

SURREY GARDENS TRUST



Newsletter

No. 49
March 2017

Surrey Gardens Trust will have a **John Evelyn Study Day** at Wotton House, Dorking on **19th April 2017**

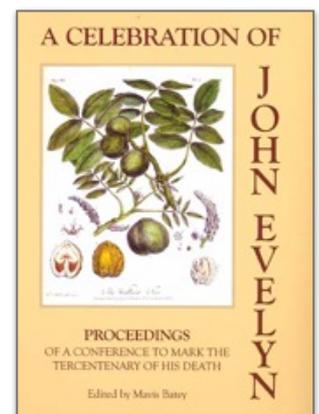


Exedra, Albury ©Cherrill Sands 2006



The Temple, Wotton
©Wotton

Just over a decade ago in 2006, the SGT celebrated the tercentenary of John Evelyn's death with a two day conference at Wotton House. Perhaps some of you have the excellent collection of essays published by the Trust. We are delighted that many will again have the opportunity to revisit both Albury Park and Wotton House and remember once again Evelyn's influence on gardens and horticulture and as we go to print we are overwhelmed by your response to the earlier promotion and find that the day is now fully booked.



Did you know.....some facts about John Evelyn (1620-1706)



Wotton House was John Evelyn's 'most cherished place on earth'. He loved its sense of rural seclusion, the long chalk spine of the downs, the eminence of Leith Hill.

The landscape at Wotton House was restored by John Evelyn's grandson aided by the *Memoires or my Grand-son* (an interim planning strategy for the revival of Wotton written by Evelyn before his death.)



John Evelyn's *Sylva* (1664), a panegyric about the seventeenth-century arboreal world, was actually commissioned by the Royal Society to focus on trees suitable for converting into industrial timber.

Sylva remained in print in various forms for over one hundred and fifty years, the last edition being published in 1825.

Sylva is a source of surprising and intimate details concerning life in seventeenth-century England: we learn that both beech and sweet chestnut leaves could be used for the stuffing of mattresses, for example, beech leaves 'continue sweet' for longer than straw and sweet chestnut make 'very wholesome mattresses to lie on...but for the crackling noise they make...!'

John Evelyn (1620-1706) is remembered today as a diarist and author but his influence on gardens and horticulture spans the centuries. Stephen Switzer writing in 1718, was convinced that Evelyn had played a significant part in establishing the English landscape tradition of rural gardening, not called landscape gardening until the end of the eighteenth century.

Our Study Day will be held at Wotton House. The house at Wotton is now a hotel but the gardens are still recognisable as those sketched by Evelyn in the mid-seventeenth century. There will also be a visit to Albury Park. Like Wotton, Albury is a rare survivor and an outstanding example of a mid-seventeenth century landscape designed by Evelyn for Henry Howard who became the Duke of Norfolk. Beryl Saich, the principal speaker, will give a detailed and entertaining overview of Evelyn and his life.

SURREY GARDENS TRUST AWARDS FOR SCHOOLS

NINE SCHOOLS RECEIVED AWARDS in 2016

The Surrey Gardens Trust Schools Award Scheme was advertised to all state maintained primary and nursery schools in the county at the beginning of the autumn term last year, and the Schools Committee was very pleased to receive fourteen applications. Council had made £1500 available for allocation. As this was not sufficient to give an award to all the applicants, the Committee selected nine schools and divided the funds between them. They were also given a £20 voucher donated by Squire's Garden Centres.

The successful schools were five primary, two infant schools and two schools for severely disabled pupils. Most of the projects planned for their grounds involved beds for growing flowers and vegetables and several wanted to create sensory gardens. These projects involve the schools in fundraising for quite considerable costs. Parent/teacher associations often make significant contributions with fundraising activities and the SGT is pleased to be able to assist with awards of one or two hundred pounds. The children are always very enthusiastic about their gardening activities and we hope that it will encourage them in a love of gardens and gardening in the future.

The majority of schools applying for awards are so often located in the east half of Surrey. All the successful schools are visited by members of the Committee, who all live in the west half of Surrey and are therefore involved in long drives across the county.

If any members living in the east would be interested in visiting a school to present their cheque and be shown their gardening projects, please do get in touch with Jill Leggatt on jill.leggatt@ntlworld.com or 01483 763734. If you live in the west we would welcome your help too.

