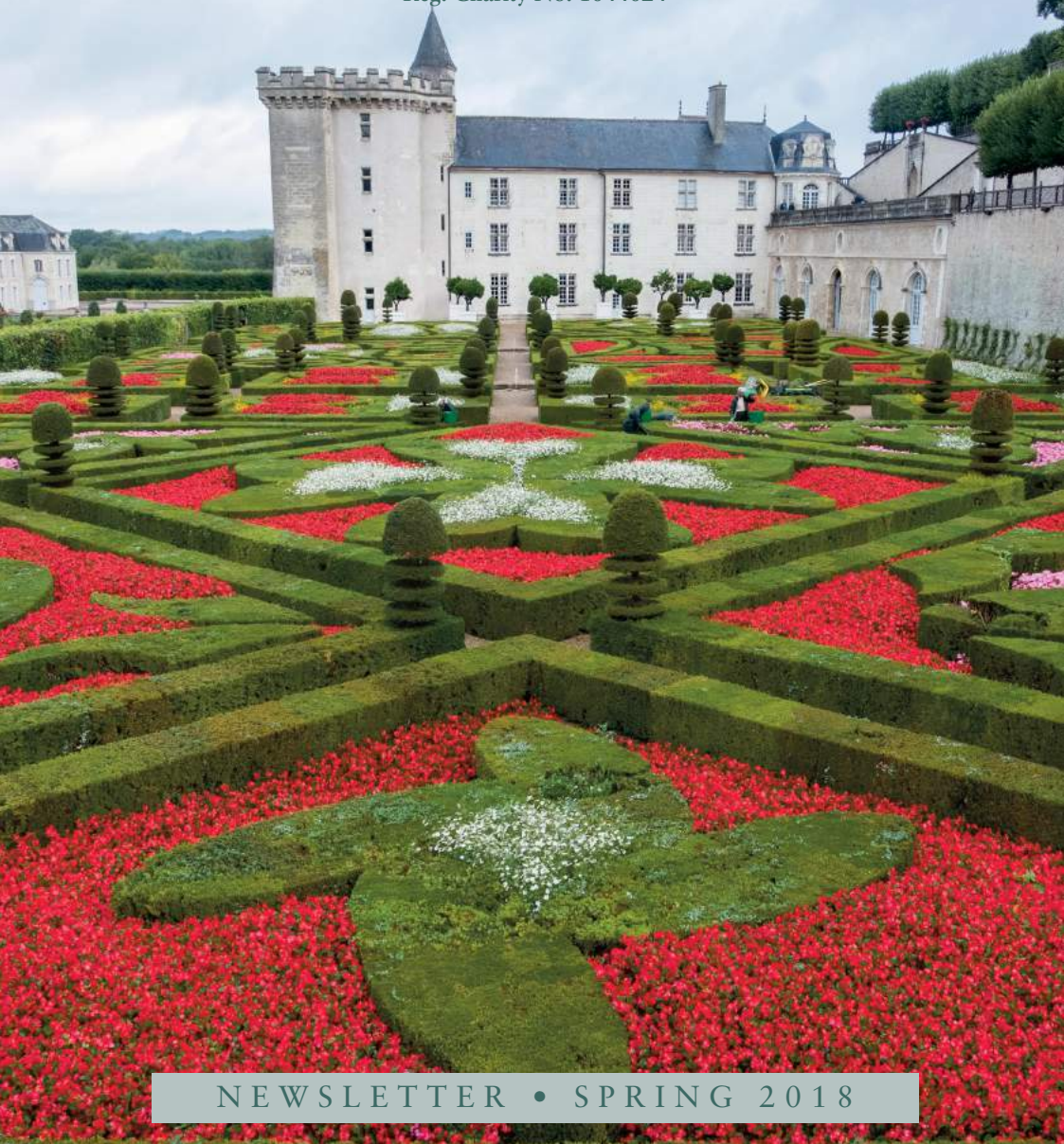

SUFFOLK

GARDENS TRUST

Reg. Charity No. 1044024



NEWSLETTER • SPRING 2018

**Suffolk Gardens Trust
SPRING 2018**

Newsletter 47

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Contributions to the Spring Newsletter should arrive no later than 1 September 2018
Please contact Barbara Segall (barbara@bsegall.plus.com) for details

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23rd AGM 2018

Sue Paul

**To be held at the
Hulver Village Hall
Hulver Street
(See Events for more details)**

Saturday 16th June 2018 at 2pm

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence (Officers and Council only)
2. Minutes of the 22nd AGM held at Shelley on 24th June 2017
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 Secretary)

From the Chairman

Now that we are well through March I can safely say, as we plantsmen do, that I hope you have 'over-wintered well' and are ready to greet the coming outdoor seasons. We have put together a programme of events that we hope you will support, enjoy and find educational too.

We rely on Edward Martin for our very popular Garden Archaeology days, which this year will be at Tendring Hall, near Nayland. This will follow along the similar lines to our previous events – last year's at Euston Hall.

It is many years since we attempted a visit requiring coach travel but, by inviting the East Anglian Gardens Group to join us, we hope there will be a full coach to the Stody Lodge Gardens, near Holt in Norfolk. These extensive gardens are rightly famed for rhododendrons and azaleas and, in particular, for the Azalea Water Gardens – the home of over 2,000 shoulder-high scented azaleas in delicate colours; widely believed to be the

largest single planting of *Azalea mollis* in the UK. Once seen never forgotten! Do come, and bring your friends. Details in Events.

