



## Head Gardeners and the Challenges of Maintaining Historic Gardens

In a recent publication, *Head Gardeners* by Ambra Edwards, the author includes in her introduction a quotation from Mike Calnan, the Head of Gardens at the National Trust, in which he describes head gardeners:

***"It's difficult to imagine a class of people who have such tremendous skills, who contribute so much to society and who are so thoroughly undervalued."***

It is a widely held view that head gardeners deserve better recognition. They are the unsung heroes of many of our most iconic gardens and of gardens the length and breadth of the country. A modern head gardener requires a skillset that would be hard to find in many other professions. Among the many and various roles a head gardener might play today, it is not uncommon to find them acting as project manager, conservationist, artist, historian, plant guru, educator, scientific investigator, social worker, public relations supremo, events planner and businessman.

With these sentiments in mind, our Events team have put together a 2019 Winter Lecture Series featuring three leading head gardeners working in Surrey, Sussex and Hampshire.

Joe Whelan, the Head Gardener at Nymans, Handcross, West Sussex will talk about *'Historic Garden Management in the 21st century'*. David Standing, who was the Head Gardener at Gilbert White's garden, Selborne, Hampshire for 38 years before retiring in 2017, will talk about his work, *'Discovering Gilbert White's Garden'*. Russell Dixon, the Head Gardener at Great Fosters, Egham, Surrey, will talk about his nearly three decade long involvement with this Grade II\* garden, in his talk entitled, *'The Alchemy of Gardening'*.

**For more details and to book, go to our website, [www.surreygardenstrust.org.uk/events](http://www.surreygardenstrust.org.uk/events).**



Nymans, West Sussex



Gilbert White's Garden, Hampshire



Great Fosters, Egham, Surrey

# AGM on 8 December 2018

The Old Barn Hall, Great Bookham, KT23 3PQ  
at 11.30 am

We hope you will be able to join us for our AGM on Saturday, 8 December 2018 at 11.30 am. It is a great opportunity to meet up with fellow members and friends to share memories of our achievements and events throughout the year.

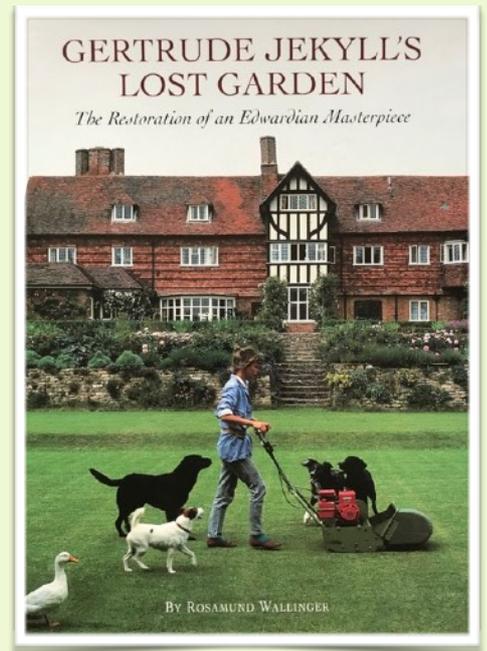
Following the AGM, Rosamund Wallinger, owner of Upton Grey, Hampshire and the architect of the restoration of its lost Gertrude Jekyll garden, will be our speaker.

A finger buffet lunch with wine, soft drinks and coffee will follow.

**Rosamund's talk will focus on her incredible discovery of an overgrown Gertrude Jekyll garden at her Hampshire house and her tireless pursuit restoring it to its former beauty. Her talk will mark a fitting end to a year focused on raising funds for the digitisation of material relating to Gertrude Jekyll's Surrey projects owned by UC, Berkeley.**

Rosamund has kindly invited Surrey Gardens Trust to visit Upton Grey in June 2019 making this an excellent opportunity to understand the story and history of this much acclaimed garden in advance of our visit.

