

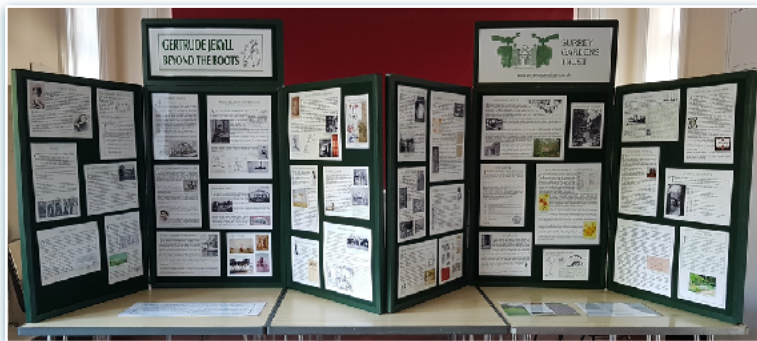


NEWSLETTER

FROM THE CHAIR

There is a lot to digest in this early Autumn Newsletter, a reflection of our extremely busy year. I am particularly excited to introduce *The Garden Detectives*. Our Research & Recording Group have taken time out of their schedule to share their journey and the fascinating and extremely valuable research work that they are doing.

I was delighted to have the opportunity to speak as part of the Farnham Heritage Open Days last month. This year's theme *Creativity Unwrapped*, provided an excellent opportunity to talk about The Victoria Garden, a gem of a public garden, designed by Marion Woodward for the Farnham Swimming Baths Trust, on behalf of Surrey Gardens Trust, 26 years ago, and still much loved and used. I look forward to sharing more on this in January.



Meanwhile at The Leatherhead Institute, Gertrude Jekyll could be seen, thanks to Marion Woodward's 'Beyond the Boots' display, based on Gertrude's nephew Francis Jekyll's Memoir of his aunt.

(photographed here).

Munstead Wood is now in the guardianship of the National Trust and we are looking forward to working with the new NT team and with other stakeholders as they make decisions about the future of this internationally important garden. As you will read, part of our current research programme is looking again at the portfolio of gardens designed by Jekyll in Surrey. The Jekyll Digital Archive and digitally copied Jekyll Notebooks at the Godalming Museum have enriched this investigative work.

The Gateway team, led by Alex White, have provided a programme of joyous visits over the summer months as you will read. Huge thanks to everyone who has given their time to help make these special trips possible.

Our Schools Awards have once again been taken up in abundance. We have been showcasing these on our Instagram page which you can see through the website links on our Home page. I have included just a handful of the many examples of innovative projects the awards help to enable. Wendy Craft is chair of the Schools Committee and would love to talk to any members who would like to get involved with this important work.

As we grow our team, we find that more hands with bite size roles works well. In the weeks ahead, we would like to find members who can help out with events administration and membership management. Please don't be shy in coming forward. All help is most welcome.

THE GARDEN DETECTIVES

by Fiona Maccoll, Chair Research & Recording Group

Earlier this year a small group of enthusiastic members gathered together at Ripley Village Hall, having answered the call to join the Research and Recording Group's new project to investigate gardens within the borough of Waverley. Our focus was Waverley because it is not an area we have previously researched thoroughly, so there is great potential to nominate sites for local listing. Also, it dovetails with another project to highlight the many Gertrude Jekyll gardens in Surrey. Almost ninety of these are in Waverley.

While the volunteers had an interest in and enthusiasm for historic gardens, they did not have research experience in the field, so there was much to learn, not only for the new volunteers, but also for the experienced recorders, who were providing the training.

Fast forward to mid-summer and the new team had transformed into experienced researchers. A huge advantage has been the ability to meet frequently on Zoom. Each of the researchers produced an amazingly informative presentation about the site they had been researching. Lively discussion and debate ensued as the group, aided by other Research and Recording Group members and our chair Sarah Dickinson, appraised these designed landscapes and considered them as candidates for local listing as heritage assets.

Unfortunately for some sites, it is clear nothing now remains. Housing development, roads, subdivision and the expense of maintaining labour intensive gardens in the latter half of the 20th century have taken their toll. However, we have already identified some strong candidates for local listing.



Google Earth. Imagery from the dates 16/7/2021, ©Google

Barbara Judge researched Little Tangle, a Jekyll garden. This is a Google Earth shot which clearly identifies a Terrace (half moon space in the right hand top of the photograph) which corresponds to a [Jekyll plan](#).

In the intervening months the team have learnt how to interrogate key websites to capture the information they need to make an initial assessment of a site. Today online resources provide the desk-based researcher with a cornucopia of information which could only be dreamed about by researchers in the past. Grappling with the complexity of these websites, and learning how to exploit their sophisticated functionality is an uphill task, but ultimately very rewarding. Not only can researchers now access many historic Ordnance Survey maps digitally (courtesy of the [National Library of Scotland](#)), they can also superimpose a current satellite image on to the historic OS map, revealing how much a site has changed in the intervening period.

'Perseverance paid off. Finding co-ordinates, poring over Google Earth satellite images and looking at old OS maps back to the 1870s became fun because of the reward of unravelling the past and comparing it to the present state of gardens'. (Barbara Judge)

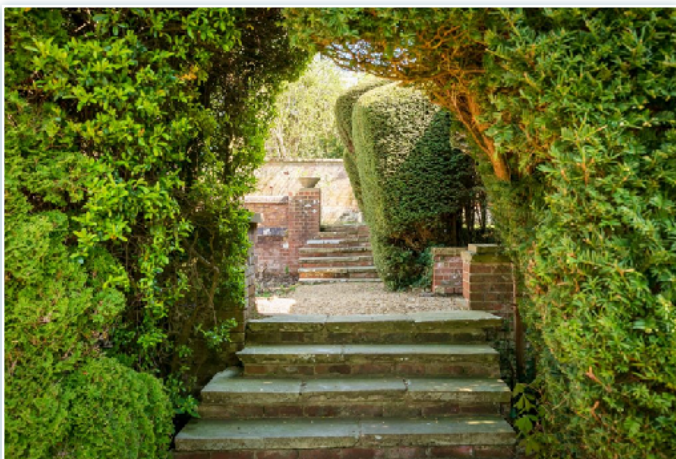
Many images are now accessible online. If a site has been put up for sale in the last decade there will probably be an illustrated sales brochure online containing photographs of the grounds. The photographic archive of [Country Life](#) allows us to view gardens during their heyday. While the aerial photographs of [Britain from Above](#) from 1919-1953 captured gardens at a crucial time, before many gardens were entirely or partially lost.



