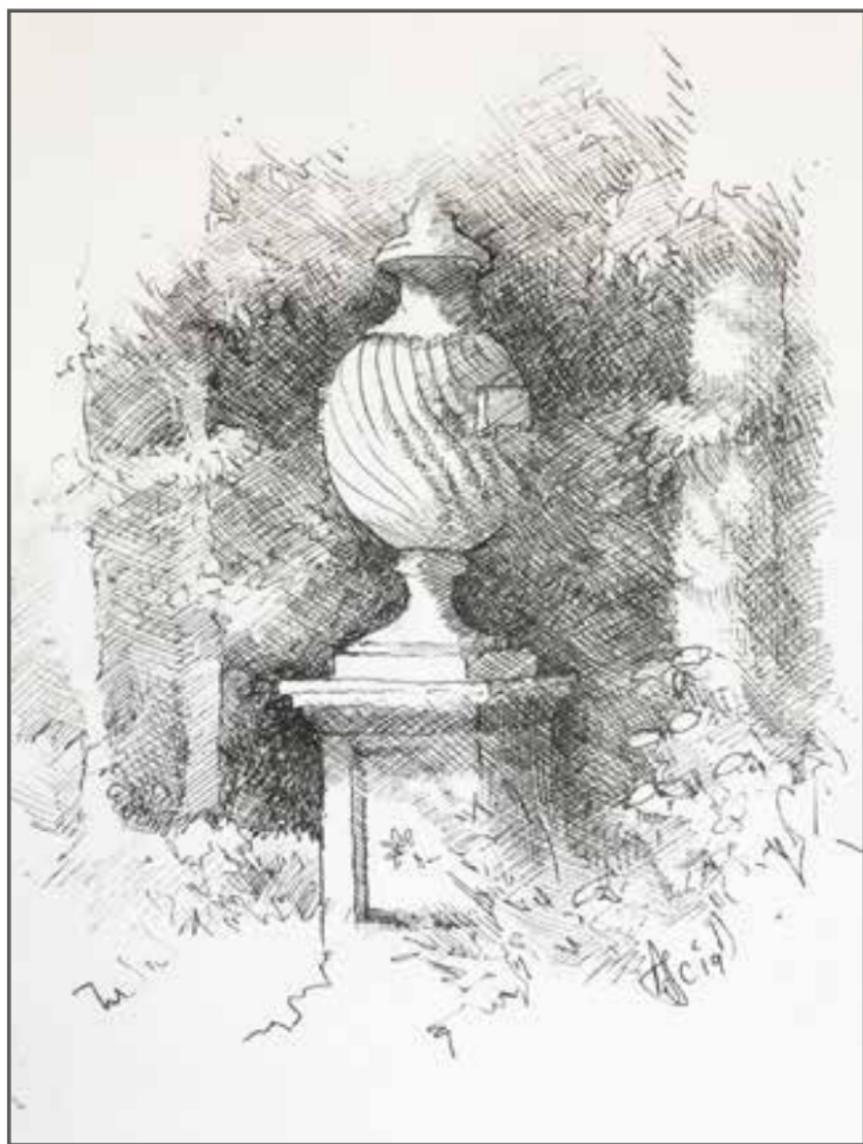


# BORDER LINES

TOURS TO THE FINEST PRIVATE  
GARDENS AND HOUSES



2021

## DAY TOURS

1. **Dorset** Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> May  
The Old Rectory Pulham and Minterne
2. **Somerset** Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> June  
Hanham Court and Iford Manor
3. **Worcestershire and Herefordshire** Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> June  
Little Malvern Court, Bridges Stone Mill and Perrycroft
4. **Derbyshire** Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June  
The Rectory House, Kedelston, Culland Hall and Bluebell Nursery
5. **Derbyshire** Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> June  
Renishaw Hall, The Dower House and Melbourne Hall
6. **Northamptonshire** Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> June  
The Old Rectory Quinton, Old Park Barn and The Menagerie
7. **Gloucestershire** To be confirmed  
Daylesford House and Kingham Hill
8. **Hertfordshire** Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> June  
The Barn, Serge Hill and Pie Corner
9. **Gloucestershire** Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> June  
Bywell, Daglingworth House and Rockliffe
10. **Wiltshire** Friday 18<sup>th</sup> June  
Ferne Park and Shute House
11. **Dorset** Monday 21<sup>st</sup> June  
Stanbridge Mill and Knoll Gardens
12. **Dorset** Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June  
Cranborne Manor and St Giles House
13. **Devon** Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June  
Hamblyn's Coombe and Little Dartmouth Farm
14. **Devon** Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> June  
Wildside and Endsleigh
15. **Berkshire** To be confirmed  
Folly Farm and Woolton House
16. **Kent** Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> June  
White House Farm and Long Barn
17. **Suffolk** Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> July  
Great Thurlow Hall, The Jockey Club Rooms and Ousden House
18. **Buckinghamshire** To be confirmed  
Eythrope, Waddesdon Manor and Kingsbridge Farm
19. **East Lothian** Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> July  
Blackdykes, Greywalls and Shepherd House
20. **East and West Lothian** Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> July  
Hopetoun House Broadwoodside and Bowerhouse
21. **Lanarkshire and Peeblesshire** Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> July  
Little Sparta, Newhall and Portmore
22. **The Borders** Friday 9<sup>th</sup> July  
Carolside, Whitburgh House and Corbet Tower
23. **Oxfordshire** Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> September  
The Grange and Wormsley



# GARDEN AND HOUSE TOURS

## 2021



After a year which we could not have anticipated and which we will largely want to forget, I hope that you have a very happy New Year and one which is far less complicated and uncertain than the last.

The coronavirus will, I fear, impact on our tours in 2021. We have had to re-schedule almost all our English tours to this summer and we are, for this year, abandoning coach travel altogether, so that we will ask you to travel between the gardens in your own car. Also, this year we are not producing the annual Border Lines booklet, instead all the tour information is available on our website. There will be no late Spring tours to Italy, as we wait to see how the vaccine will ameliorate conditions in both the UK and Europe. I hope that in September we will be able to run the tour to Dublin and central Ireland that was also postponed. If the four days in Rome in October are feasible, then we will also offer this tour again.

In 2021, the majority of the tours in the United Kingdom are those held over from last year, with a number of additional new tours. We have a mixture of new gardens; gardens we have not been to for far too long and two days repeated from 2019 as we were unable to offer places to everyone who wanted one. We have two new days in Derbyshire, which include a visit to the interior of Renishaw Hall. Also, a private visit to Minterne in Dorset in late Spring, a visit to two wonderful gardens in Devon, one designed by Dan Pearson, which I have long wanted to see (we are also, I hope, visiting his reworking of Miss Jekyll's garden at Folly Farm) and a chance to see Maurice Foster's legendary garden in Kent. We return to Serge Hill for another chance to see Stuart-Smith gardens, to Cranbourne Manor and St Giles House in Dorset and I hope we will have another opportunity to see Lord Rothschild's garden at Eythrope. The new tours include an additional day in Dorset on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> June and a second day in Devon, thus forming two sets of back-to-back days or a four-day tour in the South-West. We have a tour to Worcestershire and four consecutive days in Mid and East Lothian and the Scottish Borders in July. Having thought that I had previously found all the good gardens in that part of Scotland, I am delighted to have discovered six more utterly wonderful ones. As ever we try to ensure that you have a happy variety of contrasting gardens on each day.

