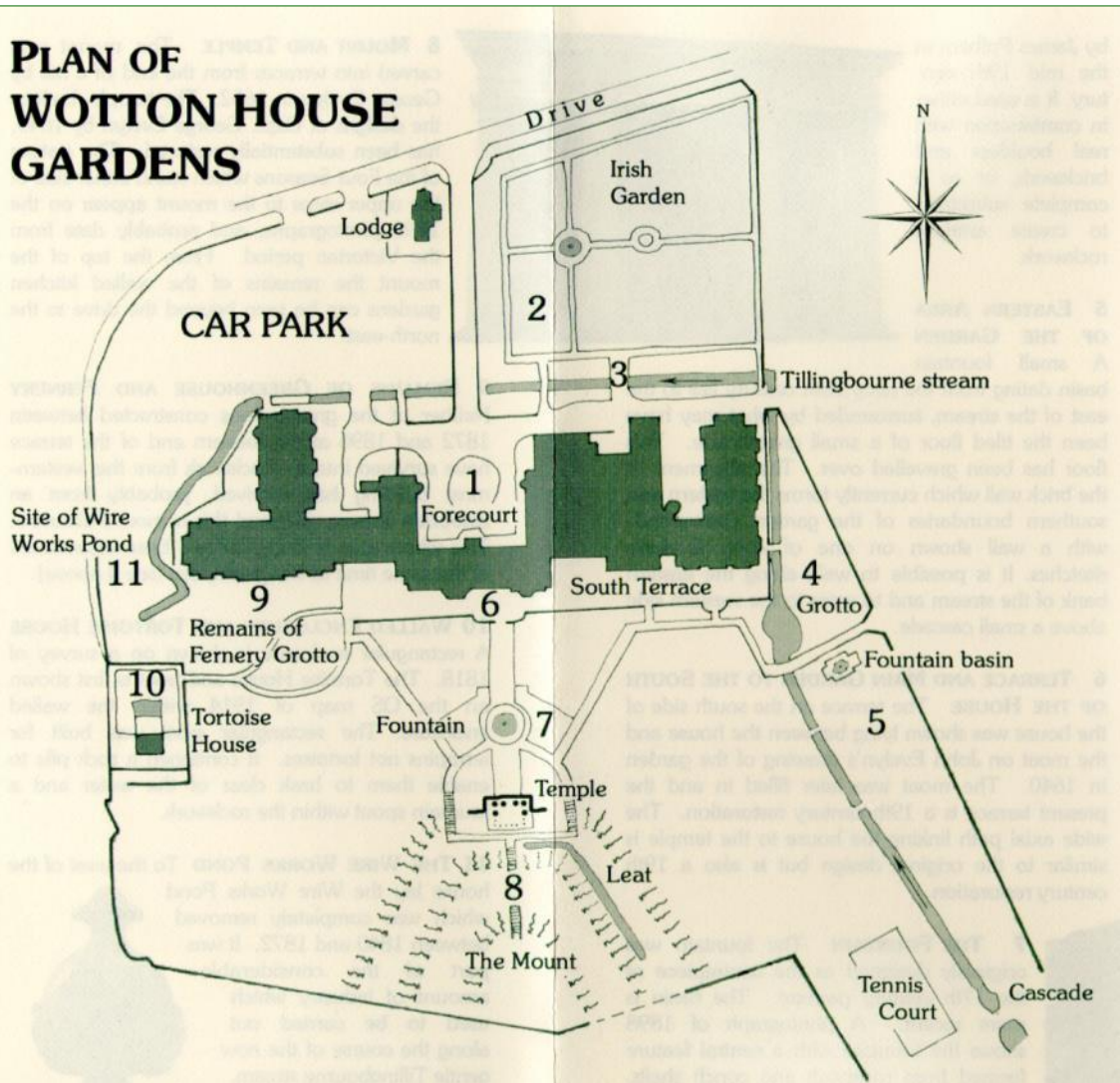
The enclosed formal gardens survived intact until at least the mid 18th century. Subsequent generations of the family carried out modifications which removed some of the formal elements and overlaid a new design layout. Despite this, key features of the original gardens were retained and have survived, including a terraced mount and classical garden temple. The gardens which survive today are largely the work of William Evelyn during the latter part of the 19th century.

During and since WWII, the property has been in institutional use – billeted in wartime and then leased in turn to the Home Office, Fire Service College and BT. In 2001, it was leased to the Hayley Conference Centres; the house has been refurbished and the site developed as a conference centre. The grounds have been extensively restored to a management plan by Colson Stone which was implemented by Waterers Landscapes.



2005 WOTTON LEAFLET

PLAN OF WOTTON HOUSE GARDENS



© Surrey Gardens Trust 2005
www.surreygardenstrust.co.uk

Designed by Surrey Gardens Trust for
 Hayley Conference Centres

Broome Park, Betchworth

Don Josey



with *A Bit about Ice-Houses*

Dinah Saich

2005

PUBLICATION OF *BROOME PARK, BETCHWORTH* by DON JOSEY

Christopher Kilby, born in Boston, America in 1705, retired from his mercantile interests to Betchworth in 1763, where he laid out the grounds of Tranquil Dale (later called Broome Park) in the fashionable landscape style.