Reproduced with the kind permission of Chanceries and Pwleys, estate agents. Photographer, Fiona Digby-Jones. www.fidigby-jonesphotography.com

Little Tangle photographed in Estate Agent particulars available on line, shows what survives of the Terrace.

The first stage of our research entailed locating the property and the Surrey County Council [Interactive Map](#) was our first port of call. This shows the plot of every property and the shape of the buildings on it. While it can be more difficult to locate sites in rural areas by street name or postcode, it helpfully provides the house name and a set of co-ordinates which we can use to locate the property on other websites. It also indicates if a house has been subdivided and if the buildings, garden or features have been listed by Historic England.



Reproduced with the kind permission of Chanceries and Pwleys, estate agents. Photographer, Fiona Digby-Jones.

Little Tangle photographed in Estate Agent particulars available on line, showing view up steps, through Jekyll's yews to a glimpse of terraces currently not planted according to Jekyll's scheme and brick boundary wall behind.

'For those people who like history and chasing down sometimes obscure facts it can be a bit like falling down a rabbit hole. The treat is when you find some tiny morsel that helps you figure out part of the timeline, ownership or what remains'. (Sheri Sticpewich)

Moving to the site [Magic](#) we can pick up an array of co-ordinates and grid references (who knew there were so many types). Armed with these we can locate the site accurately on [Google Earth](#) to see a relatively recent satellite image and view digitised historic OS maps from the National Library of Scotland. "[Exploring Surrey's Past](#)" allows us to find out if there are any relevant archives in the Surrey History Centre. If we are lucky, we may find that images in the collection have been digitised and are available to view.

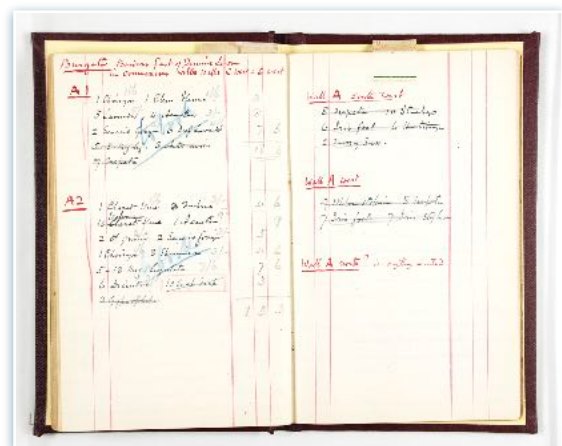
For the Gertrude Jekyll gardens we have two primary sources. Jekyll's plans and drawings for her Surrey gardens have been digitised and are [available on-line](#) (thanks to money raised by SGT) along with some [additional drawings](#). For some gardens an overall plan survives which helps us understand the site (although not all aspects of a plan, or indeed any of it, may actually have been implemented). Further information can be found in Jekyll's notebooks at [Godalming Museum](#), which have been scanned and copies of pages can be provided on request. The notebooks contain lists of plants under the reference numbers for individual borders as shown on the drawings. This provides evidence that the garden was

planted in accordance with the drawings.

We are still at the start of our research journey and there are many more sites to investigate. For those that look most promising, we will be conducting further in-depth research, necessitating visits to the [Surrey History Centre](#), other archival bodies and specialist libraries. We will also need to contact site owners and persuade them to allow us to conduct site visits. Another set of skills to learn.

Throughout the whole process I have been impressed with our small but dedicated and inquiring team. They have worked hard, made important discoveries, asked interesting questions and provided good feedback, so we can refine and improve the way we work. My thanks to the team, Barbara Judge, Kate Hay, Nuala Livesey and Sheri Sticpewich and also to Sarah Dickinson, Marion Woodward, Brenda Lewis and Graham Sutton who have shared their immense knowledge and experience.

Should you wish to investigate the history of your own house / garden, do have a look at the websites mentioned in this article. If you are interested in becoming a garden detective, or want to hear more about what is involved, please contact us at researchrecordingSGT@gmail.com.



Gertrude Jekyll Notebook 14, page 15 relating to Burgate House, Loxhill. Reproduced with the kind permission of Godalming Museum



Elmbridge Borough Council - List of Local Heritage Assets (Local List)

July 2023



Publication of the Local List for Elmbridge

We are delighted to report that our nominations for the gardens of The Homewood, Gunters Mead, Knowle Park and Esher Place were accepted and have been included in the Elmbridge List of Local Heritage Assets published in July 2023.

Also nominations by others include Heath House/Heatherbank (the home of G.F. Wilson, whose experimental garden formed the basis for what has become the RHS garden, Wisley, Kingsmere House (possible Percy Cane landscape) and Cigarette Island, across the river from Hampton Court with key views.



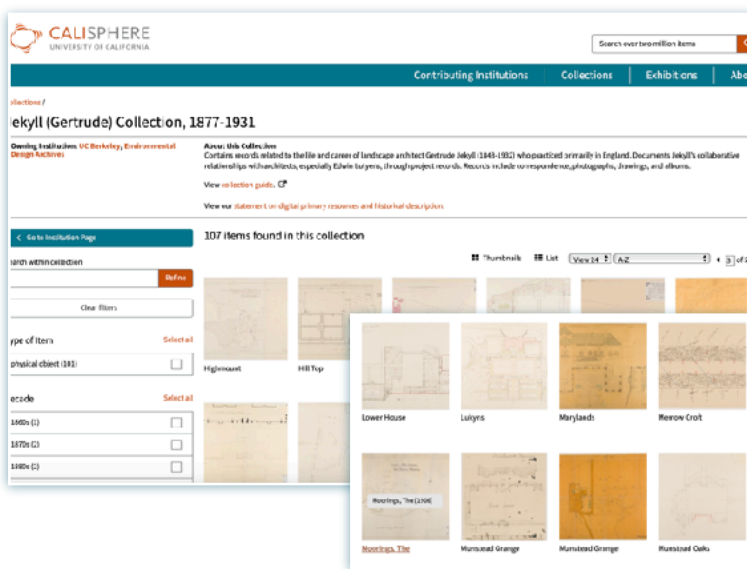
https://www.elmbridge.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2023-07/Local Heritage Asset List_0.pdf

MUNSTEAD GRANGE - A CASE STUDY

Kate Hay researched the gardens of Munstead Grange, which the team considered to be the most intact Jekyll garden of the six so far studied. Her findings illustrate just how much information can now be discovered without the need to leave home.