A great many people opted to keep their places on the tours they had booked in 2020 and they will, of course, have first refusal on these tours, all of which, with the exception of the two days in Derbyshire, are on the same day as they were to have been in 2020. Places on many tours are therefore limited.

*continued overleaf*

### **James and Karin Bolton**

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*Cover Illustration by Amanda Cooper*

In spite of everything, the formula of a Border Lines day remains essentially unchanged. We visit two or three gardens or houses and start the day with coffee, there will be a two-course lunch and the day will end with tea. When you book a place on a tour, we shall email you the directions to the first garden and the time to meet. Please confirm safe receipt of these to avoid being chased by us later in the year. We will start the day promptly at the advertised time and we shall not wait for latecomers. If you are going to be unavoidably late, please call James on his mobile for directions to the second garden and we will meet you there.

If you would like to reserve places on any of these days, please email, or telephone to check availability before sending your payment. We shall reserve places for a maximum of 5 days, until you confirm by sending a completed booking form and payment in full preferably by bank transfer or by cheque.

If you would like further information about our tours to Ireland or Rome in the autumn please do not hesitate to contact James or Karin at the address below.

We very much hope to see you over the year.

## **TOURS ABROAD 2021**

### **Houses and Gardens around Dublin and Central Ireland**

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> - Friday 10<sup>th</sup> September

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> - Friday 17<sup>th</sup> September

### **Palaces, Galleries and Churches of Rome**

October - Date to be confirmed

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> May**The Old Rectory, Pulham****Mr and Mrs Nick Elliott**

The Old Rectory is a delicious castellated gothick house standing across the fields from its church and settled very comfortably into the north Dorset countryside. The terrace, on the east side of the house, is liberally planted in many shades of purple and white with white tulips, Alchemilla, Doricnium and Verbena bonariensis. A lawn, flanked very stylishly by two avenues of yew pyramids and formal box beds with Portuguese laurel umbrellas, under-planted with Santolina, runs down to a ha-ha and the expansive view of Bulbarrow Hill and the Dorset Downs. Yew hedges enclose the garden to the south of the house and embrace circular herbaceous borders which are planted for a long flowering season, but peak in July. Further from the house the garden becomes less formal, with a bog garden filled with May-flowering Primulas and Iris and two woodland gardens where native trees are planted with exotics and flowering shrubs.

**Minterne, Minterne Magna****The Lord and Lady Digby**

The present house at Minterne, described by Pevsner as a “beautifully sophisticated design”, was the rather eccentric creation of the Arts and Crafts architect, Leonard Stokes and was built between 1904-6 to replace an existing house, built by the Churchill family, which was riddled with dry rot. Admiral Robert Digby acquired the house in the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> century and began to landscape the valley around it with (free) advice from Capability Brown, who was working for Digby’s brother at Sherborne Castle. He planted trees in profusion and formed the lakes and cascades from the existing stream. However, a spur of greensand lying to the south of the house, enabled later Digbys to plant the magnificent 27-acre woodland garden, which with its specimen trees, Magnolias, Rhododendrons and Azaleas should be at its peak in mid-May. We will have lunch in the house and a tour of the interior with Henry Digby.

*Meet at The Old Rectory Pulham. Lunch at Minterne.*

## 2. Somerset

£160

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> June

### **Iford Manor, Bradford-on-Avon**

#### **Mr and Mrs William Cartwright-Hignett**

The first sight of Iford Manor is quintessentially English, the early 15<sup>th</sup> century bridge across the River Frome, decorated with a statue of Britannia, with the serene 1720s facade of the house in the background. Harold Peto, an architect and garden designer, who designed the water garden at Buscot and the Irish garden at Ilnacullin, bought the house 1899 and began to develop the highly architectural garden. Because of the slope of the hill, the garden is ideally suited to an Italianate treatment and Peto created a series of richly-planted terraces, ornamented with buildings and his fine collection of sculpture acquired during his travels in Europe. He was an admirer of William Robinson and Gertrude Jekyll and their influence is felt on the planting of the garden, which has been beautifully maintained and augmented over many years by the Cartwright-Hignett family.

### **Hanham Court, Hanham Abbots**

#### **Mr and Mrs Richard Boissevain**

The garden at Hanham Court, was created by Isabel and Julian Bannerman, who in 1993 moved into a ruinous house surrounded by Leylandii. The house is a glorious mish-mash of every architectural period from Norman to Arts and Crafts and even has its own adjoining church. Passing through the great Tudor wooden doors is to enter a magical world with the garden hanging above the rolling limestone landscape on enormous bastion walls. There are the characteristic Bannerman architectural features of gateways, obelisks and topiaried yews, softened by billowing masses of perennials that have somehow thrived in the thin, unforgiving soil. Euphorbia wulfenii, paired with Iris pallida, paths lined with Erysimum 'Bowles Mauve', borders filled with Alliums, Eremurus, lupins, Salvias, peonies and, everywhere, roses in abundant profusion. The house itself is swathed in Wisteria and great swags of Rosa banksia 'Lutea'. Almost inexplicably, in 2012 the Bannermans were seduced away to create another garden at Trematon Castle in Cornwall and Hanham is now owned by Richard and Julia Boissevain, who have achieved the seemingly impossible; taking on the Bannerman's garden and not only maintaining it quite beautifully, but adding further delights of their own.

*Meet at Iford Manor. Lunch at Hanham Court.*

### 3. Worcestershire and Herefordshire

£160

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> June

#### Little Malvern Court

##### Mrs Alexandra Berington

This lovely ten-acre garden around the 14<sup>th</sup> century Benedictine prior's house stands above the Severn Valley with views across to the distant Cotswold Hills. It is divided into two parts; the formal garden immediately around the house was designed by Arabella Lennox-Boyd and Michael Balston. Here yew hedges surround borders awash with roses and perennials. A white corridor with Philadelphus and a central rose-covered arch leads to a lawn bounded by pleached limes. In front of the house, another lawn, flanked by espaliered pears, leads down to the second part of the garden, the magnificent informal gardens created around the chain of five monastic ponds. These are now planted with wonderful trees which include cedars, grown from seed brought back from the Holy Land, Magnolias, Koelreuteria and some spectacular Pterocaryas overhanging the water of one of the lower ponds.