Based on Don Josey's years of research, the book relates the story of the house and its owners and is well illustrated with maps, engravings and photographs.

To purchase this book, go to <http://www.surreygardenstrust.org.uk/publications>

A Brief Guide to
**THE GROUNDS OF
 ALBURY PARK**

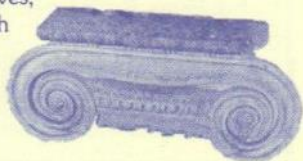
Albury Park, grade I on the *English Heritage Register of Parks and Gardens*, lies to the south of the A25, some 4.5 miles south-east of Guildford, in the valley of the Tillingbourne.

In 1637/8 the manor of Albury passed to the Trustees for Thomas Howard, 2nd Earl of Arundel. After his death in 1646, the succession passed to his eldest grandson, Thomas, who in 1653 conveyed Albury to his brother, Henry, later to become 6th Duke of Norfolk. John Evelyn (1620-1706), diarist and author of *Sylva*, had much admired the property during an earlier visit and tried to buy the estate in 1652 to be near to his brother at Wotton. However, he did not succeed and settled at Sayes Court, Deptford.

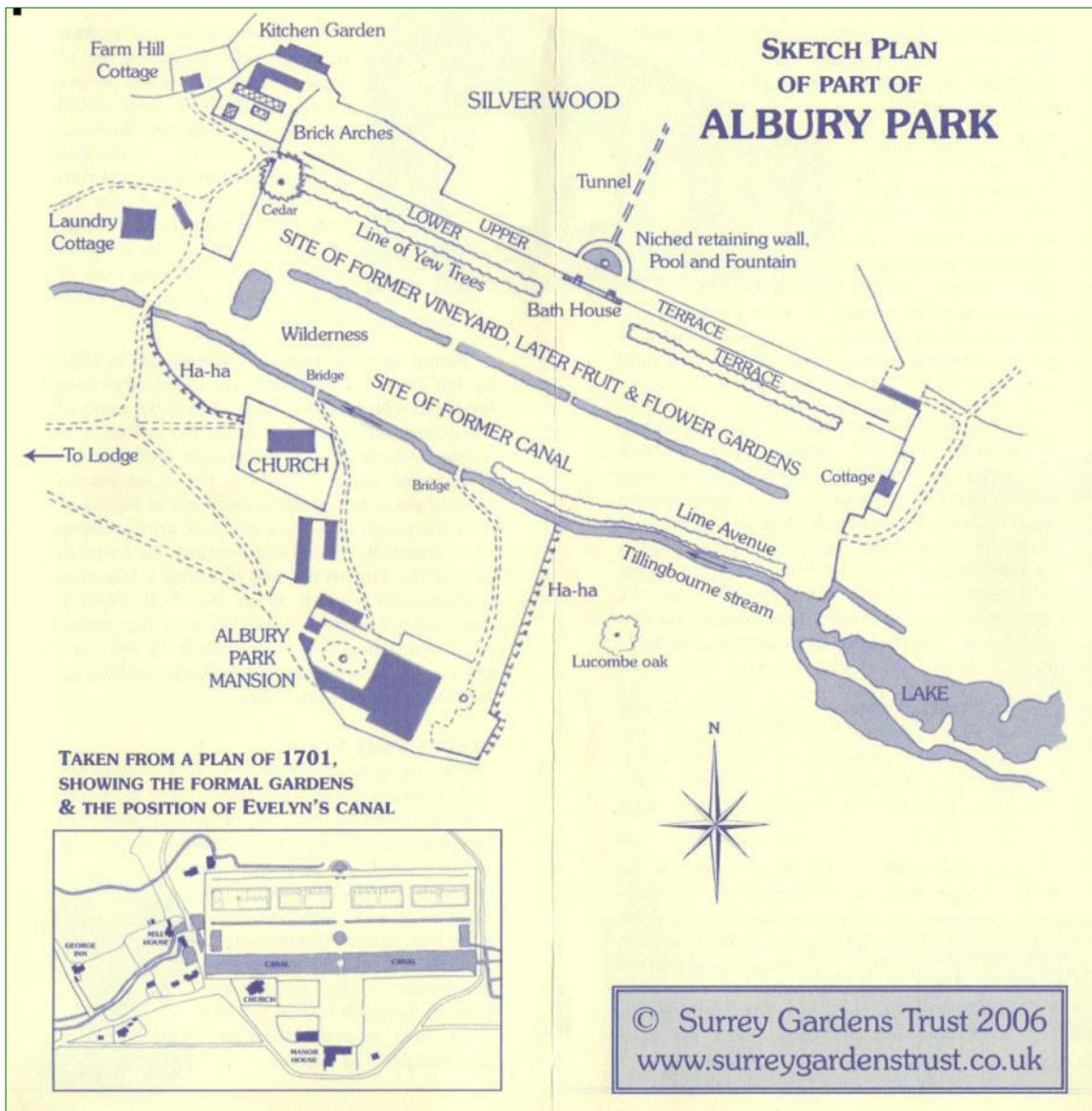
With the architect George Evelyn, Henry enlarged the manor house. He also made major alterations to the gardens with the assistance of John Evelyn.