Note from the Editor

The Surrey Gardens Trust Council would welcome anyone who would like to get involved with our work .

The Events Committee would be delighted to hear from anyone who would like to get involved in arranging a visit or other event. Please do not hesitate to contact Sheri Sticpewich: sticpewich@btinternet.com. Do share the current garden visit list and encourage your friends to join the Trust and enjoy the varied programme.

The Communications Group are currently engaged in designing a new website and looking at our promotional material. If you have the time and skills to help with this project in however small a way please do not hesitate to get in touch with me: sfdickinson@btinternet.com.

And finally, as Editor I am always delighted to hear about you with your stories about your gardens and/or our historic heritage. Please do get in touch: sfdickinson@btinternet.com.

Summer Garden Visits

The Events Committee are delighted to announce our Summer garden visits programme.

Full details and booking forms have been emailed separately. Here are the dates for your diary and details about the visits.

Dates for the diary

Tuesday 6th June

Barnett Hill, Guildford and
Chinthurst Lodge, Wonersh, Guildford



Thursday 22nd June

Loseley Park, Guildford



Tuesday 11th July

West Dean Gardens, near Chichester



Wednesday 26th July

Garden Museum, Lambeth, London



Wednesday 9th August

Englefield House, Berkshire



Tuesday 6th June – 10.30a.m.

Barnett Hill

Blackheath Lane, Guildford GU5 0RF

Barnett Hill is a Grade II listed Queen Anne style mansion built in 1905 by Frank Cook, grandson of the travel agent, Thomas Cook. Positioned on a hilltop location overlooking lush Surrey countryside, Barnett Hill has 26 acres of landscaped gardens with terraces, formal areas and extensive herbaceous borders. After a colourful history, including occupation by the Red Cross during the war, in 2005 the property was developed into a hotel and conference centre. The spirit of the gardens has largely been maintained as evidenced by their style and structure, with extensive formal lawns contained by beautifully clipped yew hedges, areas of yorkstone paving, and the survival of numerous original outbuildings including greenhouses, a tea house, and Wendy house. Planted areas to explore include the impressive long borders and many smaller garden 'rooms' including a gravel garden with ornamental grasses, a tropical garden, a pond garden with borders of fragrant Comte de Chambord roses, and quirky '50p' borders displaying seasonal bedding plants.

We will have a talk and guided tour with Della Connelly, the head gardener.

Members: £12 per person, Non-members £14 per person - To include refreshments upon arrival. Visitors can pre-book lunch consisting of a 3-course hot/cold buffet for £15 per person. Pre-booking is required otherwise we can suggest alternative lunch arrangements in the area.

6th June – 2.30 p.m.

2 Chinthurst Lodge

Wonersh Common, Wonersh, Guildford GU5 0PR

by kind invitation of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Goodridge

This is a beautifully structured and immaculately maintained garden of just over an acre. Surrounded by fields, with views towards Chinthurst Hill, the garden is enhanced by its atmospheric rural setting. The core of the property dates back to 1745 when it was part of a larger country house that was divided in 1952. Acquired in 1988 by the current owners, the bones of the garden were largely in place. Over the years, the owners have developed the plot into a series of 'rooms' including a kitchen garden, White Garden, a Millennium Garden with pond and box parterre. The laburnum walk and small herb garden were inspired by Rosemary Verey's designs. Every inch of space has been carefully thought out and the borders are skillfully and generously planted.

Brief talk by Mr Michael Goodridge, tour of garden at own leisure and plants for sale.

Members: £10 per person, Non-members £12 per person -
To include refreshments



**Thursday 22nd June –
1.00 p.m.**

Loseley Park

**Stakescorner Road, Guildford
GU3 1HS**

Built during the reign of Elizabeth I, Loseley Park stands in ancient Surrey parkland with stunning views towards the North Downs. Loseley remains the home of the More-Molyneux family and is relatively unchanged since 1562 when it was first built. The House contains fine works of art, exquisite panelling from Henry VIII's Nonsuch Palace and a room where Elizabeth I slept on her visit. In addition, the elegant 2.5 acre Walled Garden, based on a design by Gertrude Jekyll, contains an assortment of well-designed rooms, a vine walk, a huge spread of wisteria, a moat and moat walk and an extremely old Mulberry tree. The award-winning Rose Garden has over 1,000 bushes including many old fashioned varieties. There is a Flower Garden always awash with vivid colours, a stunning White Garden as well as a Herb Garden and Organic Vegetable Garden.