Visit [www.surreygardenstrust.org.uk](http://www.surreygardenstrust.org.uk), to book a ticket for the Lecture and Lunch or, as a member of the Trust, return the booking form enclosed with the AGM papers circulated at the beginning of November.

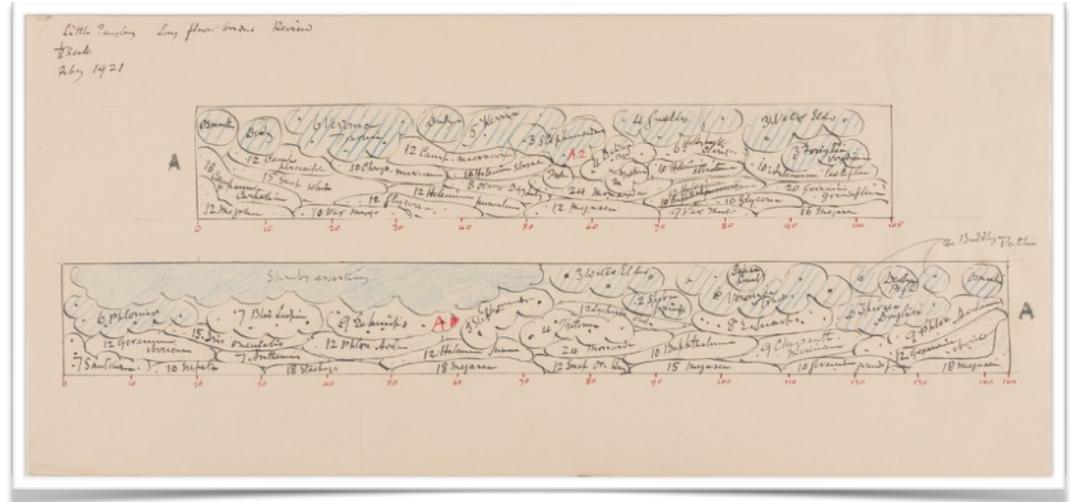




# Jekyll Digitisation Project Update

## Little Tangle, Guildford

Planting Plan, Lower Flower Garden dated 1921.



The archivist team at the Environmental Design Archive, University of California, Berkeley (the EDA) have made excellent progress with the digitisation work and we are delighted to confirm that the project is on target to be completed by 31st December 2018.

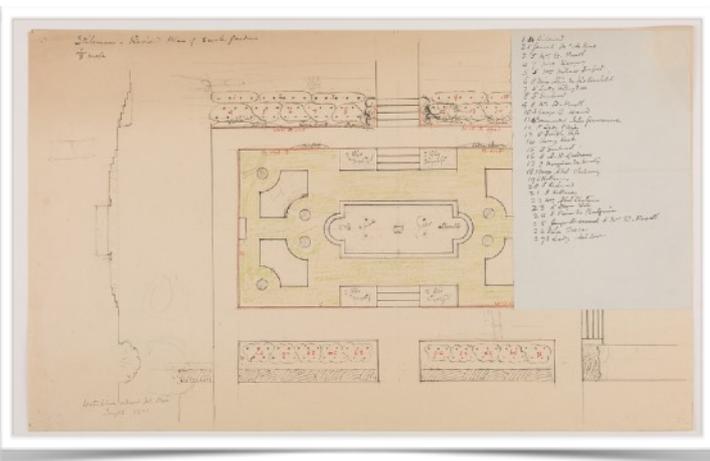
They have kindly shared a few examples of the images they have completed to date. We will have these on show at the AGM in December.

In the New Year 2019, a new page will be launched on our website with links to the complete Surrey Jekyll collection held at UC, Berkeley.

There are further examples of Jekyll's drawings, papers and photographs relating to Surrey gardens archived in the UK and as a Phase II to the Jekyll Digitisation Project, we are delighted to confirm that we will be working with the Surrey History Centre to include digital images of the papers and drawings they hold in their archive to facilitate easy access to these through the Surrey Gardens Trust website.