Subsequently, after passing through a number of ownerships, the estate was acquired by Henry Drummond in 1819. He employed A W N Pugin (1812-52) to remodel the house and planted exotic trees within the pleasure grounds. Through the marriage of Drummond's daughter, the property passed to the Percy family, the Dukes of Northumberland.

The mansion and its immediate garden was sold in 1969 and is still in use as residential apartments. The pleasure grounds, with their Evelyn terraces, alcoves, tunnel, pool and bath house remain in the ownership of the Trustees of the Albury Estate.




2006 ALBURY PARK LEAFLET



2006 EVELYN CONFERENCE

'The Renaissance Man and his Gardens'



**A CELEBRATION OF
JOHN EVELYN**
THE RENAISSANCE MAN AND HIS GARDENS


SURREY GARDENS TRUST
in association with
THE GARDEN HISTORY SOCIETY
is hosting

**A MAJOR CONFERENCE
TO CELEBRATE THE TERCENTENARY
OF JOHN EVELYN'S DEATH**

SATURDAY 22ND
AND SUNDAY 23RD APRIL 2006
at
THE HAYLEY CONFERENCE CENTRE
WOTTON HOUSE, DORKING, SURREY

John Evelyn, the eminent garden designer, writer and diarist, was born in 1620 at Wotton, the family home, and continued to have strong connections in Surrey. Key features of the gardens he designed for Wotton House and at Albury, near Guildford, still survive. Speakers at the Conference will present in-depth studies of Evelyn's life and work.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CONFERENCE WILL BE PUBLISHED IN DUE COURSE



SURREY
GARDENS
TRUST

www.surreygardenstrust.co.uk
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Registered address: Surrey Gardens Trust Ltd.,
30 Church Street, Godalming, Surrey GU7 1EP
A member of the Association of Gardens Trusts

In 2006 the SGT in association with the Garden History Society hosted a Conference at Wotton House to celebrate the tercentenary of the death of John Evelyn. 150 delegates attended.

Speakers included: Douglas Chambers, Sally Jeffery, Maggie Campbell-Culver, Frances Harris, Gillian Darley, Mark Laird, Peter Brandon and Mavis Batey.

From left:
*Cherrill Sands,
Rita Goodwin,
Mavis Batey and
Brenda Lewis enjoy
a stroll along the
terrace at Wotton.*



A CELEBRATION OF

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PROCEEDINGS
OF A CONFERENCE TO MARK THE
TERCENTENARY OF HIS DEATH

Edited by Mavis Batey

2007 PROCEEDINGS OF THE CONFERENCE WERE PUBLISHED

Edited by Mavis Batey

Designed by Marion Woodward

Images sourced by:

Marion Woodward

Beryl Saich

Carol Hill

Brenda Lewis

Book launched at
the Surrey History Centre

To purchase this book, go to
<http://www.surreygardenstrust.org.uk/publications>

2008 GARDEN AT GUILDFORD CATHEDRAL

The 'Seeds of Hope' Children's Garden at Guildford Cathedral, was created for the benefit of bereaved children and designed by SGT member, Sue White.

The photos show the labyrinth and two bronze statues by Christine Charlesworth. SGT donated oak gates and picket fence.