Guided tours of the House and Garden: House tours will commence at 1.20p.m and 1.40p.m. Group Tours of the house not to exceed 25 people so there will be two allocated slots. Guided garden tour starts at 2.30p.m. Those individuals only wishing to do the Guided Garden tour should arrive by 2.15p.m. Afternoon tea will be served at 3.30p.m in the Chestnut Lodge.

House & Gardens Tour Combined: **Members: £19 per person, Non-members £21** - To include refreshments

Garden Tour Only: **Members: £15 per person, Non-members £17** - To include refreshments

Loseley Park has a small café serving light lunches although space is limited. There are also two small picnic areas, one close to the car park and the other near the lake. Picnics are not permitted in the Walled Garden.

**Tuesday 11th July – 11.00
a.m.**

West Dean Gardens

**Near Chichester, West Sussex
PO18 0RX**

Restoration of the gardens at West Dean commenced after the great storm of 1987 by Gardens Manager Jim Buckland and Gardens Supervisor Sarah Wain. Their bold re-development programme was designed to bring the nineteenth century gardens into the twenty-first century. Jim and Sarah have divided the 90 acres of grounds into four distinct areas: the gardens entrance; the walled kitchen garden; the pleasure grounds and the 49-acre St Roche's Arboretum.

The garden dates back to 1622 when the original manor house was built by James Lewkenor. In 1804, when the current house was built, the gardens were enlarged and the park was laid out, with the kitchen garden moved to its present position and enclosed by walls. The Estate enjoys numerous mature beeches, limes, horse chestnuts, planes and cedars from this period and the present layout owes much to their planting. Subsequent owners have continued to develop the gardens, including William James, who rebuilt and extended the glasshouses in the walled kitchen garden, constructed the impressive 300 foot long pergola (designed by Harold Peto) in the North Lawn and extensively planted the grounds and arboretum. The garden did fall into decline when William's son, Edward James, inherited the estate, as he lived abroad for long periods.

The Walled Kitchen Garden with its recently restored glasshouses, immaculate fruit orchard, bountiful vegetable garden and cutting flower garden are impressive and will be absolutely beautiful in July.

We will have a guided tour by the Head Gardener.

Members: £13 per person, Non-members £15 per person - includes garden entrance and guided tour (*refreshments not included*)

Members to purchase their own lunch and tea at the Café or bring their own picnic to enjoy in the Gardens.

Wednesday 26th July - 11.00a.m.

Garden Museum

5 Lambeth Palace Rd, Lambeth, London SE1 7LB

The Garden Museum was established in 1977, rescuing the ancient church of St Mary's from demolition. The remains of John Tradescant (c1570 - 1638), the first great gardener and plant-hunter in British history are buried here. The Museum is currently undergoing a £7.5 million redevelopment project and will be reopening in early April. The Museum hosts three exhibitions each year exploring the making of British gardens, and a programme of talks and interviews celebrating figures from gardening history, from the forgotten plant-hunters and gardeners of the past to the designers and writers in fashion today. Visitors can also see a permanent display of paintings, tools, ephemera and historic artefacts as well as the newly designed gardens.



The centrepiece of their main exhibition will be *The Tradescant's Orchard*, a 17th century volume of 66 watercolours of various fruit varieties. This volume is one of Bodleian Library's finest treasures and has never been on loan outside Oxford! The volume is thought to have been produced by Hester Tradescant (née Pooks) as a practical document to be used to record size, colour, texture of fruit and ripening dates, and depicts cherries, plums, damsons, apricots, nectarines, peaches, pears, grapes and single varieties of strawberry, gooseberry, date, quince and hazelnut. The fruits are accompanied by charming depictions of googly-eyed birds and insects.

This unique record of fruits is complemented by botanical watercolours of fruit painted by forty of the world's leading botanical painters, including Caroline Barber and Sally Strawson. In addition, the Garden Museum, in collaboration with the Ashmolean Museum, will have on display a quasi-recreation of the Tradescant 'Ark'.

We will have a talk and tour given by the Director Christopher Woodward and the Curator Emma House
Members: £10 per person, Non-members £12.
(refreshments **not** included)

The Café is open to purchase tea, coffee and cake upon arrival. There will be an option to pre-book lunch at The Garden Museum Café. Further details (and a menu) will be sent out with confirmed bookings closer to the date of the event.

