



SURREY
GARDENS
TRUST

NEWSLETTER

December 2017
No. 51

Remember the Summer!



A rainy August day at Englefield House Gardens

Rain, rain, rain reigned over us but, undeterred, Head Gardener, Sue Broughton, led the way around the Grade II 19th and 20th century formal and woodland gardens within an 18th and 19th century landscape park which immediately surrounds Englefield House.

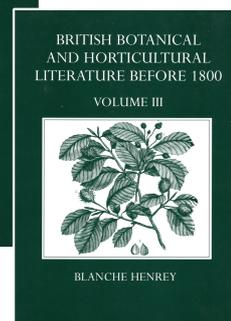
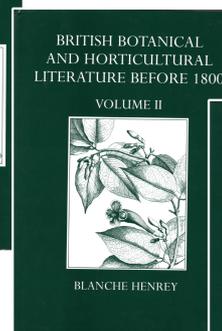
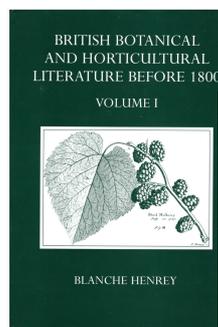
A four strong gardening team (plus three part-timers) create, re-create and maintain the nine acres around the house. Sue told us that her ideas and taste in plants were shared with Lady Benyon which gives her the freedom to plant with confidence knowing that the Lady of the House will approve.

Highlights were the stone terracing with a rose swag framed with carefully selected planting, the yellow and blue garden with a long stone bench seat, the white garden and some wonderful specimen trees which included a Giant Sequoia. The views out to the countryside from the elevated gardens cut into the hillside, usually resplendent - were sadly not spectacular due to the incessant rain. Yet we were a hardy lot happily revived by a lovely cup of tea, warm scones, jam and lashings of cream.



Blanche Elizabeth Edith Henrey: Bibliographer Extraordinaire!

We have been treated this year to research by Beryl Saich into the fascinating life of this 20th century author. This talk on Miss Henrey was given by Beryl to the Surrey Gardens Trust in March 2017 as a Winter Lecture, and was repeated at the New Research Symposium which preceded the Gardens Trust Conference in Plymouth in September 2017, reduced to 20 minutes! To achieve this all the chatty bits were removed. This Newsletter version has been further reduced but the basic story is still fascinating and full of interest and Beryl is thrilled to have the opportunity to present it to a wider audience.



The three volumes of British Botanical and Horticultural Literature before 1800

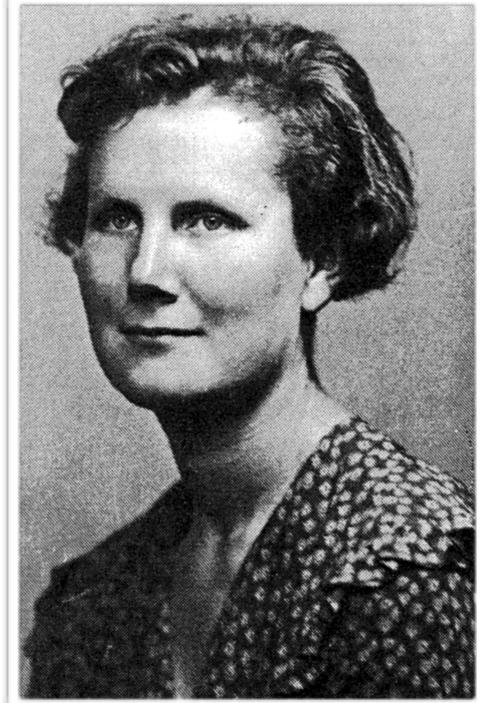
Blanche Elizabeth Edith Henrey cont...

Miss Henrey was the author and compiler of the magnificent three volume *British Botanical and Horticultural Literature before 1800* published by Oxford University Press (OUP) in 1975. It had taken 30 years to produce it, working mostly in a quiet corner of the Botany Department of the Natural History Museum. Discovered sheltering on a quiet lower shelf in the RHS Lindley Library, it aroused my curiosity about the author and the huge effort it must have needed to produce it.