#### Bridges Stone Mill

##### Sir Michael and Lady Perry

Water is a pervading theme throughout this two-and-a-half-acre garden beside Leigh Brook, which the Perrys have been gardening since 1980. The Mill stands at the end of its alder-lined leat, while the brook embraces the whole garden under a sheltering steep wooded bank, now a nature reserve. A lawn leads past colourful mixed borders and fine trees planted by the Perrys, towards the vegetable garden, now largely planted with roses. Further into the garden a magnificent weeping willow marks a sharp turn of the brook. A cascade, contrasting with the serenity of the ancient mill leat, is crossed by a stone bridge and flows past clumps of Hosta, Gunnera and Astilbe into a large water-lily pond fringed with generous marginal planting. The Japanese Garden beside the house, and at the end of the mill leat is a new feature in the garden, created by Japanese designer Takashi Sawano, long resident in Britain, it subtly incorporates Japanese structures and pruning into this most English of landscapes.

#### Perrycroft, Colwall

##### Mr and Mrs Mark Archer

Perrycroft is an Arts and Crafts house high on the western flank of the Malvern Hills, built for John Wilson MP by Charles Voysey in 1893. Wilson acquired 80 acres and Voysey almost certainly determined the position of the house with its perfect view south towards Herefordshire Beacon. Voysey designed the house to blend seamlessly with the garden, with benches positioned against the house to take advantage of the views over Herefordshire into Wales. The garden, to the west of the house, drops away to the formal walled garden and summer house. Some twenty years ago Gillian and Mark Archer bought Perrycroft, which was then in a very poor state, and have extensively restored both house and garden. Yew trees have been returned to their original shape as hedges and the formal gardens have been replanted with yew topiary, box hedges and perennials. Beyond the formal gardens, the woodland garden, inspired by William Robinson, the 19<sup>th</sup> century owner of Gravetye Manor in Sussex, is planted with spring bulbs and wild flowers among Philadelphus, Deutzias and other flowering shrubs.

*Meet at Little Malvern Court. Lunch at Bridges Stone Mill*

## 4. Derbyshire

£160

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June

### **Rectory House, Kedleston**

#### **Helene, Viscountess Scarsdale**

The handsome, red-brick rectory at Kedleston, standing on the edge of the park, may have been designed by Samuel Wyatt, clerk of works at that time to Robert Adam, who was rebuilding the big house at Kedleston for Nathaniel Curzon, the first Lord Scarsdale. It is possible that Adam himself designed the elegant south façade with its gently-recessed arch. Some of the planting dates from this period, but the present, delightfully informal, woodland garden is the work of the present incumbent, Helene Scarsdale. An open lawn has a Cumbrian slate sphere as a focal point and leads on into the woodland garden, planted with Rhododendrons and Azaleas for the spring, followed by roses and other flowering shrubs. The edges of a large pond, in the centre are softened with Primulas, Gunnera and Darmera.

### **Culland Hall, Ashbourne**

#### **Mr and Mrs Simon Thompson**

The four-acre garden at Culland Hall is almost entirely the creation of Lucy Thompson, who has created it around the comfortable late 1930s house, built by her father-in-law on the site of an earlier house. The view across a shallow valley with lake and woodlands is perfect and the garden steps down from the house in terraces so nothing is obscured. Borders are filled with long-flowering perennials and balanced by the strong structure of box and yew hedging and lovely old garden buildings, contemporary with the earlier house. Vistas urge one from one delightful space to another: a box-hedged rose garden, double borders with great billowing masses of *Hydrangea paniculata* 'Limelight', a woodland and fern garden and a long rose pergola in the kitchen garden underplanted by peonies.

### **Bluebell Nursery and Arboretum, Ashby de la Zouch**

Bluebell Nursery is an exceptional family-run nursery with a very tempting array of interesting and desirable plants, which include trees and shrubs, as well as perennials, climbers and ferns. It also has a nine-acre arboretum, containing an extensive collection of trees and shrubs, informatively and helpfully labelled. This was started in 1992 and so it is interesting to see how fast trees and shrubs will grow and a walk through the arboretum to see the potential size and habit of a plant before buying is useful as well as a pleasure.

*Meet at Rectory House, Kedleston. Lunch at Culland Hall*

## 5. Derbyshire

£160

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> June

### **Renishaw Hall, Renishaw**

#### **Mr and Mrs Richard Hayward**

The Sitwells built Renishaw in the 1620s, originally an H-shaped Jacobean house, later Sitwells enlarged it. Sitwell Sitwell built the stables, gothicised the house and added the drawing room and ball room, the latter containing, amongst other treasures, Salvatore Rosa's stupendous painting of Belisarius acquired by Osbert Sitwell from Raynham Hall in the 1920s. Sir George Sitwell, dividing his time between Derbyshire and Italy, commissioned a billiard room from Lutyens and himself designed the magnificent garden to the south of the house. This is Italianate gardening at its very best. Yew hedges divide the garden into intimate sheltered spaces, restrainedly adorned with statues and vases and planted with remarkably tender shrubs and perennials. Beyond the final water jet and across the ha-ha, the Sitwells boast that one can see Hardwick Hall "with the eye of faith."

We will be given a tour of the house before exploring the garden.

### **The Dower House, Melbourne**

#### **Mr and Mrs William Kerr**

William Kerr inherited The Dower House in 1982. The family came to Derbyshire in 1988, but shortly thereafter moved to Hong Kong leaving behind a totally abandoned garden. From the early years of 2000 Griselda returned for short periods spending two years at The English Gardening School, then Broomfield College and Brooksby. Since then she has not only created a fabulous garden, which is a plantsman's dream, but also written the most useful and practical gardening book to have been published for years (*The Apprehensive Gardener*). The early 19th century house stands at the top of a slope looking across Melbourne Pool. On the highest ground is a woodland garden on the remains of a tennis court, below which a network of paths lead down banks planted with specimen trees and interesting shrubs to a glade and bog garden on the edge of the Pool. The return to the house takes in a large lawn surrounded by a rose tunnel, late summer borders and a bank of flowering shrubs at their best in midsummer..

### **The Church of St Michael and St Mary, Melbourne**

Melbourne Hall was once a residence of the Bishops of Carlisle, who may have considered it more convenient and safer to venture no further north. This explains the magnificence of the neighbouring Norman church which Pevsner describes as one of the most ambitious parish churches in England. While it is sad that the twin towers on the west façade are unfinished, the spectacular Norman interior is indeed worthy of a bishop.

*Tour 5 continued overleaf*

## **Melbourne Hall, Melbourne**

### **Lord and Lady Ralph Kerr**

The original hall at Melbourne was extended by two wings, that to the east, facing on to the garden was added in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century. The gardens were designed in 1699 and laid out in 1704 by the royal gardeners Henry Wise and George London for Queen Anne's vice-chamberlain Thomas Coke. He required them to "suit with Versailles". The scale is somewhat smaller, but the proportions of the terraces bounded, by yew hedges, running down to Robert Bakewell's superlative ironwork arbour, give it a sense of grandeur. The garden contains many good lead figures by John van Nost and, at the top of The Grove, a formal woodland and water garden, is the spectacular Four Seasons vase, given to Thomas Coke by Queen Anne.