Two years ago Capability Brown's 300th anniversary was to the fore – this year it is the turn of Bury St Edmunds-born Humphry Repton as it is the 200th anniversary of his death. Our contribution to the nationwide celebrations is a Day Conference at Henham, one of several Suffolk estates where HR worked (please note the article by Edward Martin in this Newsletter). We will be based in a beautifully restored splendid old barn on the estate – see details in the Booking Form.

Other visits follow in different parts of our county and cover varied interests – do support them and bring your friends. Our best advertisement is by word of mouth and I ask you all to help extend the membership of the Trust: the subscription is modest, the interests covered varied indeed and there are opportunities for meeting like-minded people. I look forward to welcoming you all to the 2018 events.

I would also like to extend a warm welcome to our new Editor, Barbara Segall. Many of you will know Barbara and her extensive knowledge of both gardening and East Anglia; some of you may have her recent book *Secret Gardens of East Anglia* which, I'm pleased to say, has now gone to a Second Impression. ■ JD

Walled Kitchen Gardens Network

Sue Paul

This group was started by Susan Campbell and Mike Kleyn and it is run from the internet by the Administrator Lucy Pitman. The Network is open to anyone and we have met some fascinating Head Gardeners from the National Trust, gardeners at Highgrove, the Head of Parks and Gardens in Bavaria and even gardeners from Sweden. Further details can be found on the website www.walledgardens.net

The Forum 'Glass and Glasshouses' at West Dean Walled Gardens on 23-24 September 2017

On Friday, 22 September a group of about 20 of us met in the Alitex factory in Sussex for a lecture and tour of the factory with Chris Sawyer, the Sales Director. He has been involved with the company for over 40 years and the modern techniques and his enthusiasm for glasshouses made the visit most enjoyable. There are some magnificent structures all over the world.

On Saturday morning we met up with the rest of the delegates in the Sussex Barn



Chris Sawyer, Sales Director,
Alitex



Greenhouse at West Dean Walled
Gardens, Sussex



Brassicas in the Walled Kitchen
Garden at West Dean



Lady Caroline Egremont gave us a tour of the walled garden at Petworth, Sussex

at West Dean College for the lectures. Simon Harrison spoke on the restoration and construction of wooden glasshouses, Chris Sawyer spoke on the evolution in glasshouses and Ben Pope gave us an overview of the restoration of the Walled Kitchen Garden at Trotton, West Sussex. After a delicious lunch of local produce, Jim and Sarah Buckland, the head gardeners at West Dean Gardens, split us into two groups for a detailed tour of the walled garden. In the evening many of us went back to a reception in the Oak Hall

at the college to meet and discuss the day's lectures. The weekend events continued on Sunday as visits were organised to Fittleworth House, Whithurst Park and the private walled gardens at Petworth where the owner, Lady Caroline Egremont gave us a tour.

*The Suffolk Gardens Trust has its own Walled Kitchen Garden Group who visit and record walled gardens across Suffolk. Since the group's inception, over 40 gardens have been recorded and the results of some of the group's work can be seen in the Trust's own published book, **Walled Gardens of Suffolk** which is available from the Trust (please see the website for further details on how to buy a copy – www.suffolkgardenstrust.org). The Walled Kitchen Garden Group is always keen to hear from members who might wish to join it and share some of the experiences of investigating Suffolk's more fascinating houses and their walled gardens. Please email Peter Cunard, the chairman of the group at pcunard@globalnet.co.uk if you would like to know more. Peter Cunard*

Polly Burns 1943-2017

Edward Martin

Polly has been such a mainstay of the SGT that it is difficult to believe that she is no longer with us. Her eventful life began in 1943 in Gloucester as Pauline Elizabeth Hamblin Chew. After schooling in Gloucester she went on to Cardiff University, where she graduated with a history degree in 1965. After a couple of years as a bus conductress in Bristol – knowing Polly, one can imagine her being supremely efficient at this – she must have felt that her undoubted talents were under-used so in 1968 she became a civil servant. First as a research officer in the Ministry of Technology, moving in 1970 to the British Overseas Trade Board, then seconded in 1974 to the Foreign Office to organise trade fairs in Germany. Her capabilities were recognised by promotion to Higher Executive Officer and then, in 1976, to the post of Assistant Private Secretary to the Minister of State in the Department of Trade.

In 1977 Polly married William Burns, a ships surveyor, and a year later her life took yet another new turn when she resigned from the Civil Service and moved to

Suffolk to care for her much older husband. Although he died in 1983, she decided to stay in Suffolk, working initially for Suffolk County Council and then as a National Insurance Inspector for the Department of Health and Social Security, moving on in 1988 to be a Housing Officer with Suffolk Coastal District Council. This led a degree-level course at Anglia Polytechnic University and membership of the Chartered Institute of Housing. In 1991 she became the Special Needs Housing Officer with Babergh District Council.

Her life had taken another new direction in 1991 when Nigel Surry became her partner. A week-long course on ‘Gardens, the Disadvantaged Art’ a year later led to another new passion, gardens; this despite an admitted early antipathy to them, demonstrated by “carefully weeding out my mother’s lobelias and salvias to leave neatly thinned weeds”. She took a Diploma in Garden Design from Writtle College in 1996 and a City and Guilds Diploma in Garden Construction in 1997, leading to her resignation from local government work in the same year and a new career as a self-employed garden designer. New careers were nothing new to Polly – as a colleague noted in wonder at the time, “You’ve tried them all!”