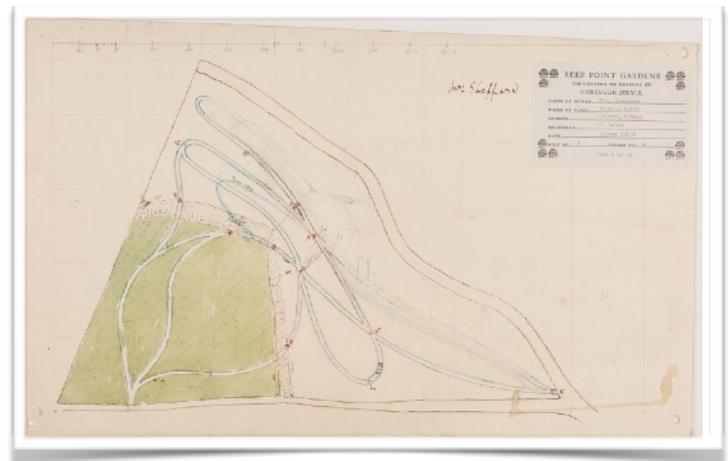
We are also in correspondence with other Jekyll archive owners to complete this catalogue of the Jekyll Surrey materials and the exercise of digitally copying this portfolio of her work to ensure that it is available to view for future research and conservation work.

Following the successful fundraising campaign this year, we very much hope that current funds of just over £800 in the Jekyll Project Account will be sufficient to complete Phase II but will be able to update everyone in the New Year.



## Stilemans, Godalming

Review Plan of Sunken Garden dated 1921.



## Banacle Copse, Witley

Plan of site (recorded as circa 1895)

# Another Successful Year for Gateway

by Alex White

It is quite a responsibility to take over a project started and run successfully by someone else. I am indebted to Mary Caroe for the enthusiasm and persistence she has displayed in setting up the Surrey arm of the national Gateway Garden Trust and for seeing it continue for nine years, despite the national scheme falling by the wayside. I have come to understand how very much appreciated are the hours we give to those people whose lives are disadvantaged by disability, by enabling them to have free access to some of our wonderful Surrey gardens. The tea added on at the end of each visit is no small part of their enjoyment, and, as I have discovered this year, the benefit is not only to the disadvantaged, but also to their wonderful, patient carers.

In this first year I have maintained contact with the organisations set up by Mary and made a total of seven garden visits with five different disadvantaged groups. An eighth visit to Ramster for the Ridgeway School in Farnham was unfortunately cancelled.

We started in Vann with an art class from St Dominic's School, Hambledon. The pupils, who varied in the degree of their disability, were free to wander the garden and choose a spot in which to draw, observe, or photograph on their iPads. Their teachers were able to enjoy a quiet time sitting in the garden on a beautiful day in May, away from the confines of the classroom. The second visit was to Loseley Park's gardens with a group of children from Cherry Trees. Level access was essential for a wheelchair bound child, and we were all able to enjoy the beautiful garden. One of the children, Sam, was overjoyed to find an old friend in the garden - the head gardener's son (also called Sam) who joined us for tea.

Further visits took place to Norney Wood, Hydon's End, Westbrook and Chilworth Manor by the Meath Home, Bells Piece Cheshire Home, and The Clock House in Milford. Other than the obvious benefits of being in a beautiful garden, outside in the fresh air, I have found that people have particularly enjoyed the sense of freedom offered by being in a secure environment. Running up and down slopes, going on swings, wandering through paths randomly, and being treated with the greatest respect, has done wonders for self-esteem and well-being. At Hydon's End, the best china was out for us all to use, and the impact this had, as a measure of respect, was particularly noted. Bells Piece, who visited Hydon's End and Norney Wood, have invited the owners and me to visit them this autumn to help with picking apples in their orchard in Farnham.

During the course of the year I have been put in contact with further small groups who would benefit from visiting a garden, and have had two new garden owners keen to join the scheme. My plan is to expand the scope of visits next year to at least ten garden visits.

