

NEWSLETTER



SURREY
GARDENS
TRUST

November 2019
No. 57



We look forward to welcoming many of you to our AGM on 14 December 2019 followed by a lecture and Christmas buffet lunch.

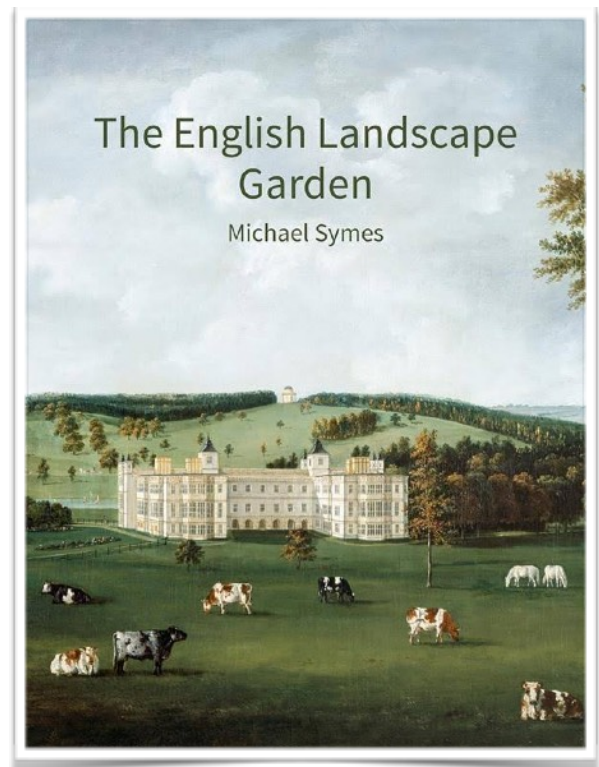


Once again, we will be at The Old Barn Hall, Great Bookham, KT23 3PQ and proceedings start at 11.30 am.

Our guest speaker is the hugely respected garden historian, Michael Symes, who will be talking to us on '*The Allure of the English Landscape Garden*', the subject matter of his new book, *The English Landscape Garden: A Survey*, copies of which will be available to buy.

Full details and booking information are included with the AGM papers recently distributed and can also be found on our website, www.surreygardenstrust.org.uk/events.

Booking before 6 December is essential for catering purposes so don't delay if you have not already bought your tickets.



Why not bring a friend along to this festive event and help us to share the work of the Trust, everyone is welcome.



Millennium Seed Bank Tour 17 October 2019

by Tracey Bull

Guided by Fran Wedderburn, our behind the scenes tour of the Millennium Seed Bank was a great success. After a brief introduction where we learnt of the work and research undertaken, Fran fielded all our questions as we toured the state-of-the-art facility. MSB is a world leader in plant conservation aiming to bank 25% of the wild species by 2020.

In the high tech labs (Image 1) we saw where the collected seed is stored on arrival, dried and cooled to maximise germination rates. The seeds are then cleaned by hand (there are lots of volunteers for this!) before being further dried, labelled and stored at -18C in secure seed vaults (Image 2).

Periodically and dependent on the seed variety, a sample of the seeds is tested for germination to ensure that the stored seed is still viable. Some seed such as our own oak cannot be stored in the same way. Acorns cannot tolerate the drying process and lose their viability, so for these seeds the embryo is removed from the seed and stored in liquid nitrogen.

A highlight of the morning was a discussion with one of the research scientists on her work in identifying possible invasive seed species on the island of South Georgia. Soil samples have been brought in from different locations from South Georgia under strict quarantine conditions and her task is to identify the plant species that germinate from the samples and determine whether these will pose a threat to the native flora.

The work of the MSB also includes 'saving' extinct plant species. *Cylindrophyllum hallii* (a type of cactus) from South Africa is now extinct in the wild but seed collected has been successfully germinated at MSB and healthy plants grown (Image 3). Seed is now being collected from these plants and sent to botanical centres around the world to ensure the species is present in as many different geographical locations as possible.