The Suffolk Gardens Trust was established in 1995 and both Polly and Nigel were founder members. Polly joined its Council two years later and, together with Nigel, became the joint editor of its Newsletter. Starting at no. 4, they shouldered the heavy burden of editing and producing the Newsletter until no. 23 in 2006, when they were aided in its design and production by Tina Ranft. Tina took over more fully in 2007, though Polly and Nigel continued to be a rich source of material for the newsletters.

From 1998 to 2002 Polly was also the very active SGT representative on the national Association of Garden Trusts, being elected to its Management Committee in 2004. Polly and Nigel also took on the job of events organisers for the SGT in 2004, an onerous task that they fulfilled valiantly and very successfully until 2010.



Polly at Parham Hall with Adam Paul

In this time she added a characteristically special, extra level, to the events programme by organising ‘Polly Tours’ to Italy (having added fluency in Italian to her many talents, as well as a house in Spoleto). In 2007 it was ‘Villas and Gardens of Frascati’, in 2008 it was gardens in Lazio, in 2009 it was gardens around Sienna in May and those in the Veneto in September, in 2010 the Veneto in May, Umbria in June and Sienna in September. Unfortunately health issues prevented more tours, much to the sorrow of those who had had the luck to win a place on one of them. Giving up events was hardly a dereliction of duty, as Polly had become Chairman of the SGT in 2008 and even for her the duties were becoming a bit excessive. Polly ably steered the SGT

as chairman until 2013. A major achievement was the launching of the SGT onto the web as www.suffolkgardenstrust.org.

In 2004 Polly and Nigel were instrumental in setting up a SGT Walled Gardens Group to record the many walled gardens that they saw were falling into decay. After countless winter days spent recording in the wet and cold, Polly and the Group successfully honed and converted their field notes into a book, which was published by the SGT as *Walled Gardens of Suffolk* in 2014, and has since almost entirely sold out.

I leave the final words to our Patron, Lady Marlesford, who writes of Polly as “being witty, erudite and knowledgeable” and “an imaginative and hard worker for the Trust”, but “most of all I think of Polly as a real friend” – and that is a sentiment that we would all echo, as we raise a glass to her memory.

Memorial Fund

There have been a number of requests from members and others who wish to contribute to a fund in Polly’s Memory. If you would like to contribute, please send these direct to our bank:

Suffolk Gardens Trust Clearing Code 40-52-40 Account No. 00024303.

Please mark your payment clearly **POLLY BURNS**

The Council and others will be deciding on the best memorial.

Polly’s Italian Tours

It is difficult to recall the wonderful tours Polly arranged for members in Italy without a smile on my face. We only went on the last three of the five but they were such good fun – encompassing the pleasure of being in such beautiful places, fine destinations with full education provided, some excellent meals and some good wine tastings.

All this was only achieved because of the immense amount of research, planning and care undertaken by Polly and Nigel. They chose the right hotels for us, got us into the right restaurants and would even allow some requested detours from their carefully planned itinerary.

Now and again something would not go quite right – an absent Principessa who had decided to go shopping before our arrival, a Contessa who hurried us through her castle – locking the doors behind us, but despite Polly’s concern we were all very happy to experience these reflections of Italian life.

“Not another fresco” a member said one day, but Polly’s patience with us all was inspiring. Often driving our coach, there she would be in the right place at the allotted hour, cheroot in hand, to count us in or issue tickets, as calm and polite as ever, no matter who was missing.

Limonaia, giochi d’acqua, bosco, piano nobile, pompello, exedra and so forth are now all part of my vocabulary thanks to Polly. I couldn’t tell you of a favourite garden. From a later book and TV series it appeared Monty Don followed Polly and Nigel’s every itinerary and garden she chose – what better flattery than that?

Thank you Polly for all the wonderful Italian Tours you gave us. ■ **SB**

Suffolk's Humphry Repton

Edward Martin

Suffolk has a priority claim to the great landscape designer because he was born in this county, in Bury St Edmunds. There is, however, some confusion about his actual date of birth – the current article on him in the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* gives it as the 21st April 1752, but a memoir by the eminent garden writer John Claudius Loudon, published in 1840, gives it as the 2nd May.¹ What we can be sure of is that he was baptised, as *Humphry Ripton*, on the 5th May 1752 at St Mary's in Bury St Edmunds. His father, John Repton (1715-75) was however born in Lichfield in Staffordshire, of a family that had used the name Humphry since the early 17th century. John was an excise collector and had come to Stoke-by-Clare in Suffolk by 1739 when he married, at Wickhambrook, Martha the daughter of John Fitch, yeoman of Moor Hall in Stoke-by-Clare. Their first three children were baptised at Stoke, suggesting that the couple initially lived there. Their fourth child, Dorothy Ripton, was, however, baptised in Long Melford in 1747, which hints at a move. She later married the Norfolk lawyer John Adey, who was also born in Lichfield to a family already allied to the Reptons. Humphry's birth in Bury St Edmunds in 1752 indicates a further move by the family. According to the Loudon memoir, he was born 'on a small paternal estate' in Bury. This has not been identified, but in view of the movements of the family this is unlikely to have been anything very substantial. A sixth child, John *Ripton*, was baptised in Bury in 1754.