Blanche was born in 1906, the third child of the Revd Thomas Selby Henrey and Harriet Euphemia Susan Lindsay known as Effie. She had an older sister, Katherine Helen, and an older brother, Robert Selby. The children were the descendants of wealthy and cultured banking families, including renowned artists, musicians and philanthropists. Grandmother Lady Lindsay's portrait was painted by G F Watts, a close friend.

Initially, the children were educated at home. Later Blanche attended St Paul's School for Girls from 1920-23. Robert went to Eton then Magdalen College, Oxford, but dropped out after a year. He wanted the bright lights of London as his ambition was to be a journalist. He met Madeleine, a French girl, at the Savoy Hotel where she was working as a manicurist. They had one son, Robert Jean, now living in America who recounts that his father had no time for Blanche's scholarship - a fine piece of sibling rivalry! The Watts portrait was inherited by him. Little is known about Katherine; she was very close to Blanche who thanked her warmly for her support in the acknowledgements in *British Botanical and Horticultural Literature before 1800*.

When the Revd Henrey retired in 1930, Mrs Henrey bought a large, handsome house, Westaway, in Godalming. It had been built in the 1890s for Mr Baldwin Fleming, a barrister and his family. The garden was designed for them by Gertrude Jekyll. No plans survive but it is listed in Francis Jekyll's account of his aunt's work.



Blanche Henrey as a young woman

Blanche developed an interest in photography driven by "her great interest in plants as well as in the art of design and composition". She recounted that she was given "a 3¼ by 2¼ inch folding Kodak camera and a copy of *The Amateur Photographer*". Inspired, she took a course in photography at The Regent Street Polytechnic where she "spent two years engrossed in the mysteries of negative and print-making". She became well known, contributing photographs and articles to the press. She published two stunning books of photographs, *Flower Portraits and Trees and Shrubs throughout the Year* with W J Bean. She produced annual calendars for *Country Life Ltd* achieving world-wide distribution. Her pictures were used in many issues of the magazine and in *Country Fair: the Country Life annual for 1938* where her work rubbed shoulders with that of John Farleigh, Eric Ravilious, Peter Scott and John Betjeman, top writers and artists of the 1930s. She was making her living from her photographs.

The start of WWII changed everything for everyone. For the duration she worked in the photographic department of the Ministry of Information at Senate House. From 1945 the Director was Charles H Gibbs-Smith, later Keeper Emeritus at the Victoria & Albert Museum. He knew of her interest in the history of botanical and horticultural literature although when that began is a mystery. She had "an early liking for such books" and acquired a huge collection of over 700 volumes during her lifetime, almost all containing her personal book-plate. Amongst them was at least one where the authorship and publication details were unknown. She bought it thinking that it would be easy to establish the facts but found that she could not. She became aware of the lack of knowledge of the production of early books and the "need for a comprehensive work ... which would include information concerning the publications and their authors illustrated with the most noteworthy, attractive and interesting examples." Introduced to OUP by Gibbs-Smith, she proposed to compile a work covering material up to 1900 to fill the gap. The time span was reduced to 1850 and then 1800 because of the sheer volume of material discovered. A formal contract was signed in November 1945 and the labour began. It was extremely hard work, making heavy demands on her health. She often laboured up to twelve hours a day and at times needed the loving persuasion of her sister to continue. It took 30 years to complete, being published in 1975. (Continues on page 5)

What is Conservation?

An important part of the conservation of parks and gardens is monitoring and responding to the flow of planning applications to local authorities that are regularly made which may either directly or indirectly impact on a historic park or garden or other designed landscape.

The consultation requirement is triggered by any development proposal which affects the registered site: this may be at some distance, and have no physical connection with the registered site. Each planning application should therefore be considered carefully by the local authorities for its potential impact on designed views into, as well as from, a landscape and its setting. Making appropriate consultations not only fulfils the statutory requirements (and thereby reduces the risk of any permission being challenged) but allows the application to be considered by experts in the field.

Local planning authorities must consult the Gardens Trust in relation to all planning applications that may affect historic designed landscapes in England and Wales that are on the Historic England Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest.

What does this mean in practice?

A brief report of SGT Conservation activities by Don Josey

In the Trust's administrative year to 30 September 2017 there have been 45 planning application consultations and 4 notifications of Local Plan proposals involving site allocations for development.