The Wakehurst gardens were also a pleasure to visit with collections of birches, acers, Wollemi pines and gigantic redwoods and pretty *Cyclamen hederifolium* carpeting the ground under the trees (Image 4).

Images appear in chronological order, 1 - 4.



In Memoriam

It is with sadness that we must again convey news of the death of two most valued members of the Trust.

Joy Jardine 1951-2019

by Mary Caroe

Joy had been a member since the launch of the Surrey Gardens Trust and had been a member of Council from 1997 to 2000 when she resigned on account of the pressure of work for her very successful garden design business.

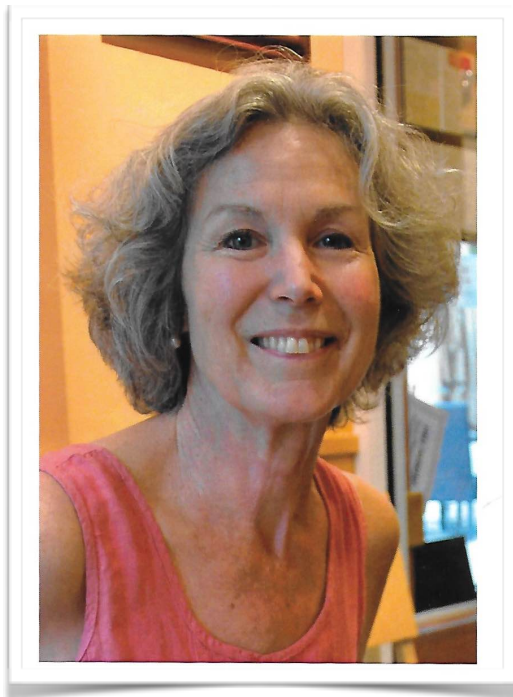
Joy was a very gentle, quiet and "private" person, happiest with her devoted siblings and their children. She was born in Venezuela but "came home" for English schooling at St Catherine's Bramley.

She first studied sociology at Swansea University and later art at Birkbeck College where she met and married Professor Carl Huter who sadly died in 2017.

She loved art, travel, books...their house was crammed with books, but she discovered her true metier was in garden design. She attended the Garden Design course at the Chelsea Physic Garden from 1991-2. A highlight for me was the rose garden she created using Jekyll's choice of roses at Sullingstead which Trust members visited in 2006 and enjoyed hugely.

She had also exhibited at Hampton Court. Her last work was the garden she designed at Hydon Hill Cheshire Home where she gave every consideration to the disabled who would use it. Indeed there is nothing they love more than to go and enjoy the scented garden at the entrance, the splash of the water running in to the pool or the scent of the roses climbing the pergola.

For many years she ran the only 5 star Surrey B and B from her Munstead home with specially designed tours to gardens. She will be sadly missed.



Bill Tomlins 1927 - 2019

by Jan Clark

Bill Tomlins, a long standing member of the Surrey Gardens Trust, died on 28 October at the age of 92. Bill was born in Walton-on-Thames, Surrey and attended Ardingly College where his weekend excursions into the Sussex countryside prompted his lifelong love of walking and nature, particularly his love of trees. He enjoyed two long and successful careers. He initially ran his family's chamois leather business but after his retirement at 60 his life took a totally different turn and he became involved with the restoration of the celebrated 18th-century English landscape garden at Painshill in Surrey and was able to combine three of his favourite subjects - gardening, history and poetry. Bill became the principal guide and speaker and carried out a remarkable 942 tours and 320 talks and study days - mainly at Painshill but also at other gardens, institutions and the University of Surrey. He was very popular and had a broad knowledge of garden history through the centuries. His favourite adage was - if you want to learn, teach. In 2012, Bill was awarded an honorary doctorate by Writtle College in recognition of his services to garden history.

Personally, Bill was a good and dear friend who not only encouraged and inspired me but also helped many others at Painshill. Bill's unexpected second career brought him much pleasure and happiness and fortunately he lived to see Painshill almost fully restored. He will be greatly missed.



