

Suffolk Agricultural Association's
11th Biennial Gardening Conference

Moving Forward
'Our Garden Today & Tomorrow'



Thursday 6 November 2025

Events Centre, Trinity Park, Ipswich IP3 8UH

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Introduction

As we look to the future for our eleventh event, hence 'Moving Forward' is the theme. There is much for us to learn as we take on board the changes ahead, their challenges and opportunities - join us for the day and be part of the learning curve with knowledgeable advice from our speakers.

9.30am Registration and Coffee

10.00am Chairman's Introduction – Robert Rous DL President of the SAA

For most farmers it is easier to get a machine to cultivate but under Robert and Teresa's stewardship Dennington and Bruisyard have kept a strong sense of continuity and their history in the landscape. Any hedge elimination is as well considered as putting two rooms together. Replacement woods have been established in the higher points of the farm making up for the occasional hedge removal. They are now delighted that their daughter Laura is steering the farm in a regenerative direction.

10.15am Gardening for a Cleaner Greener Future – The Rt. Hon John Gummer

Lord Deben is probably best known internationally as the Chairman of the UK's Independent Climate Change Committee 2012 - '23, and in Suffolk as the MP for many of us from 1974 to 2010. He was the UK's longest serving Secretary of State for the Environment (1993 - 97) having previously been Minister of Agriculture and at other times - Employment Minister, Paymaster General and Minister for London.

Lord Deben was President of the Suffolk Show in 2013 and with his family, has a small organic farm in Suffolk. His family has reopened the Lion in Debenham, a pub which first served food and drink in 1463.

11.15am How we Suffolk Gardeners can help save the planet – Sue Townsend MSGLD

Sue Townsend, MSGLD is an award-winning garden designer based in coastal Suffolk who designs beautiful gardens for her clients which are adapted to climate change and attract wildlife. Over the past 24 years she has designed a wide range of gardens of all sizes and styles in Suffolk and beyond. Living close to the sea and gardening on sand, she has built up an expertise in drought tolerant coastal planting. In the last couple of years, she has been carrying out some experimental planting in her own garden to test the performance of plants grown in harsh conditions.'

12.00 Two course lunch and shopping time with the trade exhibitors.

Please do support our exhibitors who bring extra knowledge, products and services to enhance our day and your gardens.

1.30pm Trees: We Are Spoilt for Choice – Tony Kirkham MBE, VHM, FArbA, FICFor (Hon)

After studying at The Royal Botanic Gardens Kew on the 3-year Diploma course, Tony was the Head of the Arboretum, Gardens and Horticultural Services, responsible for the management and curation of over 14,000 trees and curated and managed the hardy shrub collections in the collections until July 2021 when he retired after 43 years' service, for which he received an MBE and the VMH. Tony is an author of many books and papers on trees and lectures in the UK and overseas the subject, making regular television and radio appearances. He is also on the RHS (Royal Horticultural Society) Council, chairs the Woody Plant Committee, a trustee of Chelsea Physic Garden, chairing the garden advisory committee, the IDS (International Dendrology Society) and TROBI (The Tree Register of The British Isles).

2.30pm Where are all the Flowers? Parks for modern day society, a horticultural evolution – Matthew Pottage

Matthew is currently the Head of Horticulture and Landscape Strategy for The Royal Parks in London, and former Curator of RHS Garden Wisley. He has authored his first book, 'How to Garden When You Rent' and is a regular panellist on BBC Radio 4's Gardeners Question Time. He is a board member for Fulham Palace, sits on the Advisory Committee for the Chelsea Physic Garden and is part of the RHS Woody Plant Expert Group.

3.30pm Tea, biscuits and shopping time with the trade exhibitors.

How to book:

We encourage you to book online at www.suffolkshow.co.uk/gardeningconference or complete the booking form below and return with details as instructed below. For further information call 01473 707112 or email margie.morris@suffolkshow.co.uk

SAA and SGT Members	£55.00 (inc vat) per person
Non-Members	£65.00 (inc vat) per person
Delegates under 30 years	£40.00 (inc Vat) per person
Students under 30 with a current SU Card	£30.00 (inc vat) per person

Number of tickets required:

SAA Members		SGT Members		Non-Members		Under 30		SU Card	
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Name(s) of delegate(s) and age (if under 30): Please choose Lunch Menu Option - **Pork/Veg**

..... Age (.....)

..... Age (.....)

..... Age (.....)

..... Age (.....)

Address:

 Postcode:

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The Suffolk Agricultural Association is a charity whose aim is to promote food, farming and the countryside and its importance to Suffolk. To support our aims, we deliver a wide range of education programmes for young people across the County.

The Suffolk Show is one of the UK's oldest county shows and remains a traditional agricultural show at heart.

Our home, Trinity Park, is available to hire along with an award-winning, purpose-built conference and events centre.

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