Most of the private gardens we visit are generous with their time and refreshments and do not make a formal charge. However, in line with Mary's set-up they are all given a nominal £50. Public gardens make their usual charge for entry and tea. The account this year therefore stands at £300 to private gardens and £87.50 to Loseley making a total spend of £387.50. The donations from HHA of £300 and Surrey Garden Trust of £100 leave £12.50 to go towards next year's visits. I am extremely grateful to HHA and SGT for continuing to support this small, but exceedingly valuable, project which I hope to see grow in subsequent years.



Bells Piece Cheshire Home at Hydon's End.



Pupil sketching at Vann.



Mary Caroe sharing a moment with visitors from Cherry Trees in the garden at Loseley Park.

# Schools Award Scheme Enjoys a Bumper Year

by Wendy Craft

## Schools Grant Awards 2018

### **Beauclerc Infant and Nursery School, Sunbury-on-Thames**

Plants, flowers, trees and hedges for a wildlife garden.

### **Folly Hill Infant School, Farnham**

Vegetables and sensory plants.

### **Frimley Church of England Junior School, Camberley**

Plants for a wildlife pond.

### **Gosden House Special School, Guildford**

Raised bed and plants for the Reception class.

### **Milford School, Milford**

Seeds and plants for the vegetable garden.

### **Oatlands Infant School, Weybridge**

Plants for wildlife area and allotment.

### **Onslow Infant School, Guildford**

Plants for vegetable patch, wildflower area and woodland.

### **Reigate Parish Church Primary School, Reigate**

Plants for a climate garden.

### **The Ridgeway School, Farnham**

Compost to improve soil condition in raised beds.

### **Scott-Broadwood C of E Infant School, Dorking**

Plants, herbs and vegetables.

### **St. Matthews Infant School, Cobham**

Plants for new allotment area.

### **West Byfleet Junior School, West Byfleet**

Plants for vegetable plot.

### **Whyteleafe Primary School, Whyteleafe**

Plants and seeds for vegetable plot and wildlife garden.

### **Worplesdon Primary School, Guildford**

Development of school nature area and vegetable plot.

The Schools Committee was again allocated the sum of £1,500 to fund the Annual Schools Awards scheme. It is one of our principal aims as a Trust to encourage schools to develop their grounds and to create or further improve gardens in which the children can learn to appreciate plants and gain a knowledge of the wider environment around them.

The Trust has organised this scheme for twenty-one years over which time the number of applications from schools has increased greatly.

Details of the nineteen grants awarded this year are set out here. We would like to be able to extend our reach. We received twenty six applications this year and as we were unable to support them all and to be fair in our selection and distribution, we decided to prioritise the projects which related to planting as opposed to hard landscaping. The funds we allocate come directly from our subscription income. As we endeavour to encourage growth in our membership the funds available for this valuable work will grow incrementally.

For more information visit our website:

[www.surreygardenstrust.org.uk/schools/](http://www.surreygardenstrust.org.uk/schools/).

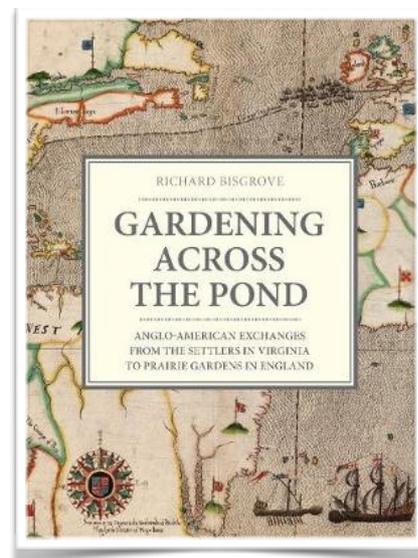


Pupils at Milford School showing off the fruits of their labours

## Synopsis and Book Review

# *Gardening Across the Pond: Anglo-American Exchanges from the Settlers in Virginia to Prairie Gardens in England*

by **Richard Bisgrove**



We were very fortunate to have Richard Bisgrove as a speaker in September 2018, entertaining us with his boundless knowledge of Gertrude Jekyll and her work. It was a most informative and entertaining evening. Richard's generosity and support enabled us to raise just short of £500 for the Trust's Jekyll Digitisation Project at the event.