A Reminder of the dates of the WINTER LECTURES 2020

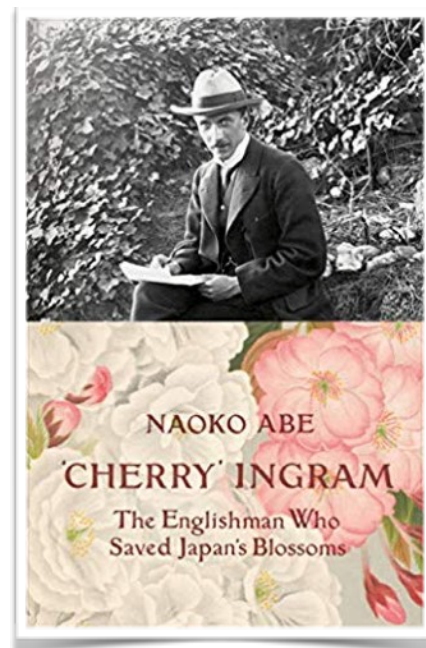
and please note our excellent new venue which offers easy on site parking
Ashted Peace Memorial Hall
Woodfield Lane, Ashted KT21 2BE
at 2.30 p.m.

25 January 2020

NAOKO ABE will talk about her acclaimed book Cherry Ingram: The Englishman Who Saved Japan's Blossoms

Naoko Abe, author of **'Cherry' Ingram**, will be discussing the irresistible story of Japanese cherry blossoms, threatened by political ideology and saved by an unknown Englishman based in the Weald of Kent.

Collingwood Ingram, known as 'Cherry' for his defining obsession, was born in 1880 and lived in Benenden until he was a hundred, witnessing a fraught century of conflict and change. Over decades, Ingram became one of the world's leading cherry experts and shared the joy of cherry blossoms both nationally and internationally. **'Cherry' Ingram** is a portrait of this little-known Englishman, a story of Britain and Japan in the 20th century and an exploration of the delicate blossoms whose beauty is admired around the world.



15 February 2020

Dr KATIE CAMPBELL will talk about The Edwardian Gardens Of Harold Peto

Harold Peto was one of the greatest designers of the Edwardian era. When disenchantment with urban life led him to leave his architectural practice and move to the country he turned to garden design. A classicist with a love of the Italian Renaissance, he was responsible for at least fifteen gardens in Britain and several in the south of France but his greatest creation was Iford Manor, the Georgian-fronted medieval house he purchased in 1899 in the Frome valley. Here he honed his distinctive style of formal layout softened by exuberant planting, antique statuary and architectural salvage. Author and garden historian Katie Campbell lectures widely, writes for various publications and leads tours on architecture and gardens. Her most recent book, **British Gardens in Time**, accompanied the BBC television series.

14 March 2020

VANESSA BERRIDGE will talk about her book Kiftsgate Court Gardens: Three Generations Of Women Gardeners

Vanessa Berridge is the author of **Kiftsgate Court Gardens: Three Generations of Women Gardeners**, published in 2019 to mark the centenary of the legendary Gloucestershire garden. With its famous 'Kiftsgate' rose, Italianate terracing, perennials, roses and rare shrubs thriving side-by-side, Kiftsgate is a fine balance between continuity and gentle evolution. Her illustrated talk will describe the development of the garden and discuss the lives of the three women who have created it. Vanessa created and launched *The English Garden* magazine. She is now a freelance garden writer and historian. Her other books include *The Princess's Garden: Royal Intrigue and the Untold Story of Kew*, and *Great British Gardeners*. She is county organiser for the NGS in Gloucestershire.

For more details and to book, go to our website, www.surreygardenstrust.org.uk/events.