Wednesday 9th August – 2.00 p.m.

Englefield House

Englefield, Berkshire RG7 5EN

There is an inscription on a stone staircase in the garden which reads, "If you help towards Englefield garden either in flowers or invention you shall be welcome thither" written in a letter in 1601 and demonstrates that a garden at Englefield was being planned four hundred years ago. The house has remained in the Paulet family since 1635, is listed at Grade II* and the superb gardens are Grade II listed on the Historic Parks & Gardens Register. The country house is surrounded by 19th and 20th century formal and woodland gardens within an 18th and 19th landscape park, set in the Estate's extensive woodlands.

Of note are the 1850s stone balustrades and staircases, much original planting is still in place and this includes varieties of rhododendron, azalea, camellia, magnolia, hamamelis, parrotia, cornus, davidia and acer. Recent features include; the Ivy house, the grotto with its fir cone-studded interior, the bear, the round pebble garden, a yellow and blue garden enclosed in clipped yew, the kitchen garden plus a fountain and rill. The views out to the countryside are spectacular.

We will have a guided tour by the Head Gardener.

Members £13, Non-members £15 (to include afternoon tea and cake in the Long Gallery)



Plant Heritage

Here are the dates of the Plant Fairs for the Surrey Group of Plant Heritage:

Sunday, 7th May at Denbies Wine Estate, 10.00 a.m - 2.00 p.m. (13 nurseries - the list of the participating nurseries are added to the Plant Heritage website two weeks before the plant fair. This gives you the opportunity to order plants from the nurseries in advance and to see who will be there).

Sunday, 28th May at Ripley Village Hall, 10.00 a.m-2.00 p.m, plus homemade cakes and teas

Sunday, 20th August at Denbies Wine Estate, 10.00a.m - 2.00p.m.



Wendy Bentall of the Surrey Group thought we might be interested in Rosa multiflora Watsoniana which is on the Plant Heritage Threatened Plant list. She explains that it epitomises what Plant Heritage does saving garden plants which might otherwise be lost. While it is not particularly lost, Peter Beales stocks it, it is still seldom grown, and Wendy explains why she is rather fond of it

Rosa multiflora Watsoniana, the Matsumura rose or the bamboo rose is a seldom grown rose introduced in 1870 from Japan. Gertrude Jekyll said "There are not many Roses that are distinctly unbeautiful, but this may certainly be said of R. Watsoni, a curious plant from Japan. It has small, mean colourless flowers in rather shapeless trusses that have the appearances of being stunted or blighted; the leaves are twisted and attenuated, and their set and action have an aimless character; they also look as if some enemy has been at work upon them".

Ignoring Gertrude Jekyll, this rose does have some redeeming features. For a start it is evergreen, its salix like mottled leaves appear pale yellow against other foliage. In my garden it grows to about two metres in a fairly dry shady place against a fence where it scrambles amongst other shrubs. I cut it with garden shears when it gets in the way; otherwise it just gets on with things. It has hooks rather than thorns and its scentless flowers are pale yellow blackberry like.

Ellen Willmott of Miss Willmott's ghost fame, had it illustrated in her book *The Genus of Rosa* published in 1910-14, see illustration. It is grown more as a curiosity than for its looks and it is on the Plant Heritage Threatened Plant list.

Wendy Bentall

Serendipity

(Faculty of making happy discoveries by accident)

Back in 1992, following a suggestion from the Earl of Onslow, Surrey Gardens Trust approached the National Trust for access to the library at Clandon House. As no current library catalogue existed, SGT offered to compile one for the NT; it was later agreed that the contents of storage areas and books, papers and albums in other parts of the house would also be included.

Brian Wilson and Kathleen Burgess, members of the Research and Recording group worked through the winter of 1992/93, compiling a complete catalogue of the 3,080 books. Transcriptions were made of information found concerning the gardens, the most interesting being a handwritten diary describing the gardens at Clandon during 1906/7 and 1911/12. More information on the gardens was found in estate accounts referring to the period 1894 - 1924, which were incomplete.

An extract from these accounts up to 31st December 1895 showing expenditure on the garden includes:

Sutton and Sons, seeds, etc. £2 12s 6d

Mark Smith - 12 tins of weedkiller 16s 3d

Smallpiece's man - getting water lilies 2s 6d

Extracts from the diary include for:

April 19th 1907: Anemone Appenina in dell, a carpet so I am informed by Mr Bowles in a letter written to me while in Florence.