The Loudon memoir says that 'at a very early age Humphry was sent to the Grammar-school at Bury', but there is no mention of him in the school records. By 1760 the family had moved to Norwich, where his father continued his work as an excise collector until his death in 1775. According to the memoir, Humphry attended the grammar school in Norwich, but it must have been for only a short time, for in 1764, aged only twelve, he was sent for two year to schools in Holland to learn Dutch – firstly at the small coastal town of Workum in Friesland and then at Rotterdam. This was clearly intended as preparation for a career in the cloth trade, for in 1767 he was

apprenticed to Edward Marsh, a worsted weaver of Norwich. After his seven years as an apprentice, his father gave him capital to set up as a merchant. Almost immediately, in 1773 at Norwich, Humphry married Mary Clarke, and together they had sixteen children.

Humphry did not last long as a merchant and around 1776 he took a farm tenancy of the Old Hall in Sustead, Norfolk from the scholar and



Repton's business card

parliamentarian, William Windham of Felbrigg Hall. Although Repton's farming failed to be profitable, Windham encouraged his studies and gave him useful contacts. Repton also honed his artistic skills by drawing the houses of the Norfolk gentry, many of which were published in the 1781 edition of Francis Blomefield's *History and Antiquities of Norfolk*. This helped to set him up for the next and most significant phase of his life, when he moved in 1786 to a leased cottage at Hare Street (now Main Road, Gidea Park) in Romford, Essex, and set himself up as a landscape gardener. His first commissions, in 1788, were in Norfolk – at Catton Park in Norwich for Jeremiah Ives, a man from his old circle of cloth merchants, and at Holkham Hall for the much grander Thomas Coke, later Earl of Leicester, for whom he produced the first of his famous 'Red Books' to visualise his suggested landscape improvements.



A page from the Henham Red Book of 1791

In Suffolk, Repton was soon afterwards producing a series of Red Books for the county's gentlemen (and luckily most of these books are still in his birth county):

1789: Shrubland Hall, Barham/Coddenham, for Sir William Middleton. Red Book now in the Suffolk Record Office.

1791: Glemham Hall, Little Glemham, for Dudley North. Red Book now in The Garden Library at Dumbarton Oaks Studies Centre, Washington, USA (this has been reproduced in facsimile as *Dumbarton Oaks Reprints and Facsimiles in Landscape Architecture*, 3, 1994).

1791: Henham Park for Sir John Rous, later 1st Earl of Stradbroke. Red Book now in the SRO.

1791: Livermere Park, Great and Little Livermere, for Nathaniel Lee Acton. Red Book now in the SRO.

1791: Tendring Hall, Stoke-by-Nayland, for Sir William Rowley. Red Book still held by the Tendring Hall Estate.

1791: Wherstead Park for Sir Robert Harland. Red Book now in a private collection in Suffolk.

1792: Broke Hall, Nacton, for Philip Bowes Broke. Red Book now in the SRO.

1792: Culford Hall for Charles, 2nd Earl Cornwallis. Red Book now in the SRO.

1793: Glevering Hall, Hacheston for Chaloner Arcedeckne. Whereabouts of the Red Book uncertain.

Repton died at Hare Street on the 24th March 1818, aged 65. He is buried with his parents and his sister Dorothy at Aylsham in Norfolk. It is the 200th anniversary of his death that we will be commemorating in 2018.

¹Loudon, J.C., *The Landscape Gardening and Landscape Architecture of the late Humphry Repton, Esq.*, London 1840. He probably had access to the lost early chapters of Repton's own autobiographical memoirs – the later parts, from 1788, re-surfaced in 1981 and have been published: A. Gore & G. Carter (eds) *Humphry Repton's Memoirs*, Michael Russell Ltd, Norwich 2005.



HUMPHRY REPTON
A SGT Bicentenary Celebration
Day Conference
at Henham Park
on Wednesday 6th June 2018

Please see all details on the enclosed booking form
Following the success of the Capability Brown Day in 2016
we would advise early booking

Gardens of the Loire

John Dyter

Twenty five SGT members and friends set off from Stansted on 7th September bound for Tours where we were to be based for the next three days while visiting six gardens and châteaux.

We started with what must rank as one of the most spectacular gardens of the world – Château de Villandry. These are a reconstruction of the formal gardens of the 16th century and as such, are unique in France. Described as being like “an immense patchwork quilt”, the gardens lie on three levels to the south and west of the moated Renaissance house. Made up of nine squares of equal size but with different geometric patterns in each, the vast array of fruit and vegetables are planted in alternating colours (the blue of the leeks and the red of the cabbages and beetroot, the jade green of the carrot tops), all is framed by borders of annual flowers. These are re-planted twice a year. In the spring there are yellow and orange wallflowers and forget-me-nots followed by yellow bidens and rudbeckia, while the inner beds are a blaze of red begonias.

Above the kitchen garden is the ornamental garden which is best viewed from the belvedere, just below which is the Love Garden.

Higher still is the Water Garden of classical inspiration, which is centred around a large pond surrounded by a cloister of lime trees. The Sun Garden – the most recent addition, is an exotic place made up of three distinct, closely planted, colour-themed areas.

The Maze, planted with hornbeam, symbolises man's path on earth. It lies by the Herb Garden laid out in the tradition of the Middle Ages. This is devoted to aromatic, cooking and medicinal herbs interspersed with perfect topiary yew specimens. A walk in the woods affords some beautiful views over these astonishing gardens. 115,000 annuals and vegetables are planted out each year and over half are raised 'in house'.

In contrast, our next stop was at the Château du Rivau where the gardens have a reputation for their light and airy 'fairytale' feeling.