Historic Parks and Gardens: A Shared Enjoyment

by *Linden Groves, Strategic Development Officer, the Gardens Trust*

There is nothing better than time spent with friends in a garden, or park, in fresh air, with thriving plants, beautiful designs, and perhaps an architectural whimsy or two. That parks and gardens have survived for so many hundreds of years is no happy accident though, but rather thanks to hardworking charities such as your county's local Gardens Trust, and the national Gardens Trust, for which I work, which was formed in 2015 from a merger between the Association of Gardens Trusts and the Garden History Society.

Not everyone realises that there is actually a local Gardens Trust for each county of England, as well the Welsh Historic Parks and Gardens Trust and a group for Scotland called Scotland's Garden and Landscape Heritage. Extraordinary groups such as yours are not just having fun but actually have a critical role in keeping local historic parks and gardens alive. To make sure that your committees and volunteers have all power to their elbow to fulfil this role, the national Gardens Trust invests heavily in supporting them, particularly with a capacity-building programme that organises networking and training opportunities to keep your group thriving.

Of course, the counties are all independent, but we believe passionately that by bringing everyone together with one voice, we make sure that proper attention is given to shared issues close to all our hearts, from the survival of public parks, to recognition for undiscovered 20th-century landscapes, to a bicentenary celebration for Humphry Repton, to making sure that historic parks and gardens can be enjoyed by people from all across our diverse society. Knowledge and understanding is of course key if our fight to protect historic parks and gardens is to be successful, and we are proud to be working for this as the worldwide leader in the academic study of garden history, publishing the peer-reviewed journal *Garden History*, a regular newsletter, a blog and a wide range of leaflets and specialist publications.

You probably already know that your local county Gardens Trust works hard to protect the historic parks and gardens that you love by offering conservation advice and commenting on planning applications that may have a detrimental effect, but did you know that this work carries particular weight mainly because of the national Gardens Trust's position as the statutory consultee for registered parks and gardens? Just in the way that buildings can be listed, historic parks and gardens can be 'Registered' grade I, II*, II in England. The Gardens Trust is required to be consulted on planning applications affecting registered parks and gardens and this brings us over 1500 consultations each year. As part of addressing this, our dedicated conservation officers work closely to support volunteers in county Gardens Trusts like yours to make sure that the landscapes in your county are kept safe for future generations to enjoy.

And our most recent adventure? We are so proud to be working with Lottery funding to learn how to reach new audiences - more people and from different backgrounds - so we can better share our enthusiasm. The Sharing Repton: Historic Landscapes for All project has enabled us to pilot a range of inclusive activities, from family excursions to entry-level workshops to multicultural open days and mini-research projects.



Admiring Kenwood, London, through a framed view, as part of our lottery-funded Sharing Repton: Historic Landscapes for All project, working with the Refugee Women's Association, Barnet Refugee Service, and Hopscotch Asian Women's Centre in Camden.

Our work is highly regarded and so we are fortunate to have been successful in achieving grants from Historic England to help with our conservation and volunteer support, and from the National Lottery Heritage Fund to share historic parks and gardens with communities as diverse as refugee groups and primary school children. However, for all our punching above our weight, we cannot survive without the financial support of our membership nor could we receive the grants we receive without significant non-grant income. Historic England grants require that we have a high percentage of other income. Individual membership income, which is our largest source of other non-grant income, is accordingly essential if we are to continue to obtain these grants and to support our core activities, including our working with and supporting County Gardens Trusts. Hence, a large and healthy individual Gardens Trust membership is essential to the survival of the Gardens Trust into the future. Survival of the Gardens Trust ensures our important national role in conservation, research, education and campaigning as well as our mutually beneficial relationship with County Gardens Trusts, involving all these activities and in particular joint efforts regarding conservation and planning, training and networking. We unite all of us interested in historic parks and gardens, so that we can speak more powerfully together than with our local voices alone.

We urgently need your help so please consider joining and supporting us, at <http://thegardenstrust.org/support-us/> We are delighted that there is now a special discounted rate of £25 for County Gardens Trust members joining the Gardens Trust (reduced from £35 single and £43 joint). We look forward to welcoming you soon!

And follow us on Twitter @thegardenstrust !