The Gardens Trust's conservation team review the applications notified by local authorities to them and compile a weekly list to circulate to contacts in the county gardens trusts who have agreed to monitor the list. I currently fulfil this role for the SGT. As the Gardens Trust does not employ regional conservation officers to deal with routine casework it must instead work closely with colleagues in the county gardens trusts to give authoritative, local and specialist advice on planning and other conservation matters. So, in essence, I review submitted documentation online through the local councils' websites, all of which can be searched easily by address or more likely by application number. Many proposals are quite ordinary and within residential curtilages adjoining sites of interest.

For some applications the documentation can be of formidable quantities with reports, assessments, architectural and engineering plans, etc. A Design and Access Statement may include information about the historic site and an assessment by the applicant's agents of the impact on features of interest. Sometimes a separate Heritage Statement will meet this requirement and will bring together research material such as published histories, old maps, and archival papers. This collating of material makes our SGT research reports, that are held as part of the Surrey Historic Environment Record (HER), important in the planning process.

Reading such Statements alongside the site plans and with some knowledge of the location is usually sufficient to form a judgement about the proposal from the parks and gardens point of view. It is pleasing to see that for the most part applicants and their professional advisers are following the need for such thoroughness in their documentation.

Some very good Heritage Statements in the last two years have been for Norbury Park, near Dorking, for land at Upper Hale adjoining Farnham Park, for The Deepdene, near Dorking, for Broadoaks at West Byfleet, and for West Horsley Place. These Statements place a lot of research in the public domain and we can see how our research has been picked up from the HER.

The Local Plan notifications arise as local councils seek to identify sites for housing and other uses. The requirements on them to meet challenging targets will be well known across the county. Monitoring the various plan stages allows us to identify at the earliest possible time any sites that we believe are of parks and gardens interest. Representations are then made to make that interest known with reference to research material held in the HER. For example, in Runnymede Borough our early representations lead to additional constraints being identified at the next stage for some sites of interest.

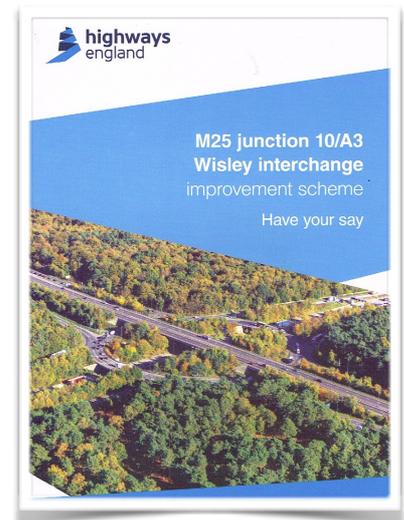
M25 and Wisley Interchange

A current conservation challenge A report by Don Josey

The national newspapers recently carried articles expressing the Royal Horticultural Society's (RHS) dismay at proposals to widen the A3 with land and tree loss within the Wisley Gardens.

The background needs some explanation. In late 2016/early 2017 Highways England held a local public consultation on proposals to improve (rebuild) the M25/A3 Junction 10 Wisley Interchange. Proposed widening of the A3 Portsmouth Road was to be done as part of the scheme to both north and south alongside Painshill Park and RHS Wisley. For the latter the need to improve its road access was also acknowledged.

The proposals on display were very much a traffic engineering response without the balance of environmental assessments other than some rather weak statements about



M25 and Wisley Interchange: The current position

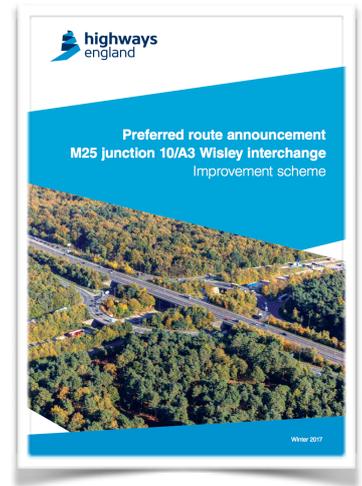
In February, the Surrey Gardens Trust indicated our concerns for both Painshill and Wisley. It was emphasised that Painshill operates as an independent Trust relying substantially on being an attractive visitor location where any diminution of its visual and aural conditions was to be avoided. The present noise intrusion at Wisley was also noted. SGT will expect to see the full range of environmental assessments at any future stage of the planning process.

A letter of 22 June, from Highways England to the SGT indicated that discussions were continuing with both Painshill Park and RHS, and that assessments of noise and air quality were underway. Access arrangements and environmental improvements were also part of discussions with RHS.