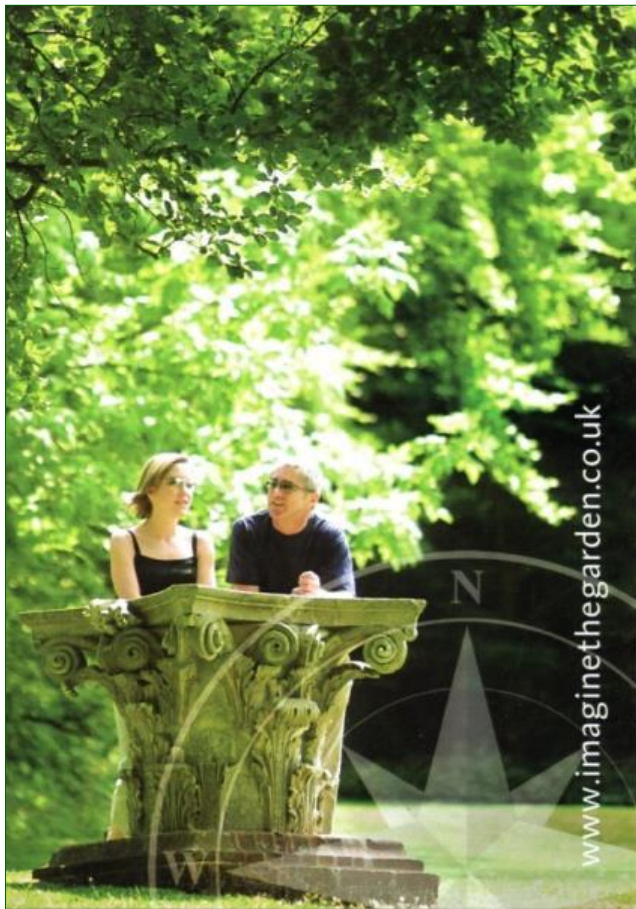


EUROPEAN GARDEN HERITAGE NETWORK (INTERREG IIIB NWE)
"Defining and enhancing the values and potential of Parks and Gardens in North West Europe"

www.imaginethegarden.co.uk

SGT was a partner in the European Garden Heritage Network with gardens in England (Painshill), Germany and France.

Funding and Surrey County Council negotiations led to the Bus Route 515 from Esher station, stopping at Claremont, Painshill and Wisley.



2009 GATEWAY GARDEN VISITS SCHEME INITIATED

This scheme was set up to allow people who would not normally be able to visit historic gardens to do so. Since then Mary Caroe and more recently Alex White have organised numerous visits for residents of the Meath Home, Godalming, St Dominic's School, Hambledon, Hydon Hill Cheshire Home and others to the gardens, including Ramster at Chiddingfold, Vann at Hambledon, Loseley Park at Guildford and Westbrook at Godalming.



The first 'gateway' visit on 12 May 2009 by residents of the Meath Home, Godalming, enjoying tea at the gardens of Ramster, Chiddingfold.

The original charity has now ceased to exist but Mary continued and said: 'The tangible pleasure these visits generate is a humbling experience and a most worthwhile enterprise'.

Sadly, Mary (pictured on the right in the photo) died of Covid-19 in April 2020. By this time Alex had already taken over the organisation of these visits.

2011 20TH ANNIVERSARY AT GATTON & WISLEY



Celebratory events took place at Gatton Park (*above*) and at the Royal Horticultural Society's gardens, Wisley (*right*).



GRANTS

SGT has given many thousands of pounds in grants to garden and landscape projects in Surrey, especially to our most prestigious landscapes at Gatton and Painshill.

In the early days of the Trust, grants were received from Surrey County Council and several district and borough councils. In recent years, however, these grants have almost disappeared and, in order to give grants, the Trust has had to raise money by obtaining income from lectures and garden visits and hosting fundraising events.



Top: *The restored rock garden at Gatton*

Bottom: *The five-arch bridge at Painshill, the Hon. Charles Hamilton's 18th-century garden near Cobham*

2013 THE VANN BONANZA

raised over £1,500



2015 – WE ENTER THE DIGITAL AGE

In 2015, SGT introduced email communication by setting up a Mailchimp database of members' email addresses.

Newsletters were also sent by email and the A4 colour format was introduced.

In order to prepare the PowerPoint presentation which covered the history of our first 25 years, archive material was assembled and some of it digitised.



Inside this issue

- 2 Chairman's Report
Jill Leggatt reflects on 2014 and explains the proposed changes for the Association of Gardens Trusts' governance
- 3 School Awards
Our 2014 recipients
- 4 Small Grants Scheme
Supporting the Queen Elizabeth's Foundation
- 5 Summer Visits 2014
Wendy Craft looks back at last year's garden visits
- 6 Graveyard, William Robinson and 21st century Historic Garden Conservation
- 8 Marie Elaine Houghton shares her key points for good photography
- 9 Sarah Wilson enjoys the Gateway visits in 2014
- 10 Our 2015 Garden Visits programme: Take a look and book early to avoid disappointment

Portrait of a SGT Council member

Mary Caroe, doctor, gardener and supreme networker

Most members will have met Mary at one of our events and know that she has a very famous garden at Vann near Godalming and organises the Gateway visits for the Surrey Gardens Trust.

I interviewed Mary to find out more about her. I was especially interested to find out about her career as a doctor and how she managed to bring up her large family, pursue a career in medicine and look after the house and garden at Vann.

Mary graduated in medicine in 1963 from the Westminster Hospital Medical School having been one of four women in her class of 40 students. Just before she graduated she married Martin but they had to spend a year apart while she finished her hospital training in London.

She had her sights set on a career in General Practice and was employed as a locum GP until she was appointed the family doctor to the Scots and Irish Guards based at Pirbright. Surprisingly, compared to female doctors today, it was very difficult for Mary to get a job as a GP partner as there was still a certain amount of prejudice against female doctors.

I suspect that Mary was undaunted by any prejudice because she went on to have five children and still have some really interesting jobs including running a women's and young people's advisory service in Guildford for 27 years and being one of five police surgeons for the Surrey Constabulary. She was the only doctor ever to be awarded the Chief Constable's Commendation. Whilst working in Guildford she took a Pitman's course as she became aware of the need to be computer literate.