June 26th 1907: Two houses full of carnations, difficult to know what to do with them.

May 26th 1910: Almost all the Spanish irises have been eaten by mice. It is of course now no use putting in fresh ones, so I have filled in with anemones but they don't look like flowering.

A copy of the work done by Brian and Kathleen back in 1993 has been passed to the historic garden consultants working on the Conservation Master Plan for Clandon. It is justification for the research and recording done by our volunteers over many years.

Brenda Lewis

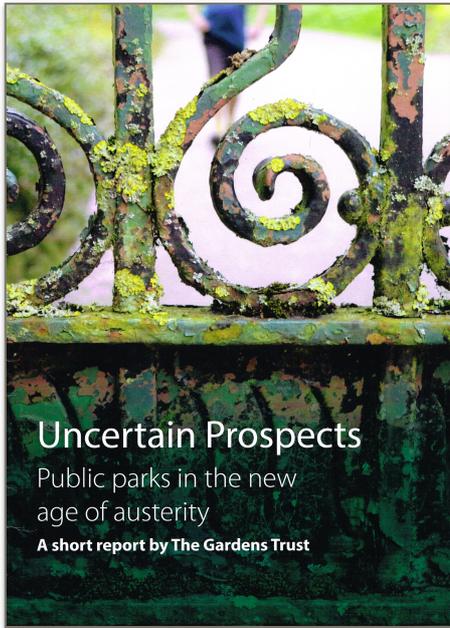
(Photographs show the Clandon library before and after the fire)





Uncertain Prospects

The Gardens Trust has been at the forefront of the renewed campaign to bring the public parks crisis to the full attention of government and has raised its voice in support of the sector which sees that parks are 'at a tipping point'.



In response to the damage that austerity cuts are having on public parks the Gardens Trust commissioned a report: **Uncertain Prospects**, from University of Leicester academic Dr. Katy Layton-Jones, and submitted a memorandum to the House of Commons Select Committee for the Public Parks Inquiry. The report, which is a successor to the Garden History Society and Victorian Society report, *Public Prospects: the historic urban park under threat*, (1993) was published in late November 2016, following Dr. Layton-Jones' appearance for the Gardens Trust at the Select Committee on 14th November and was subsequently submitted to members of the Committee as supplementary evidence. The Report is available to download at: <http://thegardenstrust.org/public-parks/>.

The Report of the Commons Select Committee enquiry was published in February 2017. It fully recognises that parks are facing a real crisis. Dr. Layton-Jones in response comments : 'The Committee conceded wholeheartedly that our parks are in crisis. Its fair assessment and they're right, and they don't pull any punches'. However there is also real disappointment expressed in the findings of the Report, that that there is no substantial commitment to the central problem of funding, with the focus shifted onto management. In particular, the Committee did not recommend making parks a statutory service or establishing a national agency to fill the gap left by the loss of CAGE Space (Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment) and Green Space, which was the least being hoped for. On a more positive note, the Committee Report does recommend that a cross departmental group (to be set up) will monitor the preparation and publication of joint health and green space strategies and report annually progress through written statements to Parliament. If ministerial guidance proves ineffective or the strategies fail to raise the profile of parks, then making this a statutory duty is recommended.

In the short term, it is evident that the profile and plight of our public parks should be monitored and reported. If any vandalism of public park property is identified this can be reported both to the police and also through the Historic England Crime Prevention programme accessible through the Historic England website. The Gardens Trust fully supports this strategy and I would be delighted to hear from anyone in relation to our Surrey public parks.

Uncertain Prospects (cont...)

The Friends of Hurst Park, Surrey submitted written evidence to the Select Committee and I thought you would find this interesting and a useful indicator of the issues we should all be considering.

Who uses parks and open spaces, how often and for what?

Everyone uses parks and open spaces. Ours is used by families, young people, old people, disabled people, for picnics, kite-flying, dog-walking, running, walking, chilling out, bird watching, butterfly spotting, wild-flower identification - you name it, if it's a healthy open-air, outdoor, activity, it takes place on Hurst Park.

The contribution of parks to the health and well-being of communities

Because it can't be quantified in financial terms, this is under-rated. But parks do more to improve the health and well-being of a local population than any specific sports provision because they are for everyone, all the time. They're always open and they bring communities together. People walk and talk, meet and greet.