Richard is a consultant on the restoration and management of historic gardens including recently the Royal Botanic Garden in Madrid and a private garden in California. In January 2004 Richard was awarded the Veitch Memorial Medal by the Royal Horticultural Society for '*outstanding contribution to horticultural education, garden design and plant research*'. In May 2009, he was made an Honorary Fellow of the Kew Guild for '*distinguished service to the general enhancement of horticulture and garden history within this country and abroad*'.

Richard is the author of seven books on aspects of garden design and garden history, including *The National Trust Book of the English Garden* and *The Gardens of Gertrude Jekyll and William Robinson - the wild gardener*. His most recent book, *Gardening Across the Pond*, was published in September 2018. The media reviews have been extremely complimentary. We have lifted and share with you here a synopsis of the book and some of the media reviews.

**Synopsis:** For four hundred years there has been a special relationship between Britain and what is now the United States of America in many aspects of life, not least in gardening. From the early settlers taking their familiar English plants to the New World and early plant-hunters bringing back exciting new plants for English gardens to the twenty-first-century English infatuation with 'prairie gardening', ideas and plants have been crossing and re-crossing the Atlantic. In *Gardening Across the Pond*, Richard Bisgrove explores four centuries of transatlantic influences, from the Tradescants, plant-hunting in 17th century Virginia, to the prairie landscapes of the 2012 London Olympic Park, and attempts to answer that thorny question - is the English cottage garden an American invention?

### Media Reviews:

'Lovely...a fascinating and informative read.' Image Interiors and Living

'I was completely riveted from the very first page by the interwoven and complex horticultural history of the Anglo-American relationship. A fascinating read...thoroughly illuminating.' Gardens Illustrated

'Minutely researched, this readable work reflects a lifetime's study and passion for the world's greatest gardens.' The English Garden

**We will have a copy of the book as a prize in the AGM Raffle on 8 December, an excellent Christmas present if you can bear to give it away.**

### Note from the editor

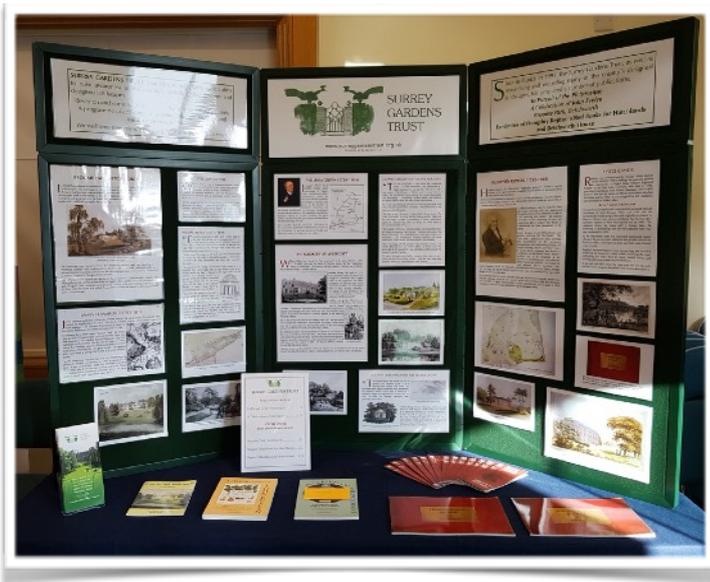
- Do you have a background or simply an interest in communications, websites or publications?
- Would you like to give a little of your time to the Trust?

Our Communications Group would very much like to expand the team, do please contact me on [chairsgt@gmail.com](mailto:chairsgt@gmail.com).