EVENTS

A large part of the Trust's work is to inform and educate through a series of lectures held during the winter months and visits to gardens of interest during the summer.

It also holds Study Days concentrating in depth on specific places or people and more recent ones have been:

17 July 2015 **GERTRUDE JEKYLL**, with speakers Brenda Lewis & Marion Woodward and visits to Munstead Wood, guided by head gardener, Annabel Watts, and to The Quadrangle, formerly Miss Jekyll's stables and nursery area, led by the current owner, Gail Naughton.

August 2015 **PAINSHILL PARK**, with speaker Cherrill Sands and a tour of the park led by Jan Clarke.

19 April 2017 **JOHN EVELYN**, held at Wotton with speaker Beryl Saich, followed by guided tours of Wotton and Albury.

Since 2017 the Events Committee has been led by Sheri Sticpewich who succeeded Wendy Craft in this role.



At Munstead Wood

RETIREMENT OF JILL LEGGATT AS CHAIRMAN

At the end of 2015, Jill Leggatt retired as chairman after holding the post for 24 years. She was presented with a new sundial for her garden to replace one that had been stolen (*photo right*), together with RHS garden vouchers.



She was succeeded by Cherrill Sands (*left*) who agreed to stand for two years. In 2018 Sarah Dickinson (*right*) took over as Chair.



MERGER OF AGT WITH GHS

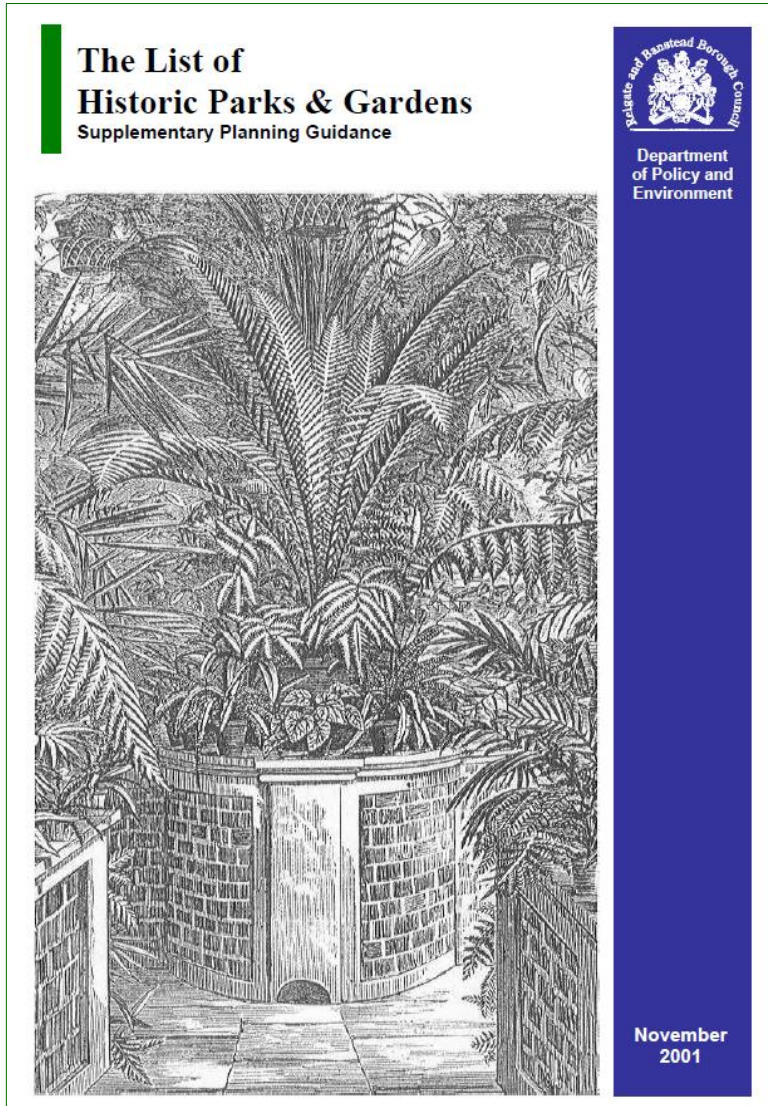
In July 2015, the Association of Gardens Trusts, of which SGT was a member, merged with the Garden History Society to form The Gardens Trust. As a single entity, The Gardens Trust is better placed to champion causes close to our hearts. The charitable objects set the agenda:

- To promote the study of the history of gardens and gardening, landscape gardening and horticulture in all its aspects;
- To promote the protection and conservation of historic parks, gardens and designed landscapes and to promote and advise on their conservation;
- To promote County and Country Gardens Trusts and through them education, appreciation and involvement of the public in matters connected with the arts and sciences of garden land;
- To encourage the creation of new parks, gardens and designed landscapes.

