

NEWSLETTER



SURREY
GARDENS
TRUST

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No. 61

A People's Elysium: Geoffrey Jellicoe's Brave, New and Bold Public Landscapes



Our postponed study day will now be delivered **online** in a series of three lectures. You will be familiar with Jellicoe's iconic work in Surrey. He was one of the 20th century's greatest landscape architects. His contribution to landscape design, a discipline he credited as the 'Mother of all Arts', including also his writings on landscape, and his influence in shaping and nurturing the young profession, were all hugely significant.

This three-part series of talks, explores three seminal projects completed between 1955-1965, a decade that may be regarded as a turning point in Jellicoe's long and distinguished career. The Cadbury Factory at Moreton, the Water Gardens at Hemel Hempstead and the JFK Memorial at Runnymede, these landscapes are all now on the Historic England *Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest*, but how have they all fared, what more do we know about them, and what is their future like? Join us and discover more.

Monday, 11 October 10am - 11.30am.

***Introduction to Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe by Cherrill Sands
Behind the Scenes of the JFK Memorial at Runnymede
by Annabel Downs***

Monday, 18 October 10am - 11am

***A Factory Garden: The Serpents of Moreton Marsh by
Ed Bennis***

Monday 25 October 10am - 11am

Saving the Serpent by Kate Harwood

Book on line through www.eventbrite.co.uk.

**There is still time to
sign up for our Autumn visit
to
Ramster Gardens, Chiddingfold**

**12th October 2021
10.15am for 10.30am**



Coffee/tea and cake on arrival followed by brief introduction from the head gardener before setting off to explore the gardens on our own. Please allow around 2-2.5 hours for the visit.

£13 SGT Members

£15 Non-SGT Members

To include tea, coffee and cake.

Book through the SGT website:

www.surreygardenstrust.org.uk/sgt-garden-visits-2021



Prunus Taihaku: the Great White Cherry – a survivor’s story

by Iain McLaren, National Trust Volunteer at Winkworth Arboretum

With the restoration of imperial rule under Emperor Meiji in 1868, Japan opened its borders to foreigners after 250 years of strict isolation under the military rule of the Togugawa shogunate. This led to a surge of visitors and interest in the country’s culture, flora and fauna and especially in its tradition of *hanami* – reverence for the flowering cherry and its glorious outburst in Spring, which was regarded as a sign of renewal after the winter and a signal to start planting the crops in this then largely agrarian rural population. Thereafter began a significant export to the West of everything Japanese, including its cherries, camellias, azaleas, rhododendrons and magnolias.

One of these visitors, in 1902, was Collingwood Ingram, a young well-to-do Englishman and keen ornithologist. He returned to Japan in 1907, in pursuit of White’s Thrush, but by 1918 his passion for avian studies was waning and having been dazzled by the abundance and beauty of Japan’s flowering trees and shrubs on his two visits, he decided to transfer his allegiance from birds to plants and especially to the flowering cherry, Japan’s national symbol. In 1926 he went back to Japan to collect samples and to address the Cherry Association but was alarmed to find a serious decline in the quality and number of cultivated cherries, caused partly by the devastating 1923 Tokyo earthquake and partly by neglect. Except for a few dedicated cherry enthusiasts, the Japanese, keen to rebuild a modern industrialised society after the earthquake, had lost interest in the flowering cherry, a process that had begun half a century earlier with the Meiji Restoration that sought to replace feudal traditions such as *hanami* with economic development and social reform.

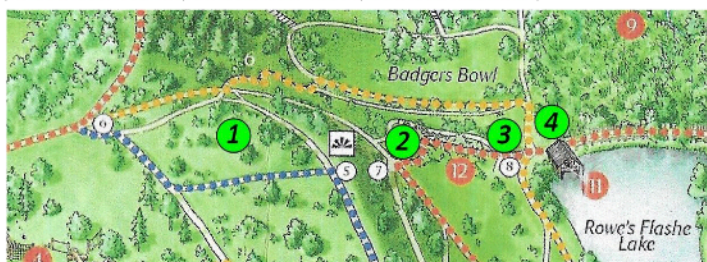
Whilst in Japan Ingram visited cherry devotee *Seisaku Funatsu* who showed him a painted scroll depicting a beautiful white cherry flower. His host lamented that this spectacular bloom was thought by then to be extinct in Japan, but Ingram recognised it as identical to a cherry tree actually growing in his own garden in Kent. Three years previously he had successfully grafted cuttings taken from a friend’s moribund white cherry in Winchelsea – an unidentified post-shogunate import from Japan – that had then been named *Taihaku* ‘Great White’ by a Japanese visitor to his garden.

