

A large, leafy tree in a field with a building in the background. The tree is the central focus, with its thick trunk and dense canopy. The background shows a green field, a body of water, and a large building, possibly a castle or manor house, under a clear sky.

# SUFFOLK GARDENS TRUST

Reg. Charity No. 1044024

NEWSLETTER • SPRING 2016

## Suffolk Gardens Trust SPRING 2016

Newsletter 43

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**Contributions to the Autumn  
Newsletter should arrive  
no later than  
12th September 2016 sent to:  
Stephen Beaumont,  
email:  
stepheninkybeaumont@gmail.com  
(address see back cover)**

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#### **Disclaimer**

*The views expressed in this Newsletter are those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent those of Suffolk Gardens Trust. Whilst every effort is made to check the information provided, the editor and Suffolk Gardens Trust cannot be held responsible for any inaccuracies contained in this publication*

## SGT Walled Kitchen Gardens Group

This is a group that has the air of a national crime agency, featuring a team of ace detectives, all looking for clues to what have made some of the region's most historic walled kitchen gardens the splendid places they are. All members enjoy meeting in the autumn and winter months, when the nettles and brambles are in remission, making it easier to find treasures like boundaries and the original foundations of glasshouses, long since disappeared. We welcome like-minded people who enjoy experiencing the finds of some of the secrets of Suffolk's greatest hidden gardens.

**Peter Cunard**, Chairman

## 21st AGM 2016 Sue Paul

**To be held at the  
Town Hall, Felixstowe  
(See Events for more details)**

**Saturday 4th June 2016, at 2pm**

### AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence (Officers and Council members only)
2. Minutes of the 20th AGM held at Framlingham on 20th June 2015
3. Reports from the Council
4. Election of Officers and Council members
5. Any other business (of which prior notice has been given to the Hon. Secretary)

## From the Chairman

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El Nino is getting a bad press nowadays, what with being blamed for serious flooding in the North of England and severe drought in Southern Africa. For us the sight of early daffodils waving in the wind before Christmas brought a cheer normally reserved for Easter.

I sometimes remind people, members and non-members alike, that our Gardens Trust has two purposes, to provide both pleasure and study; the latter important for our Charity standing.

Ideally these are brought together – in our Winter Lectures (see elsewhere), our Garden Visits (ditto) and the Walled Gardens Group, which is flourishing with new members and enthusiasm.

John Dyer and I attended the East of England Gardens Trust Meeting in Bedfordshire last September. Finishing with a guided tour of the Swiss Garden at Shuttleworth, it was an interesting day. We realised we were not alone with apprehension about the merger of the Association of Gardens Trusts and the Garden History Society. Of further comfort was that we all seemed to share the same problems and concerns.

SGT probably has more members than those CGTs surrounding us, but we have fewer volunteers. Are these facts driven by the size of our County? You only have to look at a map to see that Bedfordshire, for example, would probably fit into Suffolk twice.

One thing most County Gardens Trust have in common this year will be the Tercentenary celebrations of the birth of Lancelot Brown. As you will see elsewhere we have our own day of celebration and study on 15th. July at Heveningham Hall and this is already provoking interest from far and wide.

I'm sure we all have our favourite CB landscape. For many years I used to play cricket on a Sunday against Stowe School, on the south front. When fielding, for one over one could admire the grandest cricket pavilion anywhere (by Vanbrugh), and next the view was taken down and over one of Capability's finest. Easy to lose concentration on the game in hand!

Equally demanding in concentration is the drive along the B 1117 in front of Heveningham Hall, which I do from time to time. The landscape fits just perfectly with that very grand and beautiful house.

I draw your attention to the article by Sue Paul about our bursaries. Do remember this if you hear of any students starting on appropriate courses – a small encouragement, but often useful. And if you know of someone considering A Career in Horticulture then do bring Paul Miles' article to their attention. One of SGT's founder members and most avid supporters, Paul has had a most interesting career I think you will agree.

I trust you will enjoy our Events list of garden visits this year as varied in location, size and type as usual. Don't miss the AGM and the guided visit to Felixstowe Seafront Gardens – you will find them quite different from when you last saw them.

I hope to meet as many as possible of you through the summer. ■ **SB**

# The Gardens of Rougham Hall, Suffolk

as described in *The Gardeners Chronicle* 24 Oct. 1896 (pp. 491-2)

David Taylor Fish (1824-1901) Author and Landscape Gardener of Bury St. Edmunds

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The beautiful seat of E.J. Johnstone, Esq., has long formed a striking and picturesque object on the highway between Bury St Edmunds and Stowmarket, about four miles from Bury. For several generations Rougham was famous for the family of Bennets, its peat, and its Rhododendrons. The house near to common and heath, was built by one of the Philip Bennets, who succeeded each other here through several generations. The Drurys, a well-known Suffolk family, held this estate before the Bennets, and probably some of the fine timber that still enriches the estate belongs to that early period. Be that as it may, with the advent of the present proprietor great improvements have been effected, alike inside and out, and the mansion and gardens are being furnished and adorned with every modern appliance and convenience regardless of expense; the more recent and largest improvements in the gardens and grounds have been carried out under the direction of Mr George Paul, the well-known rose grower and accomplished landscape gardener of the Old Nurseries, Cheshunt, Hertfordshire.