Our Schools Awards in 2019

by Wendy Craft, Joint Chair, Schools Committee

There were a record number of thirty-two applications this year and with a total grant fund of £2,500 we were able to award nine schools with a generous and meaningful grant. Ten schools received a £20 voucher from Squires Garden Centres. We were delighted to be able to visit all the schools and we were able to see many of the projects in progress.

We noticed that many applications this year mentioned the importance of outside space with regard to the mental health of the children. I would like to share one of the applications which I feel encapsulates the importance of projects in schools the Surrey Gardens Trust supports.

"I am the Headteacher of [an] Infant School. We are a Surrey maintained school with a Special Needs Support Centre and Nurture group. We support children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, including those with physical disabilities, speech and language delays and Autism. We are proud of our heritage of being fully inclusive and continue to ensure our children are given the same access and opportunities to an education as all other children.

As society and our local context changes, we find ourselves meeting the needs of an increasingly diverse range of children and at a time when schools are seeing dramatic cutbacks in their funding, we struggle to fund all that we would like and often that we fervently believe we need, in order to meet the needs of these children.

I am writing to ask if you would consider supporting a project that we are undertaking. Over the past two years we have been developing our outdoor learning space and have, through volunteers and fundraising managed to develop a fully accessible school garden for our children to grow and harvest; fruit, vegetables and flowers. Whilst this garden is used by all our children it is arguably our most disadvantaged children that have benefited the most from this initiative. The opportunity to learn outside has been transformational for our children. Many children don't have access to this at home and have thrived as a result of being given this opportunity.

*The next step in our project is to keep bees at school and create an **Infant School Apiary**. We would very much like to teach our children about the important role bees play, not only in our school garden but in our everyday lives and teach them, in a safe and secure way how to keep bees. The children have developed a passionate interest in bees and their world, as a result of the school entering and winning a gold certificate in RHS Wisley Budding Gardener Competition in 2018 with our Bee-Friendly Garden, which we subsequently recreated in front of the school.*

We now have the space and volunteers to create a full Apiary but sadly we have not the financial resources to ensure it is equipped properly. We need appropriate safety equipment, hives, Bees and fencing and we estimate that this will cost £1,500.

I know how generous your charity has been in supporting the work of other local schools and I was hoping that it may be possible for you to consider supporting our Bee project and contribute to the £1,500 needed to make this project a reality.

I would welcome the opportunity to show you our school and the work we already do.

All members of our school community will be able to access the Apiary, in a safe and supervised environment.

We firmly believe that gardening and using our outdoor space to its full potential will benefit our children in several ways.

Our science curriculum will be brought to life with hands on, real life experiences. Beyond this, our children will also benefit from the teamwork opportunities gardening and keeping bees can offer, the improved health and mental wellbeing opportunities by being outside more, and finally, for many of our children, who find a mainstream school environment challenging, a chance to succeed and make progress in areas other than the traditional academic subjects, helping to build self-esteem and positive self-worth."

We will again have £2500 to distribute in 2020 and are very much looking forward to receiving the fascinating insights into the tremendous work of our local schools. Next year, we are also starting work on a prospective new Schools Scheme which we hope will enable us to establish an educational programme which focuses on our unique work with the historic environment and engaging with the wider school community and one which we will be able to help deliver. We look forward to sharing our progress with you.

Do take a look at www.surreygardenstrust.org.uk/schools, for full details of this year's Schools Awards.



Wendy Craft attending a school to hand over the SGT Award cheque

Expanding the Gateway Project

by Alex White, Gateway Chair

Over the years residents from the Meath Home for Epilepsy, Godalming, Bell's Piece, Leonard Cheshire, Farnham, Jigsaw Plus, Dunsfold and NAS Day Centre, Godalming have enjoyed spending time in the beautiful, peaceful and restorative gardens of Surrey such as Ramster, Chiddingfold; Vann, Hambledon; Sleepy Hollow, Chiddingfold; Norney Wood, Shackleford; Loseley Park, Guildford; Westbrook, Godalming; Grattons, Dunsfold; Hydon's End, Hambledon; and Chilworth Manor, Guildford. This year has seen the addition of three charities to the scheme, two of which support adult learners with varying stages of autism and the third being Hydon Hill Leonard Cheshire Home. The latter was a visit for six wheelchair users - stately progress was made around the flower borders at Sleepy Hollow and the ladies delighted in smelling, touching and remembering the names of their favourite plants. All the visits were appreciated by carers and their charges alike and they all look forward to more visits next year.