## Supporting our partners at the Surrey History Centre

In 2018, the Surrey County Council has celebrated the 70th anniversary of its archive service and the twentieth anniversary of the Surrey History Centre in Woking. You will all appreciate what an invaluable source this archive is with an incredible range of maps, plans, images and archive documents that tell the story of Surrey's gardens and gardeners over several centuries. If you are not familiar with their site do visit, <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/culture-and-leisure/history-centre>. Surrey Gardens Trust (see display in photograph below) was represented at the recent 'Great Surrey Heritage Show' event at the Surrey History Centre on 20 October 2018 where the public had the opportunity to go behind the scenes and view 70 specially selected items from its collection from maps, to photographs, letters and pottery - a whole array of Surrey gems on show together for the first time.



You may already have heard that Surrey County Council has launched five consultations on a range of services. The Council wishes to hear the views of as many residents, partners, voluntary and community groups as possible by **Friday 4 January 2019** to help it to shape those services for the future and set a sustainable budget. The consultations cover:

- Family resilience - children's centres
- Special educational needs and disabilities
- **Libraries and cultural services**
- Concessionary bus travel
- Community recycling centres

To get more details on what the Council is proposing, you can find the consultations online at: <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/have-your-say/consultations>.

The **Libraries and cultural services** survey includes the work done by Surrey Heritage. As we are a group who make use of the services and opportunities that Heritage provides and values the unique historical collections in the care of Surrey History Centre, our views are vitally important in determining the future direction of this service. Do visit and complete the short survey form found at <https://www.surreysays.co.uk/legal-and-democratic-services/libraries/>.

The context for the survey can be found in the **Cabinet papers** which can be viewed on Surrey County Council's website and which set out the Council's plans, vision and the financial challenges it faces. At present the proposal is to reduce the Cultural Services budget (covering Libraries, Heritage, Surrey Arts, Adult Learning and Registration) from £8.7 million to £4 million (see **item 09, annex 2, Appendix 1**, for the draft budget for 2019/20). More about the Council's suggested principles and future vision for Cultural Services can be found in its **Transforming Libraries and Cultural Services in Surrey Strategy**.

Please read the survey questions carefully; they provide you with an opportunity to say what you value about Heritage and the other parts of Surrey's Cultural Services. We would particularly draw your attention to questions 2.1 and 4.3 in the survey where there is space for you to express your views more fully on the county's heritage service and its future shape and role in meeting the Council's priorities.

Our colleagues at the Surrey History Centre would like us to have our say, not only in relation to Libraries and cultural services, but in all five surveys and spread the word to others, so that they can also give their views. In addition to the online consultations, the Council will be engaging with groups and interested parties to help inform and shape the outcomes of the consultations.

# Shamley Wood Estate Garden Visit, June 2018

*by Anna Cade*

Following an initial reconnaissance visit in January, it almost took your breath away to see this garden in full bloom on a perfect summer's day.

In the winter months there is the drama of soaring columns of bare chestnut trees surrounding the garden, through which you have views of the valley below. In summer these transform into a wall of foliage enclosing the garden, offering enticing glimpses of the views, but mostly bringing the focus inwards. There was so much to explore in this garden, with many different areas and moods to delight all the senses.



We entered through a meadow garden edged with neat squares of wildflowers between trees to a warm welcome from Claire Merriman in her fire-pit garden. A sunken group of several circles of stone seating surrounding fire-pits, the whole area is partly enclosed by gnarled olive trees and, within view, there is a dry garden filled with swaying grasses and sculptural evergreens, transporting the visitor to the Mediterranean.

A rockery and stream tumbles down the garden surrounded by soft billowing planting, leading to a grassed terrace with roses and lavenders and the wilder woodland beyond.

At every turn there is a sculpture, the soft sound of a wind chime, or water to entertain and entice the visitor to explore further. A large tranquil pond with submerged hippos surrounded by lush green planting offers a quiet space near the house, separating it from the busier areas of the thriving kitchen garden and farm traffic.

In all the borders the planting was beautifully thought out and generous, with not a bare inch of soil to be seen.

Tea and cakes on the lawn, taking in the views and with music playing gently in the background made for quite a party atmosphere to end the day.

## Directory

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