With the exception of its thriving plantations, the chief arboricultural glory of Rougham, has lain in the extreme beauty and enormous numbers of its Rhododendrons. Here through several generations, the Ponticum section of Rhododendrons have grown like weeds, sub-cropping the fine plantations that spreads far and wide from the Hall in the direction of the Rougham station on the Great Eastern line, and lighting up the heath with a glow of colour that delights the eyes of so many travellers Rhododendron season.

But special sites for American plants are, as some gardeners rather too strongly express it, seldom good for much else, and hence it was found that the grounds around Rougham Hall (a light sandy peat), was by no means favourable to the growth of Roses and other trees and shrubs, though the district round is emphatically a Rose centre. Hence the bold resolution to give the new rosary near the Hall a favourable start on new soil, and thousands of cart-loads were removed from the heath to lay a sure and solid foundation of permanent success among the Roses, and other shrubs, trees, and plants around the Hall. For such permanent and lasting improvements, it is just as needful to make proper provision as to lay the foundations of a mansion solidly and well.

In dealing with such demesnes as Rougham, it is of importance to bear in mind that landscapes can be cut out as well as planted. The whole of the large wood proceeding from the Hall across the heath to the station is a happy hunting-ground for objects of beauty and interest for the garden. In not a few cases it was found impossible to see the fine timber for trees, and even the glorious masses of the Rhododendrons, spreading far and wide in unbroken phalanx, often shut each other out of sight. One of the first wants of old gardens and pleasure - grounds is space for observation. Vast numbers of fine specimen Oaks, Spruces, Thorns, &c., have thus been evolved out of crowded masses, and set in the new light of attractive landscapes. One of the freshest charms of such landscapes is the spontaneity of their

evolution; yesterday it was a mass of verdure or other colour, tomorrow the masses may be moulded into groups, with bewitching glades between. Thus, through evolution, we may get very many more and better effects in our landscapes. Ideas of distance, grandeur, freedom, as well as variety may be cut out as well as planted in. Only a few touches of taste or flashes of genius, and behold revealed on the instant are the beauties of shrub and tree, of wood and walk, of green vistas or far-away church steeple or tower that may have been hidden for many years. We have seen not a few landscapes transformed by bringing in a winding river, the sight of the sea, the glory of the rising and setting sun, clear peeps into the open face of the sky, a mountain summit, or a far reaching spread of field or forest, or may be of only Buttercups and Daisies.

Rougham has been fortunate in finding a garden-artist in Mr George Paul, quite as anxious to cut out or show up all the old beauties as to plant the new and equally well qualified for either. Mr Johnstone, the proprietor, and his gardener, Mr Henley, have also thrown themselves with fervour in both directions, and Rougham seems in a fair way of becoming one of the most charming and fairest places in the county of Suffolk, or indeed in the country.

The new rosary is planted with the choicest varieties and there is also much freshness and variety given to it by the use of considerable variety in form, size, and training, and by surrounding the whole with a Rose hedge. The place was already crowded with thousands and tens of thousands of *Rhododendron Ponticum* as well as some 400 of the choicest hybrids and quantities of *Kalmias* and *Azaleas* have been planted and edged with hardy Heaths. Quantities of the best shrubs have also been planted, such as Japanese Maples, *Magnolias*, *Pyrus japonica*, *Syringas*, double and single Lilacs, Almonds, Thorns, *Weigelas*, *Laburnums*, *Cerasus*, *Deutzias*, and many other deciduous shrubs.



Rougham Hall, 1900.

For coloured foliage, free use is made of purple Beech, Liquidambar, golden Yews, golden and other Hollies, Elders, Privets, &c, and fine masses of the best varieties of Rhododendron, with borders in front of them for hardy herbaceous and flowering plants and gardens have been made in other parts for other purposes—as, for instance, the Dell garden for early bulbs; the Alpine garden, hardy Fernery, the Rootery, the idea of which is said to have originated with the proprietor and his gardener, all of which are furnished with the best possible material by Mr Paul, and are rapidly growing into verdure and beauty.

The flower garden and shrubberies cover some- where about 15 acres, and the green glades and walks are at once spacious and charming; one that starts from near the fernery is 12 feet wide and 100 yards long, and leads off to the left on to a gravel walk 6 feet wide.

Again, proceeding from the hardy fernery, on the right is a green walk 20 feet wide, running round on to the pleasure-ground, and to the Rose-garden. Other walks and glades proceed in various directions, the object being to provide alluring walks to all the chief points of interest, and also affording a choice of gravel over turf in wet weather. The chief pleasure- grounds lie on rolling ground, the natural levels being mainly preserved. There are some fine views of trees, &c. from the handsome conservatory attached to the mansion, and from this point the mixture of lawn and beauty of flower and shrub have a very remarkable and pleasing effect, while the gravel-walks or green glades allure us to closer fellowship with nature in the woods with their carpet of Rhododendrons. The conservatory was well furnished with Ferns, Palms, Aspidistra, Eucalyptus, Begonias, Pelargoniums, and other flowering plants.