PLANNING



Historic England



One of the most important roles carried out by individual trusts, on behalf of The Gardens Trust, is to comment on planning matters.

SGT is consulted on planning applications which affect not only parks and gardens on the Historic England *Register*, but also sites identified as being of local interest.

This task has been undertaken for the past 15 years by Don Josey, who has looked at approximately 40 proposals a year, including individual applications and phases of Local Plan preparation within each Surrey district.



25TH ANNIVERSARY PICNIC AT VANN

The sun shone, Vann was looking lovely and guests enjoyed a jolly afternoon.

Mike Dawson, who had been responsible for the formation of SGT, gave a short speech outlining the history of the Trust and mentioned some of the people who had been important in its work.

A PowerPoint presentation showing the achievements of the previous 25 years was on view in the barn and attendees were encouraged to watch it and to complete a quiz sheet with the special commemorative pencils they had been given.

SURREY GARDENS TRUST



25th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

SUNDAY 3RD JULY 2016

4.00 to 7.00 PM

AT VANN, HAMBLEDON, GU8 4EF

(by kind invitation of Mary Caroe)

This is an opportunity to relax in and appreciate a delightful historic garden and to meet fellow members.



TEA/COFFEE - ANNIVERSARY CAKE - GARDEN QUIZ - RAFFLE

You are invited to bring a light supper (and perhaps a chair) to enjoy in the garden or, if wet, in Mary's barn.

No charge for members, guests £5 each

www.surreygardenstrust.co.uk

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A member of The Gardens Trust

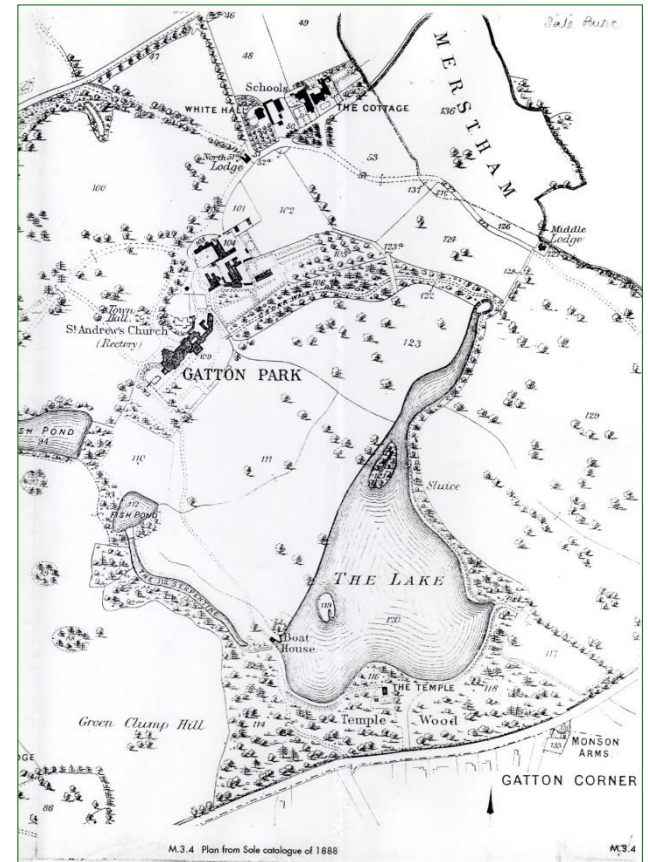
CB300

2016 saw the 300th anniversary of the birth of Lancelot 'Capability' Brown with celebrations throughout the country. SGT held a Study Day at Gatton on 12 July 2016. The speakers were Steffi Shields, Louise Miller and Brenda Lewis.

Brown worked for the owner of Gatton Park, Sir George Colebrooke, between 1762 and 1767, remodelling the landscape and creating the 25 acre lake.



Gatton also held a 'Picnic in the Park' event attended by various 18th-century characters, Brenda Lewis amongst them.



Map of Gatton, dated 1888, showing the lake designed by Brown.

There are five other sites associated with Brown in Surrey – Clandon Park, Claremont, Laleham, Peper Harow and Upper Gatton.

HERITAGE OPEN DAYS IN MOLE VALLEY



On several occasions SGT has put on talks and displays at the Letherhead Institute as part of the Heritage Open weekends organised by Mole Valley District Council during September each year.

In 2016 the theme was 'Lives and Landscapes' and SGT members Brenda Lewis and Marion Woodward chose the topic '**Prospects of Mole Valley: important landscapes and the writers who described them**' using material from our publication *In Pursuit of the Picturesque*. Brenda spoke on Saturday morning and the display was available to view throughout the weekend.