Designed by the proprietor and modern art collector, Patricia Laigneau, whose daughter kindly welcomed us, the garden reflects medieval planting schemes with the added twist of contemporary art installations. These include carvings and giant legs running through the trees. Notable among the many fine specimens were koelreuteria 'in bladder', stooled paulownia, and medlar trees. Reactions to the tour of the Château ranged from 'imaginative to macabre'!

The Château de la Bourdaisière, originally built in the 15th century, has been transformed into a luxury hotel, while the gardens have been extensively renovated, incorporating many of the owner's research projects into sustainable development and biodiversity. The 135-acre garden is noted for its 650 varieties of tomato grown as organically as possible. Unsurprisingly most of the party enjoyed tomato salad for lunch. Flower power came from the 240 varieties of dahlia – another speciality and with a productive breeding programme in place. Viewed from the mound, the plantings were especially memorable.

The research plots of vegetables carried an interesting range including herbs, some of which tested our powers of identification.

One of the most instantly recognisable and iconic châteaux of the region was our next stop – Château de Chenonceau, built out over a tributary of the Loire and standing in 170 acres of grounds. In the Jardin de Diane a broad walk overlooks the parterres formed of clipped santolina with domes of yew laid out in eight large triangles. The raised terraces that protect the garden when the water levels rise in the river Cher, are decorated with over thirty urns planted identically. More than a hundred *Hibiscus syriacus* provide late summer flower and are 'pollarded' in keeping



Château de Villandry



Château du Rivau

with the garden's strict geometry. Bedding schemes change with the season.

The Jardin de Catherine offers magnificent views of the Château's west facade - the design centring on five lawns around an elegant circular pond and dotted around with box hedges. Standard roses edged by clipped lavender and encircling a pool, trace a harmonious design. From the handsome Orangery the view across the Green Garden reveals the Château's profile.

The Italian Maze covering 2.5 acres is planted with 2,000 yews. At the centre is an adorned and raised gloriette. Much admired too, were the lofty, 'park' trees of numerous forms.

The vast potager with cut-flower garden, is arranged in 12 square plots bordered by what we call 'step-over' apples and 'Queen Elizabeth' roses. A team of about ten gardeners grows a hundred or more different cut flowers for use in the Château through the year.

In the attractive town of Amboise, the Château – valued as one of French history's emblematic sites, is situated on a rocky plateau with spectacular views over the Loire. It is designated as a World Heritage site by UNESCO. The twin, colour-themed borders in blue, yellow and white, were planted with annuals and caught the eyes of many of us.

The Naples Terrace which, boasts three belvederes looking out over the Loire, broke the medieval tradition of closed gardens and opened windows onto the landscape. In the landscaped gardens paths weave through the former romantic grounds and in the last few years oak, box cupressus and muscat vines have been added as a nod to the Italian influence. On the South East terrace, rosemary, jasmine and cupressus evoke landscapes on both sides of the Mediterranean.

In the lower part of the gardens, the white bust of Leonardo da Vinci stands on the spot where he was initially buried in 1519; his remains were finally transferred to the St Hubert Chapel nearby in 1871.

Château du Clos Lucé we learned that the garden opened in 2008 with the aim of breathing life into Leonardo's inventions and botanical studies. It features a double-deck bridge with its innovative triangulation structure used widely today, and many other life-size replicas of his inventions. We discovered the intact native biotope and flora of a humid marshy and protected ecosystem, characteristic of the Loire region and saw the turbulent eddies and the mysterious mists as Leonardo did in the marshes. He was a rigorous observer of nature before botany was a science. It was a wonderful insight into the wide-ranging genius of a man who was truly ahead of his time.



Château de la Bourdaisière



Château de Chenonceau

The final venue was the Château de Valmer where we enjoyed a conducted tour of the striking gardens, the huge potager, views over the rolling countryside before a conducted tour of the wine cellar including a wine tasting. A fitting end to three successful days – educational, varied and social.

Our thanks go to those who put the programme together with Michael Warren and to him for leading it in his usual quiet, competent way.



Group at Château de Valmer

Calling all Garden Designers (your ideas are needed!)

Mostly demolished in 1953/54 there is little left of the original Henham Hall, but Hektor Rous and his family live close to the original site.

In recent years they have refurbished the walls of the original Kitchen Garden and now want to start work on the 3½ acres inside. In exchange for the free use of his barn for our Humphry Repton Day in June, he has asked SGT to provide ideas for a Master Plan.

The dimensions are ca.150metres (east to west) by 83metres (north to south).
A layout plan is available on request from our Chairman, John Dyter.

The scheme should include:-

A Modern Design

A Modern Interpretation of a Greenhouse – to be used as a venue/gallery/summerhouse, with views to the sunset through the gates to the Park

A Reflecting Pool – which will double as a natural swimming pool

A large hard surface area – to be used for both marquees and tennis (See Helmingham Hall's hidden tennis court)

A grass terraced amphitheatre – or parterre – area

Low maintenance planting schemes

The whole to include flowing lines with compartments of variable shapes & sizes.

SGT are offering a prize for the best design ideas and most interesting proposal.

Please send your scheme to John Dyter, Chairman, at Hasketon by
14 May 2018 please. His decision will be final.

The prize will be presented by Hektor Rous on our HR Day in front of an appreciative audience (and who knows what other commissions might follow!)