Great improvements have been made, and many so-called imperishable glasshouses built in the kitchen-garden within the last few years. There is a well walled-in garden of about 3 acres, with the inevitable "slips" beyond. The walls are well furnished with admirably- trained choice fruit-trees, especially of Pears, Peaches, Plums, Cherries, &c. The vegetables were of the finest varieties, and the highest quality. The kitchen-garden is on the opposite side of the public road to the mansion, flower-garden, and pleasure-grounds, and is situated on a much better kind of soil. Splendid Asparagus and other vegetables grow in it. As an index to the character of the climate and soil, it may be said that a fine border of intermediate Stocks that had stood in the open air all the winter without any protection was in bloom at the end of May last, and that I saw here some of the finest heads of Asparagus that I have seen in Britain, and other vegetables as good.

There were several fine vineries of Muscat, Black Hamburg, Gros Colmar, Lady Downes, and Alicante – the earliest Muscats being grown in pots—and the early Hamburg in a house. The Alexandra Peach was also ripe in May. Noblesse Peach, and Pine-apple Nectarines were swelling off fine crops. On shelves at the apex of the houses were seen fine samples of Royal Sovereign Strawberries; and Pines, Melons, and Tomatoes were noted.

The plant-houses consist of a plant-stove well furnished with fine specimens of exotic Ferns, Palms of choice species, Dracænas, Pandanus Veitchii, Dendrobium nobile, D. Wardianum, &c. The large green- house 40 feet long by 20 feet wide, was

mainly filled with Carnations, Pelargoniums, and double fimbriated white-blossomed Petunias for cutting. Other smaller houses were furnished with later plants in succession. There were also a fine house of Odontoglossums, and two other Orchid-houses containing a very promising collection. Among the Orchids were some fine Lælias, Cattleyas, Oncidiums, Calanthes, and Cypripediums. The Croton-house contained some finely coloured specimens of these, and other choice stove-plants. In a word, the utilitarian, as well as the ornamental side of these fine gardens, reflect the highest credit on all concerned in planning and carrying out so successfully the many improvements that have been made.

*D.T. Fish.* ■



## **Plant Heritage Spring Fair at Helmingham Hall**

**29 May 2016 10.00 - 4.00pm**

In partnership with Plant Heritage

**This year will have 50 or more exhibitors including the  
specialist nurseries and stall holders**

Details from [events@helmingham.com](mailto:events@helmingham.com)

SGT has decided to offer Gardening Books for sale on our  
stall to raise funds and awareness

So if you have any unwanted Gardening Books (good condition please)  
- then please contact Stephen Beaumont (Back Cover)

# Gardens by the bay in Singapore

Sue Paul

Having grown up in Singapore in the 1950s and living there for 10 years, I am always amazed at the progress and innovations I see on each subsequent visit. In January last year we stopped off for 5 days on the way back from a family wedding in Sydney and top of the list was a visit to the new 'Gardens by the Bay'.

In 2005 the Singapore Government announced a plan to create new gardens facing the waterfront. In 2012 and one billion Singaporean dollars later, the gardens were opened and have attracted over 10 million visitors. The entire garden will eventually cover more than 247 acres of reclaimed land. After an international competition was launched in 2006, a UK based landscape and architectural firm was chosen to transform the rough parkland to 'Bay South'. Later will follow 2 more gardens 'Bay East' and 'Bay Central,' again designed by a UK firm. The gardens have been designed as a horticultural and botanical theme park but will develop plant science and technology. I think the gardens have a strong horticultural theme and thousands of plants from around the world are imaginatively displayed.

There are 18 'super trees' and 2 enormous conservatories, enhanced by mature trees and an impressive night lighting effects. The super trees serve as cooling towers for the conservatories by venting the waste hot air. There are solar panels in their canopies to generate power and create shade for the visitors. The swamp areas act as drainage and eco-filters to cleanse the water.



The Flower Dome is the largest columnless conservatory in the world and covers 3 acres. This dome is dedicated to changing seasonal displays and recreates the climate of the Mediterranean and the semi-arid subtropical regions.

The taller and cooler Cloud Forest dome has within it a 115ft mountain covered in exotic plants. There is also a 98 ft waterfall with lifts, escalators and suspended walkways leading to the cloudy summit. This dome covers 2 acres.

If you ever pass through Changi Airport, do allow yourselves a stopover for a few days to visit these gardens and also to see the extensive Botanical Gardens with the spectacular orchid collection. ■



*Thanks to the RHS for some technical information which was taken from The Garden magazine.*

# Capability Brown in Suffolk

**Stephen Beaumont**

This year there will be many newspaper and magazine articles, TV programmes, radio items and so forth to celebrate the tercentenary of the birth of Lancelot Brown in Northumberland in 1716.

A remarkable man, famed for his idea of natural landscape design which surviving legacy beautifies our English countryside. Not universally appreciated during his lifetime; someone is reputed to have remarked to him “I very earnestly wish I may die before you, Mr. Brown” “Why so” asked Brown “Because I should like to see heaven before you have improved it”.

But we should also admire his business acumen and industry, as well as of course the sheer physical scope of his works. Can you imagine how you dig up a large oak tree and move it a long distance without JCBs, cranes, low loaders and so forth?