Just as we are going to press, on 29 November, Highways England has announced its preferred option for the scheme. This is described as Option 14, the elongated roundabout. We thought it would be helpful to give the link to Highways England for everyone to understand the proposal. There will be a statutory consultation in early 2018. We will assess the impact of this proposal and any threats to both Painshill and RHS Wisley and we will continue to monitor when the second stage of public consultation with in depth environmental information appears. At a later date the project will be the subject of a Development Consent Order to be examined by the Planning Inspectorate.

SGT stands ready to respond to the future consultation and to support Painshill Park and RHS Wisley as best we can.

<https://highwaysengland.citizenspace.com/he/m25-junction-10-a3-wisley-interchange-improvement/results/pr-a-leaflet.pdf>



Repton bicentenary update

In anticipation of the 2018 bicentenary of Humphry Repton's death, we are putting an exciting programme together to celebrate Repton's work here in Surrey.

On **18 April**, we have arranged **Breakfast with Repton** at **Hatchlands Park** with the National Trust. An early start before the gates open to the general public will give the National Trust park manager and her team of expert conservationists and rangers the opportunity to guide us through the park and to share Repton's influences in the wider historical context of this landscape.

We will be working with the National Trust to produce a Repton Walk guide as a legacy of the bicentenary celebrations. This will highlight Repton's vision and how the park evolved following his involvement, identifying views and marking important trees. As part of the joint venture, we very much hope to make available a bound facsimile copy of Repton's Red Book for the Park, the original of which is part of the Morgan Library, New York collection.

On **17 May**, we are delighted to have the opportunity to visit the private Repton garden and landscape at **Betchworth House**, courtesy of Lady Hamilton and her family. We are putting a **Study Day** together with talks and lunch at Hartsfield Manor (just over the hill from Betchworth House) followed by a tour of the house and landscape and afternoon tea at Betchworth. Lady Hamilton has kindly given us access to the family archive and will share with us photographs from her albums and the Repton Red Book itself.

More details will follow but do put the dates in your diaries.



A preview of the Betchworth House Red Book and one of the 'before and after' flap watercolours

Blanche Elizabeth Edith Henrey cont (from page 2)...

She began by reading the catalogues of every institution she knew of - universities, scientific societies, learned societies, antiquarian booksellers, private collections etc., all listed in the preface to Volume 1. She recorded each item she identified on a card and this information was later transferred to slips of paper stuck into a folder for ease of carrying. She then set out to examine all the books she had listed, travelling all over the UK and Europe. In those places that she could not reach herself, she requested local scholars to record details for her. Time was passing well beyond the proposed three years and OUP became anxious but was reassured by generous reports invited from other scholars.

Finally the task was completed and in 1975 the three-volume *British Botanical and Horticultural Literature before 1800* was published, Volume 1 containing the history and bibliography of the 16th and 17th centuries, Volume 2 the history and Volume 3 the bibliography of the 18th century. The volumes are beautiful to behold, the pages a joy to turn and the illustrations so appropriate. Regarding the illustrations, Miss Henrey explained in the preface that her choices were made to represent "some of the most interesting and attractive woodcuts and engravings to appear during the period." The size of the print run is not known.

Her achievement was rewarded with glowing reviews across the world - prodigious, enormous, stupendous and monumental were words widely used but all also comment on how readable it is - a delight, inspired, absorbing, a joy to read. She received many awards - the Veitch Medal of the RHS, the H H Bloomer award of the Linnaean Society and the Freedom of the Worshipful Company of Gardeners which pleased her very much as her father had worked in the City at the beginning of his career.