So on his return to England he sent some healthy specimens of *Taihaku* to his Japanese friends for reintroduction into its country of origin. But they all perished in the heat of the transit through the Suez Canal. So further specimens were sent overland via the Siberian Railway, embedded in raw potatoes to keep them moist and fresh. They survived the journey and if you visit Japan today and see an example of *Prunus Taihaku* it will almost certainly be the progeny of the Winchelsea tree, propagated by Ingram in his garden in Kent.

But you needn’t travel that far – we have a splendid example of *Taihaku* here at Winkworth Arboretum, at the top of the Azalea Steps and best seen in April when in full flower. Because Dr Wilfrid Fox (1875-1962), the creator of Winkworth Arboretum and Collingwood Ingram (1880-1980) were contemporaries, it seems likely that Dr Fox was aware of Ingram’s arboricultural interests and activities – indeed, the Winkworth *Taihaku* may be a direct descendant of the Winchelsea tree.

At Winkworth Arboretum we have another tree that narrowly escaped extinction, *Davidia involucrata*, known as the Handkerchief Tree on account of its fluttering white bracts, best seen in summer when the bracts emerge. A single tree was found in China in 1869 and later a dried specimen was

The four Winkworth survivors



sent to Kew. In 1899 Sir Harry Veitch despatched E H Wilson the plant hunter to find this tree and bring back cuttings and seeds but he arrived to find that it had been felled to build a log cabin. To his relief, he later found a grove of the trees overhanging a sheer drop. Returning to Britain with his valuable cargo, Wilson’s boat was wrecked in a storm but he managed to save his *Davidia* specimens and the tree was finally introduced into the UK in 1903.

Two other specimens at Winkworth thought to have been entirely extinct until the twentieth century are *Wollemia nobilis*, known only from fossil records until a small grove of living trees was discovered in a remote Australian valley in 1994 and *Metasequoia glyptostroboides*, Dawn Redwood, known only from Mesozoic Era fossils until an enormous living example was discovered in central China in 1941. Seeds of both were collected and distributed to botanic institutions world-wide.

Further reading: ‘Cherry’ Ingram, The Englishman Who Saved Japan’s Blossoms, by Naoko Abe, published by Chatto & Windus, 2019.

August Visit to Pratsham Grange, Holmbury St Mary

By Helen Parvin

We were treated to wonderful weather and an equally wonderful garden to see. The owners Felicity and Alan Comber welcomed us warmly and allowed us to have a very relaxed time enjoying their five-acre garden set in Holmbury St Mary. Once we had all arrived, Alan sat us all down, theatre style, to tell us of the history of the garden and house built in 1880. The tree belts surrounding the land have obviously been there a long, long time but the garden area all around the house has all been created within the last twenty years by the current owners. He regaled us with tales of how he went about clearing the brambled and overgrown site, through to painstakingly laying out the formal garden below the terrace, ponding and latterly creating a kitchen and cutting garden. Alan is a very entertaining gentleman and guffawed when asked about how many staff helped him to not only create the spaces but also maintain a wealth of plants - he does it all himself!

We were given copies of the planting schemes and followed a self-guided tour through all sections of the garden. From the terrace one looks down upon symmetrical long borders, each with their own plots ranging in distinct colour or plant combinations. Amongst them was a red and white bed with roses, *Persicaria*, white *Anemone* and many other flowers. A bed of gold, red and blue, another of red, purple and blue with the apsidal end bed in pure white showing off a sundial.

Alan is a retired accountant and used his love of numbers to create mini gardens of 8 sided, 7 sided, 6 then 5 and so on sided beds. Particularly spectacular at the time of our visit was the apricot *Rosa* 'Lady Emma Hamilton', a repeat flowerer with dark, almost bronzed leaves. The first sight of them triggered memories of the early colour illustrations for historic gardens.