Munstead Grange was designed in the Arts and Crafts style by the architect Edward W Mountford in 1902 as his country residence. It was situated very close to Jekyll's own house, Munstead Wood and [surviving plans](#) and a mention in a Jekyll notebook, suggest that he commissioned Jekyll to look at the garden and propose designs. Plans indicate a naturalistic woodland garden with curving paths following the unusual triangular shape of the site.

However, it was Munstead Grange's second owner, S F Staples a director of Clark and Stanfield, dock and shipyard engineers, whose commission in 1912 led to the garden being completely redesigned by Jekyll. Jekyll's designs show a series of formal garden rooms squaring off the centre of the site, mostly divided by hedging, with steps and seats where necessary. This design was illustrated by Jekyll's overall plan, an extract from which is copied below on p.6. It included component parts identified as:



Screen shot of the University of California, Berkeley's gateway to digital collections 'Calisphere', showing items from the [Jekyll Collection](#), Environmental Design Archives, University of California Berkeley, accessible through the [SGT website](#).

Area 1 Terrace / walkway to rear of the house with narrow flower borders.

Area 2 'Tank' garden with central raised hexagonal pond surrounded by lawn with flower borders around the perimeter.

Area 3: Long grass walk flanked by flower borders, leading to the old shed.

Area 4: A formal garden leading with a central square flower bed flanked by paths with more borders around the hedged perimeter.

Area 5: A straight path with borders to each side leading to the tennis court.

Area 6: A rectangular lawn intersected by a T shaped path, with a central feature, possibly a sun dial / garden ornament, with borders around perimeter.

Area 7: A triangular area alongside the tennis court (not shown) to the south-east of the site with flower beds, abutting a path with hedging alongside the service buildings.

The location of the tennis court, is shown on the [1916](#) and [1961](#) OS maps.

Jekyll's detailed planting plans for the many borders remind us how labour intensive her design was to maintain and explains why her borders were grassed over or planted with trees and shrubs in the years leading up to and after the Second World War.



The tank garden in 2001 with an octagonal pool set in block paving rather than lawn ©Marion Woodward 2001



From the central rear door of the house, a wisteria covered pergola leads across a brick terrace walk to the tank garden ©Marion Woodward 2001

The survival of the structural elements of the Jekyll garden can be seen most clearly when viewing the Google Earth satellite image alongside Jekyll's overall garden plan (see page 6). These show that the basic shape of the garden is still as Jekyll redesigned it. The tank garden still exists, as does the path to the shed, but the path to the shed, and the two formal gardens (Areas 4 and 6) have been given over to grass surrounded by trees and shrubs. The swimming pool, noted previously, lies in Area 5. There appears to be a productive garden to the south-east of the swimming pool garden. The main parking area is on the south-west, with a path leading to the entrance on the west side of the house. The front garden is formally laid out but was not part of Jekyll's plans (that survive). Area 7, now part of the garden of The Lodge, is entirely grassed with a few trees, although the line of the path running north-east is still clearly visible.

'The project has so far been very rewarding, especially learning new skills, and meeting the rest of the research team. It has been interesting to compare my results with those of the rest of the team.'

'I have learnt a great deal about the online resources available, how to research the history of gardens and landscape, and the statutory framework offering protection to historic gardens.'

'It takes dedication, time and patience, but I have always felt supported and encouraged.' (Kate Hay)

'I hope you enjoy reading the feedback from our new researchers.'
(Editor)

'The most interesting aspect has been presenting the findings to the broader group and the discussion that ensues. You can learn a lot from the expertise in the room.'

'I look forward to undertaking site visits for those sites deemed worthy of further research after this 'desk-top' stage.' (Sheri Sticpewich)

'How fascinating to look at Gertrude Jekyll's original handwritten plans, planting schemes and plants lists They are hard to decipher and sometimes it is very hard to see how they bear any resemblance to overgrown, unmanaged or almost completely redesigned gardens.'

'What delight to find on an aerial view terraced borders, an urn, a sculptured yew hedge, evidence of past designs - all from my own desk.' (Barbara Judge)

GATEWAY PROJECT 2023

by Alex White, Chair Gateway group

It's been an excellent year for the Gateway project with twelve visits planned and only one cancelled due to poor weather. Without exception, our hosts, guests and carers have thoroughly enjoyed the outings on several different levels. For some, just to be in a safe, peaceful and beautiful environment has been enough; others have admired flowers, trees, plants, sculptures and views. Everyone has delighted in cakes, teas and refreshments so generously supplied. New this year has been the building of a small team of SGT members who have helped accompany visits. And we have been made welcome in two new venues and taken pleasure in getting to know our regular guests even more. Heartwarming feedback during and after the trips reinforce the value of this project in our busy and often stressful lives. I have detailed the various trips below and hope readers can admire the love and dedication of those who look after some of the most vulnerable members of our society.

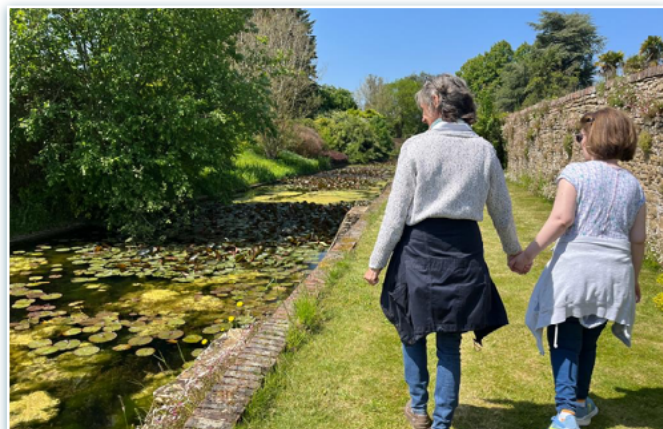
On Thursday 18 May, VANN was host to PARKSIDE GARDEN CLUB.