*Meet at Rectory House, Kedleston. Lunch at Culland Hall*

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> June

### **The Old Rectory, Quinton**

**Mr and Mrs Alan Kennedy**

The three-acre garden at the Old Rectory was designed by Anoushka Feiler and completed in 2015. Starting with a blank canvas, the garden is divided into separate sections, in front of the house, the drive is now decorated by sculptural shapes of cloud-pruned *Parrotia persica*, hornbeam and domes of yew softened by swathes of *Hakonechloa*. Behind the house, the old lawn has been excavated to create a sunken terrace, with shade provided by roof-form trained plane trees. An avenue of pleached hornbeam, separating the terrace from a planting of *Osmanthus fragrans* and *Rosa* 'Winchester Cathedral', leads to an eye-catching glass garden room. Stone-edged rills run between blocks of late summer-flowering perennials and grasses. Elsewhere an old pond has been transformed into a natural swimming pond, a woodland garden gives onto the wild flower meadow and orchard.

### **Old Park Barn, Stoke Goldington**

**Mr and Mrs James Chua**

Twenty-one years ago, James and Emily Chua acquired an empty three-acre field and set about creating an elegant and very personal garden. Immediately behind the house a rectangular lawn is backed dramatically by a stone amphitheatre. Above this, gently formal, abundantly-planted, perennial borders, designed to provide year-long interest, are arranged with an avenue of hornbeam forming a central axis. This leads a past an enclosed vegetable garden to an open flower meadow with bee orchids and a nearby pond and on into the informal woodland garden. Here the scale becomes more expansive and relaxed, walks, cleverly-edged with recycled branches between sinuous planting of deciduous trees, underplanted with woodland perennials and bulbs, lead to a hawthorn circle.

### **The Menagerie, Horton**

**Monsieur Hugues Decobert**

The Menagerie at Horton was designed by Thomas Wright for Lord Halifax as an eye-catcher and zoo for the now demolished Horton Hall. It is a one-storey building with corner pavilions and a raised central block in the style of William Kent and is a very grand country house in miniature. In 1972, the architectural historian Gervase Jackson Stops bought the house, restored it and created the contemporary formal four-and-a-half acre garden. From an open lawn directly behind the house, a central avenue of limes strikes out across the garden. On either side, a pair of radiating hornbeam-hedged vistas lead to circular pools and then onto two pavilions, one classical and one gothic. An immaculate walled garden, designed by Jinny Blom lies discretely to one side of the house. Gervase Jackson Stops died in 1995, but The Menagerie, an intriguing 20<sup>th</sup> century interpretation of 18<sup>th</sup> century design, is in very good hands and beautifully maintained. Over recent years the gardens have undergone restoration and a Stumpery and Exotic Garden have been added.

*Meet at The Old Rectory, Quinton. Lunch at The Cowpers Oak, Weston-Underwood.*

## 7. Gloucestershire

£160

To be confirmed

### Daylesford House, Moreton-in-Marsh

#### The Lord and Lady Bamford

Daylesford was built by 1793 for Warren Hastings, the Governor General of Bengal. Lord and Lady Bamford acquired the estate in 1988 and have magnificently restored the garden. Behind the Orangery, which houses a collection of citrus trees, is the Secret Garden, built to mark the Millennium and designed by Rupert Golby. The Scented Walk, planted with Magnolias, Daphnes, lilac and lily-of-the-valley, leads to the two-acre walled garden which was restored with help from Lady Mary Keen. This spectacular space contains a vegetable garden and fruit garden, as well as two greenhouses, one for peaches, the other for seasonal vegetable production. Yew hedges divide the Rose Garden, the Quince Lawn, the cut flower and pot gardens. This is a rare opportunity to see a wonderful 18<sup>th</sup> century garden, beautifully restored, updated and functioning as it would have done for Warren Hastings.

### Kingham Hill House

#### Mr R. Ian Molson

The garden at Kingham Hill House, which looks south over the gentle contours of the Evenlode valley, was designed by Rosemary Verey in the early 1990s and added to latterly by Rupert Golby. This is a garden of avenues and vistas; fastigate oaks form an allée through the garden from the main drive, pleached limes lead the eye across the croquet lawn. The water garden fills the original walled garden where a cascade, framed by a double avenue of Acers, falls away towards an informal reed-fringed lake with a view of the church at Churchill on the horizon. An enclosed lavender garden surrounding an oval terrace with a sundial at its heart and scattered stone and box balls, is approached by tunnels of *Wisteria floribunda* 'Snow Showers'. The four lavender-edged beds are planted with standard *Wisteria*, *Prunus lusitanica*, peonies, *Iris* 'Jane Phillips' and *Agapanthus*. The kitchen garden, completed in December 2005, provides all vegetables, cut flowers and fruit for use in the house.

Rupert Golby will be taking us around both gardens.

*Meet at Daylesford Organic Farm Shop. Lunch at Daylesford Organic Farm Shop*

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> June

### **The Barn, Serge Hill, Bedmond**

**Mr and Mrs Tom Stuart-Smith**

Not surprisingly, the garden at The Barn continues to develop and expand. The courtyard in front of the house has water tanks from a Chelsea Flower Show garden, the mellow rust of the tanks complementing the colour of the roof tiles and the surrounding rusty and purple flowers of Tom Stuart-Smith's trademark perennials: Salvias, Euphorbia, Eryngiums and Sedums. Behind the house, the main part of the garden is divided by an imposing long vista of double borders punctuated by tall hornbeam hedges. Thick plantings of Maclayees, Achilleas, white Epilobium and grasses are followed by refreshingly empty spaces contained within the hedges, drawing the eye out to the rolling hills beyond. On the other side of the house, a large space, through which grass paths meander, is densely filled with Asters, Rudbeckias, Dianthus, Eryngiums and a mass of other perennials flowering throughout the summer.

### **Serge Hill, Bedmond**

**Kate Stuart-Smith**

Serge Hill is a charming white Regency building, with a glass-roofed veranda which gives it a distinctly maritime air. This is where two generations of Stuart-Smiths have gardened and where Kate Stuart-Smith is now in charge. Tom and his parents planted the old drive with rhododendrons for early summer and the lawn in front of the house gives a view of gently rolling parkland. Kate, Ed, and a constantly changing team of WWOOFers, spend most of their time in the old walled garden, where the walls are festooned with climbers and arches covered in roses and clematis. The beautiful greenhouse bursts with seedlings, cuttings, tomatoes and peppers and looks over the orderly vegetables towards a delicious chaos of perennials beyond. With a final flourish, a long, mainly shrub, border outside the walled garden returns towards the house.

### **Pie Corner, Bedmond**

**Jeremy and Bella Stuart-Smith**

The garden around this remarkable modern house was created by Bella Stuart-Smith, a garden designer and plantswoman, with much help from the family. The house sits in a shallow valley looking out across a terrace and lawn into the parkland beyond. On one side of the house a series of hedge-enclosed formal spaces with mixed perennial and shrub planting, cleverly merges into the boundary of trees on the bank rising above the house. Clouds of box conceal the swimming pool and the eye is drawn towards topiary-flanked steps that lead up the bank. On the other side of the house this formality is matched, but softened in anticipation of the informal planting of the woodland garden beyond. An arch covered with the long-flowering rose 'Blush Noisette' leads into a vegetable garden which balances, across the main lawn, an enclosure for chickens shaded by cherry trees.