Cedric Morris On Show

Barbara Segall

Born in Wales, but always claimed by Suffolk where he set up his home and established The East Anglian School of Painting and Drawing, Sir Cedric Morris (1889–1982), is celebrated in three exhibitions in spring 2018.

The first to open is in Suffolk at Gainsborough's House Museum (www.gainsborough.org) in Sudbury and runs until 17 June. Curated by Louisa Brouwer, *Cedric Morris at Gainsborough's House* showcases work from the significant collection of paintings and drawings gifted to Gainsborough's House in 2017.

In April two London exhibitions open: one is at the Garden Museum (www.thegardenmuseum.org.uk) and the other at the gallery of Philip Mould & Company (Tel: 020 7499 6818).

Although Cedric Morris became a crucial figure in the British Modern tradition, he is best known for his depictions of plants. Also a painter of landscapes, still-life and portraits, he was the only person of his generation to achieve national stature both as a painter and a plantsman.

In 1937 he founded the East Anglian School of Painting and Drawing, which was attended by Lucian Freud as a teenager and, later, by Maggi Hambling at Higham in Suffolk. Following a devastating fire, he and his lifelong partner, the artist Arthur Lett-Haines moved school and home to Benton End. Here he cultivated a renowned garden with at least 90 new varieties of iris. These were brought back to public attention by Plant Heritage National Collection Holder Sarah Cook at the 2015 Chelsea Flower Show.

Cedric Morris: Artist Plantsman at the Garden Museum, curated by Andrew Lambirth, runs from 18 April-22 July. It consists of 34 paintings, the majority of which are on loan from private collections and have never been seen in public before, as well as a number of key institutional loans.

Cedric Morris: Beyond the Garden Wall at Philip Mould & Company also runs from 18 April-5 July and highlights some of Morris' most significant works from his travels at home and abroad. Travel was an integral part of both his artistic life and his life as a collector and breeder of exotic species of plants and flowers.



Cedric Morris, *Café de la Rotonde*, Paris, 1924, Oil on board
Courtesy of Gainsborough's House Society, Sudbury, Suffolk



Sir Cedric Morris, *May Flowering Irises No. 2*, 1935, Oil on canvas
© Philip Mould & Company, courtesy the Cedric Morris Estate



Sir Cedric Morris, *Italian Hill Town*, Northern Italy, 1922, Oil on canvas
© Philip Mould & Company

EVENTS 2018

SATURDAY 28th APRIL Tendring Hall 10.15am EM

**Garden Archaeology Morning at Tendring Hall Stoke-by-Nayland
Meet at Nayland Village Hall CO6 4JH**

By kind permission of the Tendring Hall Estate

In this Repton Anniversary Year this is a very special opportunity to see and explore one of his less accessible commissions. Originally the seat of the Tendring family, it was inherited by the Howards, dukes of Norfolk, in the 15th century, sold on by them to Rivetts in 1571 and by their heirs to the Williams family in the mid-17th century. It was sold again to the Rowley family in 1750, and they still own it. A new house (sadly demolished in 1955) designed by Sir John Soane was built for Admiral Sir Joshua and his son, Sir William Rowley, commissioned a Red Book from Repton in 1791. As well as the Repton work, the park still contains remnants of earlier work, including a fine garden canal created before 1723 for Sir John Williams.

10.15 Tea and coffee on arrival in Nayland Village Hall.

10.45 Presentation by Edward Martin on the gardens and park of Tendring Hall

11.30 Move off to Tendring Hall for a guided walk through the park, ending at about 13.30.

The tour will involve a fair amount of walking, some of which will be over uneven ground, so care must be taken walking round and sturdy footwear and clothing are a must.

Cost: Members £5 Guests £7.50

Directions: Nayland is in the Stour Valley, on the Suffolk/Essex border, just off the A134 Sudbury to Colchester road. The Village Hall is in Church Lane (post code CO6 4JH), just off the High Street and close to the village centre. Head for the spire of Nayland church and when you get close the entrance to Church Lane is a narrowish opening (on your left if you are approaching from the north) next to a tall telegraph pole and nearly opposite a white house with a banner-like sign projecting from its wall. Church Lane is narrow, but it leads to a modern Village Hall with ample parking.

WEDNESDAY 16th MAY 12.30pm JD

**Stody Lodge Gardens and Azalea Water Gardens
Holt Norfolk NR24 2ER**

By kind permission of Mr Charles and Mrs Kate McNicol

On arrival at 12.30pm we will have an exclusive half hour to enjoy the stunning Azalea Water Gardens that cover almost three acres – the home to over 2,000 shoulder-high, azaleas in a range of delicate colours and widely believed to be the largest single planting of *Azalea mollis* in the UK. Once seen – never forgotten.

The extensive gardens host over 200 varieties of



EVENTS 2018

mature rhododendrons and azaleas, besides a significant collection of specimen trees. This is a golden opportunity to see a very special, specialist garden. Refreshments are available including cream teas, a Study speciality (Cost: £4.50)

The coach will pick up in West End Rd Car Park Ipswich (pay and display) close to Endeavour House at 9am, Regal Car Park Stowmarket 9.30am and Ram Meadow (pay and display) Bury St. Edmunds at 10am. The coach will depart for home at 4.30pm. Please bring a picnic lunch – probably best consumed on the coach. This visit is also being offered to the East Anglian Garden Group.