We were made to feel at home by Liz, long-time tenant of Vann, who welcomed us with delicious cake and teas set out on old rugs, blankets and chairs on the main lawn of Vann. Other visitors to the garden looked enviously on at our party. One of the Parkside members, Heather, had a very good knowledge of plants and was able to identify and talk about them to the others. The garden, which now has a curated wild feel to it, was looking wonderfully relaxed in mid-spring sunshine. It was a magical visit. Heather commented that she would love to come there again next year - a high accolade!

On Tuesday 30 May, we made two trips to LOSELEY.

In the with MEATH HOME FOR EPILEPSY.

On a beautiful sunny morning we headed for the cafe first thing as there was a problem with a burst water pipe (which might have meant shutting the cafe for lack of water, potentially a disaster for some of our guests for whom cake and tea is the highlight) and this proved a popular move. Our guests tucked into tea, hot chocolate and chocolate cake with great enthusiasm! We then walked around the garden admiring the scents, colours, and huge variety of plants and flowers looking their best in the late Spring. We saw Burney, the head gardener, who invited us to see his wife's tomatoes in a private part of his own garden as one of the girls wanted to see



tomatoes growing. We were made to feel very special and privileged.

In the afternoon we hosted CHERRY TREES.

Despite being a very short visit due to staff shortages at Cherry Trees, there was enough time to meet the group, offer refreshments and enjoy a peaceful hour in the beautiful garden at Loseley, which was again hugely appreciated by our guests.

On Thursday 1 June we went to RAMSTER for PARKSIDE GARDEN CLUB's second trip.

Ramster was looking stunning with carpets of flowers on the azaleas and rhododendrons. Sadly the owner, Miranda Gunn, was unable to lead the tour as she had been suddenly admitted to hospital, but Susannah and the group had a most enjoyable walk around the garden, taking in all the wonderful sculptures and winding paths through huge shrubs and trees. Heather commented that she felt like she was being 'hugged in the Dragon seat'. The group also loved the scrumptious cake!

On Tuesday 20 June Grattons was host to the MEATH HOME for their second outing.

After a welcome thunderstorm in the early morning, skies cleared and Sheri's garden glowed in its early summer abundance of colour and scent. We sat under the pergola of sweet smelling roses to enjoy delicious cake (cooked by her husband) and drinks. Sheri then gave us a tour of the garden where we were able to take in meadows of butterflies, beautiful borders and amazing trees both old, large, small and new. A magnolia grandiflora sported huge white perfumed flowers and an enormous cypress was a secret playground for children and adults. The kitchen garden, greenhouse and orchard were in full production. 'It was beautiful' said Eleanor: 'I liked the kniphofia' said Reagan and everyone loved the real-life sculpture of an owl.

On Thursday 22 June, HYDON END was host to PARKSIDE THURSDAY YOUTH GROUP.

It was a scorchingly hot day! Daniel and Milena, resident housekeepers, welcomed us to Hydon End. This was a challenging visit which started with one of the chaps refusing to get out of the bus because he thought Jade (group leader) had run over Dorrie (one of 3 large, but friendly, golden retrievers who were circling the bus as it arrived). I managed to reassure him the dogs, now safely in the house, were all still alive, by taking him to see them through the back door. Eventually we made our way



onto the terrace for refreshments which Milena provided, of lovely cakes and refreshing juice. Daniel then accompanied us on a tour of the garden, Gail (SGT) was able to support Andy down the sloping lawn as he had slight mobility issues, by saying she had dodgy knees so they were able to "support each other". Despite the apparently friendly dogs having rejoined us, another of our guests started crying, sobbing into his handkerchief. Unable to verbalise his feelings, we eventually surmised it was the presence of the dogs that was upsetting him, so Daniel took them back to the house. Everyone was interested in the scent, shape of the flowers, the vegetables growing in the greenhouse and raised beds, and loved feeding the chickens. Our tour ended with a walk through the woodland and bonfire seating area. We brought all their bags and picnic lunches down to tables on the main lawn and enjoyed a long, leisurely lunch before heading back to the bus. Despite ongoing emotional issues, all superbly handled by wonderful carers, their leader Jade, said they did enjoy themselves and look forward to another visit next year.

On Thursday 29 June we visited CHINTHURST LODGE for the first time, with a third visit for the PARKSIDE GARDEN CLUB.

By now, we had got to know the members of Parkside's garden club very well - it was like meeting old friends again. After a much needed and welcome deluge of rain in the early hours of the morning, the skies cleared for our visit and even managed a watery sun. Hilary and Michael, greeted us with coffee and cake and proved to be wonderful hosts. Their beautifully cared for garden has two wells, a fish pond and water lily pond and immaculately presented borders themed by colour or plant species - it is a magnificent garden with plenty to admire and look at. Heather was again able to enjoy identifying and talking about the plants. The addition of horses in the stables and sheep in the nearby fields made this a memorable visit for everyone.

On Friday 7 July we made a second visit to HYDON END with the PARKSIDE FRIDAY YOUTH GROUP.

It was another of those gorgeously sunny and hot days! Daniel and Milena greeted us all and served cakes and tea. Sarah (SGT) also accompanied us on our tour, by chatting to our guests and helping generally. First off the bus was Marcus: 'I love gardens' he said and was most enthusiastic and appreciative throughout the day. We had delicious refreshments (supplemented by some lovely leftover cakes from our cake stall) to start with and introduced the dogs carefully. Daniel was very fearful of dogs, but managed to stroke one of them as they sat quietly by us on the terrace. We then wandered slowly round the garden, admiring, in particular, the vegetables, grapes and lemons growing in the kitchen garden. Matt, whose 30th birthday was the following day, was very excited about his birthday party that night, to which the whole group had been invited. He was also keen to help mow and strim the garden for Daniel! As a group



they gelled well together, and enjoyed everything about the garden, including the distant views across the field to Hambledon Church. We ended with a picnic lunch on the lawn in the shade, a chance for everyone to unwind and chat about Matt's party.