How many were employed to dig out all those lakes and water courses we see in front of so many large Georgian Country Houses?

Much, if not all, will be revealed on FRIDAY 15 JULY when the Suffolk Gardens Trust holds a day event “CAPABILITY BROWN IN SUFFOLK”

According to John Phibb’s comprehensive list of Brown attributions there are 7 in Suffolk. These vary from a 10% probability of his involvement at Great Saxham to 100% at Branches Park near Newmarket (1763-65), Fornham Hall at Fornham



Heveningham Hall. W. Watts after T. Hearne 1782.

St. Genevieve (1782), Ickworth Park (1769-76), Redgrave House (1763) – Euston Hall (1767-69) and Heveningham Hall (1781-82).

Thus we are particularly grateful to our fellow member, Mrs. Lois Hunt, and Mr. Jon Hunt, to allow us to hold our tercentenary celebration and study day at Heveningham Hall - in the original stables designed by the great man (in the shape of a horseshoe you may notice). Mr. & Mrs. Hunt have also arranged for Kim Wilkie to talk to us; Kim has designed and carried out the landscaping works for them since 1995.

We are also very pleased to have Andrew Blenkiron, Estates Director at Euston Hall, to talk to us about the design CB produced there, and the works which have recently been carried out by the Duke of Grafton to bring the water design back to CB's original design.

Added to these are Steffie Shields and Professor Tom Williamson, Capability experts both, who will be known to some of you.

But the attraction of the day does not end there. After many months of detective work Edward Martin discovered CB's original plans for Heveningham Hall at Audley End. The Hunts are in negotiation with English Heritage to bring these "home" for a brief visit, and it is planned we will be able to view them during the day.

A good lunch, with a local flavour, is being arranged in the Stable Yard and as well as a chance to walk and admire the park so elegantly laid out by CB. The Hunts are kindly allowing us access to their beautiful walled garden as well as the Orangery - showing how effective a ha-ha can be, and the much photographed "auditorium" designed by Kim Wilkie.

It will be a memorable day and one of the foremost Capability Brown celebrations which are being held through the year. Already there is interest from far and wide, but space is limited. The majority of the places will be for SGT members only, and we hope that demand will not have to lead to a ballot. However I do urge you to send through your application forms - and payment - early to avoid disappointment. See you there! ■

## **BURSARIES**

Since the start of the Bursary scheme in 2005, there have been 10 full Bursaries and 14 Interim Bursaries paid out. The Interim Bursaries are so named because the students have not claimed the remainder of their Bursary. The students have attended a variety of colleges, namely Writtle College, The College of West Anglia, Otley College, Great Yarmouth College, Lowestoft College, the Thornham Walled Garden based course, Suffolk New College and the Horticultural Correspondence College. The interest in the Bursaries has decreased as the various colleges are not teaching the variety of horticultural courses that were on offer a few years ago.

# A CAREER IN HORTICULTURE Part I

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**Paul Miles (Group 19)**

*This article was started in response to certain Members of Parliament who in recent months have been promoting horticulture as a career. Then I received a card from a fellow student asking, "Where have the fifty years gone?" and saying how much he had enjoyed his time at Wisley.*

In 1959 towards the end of my time at Selhurst Grammar School my careers master asked me what I intended to do when I left school. Gardening was already my hobby and I said that I would like to study horticulture. I was one of many who were given disparaging advice at school. He said he saw no future in this and instead arranged interviews for me in banking and insurance. This led me to meet men who wore suits and ties, had offices with dirty windows that were never opened and desks with grubby telephones and ashtrays overflowing with cigarette butts.

My father and those of his brothers who survived the Second World War (I was born in 1942 when he was in France) had been placed in banks by my grandmother and they had hated it. My father helpfully mentioned my interest in gardening to a customer, Mrs Inge Fiedler, who happened to have her friend Connie Ingwersen staying with her following the death of her husband Walter.

Walter had started the Alpine and Rock Plant Nursery W.E.Th. Ingwersen Ltd at Gravetye, near East Grinstead, Sussex, on land that he had initially rented from William Robinson at Gravetye Manor.



Wisley - hard work.

When Will Ingwersen came to collect his stepmother he invited me to work in the nursery during the Easter holiday. This led me to join the firm when I left school. I did not, however, anticipate the change in welcome when Will told me that I would never be of any use to anyone until I had weeded and dug for 18 months!

In the event I stayed for four years. I lodged at Birch Farm, which had heating but no inside plumbing, but best of all I had the run of the library built up by his father.

Apart from the nursery work we made rock gardens up and down the country and met many leading gardeners and influential clients. The foreman, George Henley, had the eye of an eagle and said, "One boy is a boy, two boys are half a boy and three boys are no good at all." There were six boys and two girls.

He selected the *Lewisia* 'George Henley' and propagated a bright orange helianthemum which I found as a seedling in the garden of Richard de Ia Mare. This was introduced into circulation as 'Henfield Brilliant'.

We also constructed large tabletop rock gardens of Sussex sandstone at the Chelsea Flower Show, which brought in good sales and some orders for rock gardens. These were made of local stone according to the locality, including Westmoreland limestone, carrstone and Kentish Rag, and sink gardens of tufa.