*Meet at Serge Hill, Lunch at Serge Hill*

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> June

### **Bywell, Sapperton, Nr Cirencester**

#### **Mr and Mrs Alex Kininmonth**

Bywell is in that remote portion of the Cotswolds where the ground falls into steep and hidden valleys. It is hard to find, but very well worth the effort. Nearly everything has been built, planted and maintained by Alex Kininmonth himself. The scale of his achievement, on this steeply sloping site, only dawns gradually as the garden slowly reveals itself. The forecourt of the house is backed by a vertiginous south-facing bank lushly planted with *Cistus*, *Helianthemum*, *Perovskia* (and more) and crowned with a line of Italian cypress. Around the house water, encountered and crossed, at the foot of the bank, becomes an important and unifying feature of the garden, first as a canal, then a circular infinity pool, a cascade and, finally, a naturally planted pool. Everywhere the planting is sumptuous and the garden ornaments are witty and downright impressive.

### **Daglingworth House, Daglingworth, Cirencester**

#### **Mr and Mrs David Howard**

David and Etta Howard have a two-acre classical garden with humorous contemporary twists. There are reflective pools, a new pergola and sunken garden, some wonderful sculptures, and imaginative areas, backed up with good planting of roses, grasses, and perennials, set against beautiful Cotswold stone walls. The position of the late-Georgian house, next door to the church with views across the village is enchanting. This garden has been created with passion, and the owners have achieved a rather unusual and remarkable garden in the 25 years that they have been at Daglingworth House.

### **Rockliffe, Upper Slaughter, Nr Stow-on-the-Wold**

#### **Mr and Mrs Simon Keswick.**

The garden at Rockliffe is the perfect blend of informally-planted trees and shrubs and generously filled borders, balanced by a good strong structure of hedges, topiary and pleached limes. It recalls the best of 20th century gardening, but has a contemporary edge to the layout, not surprising as Emma Keswick has designed gardens for others. The crisp simplicity of a long canal is offset by the softer planting of *Cornus controversia* 'Variegata' overhanging a sunken pool near the house. Beyond lies a series of enclosed gardens, reached by a walk with a wonderful long border. On the other side of the house, a shallow valley contains one of the best maintained kitchen gardens in the county. Above and beyond this, acting as an eye-catcher from the house, is a stone dovecote approached through an avenue of topiary doves.

*Meet at Bywell. Lunch at Daglingworth House*

## 10. Wiltshire

£160

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> June

### **Ferne House, Ferne, Nr Shaftesbury**

#### **The Viscount and Viscountess Rothermere**

Lady Rothermere and Rupert Golby originally designed the garden around Quinlan Terry's classical house at Ferne and, when the house was enlarged in the last few years, Rupert returned to adjust the garden to accommodate the new layout. Double avenues of limes stretch to the hills to the south and garden rooms of clipped hedges decorated with standard Wisterias echo the architecture of the building. An immaculate potager, a decorative orchard, a cascade into an informal lake and a minimalist swimming pool with a pool house, based on the Praeneste Terrace in the garden at Rousham, are among the many delights of this magnificent garden.

### **Shute House, Donhead St Mary**

#### **Mr and Mrs John Lewis**

The River Nadder rises in the garden at Shute and is the soul of this intriguing and mysterious garden, which was designed by Geoffrey Jellicoe in 1969. Bubbling up in a pool adjoining the lake, the water takes two courses; one informal and natural, the other formal and classical. From a rectangular canal overlooked by three Roman busts, the water falls away from two throne-like chairs in series of cascades, bounded by densely planted perennial borders, into pools inspired by Moorish gardens. The water in the lake runs into a stream and at this point the two water courses meet. Suzy Lewis, who understands this garden so well, has added to and enriched it, re-organising the entrance to bring the lovely east façade of the house into the garden, adding an allée, contained by hornbeam hedges and creating a new garden in a courtyard outside her kitchen. Jellicoe's masterpiece is in very safe hands.

*Meet Ferne House. Lunch Shute House*

## 11. Dorset

£160

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> June

### Stanbridge Mill, Gussage All Saints

#### The Lord and Lady Phillimore

Arabella Lennox-Boyd originally designed the gardens at Stanbridge Mill, but subsequent head gardeners, while beautifully maintaining her layout, have added to the gardens. The gin-clear River Allen and its mill-race meander through the property, with walks along the banks towards the Fishing Hut designed by John Stefanidis. South of the house, huge willows spread over informal borders of roses and perennials. These run down to a grove of birch trees, surrounded by a double circle of tall beech hedges. Behind the house, a series of formal garden compartments are enclosed by a cobb wall in what had been the miller's garden. A vista towards the swimming pool leads through several garden rooms, one with a cloister of pleached limes. The attention to detail throughout the garden, from paving to planting, is magnificent. In recent years the garden has been taken in hand by the Phillimores and their head gardener, and this lovely garden is flourishing in very safe hands.

### Knoll Gardens, Hampreston

#### Neil Lucas

The four acres of Knoll Garden could hardly provide a greater contrast to Stanbridge Mill. Originally carrot fields, these were transformed into an arboretum in the 1970s. Woody botanic treasures include a Cork Oak, a Ginkgo, Eucalyptus, the Australian Snowdrop Tree, *Atherosperma moschatum*, the Willow Oak, *Quercus phellos*, and *Crinodendron hookerianum*. In late 1994 Neil Lucas took over and began another radical replanting. To the existing trees and shrubs were added great swathes of perennials including *Persicarias*, *Heleniums*, *Verbenas*, *Helianthus*, *Asters* and *Sanguisorbas*, and above all, grasses. Having arrived with about twenty species, mostly *Miscanthus* and *Pennisetum*, the range has expanded hugely over the last 26 years, demonstrating the versatility of grasses, both in habit and habitat, ranging from *Panicum* to shade-loving *Hakonechloa*. The garden now houses the National Collection of *Pennisetum*. Although it is a garden regularly open, we will have a private tour with its creator, Neil Lucas.

*Meet at Stanbridge Mill. Lunch at 10 Castle Street, Cranborne*

## 12. Dorset

£160

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June

### **Cranborne Manor, Cranborne**

#### **The Viscount Cranborne**

In the reign of King John, Cranborne was a royal hunting lodge which, in a ruinous state, was given to Robert Cecil by a grateful James I. In the 1610s Cecil rebuilt the house adding loggias to the north and south fronts, though the handsome library wing is slightly later. He employed John Tradescant and Mountain Jennings to design a formal garden around the house. The Cecils then abandoned Cranborne until the 1860s when Lord Salisbury took the house back in hand from two tenant farmers and restored the house. Since then successive generations have lavished affection on both house and garden; in the 1960s Lady Salisbury, a great gardener, planted box parterres, a white garden and extensive borders filled with perennials. The garden has been simplified and updated by the current Lady Salisbury and now is in the charge of her daughter, Georgiana Campbell, who will take us on a private tour of the garden, giving us the history of the manor and explaining the changes that she is making to this enchanting and very personal family garden.