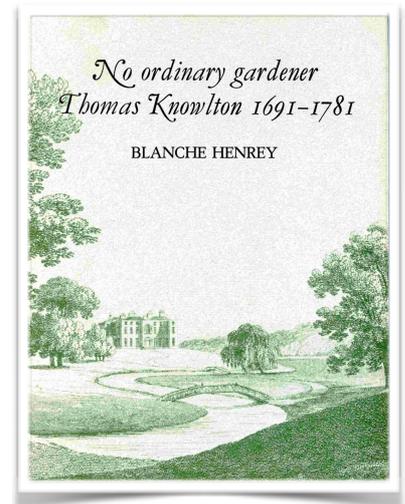
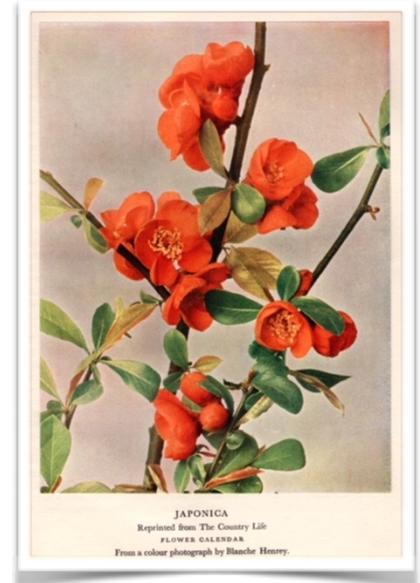
Her final enterprise was a book published posthumously in 1986, *No ordinary gardener: Thomas Knowlton 1691-1781*. The text of the book comprises Knowlton's correspondence and his biography derived from it. It is another splendid achievement much admired and very well reviewed - "it sheds much fresh light on the development of botany and horticulture in the eighteenth century". She retained Knowlton's spelling and style in order to keep the flavour of the man in his time. Miss Henrey sums him up neatly: "Unlike Paxton ... Knowlton did not make a lasting name but he does deserve our recognition for the manuscript material which gives an insight into the work and interests of a local gardener in the eighteenth century". She was unable to prepare it for publication herself, although the research was complete, but it was fulfilled by Mr A O Chater, a senior member of the Natural History Museum and his staff.

Blanche died in Westminster Hospital after a heart attack in 1983. She had been ailing for a while. She was "too tired" to visit Guernsey in 1982 to investigate the disappearance of the Guernsey lily. Obituaries emphasised her achievements but also her personal qualities: "This dedicated, modest, kindly woman will be sadly missed by her many colleagues and friends to whom she gave special inspiration." She was buried in Gunnersbury (now Kensington and Chelsea) Cemetery, on 21 March 1983 and her grave bears a plain stone cross.

I have enjoyed the journey of discovery. I hope it will remind those of you who have forgotten, or never knew, of her contribution to our knowledge of the history of gardening literature.

NB: IT WAS ALL DONE BY HAND. A COMPUTER WOULD HAVE SAVED SO MUCH TIME ... if she could have been persuaded to use one!

Beryl Saich



AGM 2017

9 December, 11.30 a.m.

The Old Barn

Hall, Great Bookham, KT23 3PQ

We are very much looking forward to seeing those of you who are able to come along to our AGM. Above and beyond the formalities this is a highlight of our year as a team when we have the opportunity to share a Christmas lunch and talk to all our members about what we have been doing together and our plans for the future.

Dr. Jill Raggett will talk to us on 'The Amazing Life of Taki Handa' a Japanese teacher and horticulturist working in Britain in the early 1900s.

Gateway Visits

The Gateway Trust, "Opening all Gates" was set up and registered as a charity in 2003 by Bettina Harden "helping people to discover gardens", " opening gates to historic parks and gardens to people of all ages and backgrounds by creating a programme of free garden visits for them". The aim was to ensure that the widest possible cross section of the community could access, discover and enjoy the leisure, activity and educational opportunities that these lovely places offer, connecting people with nature and informing them about their heritage by providing tailor made free garden visits taking into consideration their abilities and disabilities. "Just being in a garden makes people feel better and can offer wonderful spiritual therapy for those leading stressful lives."

When Bettina came to talk to the Surrey, Sussex and Kent Gardens Trusts in January 2009, already hundreds of people had benefited from these outings especially in the Midlands where, between 2007 and 2008, 3,500 people were able to visit historic gardens. She is an inspiring and dynamic enthusiast.

Mary Caroe took up her challenge and since 2010, with financial support from the Surrey Gardens Trust and from the Historic Houses Association Southern Region, she has organised free garden visits during the spring and summer every year for quite a number of groups from local organisations for the disabled or disadvantaged such as the Leonard Cheshire Homes, the Meath Home for Epileptics, St Dominic's School and Bell's Piece to name a few. Mary says: "It is thanks to the kindness and generosity of my sponsors and local garden owners that these groups have been able to enjoy free visits to these exceptional and beautiful gardens often guided by the owners, every visit ending with refreshments. I am hugely grateful to all concerned."