During this time I gained the RHS Diploma in Horticulture by correspondence course. Will Ingwersen was a member of the Council of the RHS with an interest in education. One day he took three of us to Wisley where we were interviewed as prospective Student Gardeners and two of us were offered places.

We took Horticultural Trades Association examinations. One was at Bressingham Gardens, Diss, where apart from island beds the best part was Norfolk duck for supper!

The Wisley course was residential for two years. There were two groups of 18 students leading a monastic life in Aberconway House. I was in Group 19. The arrangement was that in the first year we worked on general maintenance by day and then tried to stay awake for evening lectures.

In the second year a new junior group came in and we had to put our names in a hat for three four-month periods. I was lucky to get the vegetable plot, and then the temperate house, followed by the Fruit Field.

In the first year I was also secretary of the Lindley Society and with 'Quatters' alias Alan Grocott we planned visits to places such as Hidcote Manor Garden (NT) Bodnant (NT) and a weekend visit to The Floralties in Ghent where Wisley had an exhibit. We also arranged a series of lectures by Margery Fish, Graham Stuart Thomas and H.L. Edlin who came to talk to us. Frank Knight, the Director, and his wife had them to stay at the Directors House. All spoke without a fee.

Social activities included the Wisley to Kew Race in which Melvyn Stainthorpe ('Voice of the North') excelled. There was also an annual beer drinking competition, which required much practice. Claude (Group 18) from Nigeria could down a pint of mild in 2.3 seconds. I only achieved 10.5 seconds and kept it down with difficulty. There was football, cricket, a lecture competition and the Round the Garden Race.

As we prepared for our finals we also had to find jobs. Several students went into the Parks system. John Phillips became Parks Director of Brighton & Hove and

the late Bob Legge went to Regents Park in London. Jeremy Epstein, from Israel, who had a fight with a fire hose in the bedroom corridor with Ray Tate, became a landscape architect.

All in all it was a joyful experience. We received board and lodgings and a weekly allowance (£4 I think). Sometimes we attended the fortnightly flower shows at Vincent Square as assistants, and through all this long friendships were forged.

Our group put on a spectacular Christmas party with dancing girls and Roman soldiers, alias RHS Judges. Rodney Booth and Bob Legge were sprightly ballerinas! We finished with a supper and dance for our friends and guests.

We each had to submit a collection of 100 pressed flowers for our finals and a pest/insect collection. I think I pre-empted Damien Hirst with a mole stretched out on a piece of glass preserved in formaldehyde. This led to a ban on rabbits and roe deer being preserved in the same way!

The festivities on the night of the finals have been described in *A Hundred Years of Wisley*. However, it was one of the last such courses. So many students used it as a stepping stone into the Parks system that the original idea of training students to work in private gardens had been lost and it would have cost too much to upgrade the course in the face of the universities and other colleges.

The present apprenticeship schemes are very good with a higher proportion of students from other countries and it provides an earlier step onto the ladder.

Wisley has grown out of all recognition. There was a kiosk but no shop, garden centre or restaurant. What is now a car park opposite the Laboratory was damp woodland, mainly birch with mosses and the odd sundew.

It is increasingly clear that horticulture has become an important subject embracing food production and conservation and offering a wide choice for a satisfying career which I hope my schoolmaster lived long enough to appreciate.

The headmaster Mr Acland did. In fact he had retired to the safe distance of Tasmania. I wrote to him and mentioned that I had played truant on Thursday afternoons in the fifth form to work in a neighbour's garden. He sent a spirited reply in which he said that he would reprimand my form master. His letter was published in *The Times* newspaper during correspond-ence about truancy. A few days later I received a letter from Mr Egbert (my old form master) saying:



Wisley - fun and games

Dear Miles,

*I have noticed your absence belatedly but I have decided to take no further action in view of your public acknowledgment of the offence.*

Best Wishes

Reg Egbert

Part II to follow in the next newsletter ■

## EVENTS 2016

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**SATURDAY 30th APRIL, 2.30pm**

### **Rosemary's, Rectory Hill, East Bergholt CO7 6TH**

By kind permission of Mrs. Natalie Finch  
A guided walk with our hostess will reveal a romantic garden with artistic characteristics. Developed over 35 years, it is planted to reveal paths and vistas. Many flowering and unusual trees and shrubs and a much admired tapestry bed with mixed Helebores, tulips, bulbs and appropriate ground cover. TEAS provided.



**Cost:** Members £8 Guests £9.50.

**Directions:** From the A 12 between Ipswich and Colchester take the East Bergholt / Hadleigh turn off. The B 1070 into East Bergholt, take the 1st. right turning, Hadleigh Road. At junction with Village St. right past The Red Lion, Post Office and Church. Garden is 100 yards on left. **JD**

**SATURDAY 14th MAY, 10.30 am**

### **Garden Archaeology Morning at Rougham Hall**

By kind permission of Sir George Agnew and the Rougham Estate Trust this is an opportunity to view and study the ruins of Rougham Hall and its associated Victorian and early 20th. Century garden and park with Edward Martin and Sally Kington.