However, I was sad to learn that Angela, their wonderful leader, is leaving Parkside shortly, though their connection with us will still remain. She is starting with a new project that she hopes will be able to connect with us in the future, so we shall remain firmly in touch.

On Friday 14 July we had thunderstorms all day so sadly had to cancel a visit to WESTBROOK for the MEATH HOME.

On Monday 7 August we went to WEST HORSLEY PLACE with CHERRY TREES.

A last minute trip was arranged for a few children to have an outing in the summer holidays. Sandra and three helpers brought three children in wheelchairs/prams for a little wander round the garden and a lovely restful tea on the lawns. It was a fine peaceful afternoon and a great place for them to rest and unwind. It was very uplifting to observe the deep understanding and caring by their helpers of these children with a range of life limiting diagnoses.

On Monday 14 August we made a second visit to WEST HORSLEY PLACE with members of the HALOW TRUST.

Aisha had arranged for the young people to arrive by public transport (the Halow trust exists to nurture independence in people aged 16-35 with learning disabilities or autism). They were all met by Matt Link (Estates Manager) who gave them a tour of the beautiful sunflower and wildflower meadow before going round the garden. Susannah and Sarah (SGT members) provided tea and cakes. They had a picnic on the lawn afterwards and thoroughly appreciated their beautiful historic setting.

On Friday 25 August we had a first visit to GATTON PARK for the PARKSIDE FRIDAY YOUTH GROUP's second trip.

This, our last visit of the year, was a great day to end a very successful summer of visits. We were warmly welcomed by Jess, who heads up the education part of the Gatton Trust. Helen (SGT) and Gail (SGT and a trustee of GP) joined us to help. Six of the 7 strong group from Parkside were accompanied by Leanne and Chrissie (who was 5 days into her new role at Parkside, replacing Angela). We were treated to drinks and cakes in the oak panelled dining room before setting out for a tour of the grounds. Marcus and Daniel were impressed by the extensive view looking out from the house. Jess explained about the history of the house and gardens designed by Capability Brown. Their restored Japanese garden was a highlight, particularly the red bridge described as 'smooth as silk' by Marcus. After admiring the trees, lake, pond, rock garden and horses in the field, we sat under an enormous copper beech for a leisurely picnic lunch. Everyone enjoyed the day. I was worried that the journey from Aldershot to Redhill would prove to be too long (it was the Friday before a bank holiday weekend), but Leanne told me the group were very content and most had a snooze on the way there and back!

I'd like to express my grateful thanks to Susannah Money, who led several of the trips, and Gail Sperrin, Sarah King and Helen Neve for their help. Also to our wonderful hosts, many of whom give us free access to their gardens and refreshments.



WEST HORSLEY PLACE HOUSE AND GARDEN VISIT

By Anna Cade

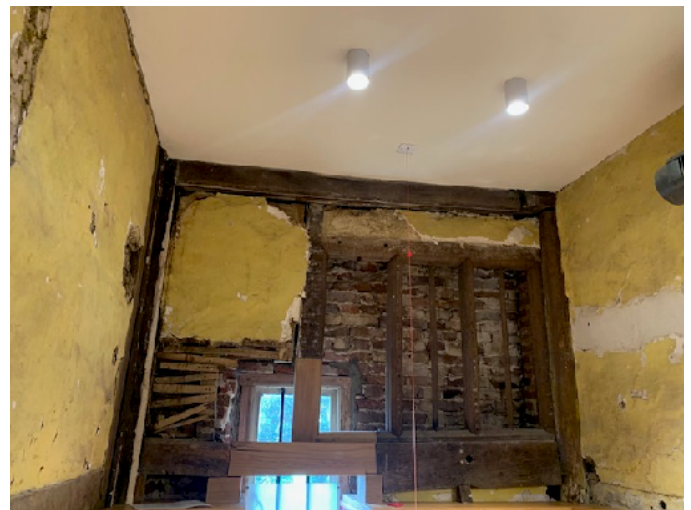
Off the Epsom Road, through a pair of elegant iron gates, partially concealed with overgrown vegetation, a long track bordered by fields of sheep and sunflowers leads to reveal the marvellous hidden gem that is West Horsley Place. The house is nestled in a huge estate spanning 380 acres of varied landscape and 5 acres of cultivated gardens.

The origins of this stately but crumbling Grade I listed manor house date back to 1000 AD when Dux Alfred granted West Horsley Manor to Werburg and his wife. Thereafter the house saw a stream of notable owners through the ages, who, inevitably, brought about numerous 'home improvements' according to their needs and tastes. In 1533-1538 Henry Courtenay was gifted the estate by his cousin King Henry VIII, but was beheaded 5 years later. Then in 1547, Henry VIII gifted the estate to Sir Anthony Browne and Lady Elizabeth Fitzgerald, 'The Fair Geraldine', after whom the Geraldine Room with its magnificent decorated plaster ceiling was named.

The core of the present house is a 15th-century oak-beamed residence which had originally a central double-height hall. From 1590-1642 the house was owned by the Montague Family who commissioned the long and exceptionally beautiful red-brick façade, in the latest style, and screwed it to the original Tudor timbers – it has drifted away from the house behind by about five inches, but is still standing. Some of the original timber and plasterwork is visible today through one of the external windows, and is carefully preserved behind perspex screens at various points throughout the house.

In more recent times, the house was owned from 1932-1967 by Lord and Lady Crewe for use as their country home, although during WWII Canadian troops were stationed there.