Cost: £35 per head for members and guests. Please return the booking form for this visit with payment BY MONDAY 7th MAY to

John Dyer Manor Farm House Hasketon Woodbridge IP13 6JA

SATURDAY 2nd JUNE 2.30pm **JD**

Polstead Mill Mill Lane Polstead Colchester CO6 5AB

By kind permission of Mrs Lucinda Bartlett

The garden has been developed since 2002, it has formal and informal areas, a wild flower meadow and a large productive kitchen garden. The River Box runs through the garden and there is a mill pond, which gives the opportunity for damp gardening, while much of the rest of the garden is arid and planted to minimise the need for watering. Featured in Barbara Segall's recently published book *Secret Gardens of East Anglia*.

Home made teas provided.

Cost: Members £8.50 Guests £10

Directions: Between Stoke by Nayland and Polstead on the River Box. From Stoke by Nayland take road to Polstead – Mill Lane is first on left and Polstead Mill is the first house on the right.



SATURDAY 16th JUNE 2pm, AGM & Garden Visit **JD**

The AGM will be held in at 2pm in the village hall followed by a visit to the Henstead Exotic Garden which is a mile away in a straight line.

Hulver Village Hall Hulver Street Henstead near Beccles NR34 7UE

Directions from the south: On the A12 a few miles past the Southwold turning there is a public toilet on the left; 130 yards past this there is a left turn to Henstead (among other places). Take this bendy country road for about 3 miles until reaching a crossroads. Turn left and the village is a mile or so on. The village hall is on the right. There is parking both sides of the hall.

Visit to Henstead Exotic Garden at approx 3pm

Henstead Exotic Garden Church Road Henstead NR34 7LD

By kind permission of Andrew Brogan

This two-acre exotic garden features 100 large palms, over 20 bananas and 200 bamboos, two streams and a 20-foot, tiered walkway leading to a Thai-

style wooden covered pavilion. Mediterranean and jungle plants around 3 fish ponds.
Teas available (Cost £4).

Cost: Members free Guests £5

Directions: From Hulver Village Hall, return to the crossroads and go straight on. The Henstead Exotic Garden is on the right after about 0.49 miles.



SATURDAY 7th JULY at 6 pm SGT GARDEN PARTY SP

The Barn Spring Farm Coddendam Suffolk IP6 9TN

By kind permission of Dennis and Charlotte Stevenson

The Barn is an ideal venue for a party. It is large and contains many original paintings. The garden comprises of open lawns, small colourful courtyard gardens and an avenue of silver birches. At various points in the garden are statues and works of art.

Canapes and wine provided.

Cost: Members £10 Guests £12.50

Directions: Spring Lane commences in Coddendam Village and Barn Spring Farm will be clearly signed with the SGT banners.

SATURDAY 28th JULY 2.30pm JD

Drinkstone Park Park Road Drinkstone Bury St Edmunds IP30 9ST

By kind permission of Michael and Christine Lambert

A three-acre garden with wildlife pond, formal koi pond, herbaceous borders, orchard, woodland & wildlife area, large productive vegetable plot and greenhouses. Home-made teas provided.

Cost: Members £7 Guests £9

Directions: From Bury St. Edmunds: East on A14 to junction 46 turn left and right for Drinkstone. From West: A14 junction 46 turn right for Drinkstone. Turn into Park Road. NB The property is NOT in the village. Park Road runs parallel to the road that runs through the village.

THURSDAY 20th SEPTEMBER 2.30pm JD

Fullers Mill West Stow Bury St Edmunds IP28 6HD

By kind permission of Perennial Charity

An enchanting seven-acre garden on the banks of the River Lark. A beautiful site of light dappled woodland with a plantsman's paradise of unusual shrubs, perennials and marginals, planted with great natural charm. A garden with interest in every season and in September the colchicums will be appearing. Tea & cake provided.

Cost: Members £7 Guests £9

Directions: Turn off A1101 Bury to Mildenhall Road, signed West Stow Country Park, go past Country Park continue for 1/4 mile. Garden entrance is on right. Sign at entrance.



For the **DIARY**

- **14-20 May 2018 Gardens in the Piedmont.** There are just a few places left for this visit to a number of beautiful gardens in this special part of Italy. The price is €1,450 per person in a twin room inclusive of two dinners, all lunches, entries and guided visits. Contact Erica Vaccari: ericavaccari@viaggifloreali.com or tel: +39 34 00797804

- **27 May 2018 Helmingham Hall in partnership with Plant Heritage,**

Spring Plant Fair with Artisan Market. 10am-4pm. Plant Heritage is a charity dedicated to the conservation of rare garden plants. For further information please contact either Sarah Cook tel: 01473 822 400 or Katy Day on 01473 890 799, or email: events@helmingham.com.

- **Volunteers needed**
Help is required with the SGT stand at Helmingham. Please contact Sue Paul for further details.

News in **BRIEF**

A Fresh Chapter for **BENTON END**

Last September, Savills announced the forthcoming sale of Benton End, a 16th-century Grade II listed former farmhouse overlooking the Brett Valley, on the outskirts of Hadleigh, better known more recently as the home of the East Anglian School of Art and Drawing, founded by the artist and plantsman, Sir Cedric Morris in 1937, and based at Benton End from 1939 until his death in 1982. As well as his role as an artist, Morris became well known as a breeder of irises, producing a considerable number of varieties, and is possibly best remembered for the bearded irises some of which may be found in the Benton End gardens today. These and others have been successfully grown by local horticulturist Sarah Cook (See Newsletter No.30 Autumn 2009), and were exhibited at Chelsea in 2015, where she was awarded a gold medal.