10.30: Tea and coffee on arrival at **Blackthorpe Barn**, Ipswich Road, Rougham IP30 9HZ (Map Ref. TL 911633) Rougham is between Woolpit and Bury St. Edmunds on the A 14 dual carriageway. Come off at Junction 45, signed Rougham, and you will see black signs to "Blackthorpe Barn Arts" The Barn is a 16th. Century thatched barn used as an events venue. Ample parking.

11.00: Presentations in the Barn by Edward Martin and Sally Kington.

11.45: Move off by car to the ruins of **Rougham Hall** (by private road over the A14) – follow instructions for parking.

The Hall, a Tudor style mansion designed by Thomas Hopper and built c.1821-5 for Philip Bennet was enlarged for Edwin James Johnstone in the 1890s and again in 1904-5 for Sir George Agnew, but in 1940 it was bombed and has been a ruin ever since. The gardens described in *The Gardeners Chronicle* in 1896 (see p.4) were added to by Sir George particularly with rhododendrons, many of which still survive and hopefully will be in flower for our visit. There is also a very curious circular yew 'structure'.

Ends at approx. 13.00 when you are welcome to picnic in the garden or back at Blackthorpe Barn where the toilets will be open.

The Hall is in a woodland setting with uneven ground, care to be taken in walking round the site; sturdy footwear and clothing are a must.

**Cost:** Members £5 Guests: £7-50. **Numbers limited to 40.** **EM**

**SATURDAY 4th JUNE, 2.00 pm**

**AGM and Visit to the new Sea Front Gardens at Felixstowe**

**Directions:** Follow signs to parking at Spa Pavilion, Pier Front, Ranelagh Road or Convalescent Hill

Meet at the Town Hall at 2 pm.

After the AGM – approx. 3 pm - we leave for a tour of the famous Sea Front Gardens.

Recently reopened after a £4.8 million rejuvenation the Victorian Grade II listed gardens have a sheltered aspect and, as such, certain species can be found that

would not normally thrive outdoors. The dramatic changes in levels, the springs that emanate from the cliffs and the development of the eight gardens reflect 100 years of planting. TEAS provided.

**Cost:** Members free Guests £3. **SB**



**SATURDAY 18th JUNE, 2.30 pm**

**Stoke Priory, Stoke by Nayland, Colchester CO6 4RL**

By kind permission of Mr. & Mrs. Henry Engleheart

A nine acre garden set in parkland, with fine views and a splendid selection of plants and roses in terraces and mixed borders. Lawns down to a series of 6 small lakes with water plants. The walled kitchen garden of mixed planting leads to the greenhouse with a colourful collection of tender plants.

TEAS provided.

**Cost:** Members £8-50 Guests : £10

**Directions:** The B 1068 runs west from A12 between Ipswich and Colchester, or east from A 134 Sudbury to Colchester road. From the west go through Higham and Stoke by Nayland. About a mile beyond Stoke, after a school on the left, the drive is on the right immediately before a peach coloured house. **SB**

**SATURDAY 2nd JULY, 2.30pm**

**Hillside, Freston, Ipswich IP9 1AA**

By kind permission of Mrs. Tessa Paul

Many tender and unusual plants in a lovely garden with fine, wide views of the River Orwell. There are two large herbaceous borders and collections of Magnolias, Stewartias, Camelias and other shrubs.

Plants for sale in aid of Freston Church.

TEAS provided.

**Cost:** Members £7 Guests £8-50

**Directions:** Exit the A14 at junction 56 towards Ipswich A137. Descend the



hill with ski slope on right and take 2nd. Exit off mini-roundabout on B 1456 towards Shotley. Drive along the Strand, under the Orwell Bridge. As the road leaves the river going up a hill, Hillside is on the right. Turn right through a gate into the parking field. **HB**

**FRIDAY 15th JULY, 9.30 am**  
**“CAPABILITY BROWN IN SUFFOLK”**  
**Heveningham Hall, Halesworth IP19 0EL**

By Pre-paid ticket only

All details are on the Booking Form. **EM/JD/SB**

**SATURDAY 23rd. JULY 2.30 pm**  
**Shelley Hall, Shelley, Hadleigh IP7 5QX**

By kind permission of Tessa and Andrew Scott

The gardens lie to the south and east of the fine 16th. Century Hall. The moated island was the subject of a Channel 4 series – Lost Gardens with Monty Don, when it was replanted to original designs. There are also flower and shrub borders and specimen trees in a meadow. A kingfisher might keep us company.

TEAS provided

**Cost:** Members £ 7-50 Guests : £9

**Directions:** From the A12 between Ipswich and Colchester take the B 1070 to Hadleigh. The road winds for 1 ½ miles into Raydon. After a further ¼ mile turn left down the hill to Shelley. After a mile cross a narrow bridge and the drive is to the left of the church. **SB**

**SATURDAY 13th AUGUST, 2.30 pm**  
**Lark’s Hill, Clopton Road, Tuddenham, Ipswich IP6 9BY**

By kind permission of Mr. John Lambert.