A selection of photographs taken during the Gateway visits this year showing the joy and fun they bring to everyone involved.

A thank you and looking to the future

from Sarah Dickinson, Chair

We will have an opportunity to share the highlights of our year with members at the AGM and have, of course, documented our work in the Report and Financial Statements. I would just like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to the 'team' for all their hard work over the year to enable all our activities to take place. The Events Committee, steered by Sheri Sticpewich with her team, Helen Parvin, Tracey Bull and Anna Cade, have arranged a wonderful series of Winter Lectures, an acclaimed Study Day on George London and memorable Summer Garden Visits. Our Research and Recording group led by Brenda Lewis continued to explore our history and includes Marion Woodward, Cherrill Sands, Sandra Pullen, Graham Sutton, Pamela Taylor, Elaine Raven, Beryl Saich, Fiona Maccoll and Helen Parvin. We are also hugely indebted to Don Josey who continues to monitor planning consultations which potentially affect historically significant parks and gardens. Alex White has had a fabulous first year having taken over the running of the Gateway Project from Mary Caroe, who continues to provide unstinting support across the board, and Wendy Craft and Jill Leggatt have taken the Schools Awards into a third decade with the help of the Schools Committee, The Lady Griffiths, Pam Taylor, Jean Thompson, Jenny Grayson, Maggie Kippen and Sally Fish. Behind the scenes, as we initiate more projects our Treasurer, David Hanson, Secretary, Sue Briant and Membership Secretary, Michael Craft ensure that everything runs like clockwork. A huge thank you to everyone who has given their time.

Our membership has continued to expand in 2019 with 16 new members this year in addition to 14 in the previous year. We have been discussing possible ways of extending our membership and in 2020 will initiate new events which target different potential audiences. You will have read earlier in the newsletter about the Gardens Trust's heritage lottery funding in 2019 and the projects they have run to learn how to share our mutual passion for historic parks and gardens with new people and how to gather more supporters for this vulnerable heritage. We will be looking at these case studies to broaden our thinking. We will also reach out to our expanding membership with a special membership event in 2020. This will enable us to invite and thank our existing membership for their support while encouraging new members to join.

We have not been approached this year in connection with any proposed conservation or maintenance project which could qualify for a small grant under our grant criteria. We will be looking at our promotion of these awards with a view to extending our reach in 2020.

We are looking forward to running another valuable study day in 2020 on Geoffrey Jellicoe. Once again, we will be welcoming experts in this field to present their knowledge and to engage the audience in an interesting and thought-provoking discussion. Our expertise in historic parks and gardens is an essential part of the Trust's remit and our study day programme is hugely respected, attracting attendees from across the county gardens trusts and wider heritage sector.

We value greatly our members' support and their time and commitment to the Trust. Thank you. Please do get in touch if you would like to join the 'team' and help us continue to build the Trust through 2020 and beyond.

Which just leaves me to wish you all a very Happy Christmas, and I look forward to sharing many happy hours together next year at our events and through our projects and activities at the Surrey Gardens Trust.

Directory

President: Dame Penelope Keith, DBE, DL

Sarah Dickinson (Chairman) chairsurreygt@gmail.com

David Hanson (Treasurer) dwhanson@btinternet.com

Michael Craft (Membership Secretary) membershipsqt@gmail.com

Sheri Sticpewich (Events Organiser) eventssqt@gmail.com.

Sarah Dickinson (Editor) chairsurreygt@gmail.com. Tel: 07966271164

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