### **St Giles House, Wimborne St Giles**

#### **The Earl and Countess of Shaftesbury**

The origin of St Giles House was a medieval manor which was acquired by the Ashley family in the mid 15th century. A Tudor building was extensively rebuilt by the 1st Earl of Shaftesbury in the 1650s and modified in the 1740s by Henry Flitcroft. The house suffered in the 20th century, but has been rescued and magnificently restored by the current Lord Shaftesbury who inherited in 2005. What Lord Shaftesbury has achieved in a short space of time is nothing short of remarkable. Most of the 18th century rooms have been fully restored, a contemporary entrance has been added to the north front of the house, a garden, part formal, part wildflower meadows, has been created and, in the park, the main avenue replanted, the lake dredged and the wonderful shell grotto restored. Probably the most astonishing room in the house is the Great Dining Room, where we will have lunch. Here a startling approach has been taken to the restoration, which has resulted in a visually thrilling space. Most importantly, the house is once again lived in by Lord Shaftesbury, who will take us around the house.

*Meet at Cranborne Manor. Lunch at St Giles House*

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June

### **Hamblyn's Coombe**

#### **Bridget McCrum**

The position of the Bridget McCrum's seven-acre garden is no less spectacular than Little Dartmouth Farm although, instead of the English Channel, it looks across the Dart estuary, with steep, thickly-wooded banks plunging down to the river. The house, originally an 1837 woodman's cottage, stands on the south side of the river, with the garden, the passion of Bridget's late husband, Captain Robert McCrum, rising up behind the house to merge into the trees. Bridget's sculptures are inspired both by the landscape of the Dart estuary and the flights of birds below her house and their positioning throughout the garden was a collaborative decision taken between Bridget and her husband. Paths and steps link a yew and box-hedged enclosure to terraces below the house where the borders are filled with Fuchsias, Rogersias, Salvias, Perovskia and Acers, Cornus and Hydrangeas in profusion. A stream running down the hill, is planted with Gunnera, ferns and bamboos. Further down towards the river open lawn is balanced by thickets of Rhododendrons and plantings of orchard trees.

### **Little Dartmouth Farm**

#### **Edward and Sally Benthall**

In 2005 Edward and Sally Benthall bought Little Dartmouth Farm, with its 300 acres, looking over the sea on the South Devon coast. They began the award-winning restoration and remodelling of both farmhouse and outbuildings and engaged Dan Pearson to design the garden and oversee the landscaping. Biodiversity and sustainability were key priorities; rainwater is harvested, compost heaps abound and, as the design started on the periphery and worked inwards, native hedges and trees were planted, blending the garden into the landscape. In front of the house the garden is kept very simple; borders of clipped Phillyria, Erigeron and Phlomis beside the terrace, further on mown and long grass, trees and a pond, beyond these the encompassing views of the sea. Sally had the inspired idea of removing the roof of one farm building to create a sheltered walled garden behind the house, filled now with Euphorbia mellifera, clipped Griselinias, Magnolias underplanted with, among much else, Panicum, Rosa mutabilis and Dierama. Terraced above this walled garden is a vegetable garden and beyond that orchards. This is a garden that points the way forward for gardening; respecting its environment, responding to the seasons, sustainable and above all, enchanting.

*Meet at Hamblyn's Coombe. Lunch at Little Dartmouth Farm.*

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> June**Wildside, Buckland Monachorum****Keith Wiley**

For 25 years Keith Wiley was the Head Gardener at The Garden House, Lionel Fortescue's legendary garden in Devon. He very successfully extended the garden and introduced his own particular style of naturalistic planting. In 2004 he and his wife Ros moved half a mile to the west to start a nursery and a new garden from scratch. The four-acre site was a young cider orchard with a wonderful southerly aspect. Keith got to work on a digger and transformed the flat site into one of the most remarkable contemporary gardens in Britain. From the central semi-formal courtyard garden with a 90 metre Wisteria pergola, the garden drops down into the lower garden, where Keith has carved out banks and hollows with paths meandering through the intensively planted slopes which provide an almost bewildering range of different habitats to accommodate both sun-loving plants on the well-drained tops to shade loving woodland plants on the damper, cooler north facing slopes. It is still a work in progress, as the upper end of the garden, known as the Canyons, with dramatic six-metre-high cliffs, carved by Keith, now includes a tribute garden to his late wife Ros due to be finished this spring, featuring a water garden inspired by South African wild flowers.

**Hotel Endsleigh, Milton Abbot**

Endsleigh is perhaps the best-preserved Picturesque garden in England. The house was built for the 6<sup>th</sup> Duke of Bedford between 1810 and 1815, designed by Jeffry Wyatt, who went on to transform Windsor Castle for George IV. In 1814 Humphry Repton, who had already provided the duke with a Red Book for Woburn in 1805, was called in to advise on the garden and produced another Red Book for Endsleigh. The situation is superb, Wyatt's cottage ornée looks over the valley of the River Tamar, with wooded hills rising in gently undulations beyond. Repton realised that he need do little with the "Grandeur of the Landscape. . . . I must only turn frame maker instead of Landscape Gardener." Nevertheless, a garden was created around the house. A grass terrace links the house with a Shell House, above this is a spectacular Long Border and Repton's 100 metre Rose Walk. A children's garden was created outside the nursery wing with a curving rill to sail toy boats. Wyatt built an Ice House and a Dairy for the duchess in a dell below the house and Repton, and subsequent generations of Russells planted magnificent trees. In 2005 Olga Polizzi was seduced by the charm of the setting and bought Endsleigh to run it as an hotel.

*Meet at Wildside. Lunch at Hotel Endsleigh*

To be confirmed

### **Folly Farm, Sulhamstead**

The house and garden at Folly Farm were one of the most successful and charming designs created by Sir Edwin Lutyens and Gertrude Jekyll. An existing farmhouse, with origins as a 17<sup>th</sup> century cottage, was incorporated into the design for H H Cochrane in 1906. This was extended for Mr and Mrs Zachary Merton in 1912. The garden was laid out around the 1912 house, with a canal garden running away from the 1906 'Dutch' addition, a formal parterre garden in front of the new wing and an axis leading to the large walled kitchen garden. The final surprise was the yew-enclosed sunken rose garden. When the present family bought Folly Farm they embarked on a major restoration of the house and garden. Instead of recreating Miss Jekyll's planting plans, Dan Pearson was commissioned to design an entirely new garden within the bones of the old garden. The result is an utterly contemporary garden of which Miss Jekyll would most surely approve.