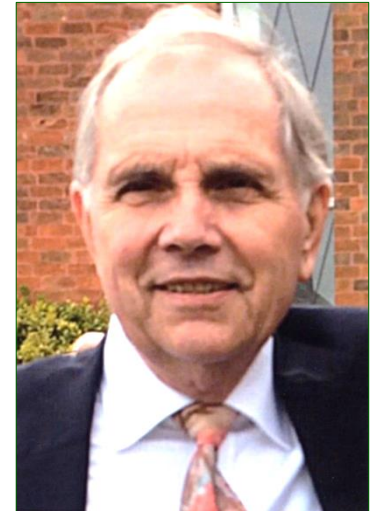
In 2018 the theme was 'Extraordinary Women'. At this event Michael Edwards gave a talk entitled '**Gertrude Jekyll: a Gardener and so much more**' and Marion Woodward provided a display entitled '**Gertrude Jekyll: Beyond the Boots**'. Both of these highlighted the many talents of one of Surrey's most celebrated residents, not only as garden designer, but also as an artist, craftswoman and writer on horticulture, home life and Surrey traditions.

JEKYLL DIGITISATION PROJECT

For some years it was the ambition of Michael Edwards to achieve the digitisation of Gertrude Jekyll's drawings archive in California, thus making them available to view on the internet. In 2016 he approached the Environmental Design Archives, University of California, Berkeley (the EDA), to obtain an estimate of the cost of such a project. Over time it became obvious that to raise the entire sum at one time would be prohibitive so it was decided initially to raise the \$23,000 needed to scan and process just the Surrey sites.

Donations (large and small) were received and various fund-raising activities (see Solars event below and HOD talk above – and there were others, including a talk by Richard Bisgrove) took place and by summer 2018 we were in a position to agree a contract with the EDA to pay for the work to be carried out.

By the time it was complete, our new website was also available to host the link to the images and they went live in spring 2019. Thankfully, this was just before the untimely death of Michael Edwards to whom we (and all Jekyll enthusiasts) owe an immense debt of gratitude for his enthusiasm and tenacity in achieving this valuable contribution to Jekyll research.



Michael Edwards

NEW WEBSITE

Our original website had served us well since 2004 but did not work well across the multiple platforms (PC, laptop, iPad and smartphone) introduced since its inception.

In 2016 Atticus & Byrne was appointed to create a new website. Much discussion took place to create a brief and eventually Sarah Dickinson and Sheri Sticpewich took over the implementation of the project which went live in March 2018.

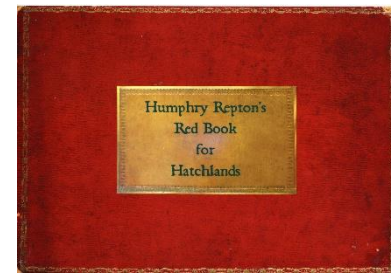
At the same time, our logo was updated.



SURREY
GARDENS
TRUST



2018 BICENTENARY OF HUMPHRY REPTON'S DEATH



Humphry Repton (1752-1818) produced 'Red Books' for estates around the country, including two in Surrey and SGT celebrated at both these venues.

On 18 April we had 'Breakfast and Bluebells' at **HATCHLANDS PARK** and an early morning walk round the park. We worked with the National Trust to design a Repton Walk guide and also produced a facsimile copy of Repton's Red Book for the Park, the original of which is part of the Morgan Library, New York collection. A bound copy was donated to Hatchlands and further copies are available for sale.



Image from Red Book for Betchworth

On 17 May we held a Study Day on **BETCHWORTH HOUSE** which included talks by Cherrill Sands, Martin Higgins, Sarah Dickinson and Sheri Sticpewich. This was held at nearby Hartsfield Manor followed by a tour of Betchworth House grounds, by kind permission of Lady Hamilton who also allowed us to produce a similar facsimile copy of the Red Book for Betchworth which is owned by the family.

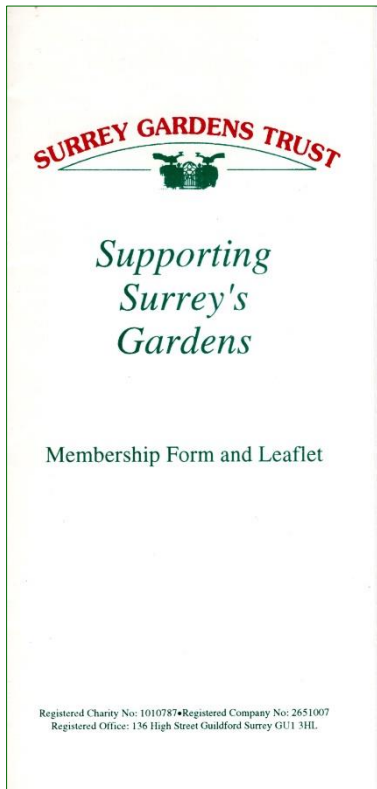
To purchase these books, go to <http://www.surreygardenstrust.org.uk/publications>