In 1967 Mary, Duchess of Roxburghe inherited the estate and spent her summers there until her death in 2014, when she left the entire estate to Bamber Gascoigne, to his great surprise. He and his wife Christina set up the charitable trust which, after his death in 2022 continues to operate, providing an inventive programme of activities centred around



Original Tudor timbers and fireplace ©Anna Cade

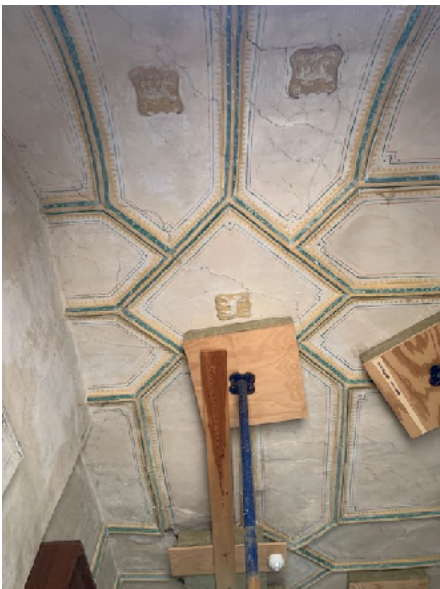




Tudor timbers revealed ©Anna Cade

the arts and nature with a vision to provide enjoyment and education to the public and, crucially, to raise funds required for much-needed renovation and preservation of the house and grounds.

Upon our arrival, the Tiger Lily Bus Café had opened early specially so we could have refreshments before the house tour. And what a tour - our guide, Michael, was a superb storyteller who, for nearly two hours, brought alive the history of the house, its owners and royal visitors, as he led us through some of the 50 rooms. A second guide, Robbie, patiently herded us from the rear and highlighted that we were the first to view an exquisite new quilt and cushions matching the colours of the Mulberry Room made by local embroidery group, The Gladrags. In the Great Hall she gingerly displayed a red velvet bag said to have held the embalmed head of Sir Walter Raleigh, allegedly carried around by his widow when she resided in the house in the mid-1600s.



Decorated plaster ceiling in the Geraldine Room ©Anna Cade

In the afternoon head gardener, Matt Links, with wonderful enthusiasm, showed us around the five acres of walled gardens and the orchard, making light of the daunting task that he has to maintain the landscape on a tiny budget with just a team of volunteers to help.

The formal gardens were laid out in the 18th Century, featuring relaxed natural open spaces framed by old topiary, roses and shrubs. At their heart is a rare serpentine wall, found to be one of the oldest surviving examples in the country. Restoration plans will see a new sensory garden which will be located in the Hornbeam Paddock, once defined by stunning herbaceous borders and now long-neglected.

However, much of the work since Matt's arrival about 7 years ago, has involved clearing overgrown areas, especially ivy which was damaging the garden walls. New planting is added as and when time and money allow. For now Matt spends a lot of time mowing, adding the elegant touch of curving stripes to complement the serpentine wall.



The Mulberry Room ©Anna Cade

Two art exhibitions which happened to coincide with our visit completed a memorable day. In the Stone Hall, we watched the slightly disconcerting Orchard Portraits flicker and change as Michael spoke about the banquets that took place there in Tudor times. In the Barn, we were able to enjoy 40 artworks (featuring such famous names as Elizabeth Frink and Eric Ravilious) from The Ingram Collection.

West Horsley Place leaves the impression of a delightful, thriving and enterprising hub of imaginative activities and projects which will hopefully help secure its future. It will be a place of great interest to revisit periodically as the gardens develop.



Clockwise from above: Layers of history in the house; the dovecote in the rose garden; Matt Link explaining the history; and the serpentine wall ©Anna Cade



Join the Events Committee

We would love to hear from any member interested in joining the Events team to help with our programme of lectures, study days and garden visits. Many hands make light work!

More particularly, are you tech savvy and either already versed in or willing to learn how to use Eventbrite and Mailchimp? We all work together to draw up the events programme and communication materials. We would be delighted to find another member who can help us with the marketing of these events.

Please contact Sheri Sticpewich and Helen Parvin at eventssgt@gmail.com

SCHOOLS AWARDS 2023

by Wendy Craft, Chair Schools Committee

This year we had £7,000 to award. This was made up as £5,500 from SGT funds and £1,500 from generous donors. Another £370 was added thanks to the money raised selling teas and cakes at Dunsborough Park Tulip Festival.

The Trust received 44 applications from Primary, Junior, Infant and Nursery schools across Surrey. Also, applications were received from Freemantles Special School, Peaslake Free School and Reigate Valley College which is a Pupil Referral Unit.

The committee, including 2 new members, Louise Mills and Jackie Roberts who are both ex teachers and keen to visit schools, met to discuss the applications and to decide which schools would receive awards. We gave awards to 33 schools as 11 did not meet our criteria. Some of the schools asked for small amounts which we could meet in full, otherwise we were able to contribute to a particular part of a larger project.

As in previous years Squires Garden Centres donated £200 worth of vouchers which we were also able to distribute to the schools.

The projects were varied and included plants for sensory gardens, raised beds, mini greenhouses, child friendly garden tools, ponds, shrubs, trees, seeds, bulbs and compost.

The impact of our award scheme should not be underestimated. Schools are grateful for modest amounts of money as their budgets are so tight. The list of successful schools is on our website. I wanted to share some of the many comments we have in response to our awards. I have also included descriptions of two projects for which we have received photographs.

Some of the replies from Schools 2023

Frimley C of E Primary School £200

That is wonderful news, thank you very much.

Once the area has been planted, I will send some photos to you.

Thanks once again.

Banstead Infant School £100

That's great news! Thank you so much for getting back to me. Our new sensory garden will benefit massively from some new herbs and plants. I will definitely send you some pictures of the new plants, when we've purchased them.

Godstone Primary & Nursery School £250

I just want to say thank you again for this generous amount of money towards our garden project! The children will get so much from this. We shall send across pictures when it is completed.

St John's Primary School £300

Thank you very much for awarding us a grant of £300, we are excited to start and will send photos in the future.

Wyke Primary Academy £200 + £50 Squire voucher

SCHOOL GROUNDS

You will have noticed the beautiful newly filled planters at the front of the school!

Surrey Gardens Trust awarded Wyke £200 plus £50 of vouchers for Squires Garden Centres to improve the school grounds. We used the money to improve the very tired planters at the front of school and add some plants to the growing areas in Reception. The children are tending to their strawberry plants with great care and are looking forward to their first harvest!

Huge thanks go to parent volunteer, Mrs Dalton, who spend time specifying, buying and planting (helped by Mr Sprake). They have done a wonderful job!

We would all like to give a big thank you to Earthcycle (based in West Sussex) for donating the compost.
<https://earthcycle.co.uk>







This article appeared in their school newsletter.