### **Woolton House, Woolton Hill**

#### **Mrs Charles Brown**

Woolton House has been added to and modified by succeeding generations, until the Edwardians turned it into a practical, country house. Charles and Rosamond Brown completed the process with a stupendous glass extension. In the garden, they started with a completely clean slate and sought the advice of the French designer Pascal Cribier, whose work includes the Tuileries garden in Paris. Cribier designed the magnificent contemporary potager in the walled garden. The rose garden, surrounding a cleverly enlarged formal pool, is a collaboration between the Browns and Cribier. Aralias by the pool give height and structure and Rosa chinensis 'Sanguinea', a hard-to-find sibling of 'Mutabilis', droops over the edge of the pool. A spectacular oak stands on an expansive lawn beside the house. In the woodland Andy Goldsworthy has created a large mound in a clearing. This is a garden of great style, maintained with great care and gardened with enthusiasm and panache.

*Meet at Folly Farm. Lunch at Woolton House*

Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> June

**White House Farm, Ivy Hatch, Ightham**

**Maurice Foster VMH**

Maurice and Rosemary Foster bought White House Farm in 1972 with five acres, high up on what he describes as “the Kent Alps”. He has over the years added so extensively to his collection of plants that the garden and arboretum now cover 15 acres. Maurice describes himself as a tree man, but, as a long-standing member of the RHS Woody Plant Committee and a recipient of horticulture’s highest award, the Victoria Medal of Honour, he is much more than that. It is an almost impossible decision when to visit; in Spring his extensive collection of Magnolias, Rhododendrons and Camelias are in flower, followed by billowing masses of climbing and rambling roses in high summer, the autumn colour is spectacular, but his great passion is the growing and breeding of Hydrangeas, particularly blue-flowered *Hydrangea serrata*, which line about ¼ mile of paths through the garden, and the velvet-leaved *Hydrangea aspera*. Forms with dark-coloured foliage in particular interest him and the very desirable *Hydrangea aspera* ‘Hot Chocolate’ with chocolate and burgundy-coloured leaves is one of Maurice’s plants, now commercially available. This is a very remarkable garden that would be overwhelming were it not for the generous enthusiasm and kindness of the gardener.

**Long Barn, Sevenoaks Weald, Sevenoaks**

**Mr and Mrs Lars Lemonius**

Vita Sackville-West and Harold Nicolson created the garden at Long Barn, with a little help from Edwin Lutyens, from 1915 to 1930. The Nicolsons then moved to Sissinghurst and rented the house to, among others, Charles and Anne Lindbergh. Thereafter the garden acquired other owners and modest changes were made to the layout and planting. Lars and Rebecca Lemonius have triumphantly shown that it is possible to live happily in an historic garden. The planting feels crisp and contemporary and yet utterly sympathetic to this Kent farmhouse. The garden bows to its former owners and yet has moved on. The Lemoniuses maintain and nurture it to an extent that would arouse admiration even from Vita.

*Meet at White House Farm. Lunch at The Chaser Inn Shipbourn.*

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> July

### **Great Thurlow Hall**

#### **Mr and Mrs George Vestey**

Great Thurlow Hall is, in Pevsner's words, "a handsome mid-Georgian building", which stands impressively above the River Stour and its 13 acres of garden. The main vista runs west from the house, overlooking a formal rose garden, planted with a central arrangement of creamy-white Claire Austin roses, past perennial borders and lawn sloping down to a bridge over the river (here gently swollen to almost lake-proportions), culminating in an avenue of *Pyrus* 'Chanticleer', underplanted with *Hydrangeas*, with a temple portico in the distance. A blue-themed border, curving under an ancient yew, leads on to a red border, which echoes the colour of the brick wall of the kitchen garden. Through a wrought-iron gate is an enticing view of ancient apple trees following the line of the river. South of the house, curving yew hedges surround lawn and formal lily pond, a wider lawn beyond runs down to Atlantic cedars and the parkland beyond.

### **The Jockey Club Rooms, Newmarket**

#### **The Jockey Club**

The Jockey Club was founded in 1750 for members with a keen interest in racing, who met in taverns in Pall Mall and St James's. In 1752 they leased, and then bought, a plot of land in Newmarket and built a coffee house. The Jockey Club established rules to ensure fair racing on Newmarket Heath, which were gradually adopted by race courses across the country and abroad. Over time, the Jockey Club became the official governing body for horse racing in Britain. The coffee house was gradually enlarged and became the Jockey Club Rooms. In 1882 a large gabled wing was added to the rear, while the front, which was sympathetically rebuilt by Sir Alfred Richardson in 1933, incorporated the original coffee house. The Rooms now contain an unparalleled collection of equine paintings. We will be given a tour of the Rooms followed by lunch.

### **Ousden House, Ousden**

#### **Mr and Mrs Alastair Robinson**

Alastair and Lavinia Robinson might be forgiven for settling down to enjoy their wonderful garden at Ousden but, after 25 years of planning and planting, it is still evolving. Arabella Lennox Boyd gave some initial advice on the garden when the Robinsons were starting, with a clean slate, around the site of the demolished Ousden Hall, where only a clock tower and the old stable block remained, standing. The stable block, now their house, looks out over yew-hedged herbaceous borders towards a rose garden with double borders beyond. A double crinkle-crankle yew hedge surrounds the clock tower and winds towards gates into the park. Further from the house, the garden becomes more informal; a bog garden fills a former moat, and the woodland garden is maturing fast. Beyond this, and in delightful contrast to the rest of the garden, a beech wood runs down to a tranquil expanse of water.

*Meet at great Thurlow Hall. Lunch at The Jockey Club Rooms.*

## 18. Buckinghamshire

£160

To be confirmed

### **Eythrope, Waddesdon**

#### **The Lord Rothschild**

While the widowed Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild was building Waddesdon, his sister, Miss Alice, decided, in 1875, to build a house on the estate for her own use, where she could escape the grandeur of Waddesdon. By 1890 a park and garden of 60 acres had been laid out. This all but vanished after her death in 1922. In 1991 Mary Keen was asked to design a new garden and Sue Dickinson was appointed Head Gardener to oversee and manage the garden. Today the four-acre walled garden at Eythrope is not only a productive garden, supplying vegetables, fruit and flowers for the Rothschild family and Waddesdon's restaurants, but also, in true 19<sup>th</sup> Century style, an ornamental garden with herbaceous borders, rose borders and an Auricula theatre. A working walled garden on this scale is now almost unheard of and Eythrope has long been a byword for the excellence of its gardening, its remarkable array of glasshouses and a haven for traditional techniques.

### **Waddesdon Manor, Aylesbury**

#### **The Rothschild Foundation and the National Trust**

Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild acquired the Waddesdon Estate in 1874 and commissioned the French architect, Gabriel-Hippolyte Destailleur, to build a house in the French Renaissance style to house his collections and where he could entertain his friends. The top of the hill was levelled and the formal gardens and the drives were designed by Elie Lainé, who was responsible for the slightly later restoration of the gardens at Vaux-le-Vicomte. The garden, immaculately maintained, is still, inside the curtain of trees, many planted as mature specimens by Baron Ferdinand, intensely formal. Baron Ferdinand planted 41,000 bedding plants, with four changes a year, and Waddesdon is one of the rare places where this practice continues, perhaps on a slightly reduced scale.