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

Mary gives us a brief review of the 2017 programme...

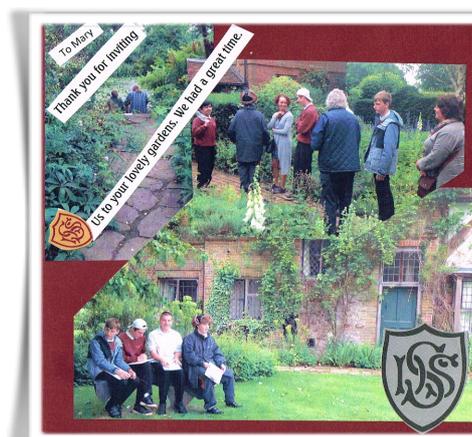
'We were able to overcome staff shortages, minibus breakdowns and untimely torrential rain at the beginning of the year to arrange six successful visits over the summer months.

*I was thrilled to entertain **St Dominic's School** in Hambledon who brought two groups to **Vann** in June. The first, a group of five children with some major problems were accompanied by a staff of four. They came with iPads and sketch books and after a tour of the main parts of the garden settled in different locations to sketch. The second group of six students from years 10 and 11 were part of the outdoor classroom so were interested in what was growing. The following day, a group from the **Meath Home** in Godalming came for the afternoon. Thankfully no-one fell into the ponds! The Vann flapjacks, a specialty, are regarded as a great treat! I have donated the entrance fees and refreshment costs to the St Dominic's garden fund.*

*Thanks to the huge hospitality of Justine Voisin, groups from the **Meath** and **Bell's Piece** have benefited from visits to **Westbrook**, a garden of so many parts including the Jekyll sunken garden and other hidden and surprise corners, all immaculately kept without being unduly restrained. The visitors enjoyed the ravishing gardens, showed great interest in the vegetable plot and were able to take the refreshments on the outside terrace in the sun. Justine has asked that the entry and refreshment costs be donated to the King Edwards Witley school fund. I have sent a cheque for £100.*

*Mia Wrigley and her daughter Siri, were equally hospitable when a bus load of 13 from **Bell's Piece** visited **Chilworth Manor** on a lovely sunny day in July. It was hard to know what pleased the visitors most, the stunning gardens, the three hairy dogs or the field of alpacas (!) and finally the delicious cakes and drinks taken in the sun on the garden terrace with a lovely view to the field of alpacas where the grass was being cut. Mia has asked that the admission and refreshment costs be donated to Bell's Piece for the furtherance of their gardens and I have sent a cheque for £100 to them. They plan to put the money towards the refurbishment of their shop.*

I do hope that I may be able to share the mantle with another SGT member who is keen to be involved. Please do get in touch if you would like to hear more. It is such a truly rewarding experience.'



A thank you to Mary from St Dominic's School



A Gateway visit to Chilworth

Book Review

'Tall Hedges and Artificial Slopes'