The design of rest of the garden followed sweeping curves, gentle slopes leading to a split level wildlife pond, bushes of intensely coloured hydrangeas in stark contrast to the formality of the 'numbered' beds. The garden had so many delightful and scented roses throughout including a rose walk and rose-covered pergola. There were fruit trees ('help yourself to apples' said Alan), vegetables, cutting garden and plants potted up for sale. The afternoon was rounded off with tea and Felicity's tasty home baked cakes. We were not rushed off and it was pleasing to see large and small groups of us sitting in the sun or finding some shade to comment on the treat we had experienced. Alan had told us of a couple who had sat around with tea for a good couple of hours and when leaving they told him that they had pretended the garden was theirs and how lovely it was to sit and enjoy it without having to do any of the work!



Local listing

by Fiona Maccoll, Recording Committee Project Leader, Local Listing Project

Members are no doubt familiar with the concept of national listing in relation to buildings, the registration scheme for parks and gardens and the terms 'Grade I, II* and 'II'. Listing or registering these sites highlights their significance and aims to protect them by helping ensure that any future changes will not affect them adversely. Readers may not be aware that a similar system exists at a more local level, and local planning authorities can list buildings, sites and structures (including parks and gardens) of local importance which, while not meeting the strict criteria for national listing, are locally significant. Inclusion in the local list helps to protect these heritage assets, as once locally listed, they must be considered in future planning decisions. Unfortunately, many of Surrey's historic parks and gardens are unprotected by local listing, as only two of Surrey's eleven planning authorities, Guildford and Reigate and Banstead have local lists which recognise designed landscapes.

Under the 'Build Back Better' initiative, the Government launched the 'Local heritage list campaign' in 2019, which offered funding to local authorities keen to prepare or improve their local lists. In February 2021, Surrey County Council became one of 22 authorities awarded such funding. Surrey appointed Charlotte Parker to manage the project and she will be working closely with six of Surrey's eleven planning authorities that have agreed to participate: Elmbridge, Epsom & Ewell, Mole Valley, Surrey Heath, Tandridge and Woking. Charlotte is also keen to work with local groups including the Surrey Gardens Trust and Surrey Archaeological Society.

The timespan for completing the project is relatively short, and the proposed criteria for local listing has already been circulated and commented upon by the Recording Committee. The window for nominating sites will also be short, six weeks, from early October. The Committee are now reviewing 160 parks, gardens and open spaces within these authorities to identify potential sites for nomination. We are in a fortunate position because a considerable amount of research has already been conducted by current and former members. We anticipate identifying many strong candidates for nomination from the information already held. The Committee will also identify 'second division' sites where further research is required. The local authorities involved will set up processes for future nomination of heritage assets, so once our research is complete, we can nominate further sites. The focus will then move on to the three authorities which were not included in the project, Waverley, Runnymede and Spelthorne.

This work the Recording Committee are doing will help ensure a wider appreciation of the significance of Surrey's historic parks, gardens and open spaces and their recognition in the planning process. This is important work because, as Historic England noted '*Historic parks and gardens are a fragile and finite resource: they can easily be damaged beyond repair or lost forever*'.



'Extract from Rocque's Map of Surrey (1768) showing Marden Park'

The local listing project has revealed just how much research is still to be done for us to fully appreciate and properly record our historic landscape heritage in Surrey. The Chair of the Recording Committee would love to hear from any members who are interested in helping research Surrey's gardens and parks. Research may be desk based, or require site visits and visits to the County's History Centre in Woking or local libraries. No prior experience is required. We have an active team who will be willing to share their knowledge and experience. All contributions of time and enthusiasm are most welcome.

Do email Brenda Lewis on ingle001@btinternet.com if you are interested in making an important contribution to the preservation of Surrey's designed landscapes.

Dunsborough Park, a thank you



First, a thank you from the Trustees. We were all delighted to be able to share such a wonderful evening, glorious sunshine and a stunning display of *Dahlias* with so many of our members to celebrate the Trust's 30th Anniversary. The photographs speak for themselves.