Clearly, Benton End forms part of Suffolk's cultural heritage. It was placed on the market in September 2017 with a guide price of £1,300,000. Further developments are awaited with considerable interest...

CONGRATULATIONS...

To the Ipswich Branch of the The Active Lives Project, recently awarded the Best Community Garden accolade at the Groundwork Community Awards. This locally based charity has two gardens in Ipswich based at Maidenhall Allotments and the Chantry Walled Garden in Chantry Park (see Newsletter No. 45 Spring 2017) as part of their Active Gardens Project. The gardens hold a range of events across the year as well as hosting visits for schools, garden clubs and community groups. Encouraged by this success, Active Lives are launching a new supporter scheme called Active Friends.

Support for **ANCIENT AND VETERAN TREES...**

They are especially important for wildlife and Britain has more of them than any other country in Northern Europe. Volunteers with the Woodland Trust have recorded more

than 120,000 of them and other notable trees on their database. If you would like to find out more please contact the Woodland Trust www.woodlandtrust.org.uk. You might also be interested in attending the Spring Field Meeting of the Ancient Tree Forum at the Blenheim Estate, Oxfordshire (date to be announced on www.ancienttreeforum.co.uk).

Book REVIEW

Bernard Tickner, edited by John Weeks with a foreword by Sir Kenneth Carlisle, *A Scratch in the Soil*. Tenterhook Publishing 2017. £8.50. Paperback, 192pp. ISBN 978 1 5262 0694 7, illustrated throughout. Reviewed by Nigel Surry.

The final chapter of this book is entitled ‘Winding Down.’: yet it is hard to believe that was something Bernard Tickner ever did. His range of interests and activities was impressive, to the very end. A career in brewing, interrupted by military service in World War II, enabled him after his marriage to Bess, who shared so many of his interests, to purchase Fullers Mill at West Stow in 1958, where the challenges presented by the site led to a long and deepening interest in the garden and its immediate surroundings. It is typical of the man, his modesty and dry sense of humour, that when asked who influenced him most in its development, he replied: “No one. What you see just happened, it evolved.”

Yet he admits his debt to Beth Chatto, Marjorie Fish, Cedric Morris and Mary Barnard among others in creating what was to become an oasis of calm, with beautiful groupings of plants, dappled shade and the impact of sunlight on both still and moving water, and the day-to-day part played by several gardeners, notably Stanley Bailey and Cecil Heyhoe. The garden became well known for its collections of lilies and euphorbias, which members of the Trust were lucky enough to see in visits of 1999 and 2004.

Throughout the book, Bernard’s sharp powers of observation and sense of humour are never far away, amply demonstrated in his observations on Wildlife at the Mill (ch.xi), in which ‘Talking with Swans’ and ‘Walking with Cats’ are foretastes. Lack of space prevents discussion of his involvement with the Lackford Lakes project and Suffolk Wildlife Trust, to which he was a generous donor, or his setting up of the Trust (2004), transferred to Perennial, the Gardeners Royal Benevolent Society (2013), which has secured the future of Fullers Mill Garden. Bernard died on November 7th, 2017 aged 93, at Pinfold Nursing Home, Hawstead.

***Availability. The book can be bought in person from Waterstones and The Apex in Bury, The Leaping Hare at Wyken Vineyard, Stanton, and from the Bothy at Fullers Mill, West Stow, cheque or cash only; please ring 01284 728 888 beforehand, or by post directly from the publishers Tenterground Publishing, 23 Bridge Street, Thetford IP24 3AG for £11 (inc p & p)*

WINTER LECTURES 2018

SATURDAY 20 October 10 for 10.30am start

The Ipswich & Suffolk Club Northgate Street Ipswich IP1 3BX

The Influence of India on English Gardens

Kate Harwood

India and the Empire were hugely influential in Britain in the 18th and 19th centuries. The wealth pouring into the country through the East India Company financed many of our designed landscapes. Also the vast number of travellers to the subcontinent – soldiers, administrators, doctors and artists as well as the ladies of ‘the fishing fleet’ looking for husbands – all brought back ideas for design and planting. Although we are familiar with the idea of the ‘Chinese’ garden in England, the ‘Indian’ garden is rarer and the idea of an ‘Anglo-Indian’ garden never really caught on. The talk will trace the rise and fall of the Indian garden in England, which aspects were popular and what remains today.



Kate Harwood taught at Birkbeck and Cambridge, and is a well-known lecturer on garden history. Not only known for her strong involvement in the Hertfordshire GT she is also part of The Gardens Trust bicentenary team.

Cost: Members £6 Guests £10

SATURDAY 17 November 10 for 10.30am start

Blackbourne Community Centre Elmswell IP30 9GY

Painting plants with a passion

Jack Andrews MBE

The story behind the recent BBC Television documentary on the adventures of Marianne North, the intrepid but almost forgotten painter of plants throughout the world, is known as ‘Kew’s Forgotten Queen’.

Jack Andrews MBE was the executive producer of the BBC 4 film on this subject.

Cost: Members £6 Guests £9



Directions: Exit A14 at Junction 47 (A1088). Take road to Elmswell. Uphill, past the church turn left – Blackbourne Community Centre. Follow signs over level crossing and turn right, through the housing estate to a large car park.

FRONT COVER:
Château de Villandry

Thanks for all the photographs used including Lucy Bartlett, Edward Martin, Peter Cunard, Susan Paul and particularly to Michael Warren for the cover image and the photographs of the Loire visit.

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