The Development of the Carshalton House landscape between c.1680 and 1815

by Andrew Skelton

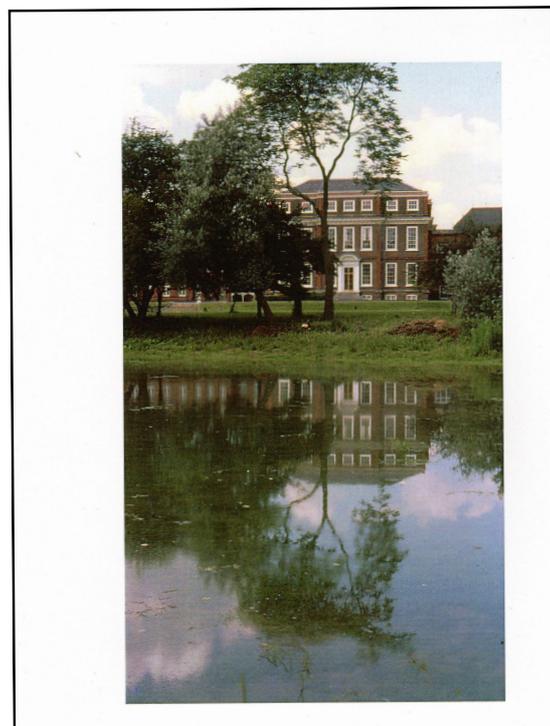
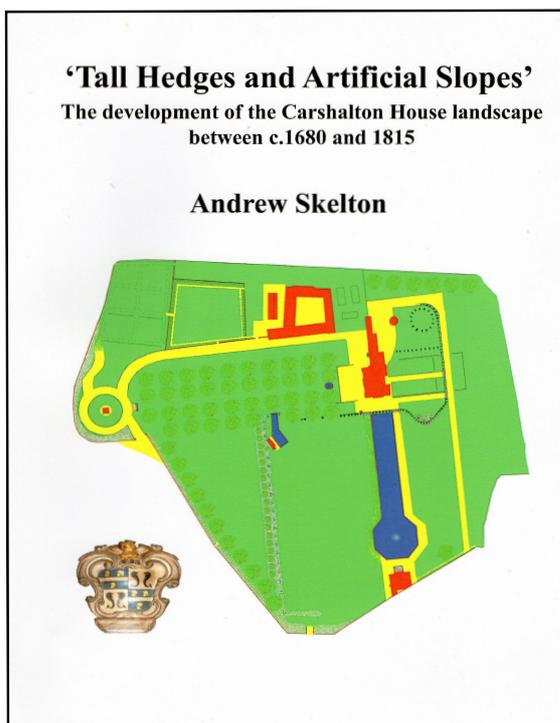
This book relates to the creation of a major landscape at Carshalton House, formerly in Surrey, now in the London Borough of Sutton. Since the 1980s the author has been investigating the history of the landscape and the resulting book is well researched and illustrated, very readable and a delight for anyone interested in garden history, but particularly anyone with links to Carshalton.

The title comes from a letter written in 1751 by Lady Elizabeth Anson, daughter of the previous owner of Carshalton House, to her sister-in-law, the Marchioness Grey of Wrest Park, describing a garden she had visited on the River Hamble. "The garden is laid out in the same kind of taste with ours at Carshalton, with Tall Hedges and Artificial Slopes, by w^{ch} several natural beauties are lost particularly what would make a most delightful rising terrace, with a beautiful prospect improving every step ..."

Limited copies are available from the author, Andrew C Skelton, at £10 (incl. p. and p.) at 16 Station Road, Carshalton, Surrey SM5 2LA.

All proceeds are going towards a research fund for the Carshalton Park Grotto.

Brenda Lewis



Winter Lectures 2018

at The Leatherhead Institute, Leatherhead,
from 2.30 p.m.

Full details are enclosed in the AGM papers bundle or will be available at www.surreygardenstrust.org.uk in early January 2018.

20 January 2018

Katie Campbell - Persian Gardens Ancient and Modern Katie will look at the original Persian gardens, their re-iteration in modern Iran and their enduring influence on contemporary European designers.

17 February 2018

Kate Felus - The Secret Life of the Georgian Garden Based on her book, *The Secret Life of the Georgian Garden*, Kate Felus will reveal the previously untold story of how landscapes were used in the 18th century.

10 March 2018

Karen Bridgman - Flowers in the 18th century Pleasure Ground By the mid 18th century, international trade and exploration meant that plants were arriving in England from around the world. This talk looks at a selection of perennials, annuals and bulbs from 1799 and how they have been used to recreate a flowerbed from the period.

Directory

President: Dame Penelope Keith, DBE, DL

Cherrill Sands (Chairman) cherrill@gardenhistory.co.uk

David Hanson (Treasurer) dwhanson@btinternet.com

Michael Craft (Membership Secretary)
michaelcraft@gmail.com

Sheri Sticpewich (Events Organiser)
sticpewich@btinternet.com

Sarah Dickinson (Editor) sfdickinson1@gmail.com Tel:

New website

The final touches are being made to our new website and this will be live to glimpse at the AGM and will be launched in the New Year, 2018. Here are some highlights.

Events will be bookable through the website with maps and details easily available and circulated to attendees through our new linked interactive e mail.

Details of Surrey's Historic parks and gardens will be uploaded into a new interactive format to enable easy access for research and conservation work.

The Schools Awards will be publicised and promoted to reach a wider audience.

A News section will keep everyone up to date between the newsletters.

Q: ...and finally do you recognise



Howards End...?



A - Vann

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