With so many joining in the evening we were able to thank Baroness Caroline de Landas Wyborgh for opening her garden for us by giving a donation to a new charity, ACE SMA, set up by the family. Here is their thank you to us.



Dear Members of Surrey Gardens Trust,

Thank you so much for the very kind donation - without your contribution the work we are doing would not be possible.

All donations we receive will go directly to support our project in partnership with the University of Oxford. This will be overseen and delivered by Professor Laurent Servais and his team. Professor Servais has been involved as principal investigator in numerous clinical trials to test treatments for Duchenne muscular dystrophy and spinal muscular atrophy (SMA). He also led the newborn screening program for SMA in southern Belgium.

The project will be two years of clinical research into the benefits of bespoke and regular physiotherapy for children with SMA, the aim is to gather enough evidence to create long term change in the way in which physio is funded and provided. It is our hope that if we are successful in changing the prescribed care regime, we can reduce the care burden on families with children with SMA across the UK, and that the project will serve as proof of concept for lobbying changes in the health system.

There is more info on our website: www.acesma.co.uk

Mike, Sophie and Anouk Howes

ACE

awareness
cure
exercise

SMA

<p>About ACE SMA After our daughter was diagnosed with Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) in 2019, we experienced first-hand the struggle to access the physiotherapy she needed to walk and play. We set up ACE SMA to increase awareness of the condition and raise money to help other children access the life-changing physiotherapy that will help them live a fun and active life.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">ACE SMA Awareness, Cure, Exercise</p> <p style="font-size: 12px;">Working with the University of Oxford's NDUK Oxford Neuromuscular Centre, we want to raise</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 18px; font-weight: bold;">£250,000</p> <p style="font-size: 10px;">This will fund crucial research into the benefits of physiotherapy for children with SMA, helping more children access life-changing treatment. This pioneering research programme could help thousands of children, and the families, access the support they need to live an active life.</p>
<p>Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) SMA is a rare, genetically inherited neuromuscular condition it causes progressive muscle weakness and loss of movement due to muscle wasting (atrophy). This may affect crawling and walking ability, arm, hand, head and neck movement, breathing and swallowing. There are different forms of SMA and a wide spectrum of how severely children, young people and adults are affected. Most people who suffer from SMA have historically needed the use of a wheelchair and often a significant amount of assistance in day to day life.</p>	<p>HOW YOU CAN HELP Become a Friend of ACE SMA for just £50 year, helping to transform the lives of those living with SMA. Get involved with our calendar of events or host your own fundraiser. Sign up on our website to hear the latest news and how to get involved.</p>

@ace_sma

www.acesma.co.uk
info@acesma.co.uk

charity number
119179

Save the Date

We will be returning to The Old Barn in Bookham for an in person AGM, so do join us on Saturday, 11 December 2020 at 11.30am.

Following the AGM, as a change to our traditional format, there will be a festive sit down lunch (more details to follow) during which Wendy Craft and Sarah Wilson will be our compares for a Surrey Gardens Quiz.

The Raffle will be there to entice and we would welcome raffle prizes.

Full details will follow shortly but do put the date in your diaries.

Get Involved

Minute Secretary

Our secretary retired in July. Do you think that you could help out the Trustees as a Minute Secretary?

Key elements of the role will be:

- To arrange the annual calendar of Council meetings in advance and book any venues required for these meetings.
- To call Council Meetings (6 meetings per year), prepare and distribute agenda and papers.
- To attend Council Meetings and take minutes.
- To record declarations of interest or conflicts of interests made by Council members.
- To prepare and circulate copies of the minutes after each Council meetings.

We welcome all applicants, so please do encourage friends and colleagues to apply, whether or not they are SGT members. If you would like to discuss the position informally in the first instance, please contact chairsurreygt@gmail.com and we can arrange a call.

Small Grants Scheme

Woodcote Millennium Green

In 2000, Surrey Gardens Trust sponsored the Woodcote Millennium Green Trust through our Small Grants Scheme. We contributed to an information board associated with the conversion of an unused area of land into a Millennium Green protected space in Epsom. The Trust approached us again earlier this year and explained that they now needed to replace the Board. We were delighted to offer a further contribution to this project. You can see the old and the new below.