The impact of reductions in local authority budgets on parks

Our local authority (Elmbridge) looks after our parks very well. Even so, litter has become worse with less frequent clearance and emptying of bins. Our bins are old, broken, they are not fox-proof and they need replacing. We need dog-wardens for the serial offenders who don't pick up. Even when they are identified (by other dog-walkers usually, who care very much about not leaving dejections), nothing is done about them.

What the administrative status of parks should be in light of declining local authority resources for non-statutory services

Why should this be a given? Clearly parks are not valued for all they contribute to communities. They make communities happy and healthy. Perhaps we can all help a bit. We are the Friends of Hurst Park, but our local authority is not particularly friendly. There are ways we could work together.

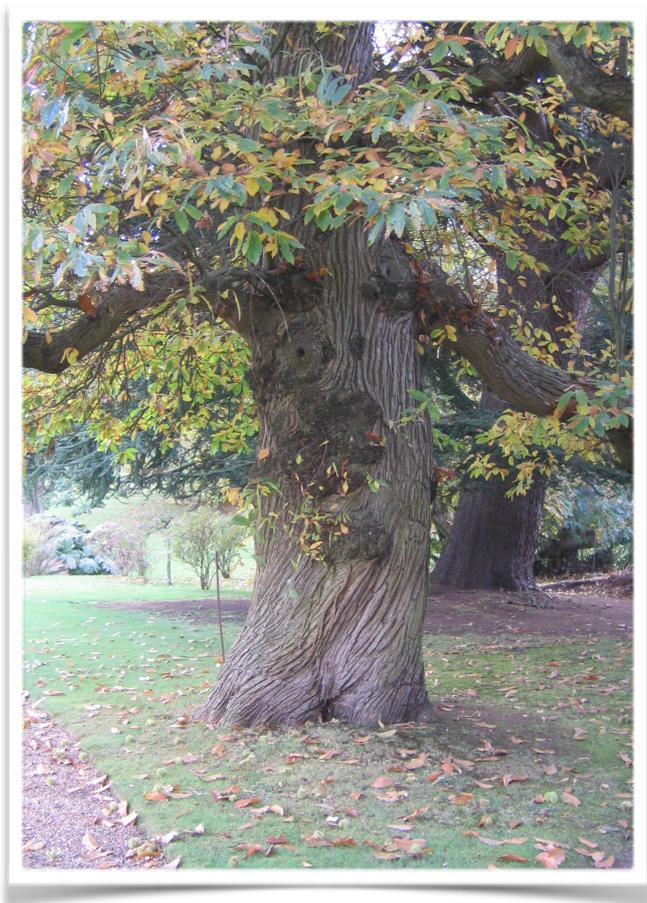
What additional or alternative funding is available and what scope is there for local authorities to generate revenue from park users

Parks should not be 'sold off' in parts to the highest bidder. For example, what has happened at Battersea Park is not acceptable. It is probably illegal to enclose so much of the park and to allow the generation of so much noise. Activities and events on parks must be compatible with the nature of the park, its use by local people, and the history and traditions of the park. Parks are places of peace and tranquillity as well as activity - that is their special value. Everyone can feel the park is theirs to enjoy.

What the advantages and disadvantages are of other management models, such as privatisation, outsourcing or mutualisation

It's how parks are lost to communities. Parks have never been there to make money; they have been established to improve the health of communities. They have never been more than they are now, with increasing urbanisation and pressures on housing and infrastructure. This point takes us back to the second bullet-point about recognising the intrinsic value of parks. Their value is in being parks - clear, open, attractive spaces - with all the benefits that brings to the local population. This will not be improved by management models that seek to monetarise parks. It is the death of a park. It worries us to see this in the consultation - NOT the direction to travel.

Sarah Dickinson



Sweet Chestnut, the Drive, Albury

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Directory

President: Dame Penelope Keith, DBE, DL

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

David Hanson (Treasurer) dwhanson@btinternet.com

Michael Craft (Membership Secretary) michaelhcraft@gmail.com

Sheri Sticpewich (Events Organiser) sticpewich@btinternet.com

Sarah Dickinson (Editor) sfdickinson@btinternet.com Tel: 07966271164

Surrey Gardens Trust
www.surreygardenstrust.co.uk

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