Riverview C of E Primary School £300

This is great news! We really appreciate it and I know that the staff who put the bid together along with the children at school, will be thrilled! Thank you so much that is fantastic news the children will be so pleased to be able to get part 2 of our allotment off the ground. Please thank the trustees for us. It will be a pleasure to share our photos with you.

Peaslake Free School £150

Thank you, that is absolutely fantastic news!

Buckland Primary School £200

That's fantastic news thank you so much. Thank you once again for supporting us and I will ensure photos are sent to you once the project is completed!

Esher Church Primary School £200

What wonderful news to start the week with - thank you so much! We are delighted. The money will make a big difference to our gardening area and give our children more opportunities to learn. Once, we have made our purchases, we'll definitely share the news with our supporters, via our social media channels, website and newsletter. Thanks again, we are very grateful.

St Ann's Heath Junior School

St Ann's Heath Junior School is a three-form entry school situated in Virginia Water, Surrey, taking children from Year 3 to Year 6.

Last year the PTA funded four raised flower beds, and these were planted with Spring bulbs. The school applied to Surrey Gardens Trust for a grant of £125 so that they could purchase fruit and vegetable plants and seeds to put in the raised beds this year. An additional higher raised bed will be purchased where they would like to grow more delicate vegetables such as lettuce, to keep them from being nibbled by wild rabbits!

This supports their science teaching on how plants grow, as well as, educating the children about where their food comes from and seasonality.

The raised beds are situated in their playing field, so all the children have access to them.



Long Ditton St Mary's Junior School

Last year the school applied for a grant from Surrey Gardens Trust to turn a paved area outside two classrooms into a more appealing space. The plan was to remove more slabs near the buildings and plant two evergreen climbers and attach a trellis to the wall. It was felt that children and adults would benefit from the area because it was more welcoming and less harsh. They would be able to hold one-to-one sessions and small group interventions to promote wellbeing. The school applied for a grant of £125 and the Surrey Gardens Trust was able to award the full amount. They have recently sent photographs of the finished area.



The school applied again this year for a larger grant to create a tranquil garden. The application was successful, and we look forward to seeing the photographs.

ADVENTURES ABROAD

by Iain McLaren

THREE GARDENS IN FUNCHAL

The Portuguese island of Madeira lies in the Atlantic Ocean 320 miles west of the coast of Morocco. Its capital, Funchal, situated on the south coast, has a benign climate, with winter temperatures of 18°C and summer temperatures of 25°C. Rain is so infrequent that very few houses have rainwater gutters and downpipes draining their pantiled roofs, water being brought from the mountains that dominate the interior via water channels – levadas – for irrigation and, after purification, for domestic purposes.

This climate allows for an abundant and vigorous plant life on the island, consisting of native, endemic and introduced species. Within Funchal itself and easily reached from the city centre by the excellent local bus service (flat single fare €1.95), are three notable gardens open to the public.

Jardim Botânico da Madeira

Located at about three miles above the town centre of Funchal, this park was inaugurated in 1960 on the grounds of Quinta do Bom Sucesso, previously owned by the Reid family.

The “Jardim Botânico” (Botanical Gardens) in Funchal displays over two thousand exotic plants both endemic and from all over the world such as Orchids, Magnolias, Azaleas, Palms, Ferns and Cacti.

There are several separate parts to the garden. These include an area dedicated to indigenous and endemic plants from not only the forests of Madeira but also the Azores, the Canary Islands and Cape Verde. The tree garden (arboretum) has species from around the world including both the Himalayas and the Tropics.

There are also sections of the garden dedicated to succulents and cacti, mainly from South America as well as an area with aromatic, cultivated and medicinal plants such as avocado, coffee, mango, papaya and sugarcane.



The garden slopes steeply down the hillside, traversed by paths typically paved in volcanic basalt pebbles, here bounded on each side by dense planting.

The topiary garden features shrubs cut into various shapes including animals, chess pieces and spirals. The carpet bedding is one of the most-photographed parts of the garden and has green, gold, red, purple, white and yellow flowering plants placed in patterns and sometimes spelling out words.



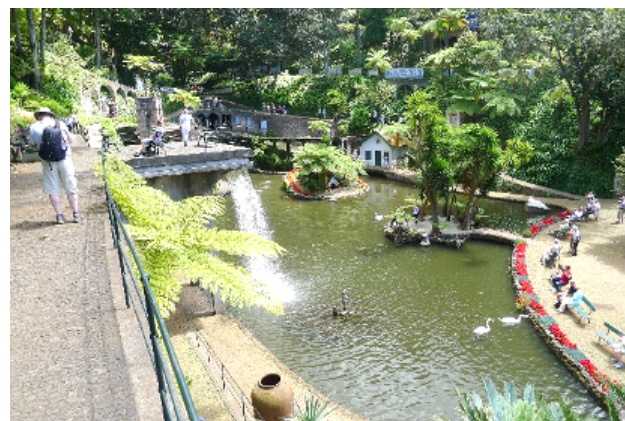
The topiary garden



A display of succulents and cacti

The Monte Palace Garden

This garden was created in 1987, after the closure in 1943 of the hotel that still stands in the middle of the garden. The garden occupies a steeply sloping site of 70,000m² and is home to an abundant collection of exotic plants from all over the world; cycads, proteas, azaleas, orchids, clivia, hydrangeas, heathers, acacias, two 1000-year old olive trees transported from mainland Portugal and many others.



The central lake

At the bottom of the garden slopes are terraces devoted to Japanese garden culture.



Shortly after entering the garden, visitors are greeted with a view over this densely planted gorge

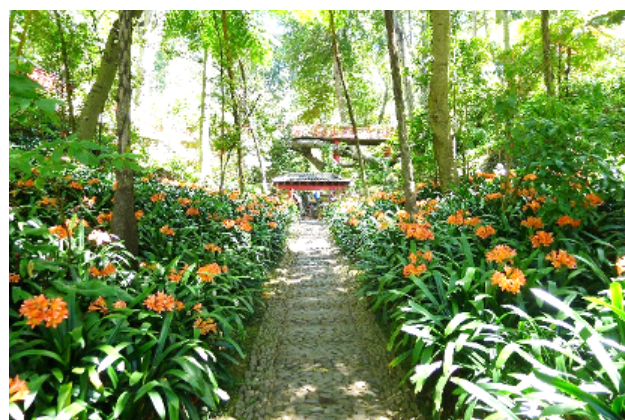
One section is devoted to the Laurissilva, a UNESCO Natural Heritage site in Madeira's mountainous region, with examples of Laurel, Til, Barbusano, Firetree, Lily-of-the-valley tree, Canary Island Juniper and the endangered Pittosporum, among many others.