1 July 2018 JEKYLL FUNDRAISING EVENT AT SOLARS

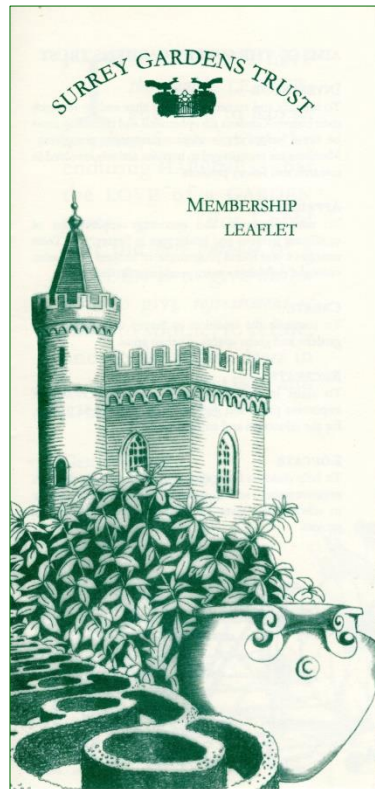
a glorious hot day on which we raised over £1,500



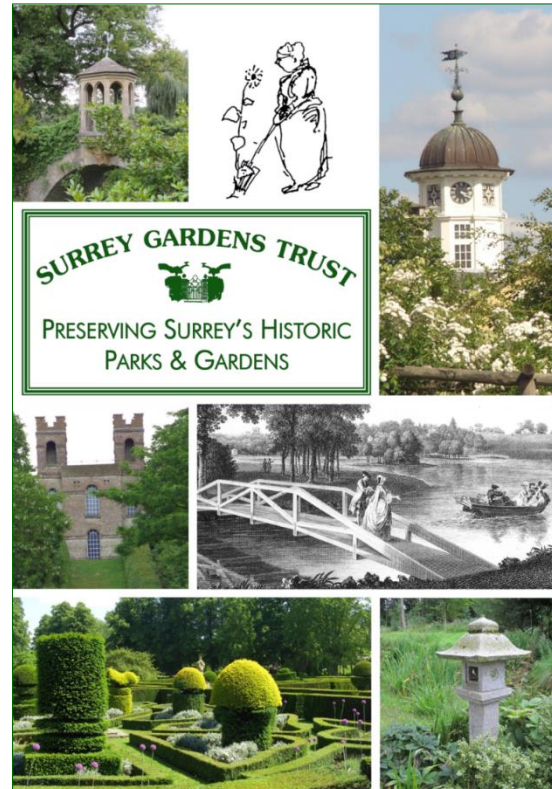
MEMBERSHIP LEAFLETS



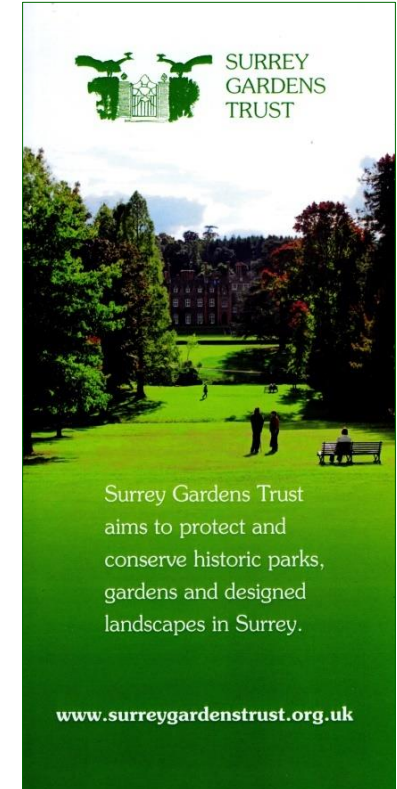
1991



circa 2003



2013



2018

2019 GEORGE LONDON AT FETCHAM PARK

George London (*circa* 1650-1714) was one of the most influential nurserymen and garden designers during the late 17th and 18th centuries.

Speakers for this Study Day on 11 May were garden historian Dr Sally Jeffery, local historian Vivien White and Neil Cook, Head Gardener at Hanbury Hall.

The day focused on George London's mastery of garden design, his originality and versatility spanning over three decades, including his work at Fetcham Park, believed to be his last completed garden, and Hanbury Hall in Worcestershire.



2020 Covid-19 & ZOOM

- None of us will forget 2020 and the Covid-19 pandemic which transformed all our lives, not least by introducing us to Zoom. From 23 March all lectures and most visits were suspended.
- Our first Zoom Council meeting took place on 8 July.
- On Saturday 17 October we held our first lecture by Zoom – this was the one about Kiftsgate Court which we were not able to hold in March. Subsequently the 2021 winter lecture series (on the theme - Walled Kitchen Gardens) also took place by Zoom.
- On Saturday morning, 12 December, instead of our usual AGM, lecture and Christmas party at the Old Barn Hall, Great Bookham, we held our AGM on Zoom; the Council met first to vote on the Agenda items (members had been asked to vote in advance by email) and then, in an open session, our Chair, Sarah Dickinson, gave a report of what we had managed to achieve during a very strange year.

30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
MONDAY 6 SEPTEMBER 2021
AT DUNSBOROUGH PARK