The gardens of 8 acres comprise formal areas, with field and woodland falling away from the house to the valley floor. This is a hilly garden with a modern castle keep on an interesting and beautiful site overlooking the Fynn Valley and village beyond. Guide book available @ £2.00

TEAS provided

**Cost:** Members £ 8 Guests: £9-50

**Directions:** From the Ipswich Inner Ring Road take the turning to Westerfield B 1077. About a half mile after the railway line turn right by the church. After a further half mile turn left to Tuddenham, a narrow road. Descend into the village and take care at a T junction – turn left. Past the Fountain pub take a left hand fork and the house is on the left. **JD**

**SATURDAY 24th SEPTEMBER, 2.30 pm**

**By the Crossways, Kelsale, Saxmundham IP17 2PL**

By kind permission of William and Miranda Kendall A 3 acre wildlife garden adjoining the owners' organic farm, where wilderness areas lie next to productive beds. Large semi walled vegetable and cutting garden. The late summer and early autumn perennials and grasses should be at their best. The garden is not manicured and both the lawns and familiar plants jostle with their wild cousins to provide a rich visual tapestry.



**Cost:** Members £7 Guests: £8-50

**Directions:** Taking the A12 past Saxmundham turn right (travelling north) to Carlton and Theberton. Arriving at a T junction turn right and then almost immediately left – signposted Theberton 3¾. After 2 miles turn left signposted to Kelsale and Maple Farm Organic Store. On the next bend turn left into the property. **SB**

## News in **BRIEF**

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### All Change at **SHRUBLAND HALL**

It is hoped the opening of the Shrubland Royale Hotel and Spa in January this year marks a change in the fortunes of the estate since it changed hands in 2009, since in successive issues of the Heritage at Risk Register anxieties have been expressed on the condition of the grounds, most recently noting that 'despite improvements in the management of the Old Hall landscape, the built garden features and planting are significantly decayed. Improved management strategies for the park as a whole need to be developed to safeguard its future.' The owner, Dr Muhammed Farmer, however, is optimistic, promising a programme to restore much of the original gardens by the summer, making them available not only to residents of the Health Spa, but also for charitable occasions.

### The **SCATTERED ORCHARDS PROJECT**

A plan to plant orchards among rural communities in Suffolk and Essex is underway led by the Dedham Vale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Stour Valley Project and Suffolk Coastal and Heath AONB. Five traditional varieties of fruit and nut trees will be planted on publicly accessible land in villages and market towns in or near AONBs. To date, some 21 parishes have signed up, and are pledged to plant c. 170 trees in 34 locations – the long terms aim being, to enhance the landscape, help to preserve endangered varieties – and, not the least, to allow local people to enjoy both blossom and fruit while actively engaging with the landscape in a practical way.

## What's Special About 2016

This year Wimpole Hall will be celebrating 'Capability' Brown with a wide range of events, including concerts, talks and guided walks. Related treasures from the collections will be on display, including the original design for Wimpole from Brown's office. Geocaching fans will get a further insight into Wimpole's landscape and wildlife. To find out more visit [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wimpole](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/wimpole).

## Garden Museum Closure

The Garden Museum, Lambeth Palace Road, London SE4 7LB (formerly known as the Museum of Garden History), closed on October 2015 and will not re-open until early 2017, in order to carry out a programme of major improvements, thanks to a grant of £7.5 million by The Heritage Lottery Fund. For further details, please tel: 020 7401 8865 or email: [info@gardenmuseum.org.uk](mailto:info@gardenmuseum.org.uk)

## For the DIARY

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- **2 February - 8 May 2016. The FitzWilliam Museum, Trumpington Street, Cambridge.** 'Crawling with Life: Flower Drawings from the Henry Roger Broughton Collection.' Spiders, snails, beetles, butterflies, moths, frogs and lizards are just some of the many creatures painted amongst the flowers in the Museum's paintings and drawings. See superb watercolours by the intrepid seventeenth century German naturalist and illustrator, Maria Sybilla Merian and her tutor Jacob Marrel, as well as works by the Dutch artists Jan van Huysom, members of the Dietzsch family, and by German scientist and illustrator George Dionysius Ehret and the French artist and engraver Nicolas Robert. For further information, please tel: 01223 332 900.
- **21 March 2016. Norfolk Gardens Trust, John Innes Centre, Norwich.** The Annual Tate Talk, Richard Wheeler, 'Military Gardening, - the Duke of Marlborough and his Generals'. **2.00 pm.** For further information, please telephone Sue Guest : 01362 868317.
- **2 April 2016. East Anglian Garden Group Talk.** Colin Ward at Hitcham Village Hall, details on their website.
- **6 April - 29 August 2016. The National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, London.** 'Dutch Flowers.' Coinciding with the flower shows at Chelsea and Hampton Court, this exhibition explores Dutch flower painting from its beginnings in the early seventeenth century to its peak in the late eighteenth century, and is the first display of its kind in 20 years. Please tel: 020 7747 2885 for further information or email: [information.ng.london.org.uk](mailto:information.ng.london.org.uk).
- **16 April. The Capability Men.** "Lancelot Brown and his Associates"

with Tom Williamson and David Brown at Woodhall Park, Watton at Stone, Herts. £40 for the day. More details from Kate Harwood, hertstalks@gmail.com

- **Until 20 April 2016. Painting the Modern Garden: Monet to Matisse at the Royal Academy.**

- **2-4 September 2016. Cambridgeshire Gardens Trust. Tercentary Conference on Lancelot 'Capability' Brown and AGM of The Gardens Trusts, Robinson College, Wimpole Hall, Grange Road, Cambridge CB3 9AN.** Cambridgeshire Gardens Trust is

pleased to welcome all members to a special conference on Lancelot 'Capability' Brown 300 years on a celebration of his life and work in Cambridgeshire.' 'There wants a good plant'' – a weekend of lectures, guided tours and a conference dinner for members and guests. Further details and application form from [www.cambsgardens.org.uk](http://www.cambsgardens.org.uk) or tel: 01467 822 591.