Old and ...new



Surrey's Unforgettable Gardens

Book now to enjoy this fascinating collection of lectures from the comfort of your own home as the October evenings draw in.

In 2020, the Gardens Trust announced their plan to celebrate Unforgettable Gardens - what they mean to us, the threats they face and how you can help save them for future generations. Even famous landscapes that appear on the Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest can face threats.

Surrey Gardens Trust, in partnership with the Gardens Trust, are delighted to share some very special and unforgettable gardens from their rich legacy of historic parks and gardens in Surrey. The lectures will be held on Wednesday evenings starting from 6 October at 6pm online via Zoom and you can **book the entire series via [Eventbrite](#)**.

Week 1 6 October **Sutton Place** presented by **Cherrill Sands**

Week 2 13 October **Munstead Wood** presented by **Richard Bisgrove**

Week 3 20 October **The Peace Garden at the Muslim Burial Ground** presented by **Elizabeth Cuttle**

Week 4 27 October **Albury Park** presented by **Jan Clark**

We are also thrilled that much of the research on these sites is being shared by our own members, several of whom have a direct and personal relationship with these gardens.

The ticket costs £16 for the entire series of 4 sessions or you may purchase a ticket for individual sessions, costing £5 each. All tickets can be purchased via [Eventbrite](#) (either for the series or the individual lectures).

Attendees will be sent a Zoom link 2 days prior to the start of the talk, and again a few hours before the talk. A link to the recorded session (available for 1 week) will be sent shortly afterwards.

Here is a taster for the first lecture on Sutton Place

Sutton Place is a Grade I Tudor mansion with a Grade II* Registered garden, four miles north of Guildford, on rising ground in the crook of the River Wey. It is an exquisite confection of brick, stone and terracotta and was the home of Sir Richard Weston, friend and courtier of Henry VIII. To the west of the house a walled garden and small octagonal pavilion survive. Some time before 1700, a double lime avenue was planted leading northwards.

Little was added to the garden until the early twentieth century, when Lord and Lady Northcliffe created a fashionable wild garden, rose gardens and with some input from Gertrude Jekyll, a small water garden.

Later owners were the Duke and Duchess of Sutherland who entertained lavishly, hosting influential visitors, including the Duke of Windsor and Winston Churchill.

In 1959 the property was bought by American millionaire J. Paul Getty, who lived there surrounded by his art collection until his death in 1976.

The next owner, Stanley Seeger, commissioned Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe to design new gardens in 1980. This immense project, inspired by psychology, symbolism and Renaissance and Modern Art, was only partially implemented, but Jellicoe's surviving plans and writing are evidence of his imaginative and exciting ideas. He saw the design as an allegory of Creation, Life and Aspiration.

Although Sutton Place is closed to visitors, it remains an important Surrey garden. Those who have experienced it have found it truly unforgettable.



Ben Nicholson sculpture at Sutton Place

Another record year for our Schools Awards

By Wendy Craft, Chair, Schools Committee

This year there were over 50 applications from Primary, Junior, Infant and Nursery schools. We were able to award £4,500 thanks to another generous donation. Grants were awarded to 19 schools and ranged in value from £400 to £150. Originally, we intended to award six grants of £500 plus smaller amounts but due to the unprecedented number of applications we decided to split the money between more schools. Squires Garden Centres kindly donated £200 in garden vouchers which were given to ten schools. Covid restrictions prevented the Committee from meeting in person to judge the entries so the entire process was managed online. Under normal circumstances, the schools would be visited to see the projects and photographs taken.

Gardens and productive outside spaces are so important in schools particularly in the light of the problems they have faced this last year. Many applications mentioned how necessary they were for the mental health of the children and, indeed, the staff. Most of the awards were granted for the creation of sensory gardens, wildlife areas and learning spaces but a few were given for equipment such as vegtrugs, potting benches, raised beds, seeds, plants and compost.

We have not been able to visit schools this year but we have received some photographs which have been added to the website. Do take a look: www.surreygardenstrust.org.uk

Hopefully next year we can visit the schools again.



The Oaktree School, Woking garden in progress

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