In the Japanese garden



Dracaena draco, endemic to Madeira, on one of the level terrace paths in the garden. *Agapanthus* emerging above top left and *Zantedeschia* blooming beyond right. *Hydrangeas* still to emerge on left.



Climbing back up to the top of the garden, through densely planted banks of *Clivias*.

Palheiro Gardens

Palheiro, created originally by the First Count of Carvalhal in the early nineteenth century, is a garden for all seasons, ablaze with colour throughout the year. Far from being a tropical garden, with little distinction between winter and summer, it is one in which successive waves of bulbs, shrubs and flowering trees come into bloom, month by month. Even regular visitors to Madeira rarely have the opportunity to experience its glories in full.

Trees in the garden include two huge Canary pines, Lagerstroemias, Araucaria angustifolia, Magnolias, Camellias and the very rare Sauraja subspinosa



In the Ladies garden

In addition to these three gardens, there are several gardens within the centre of Funchal itself containing specimens of many fine trees and plants. *Chorisia speciosa* with a bed of *Strelitzia* in the Santa Catarina public park. *Chorisia* s. flowers in the autumn but here its fluffy white cotton like



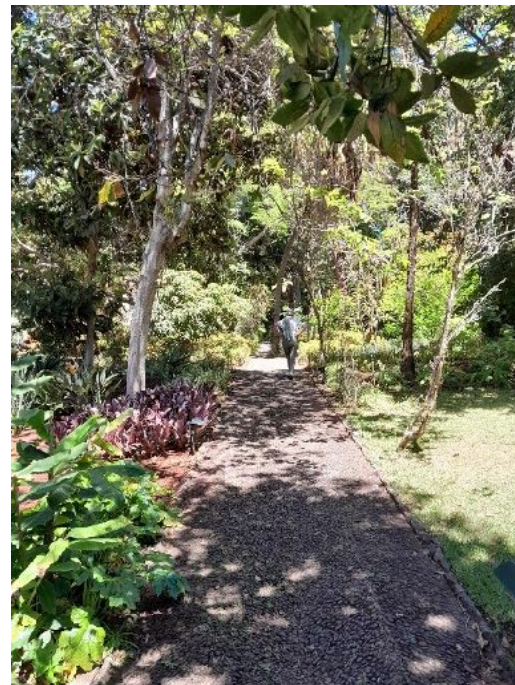
The topiary garden



The sunken garden, home to *Gazanias*, *Lampranthrus*, *Freesias*, *Ixias*, *Nerines* and *Tritonias*, surrounded by *Agaves* and *Aloes*.



A splendid specimen of *Dracaena draco* in the Quinta da Cruzes garden, propped to prevent collapse.



The path through the Quinta da Bela Vista garden.



Jacaranda trees in the Avenida da Arriaqa, in the centre of the city. Note the ubiquitous Funchal mosaic pavement – “Calçada Portuguesa” – which can be found in many pedestrian areas throughout Funchal. It consists of small flat stones of basalt and limestone.

They are a work of art made by the “calçeteiros” in many beautiful different mosaic patterns, which can vary from historical, geometrical, floral, maritime and regional themes.

And finally ...



Walking a typical levada (water channel) in the hills above Funchal; they bring water condensed from clouds in the high mountains above down to the dry southern coastal areas.

Photographs© Iain McLaren. April/May 2023.
Words are mainly from published garden guides.


Bring your ideas to the table as a new SGT trustee with membership oversight

Membership Secretary

Surrey Gardens Trust
Trustee/Governor

J91693

[f](#) [in](#) [t](#)



At a glance

Skills

- DATABASE / CRM DEVELOPMENT
- NETWORK / SYSTEM MANAGEMENT
- OFFICE AND ADMINISTRATION MANAGEMENT
- DATA PROTECTION / GDPR
- DATA ANALYSIS

Where

Guildford, GU1 1AA

Mainly at home


Apply
Ask a question
Save

Surrey Gardens Trust is looking for a new Membership Secretary to join the trustees and help with the administrative elements of membership and join the team as we work to engage with and expand our membership.

What difference will you make?

Our Membership Secretary is at the heart of what we do. They are engaged with the Events Committee and our lecture and visit programmes. They work with the Chair in relation to new initiatives around membership and, as a Trustee of a small Council, they have a voice with all other Trustees in the decisions that we make. Our current Membership Secretary, Michael Craft, is retiring this year and we would like to recruit a replacement with a generous window of overlap to give the chosen candidate the opportunity to shadow Michael, to meet the teams and to understand the current arrangements for a seamless transfer of responsibility.

Contact Sarah Dickinson at chairsurreygt@gmail.com to have a chat about the role and what we are looking forward to in 2024.




Save the Date

AGM Lunch and Lecture

Saturday 9 December from 11 am.

The Old Barn Hall, 55 Church Road, Great Bookham, KT23 3PQ.



Our Guest Speaker will be
Dr. Peter Herring, talking to us about

Winkworth Arboretum: The Legacy of a Remarkable Man

Dr Wilfrid Fox, resident of Hascombe for over 40 years, dedicated his later years to the creation of Winkworth Arboretum. Peter’s talk will cover Dr Fox’s life and the development of the arboretum, illustrating how his vision came to be achieved.



Congratulations!!

We are delighted to report that Sandra Pullen, Surrey Gardens Trust member, was a Gardens Trust Volunteer Award 2023 Nominee. A huge achievement and testament to her work with the Gardens Trust online lecture team. We are also enormously grateful to Sandra who worked closely with Sheri to deliver our online Lecture programme over many months.

Memories of our July Garden Visit to Knepp



Photographs©Sheri Sticpewich

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