- **18 September 2016. Plant Heritage Autumn Fair, Helmingham Hall 10.00am – 4.00pm.** Further details as above.

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## Book REVIEWS

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### Books Worth Noting

*Christopher Lloyd and Beth Chatto: Dear Friend and Gardener: Letters on Life and Gardening.* Ed. Fergus Garret. £20.00 (Frances Lincoln 2013)

*Hertfordshire A Landscape History.* Anne Rowe and Tom Williamson. £18.99 (University of Hertfordshire Press 2013)

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## WINTER LECTURES

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Don't forget the last lecture to be held on Saturday 12th March at 2.30pm in the Brandeston Community Centre

### **"The History and culture of Roses" by Neill Ludmon**

Neill has considerable experience as a lecturer in garden design and horticulture with commissions for planting designs including Coworth Park – Gertrude Jekyll's former garden at Sunningdale.

Our first Lecture in the new season will be held on Saturday 29th October at 2.30 pm in the Blackbourne Centre, Elmswell IP30 9UH. Followed by tea.

### **"Kew Gardens" by Andrew Sankey**

Kew Gardens are the combination of two very different Royal Gardens – Kew and Richmond – which in the 18th. century under Joseph Banks became the greatest botanical garden in the world. Charles Bridgman, William Kent, Capability Brown and the Hookers of Kew were all involved.

## FRONT COVER:

Heveningham Hall through the oaks, photo by Cameron Maynard

Thanks for all photographs used including  
Brian Skilton (By the Crossways) Paul Miles, Sue Paul and Edward Martin

## Officers & Council Members 2016

### Patron:

The Lady Marlesford  
Marlesford Hall, Marlesford,  
Woodbridge, IP13 0AU  
Email: gmarlesford@gmail.com

### Founder Member:

Paul Miles

### Chairman:

Stephen Beaumont  
Theberton Hall, Theberton,  
Leiston IP16 4RZ  
Tel: 01728 833833  
Email:  
stephenbinkybeaumont@gmail.com

### Treasurer:

Tony Broster  
17 Saxmundham Road,  
Framlingham IP13 9BV  
Tel: 01728 720103  
Email:  
tony.broster@googlemail.com

### Secretary & Membership:

Susan Paul  
Parham Hall, Parham,  
Woodbridge IP13 9AB  
Tel: 01728 723670  
Email: sgt-suffolk@hotmail.com

### Research & Recording:

Edward Martin **EM**  
Tel: 01449 741266  
Email:  
edward.martin8@btinternet.com

### Walled Garden Group:

Peter Cunard  
The Mill House  
Stanningfield  
Bury St. Edmunds, IP29 4RX  
Tel: 01284 388088  
Email: pcunard@globalnet.co.uk

### Winter Lectures:

John & Julie Scott  
South Cottage,  
Union Lane,  
Worthingam, Diss IP22 2SP  
Tel: 01379 650009  
Email: juliejohn\_scott@yahoo.co.uk

### Events Team:

Edward Martin **EM**  
John Dyter **JD**  
Stephen Beaumont **SB**

### Council Members:

Helen Barker **HB**  
Pound Close, Holbrook,  
Ipswich IP9 2RA  
Tel: 01473 328530  
Email:  
helen.barker@btinternet.com

John Dyter  
Manor Farm House, Hasketon,  
Woodbridge, IP13 6JA  
Tel: 01394 383316  
Email: john@dyter.net

Judith Gowland  
Leases Barn, Braiseworth, Eye,  
IP23 7DS  
Tel: 01379 871556  
Email:  
paperdoc@madasafish.com

Edward Martin  
Oak Tree Farm, Hitcham,  
Ipswich, IP7 7LS  
Tel: 01449 741266  
Email:  
edward.martin8@btinternet.com

Adam Paul  
Parham Hall, Parham,  
Woodbridge, IP13 9AB  
Tel: 01728 723670  
Email:  
adpaul\_parham@hotmail.com

John & Julie Scott  
South Cottage,  
Union Lane,  
Worthingam, Diss IP22 2SP  
Tel: 01379 650009  
Email: juliejohn\_scott@yahoo.co.uk

Patricia Shepherd  
Mallow House, 8 Lambeth Street,  
Eye, IP23 7AG  
Tel: 01379 870172  
Email: pmshepherd@aol.com

Sue Smith  
98 Constable Road, Ipswich  
IP4 2XA

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www.suffolkgardenstrust.org