### **Kingsbridge Farm, Steeple Claydon**

#### **Mr and Mrs Thomas Aldous**

The house at Kingsbridge Farm sits low and mellow, old red brick under a warm tile roof and the largely informal garden, created by Serena Aldous, mirrors the house. The lawn is enclosed by softly curving borders and winding paths, interestingly planted everywhere, lead into a woodland garden on either side of a small stream, crossed by a bridges, including a plank which is not for acrophobics. But the structure of the garden is very sound, the hedges are beautifully clipped with sloping tops. The formal elements, particularly the central vista leading the eye across the main lawn, past egg-shaped yews, a semi-circle of pleached hornbeam and out across the ha-ha into the countryside beyond are done to perfection.

*Meet at Waddesdon Manor. Lunch at Waddesdon Manor.*

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> July

### **Blackdykes, North Berwick**

#### **Sir Hew and Lady Dalrymple**

The Dalrymples have been gardening at Blackdykes since 1992, when they moved into the unmodernised house then standing in open farmland less than a mile from the North Sea. Nearly 30 years on the transformation is astonishing. The two-acre garden wraps round the house in a delicious blend of informal shelterbelts, now providing woodland walks, which are vital to keep north and east winds at bay and, nearer to the house, more formal compartments separated by walls and clipped hedges, shelter Janey's generous plantings of perennials and, particularly, roses; Albertine covers one wall and the parterre garden is filled with old roses including Fantin Latour, Charles de Mills, Ispahan and Great Maiden's Blush. There is so much to this garden, with vistas through archways in walls which beckon from one delight to the next.

### **Leuchie Walled Garden**

#### **Sir Hew and Lady Dalrymple**

Janey Dalrymple has also worked on the restoration of the five-acre walled garden at nearby Leuchie House, which was Sir Hew's family home. The replanting of this enormous space is a work in progress, but the area in front of the very striking mid-century modern house built into the surrounding wall, has an existing 100-metre-long herbaceous border running in front of the south-facing wall and, across an open expanse of lawn, a newly planted formal garden with Nepeta and Iris, Cotinus and Euphorbia, merges into a regenerated shrub border and ancient Irish yews.

### **Greywalls, Gullane**

Sir Edwin Lutyens designed Greywalls for MP and Colonial Secretary Alfred Lyttleton in 1901. Lyttleton was a keen golfer who required a holiday home close to Muirfield Golf Links "within a mashie niblick shot of the 18th green." Lutyens described Greywalls as his favourite house. In 1908 the house was extended by Sir William Lorimer for Mr and Mrs William James, so that they could entertain, among others, Edward VII. Because, like Blackdykes, the garden needs protection from the wind, it lies to the south of the house, enclosed by stone walls with typical Lutyens decorative gateways leading seductively from one enclosure to another. A rose garden by the house has a long vista through the gardens to the south, ending with a Lutyens *claire voyée* framing the view of the Lothian Hills.

*Tour 19 continued overleaf*

**Shepherd House, Inveresk**  
**Sir Charles and Lady Fraser**

Charles and Ann Fraser have created a garden that, tardis-like, seems much bigger than its one acre. Behind the house a formal herb parterre and a terrace are separated from the garden by a low hedge of pleached Malus 'Red Sentinel'. A rill runs from an almost baroque fountain under arches smothered with the roses 'Seagull' and 'Bobby James' towards the lily-filled pool by the house. There is a delicious small wildflower meadow with dry stone spiral, more land-art than seat. A woodland garden has good trees, among them Prunus serrula and a Davidia involucrata. A shell house has been built beside the potager and the practical vegetable garden. In short this is a garden, which is one of the top ten small gardens in Scotland, as charming as its owners.

*Meet at Blackdykes. Meet at Lunch at Greywalls*

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> July

### **Hopetoun House**

#### **The Earl and Countess of Hopetoun**

Hopetoun House is the work of two of Scotland's greatest architects; Sir William Bruce, Surveyor-General of the King's Works in Scotland, who designed the original house between 1698 and 1710, and William Adam who greatly extended the house from 1720 until his death in 1748. Adam also designed the surrounding parkland in the 1720s. To the south of the house lies a substantial 18th century walled garden. This was, for many years, the kitchen garden for the house, until abandoned in the 20th century, it became a garden centre. From this dire state, the garden has been rescued by Skye Hopetoun who started work in 2008 and has, in a remarkably short space of time, created a wonderful garden in a very naturalistic style. Within the apple-clad walls, the garden is laid out semi-formally with walks of pleached limes and Irish yews leading to hedged enclosures each bursting with low-maintenance perennials exploding in exuberant drifts of pink, purples and blues among grasses which extend the season of the garden well into the autumn.

### **Broadwoodside, Gifford**

#### **Anna and Robert Dalrymple**

Broadwoodside is a garden of great style, wit and considerable charm, laid out around a farm steading which was derelict when the Dalrymples bought it in 1997. The results of the restoration are two enclosed courtyards. In the lower, grass panels surround a large copper planted with lilies and pelargoniums. The perimeter planting is a froth of *Alchemilla*, *Alliums*, *Euphorbia* and a 'Thug Bed' of *Eupatorium*, Japanese anemones and *Macleaya*. The upper courtyard is more structured with eight Norway maples each differently under-planted in a chequer-board of grass and cobbled squares, around a central iroko aviary which contains the ninth maple. Around the edges of the courtyard there are drifts of *Valerian*, *Astrantia* and *Solomon's Seal*. The garden escapes from these enclosures to surround the steading, with a walled vegetable and cutting garden with a canal-shaped pond, a topiary walk and orchard. This is a garden, with planting that is far more interesting than the Dalrymples will admit, with a wonderful structure of hedges and sculpture light-heartedly reminiscent of Little Sparta, the whole quite beautifully and enviably maintained.

*Tour 20 continued overleaf*

## **Bowerhouse, Dunbar**

### **Mr and Mrs Mark Tyndall**

Bowerhouse was built by David Bryce in 1835 (he was also the architect of Portmore), who was the pre-eminent Scottish architect of his day and the inventor of the Scottish Baronial Style. The house is only about one and a half miles from the sea so the mild conditions allow an enviable range of half-hardy plants to be grown. Two enclosed gardens lie directly behind the house, the greenhouse garden has box-hedged beds planted with tulips in the spring, followed by perennials and roses in the summer. A large *Euphorbia x pasteurii* 'Phrampton Phatty' enjoys the shelter of the south-facing wall of the house as, further on, does a spectacular *Magnolia grandiflora*, which reaches almost to the eaves. A number of ancient yews have been cleared in recent years to allow light into the Thorn Garden, newly planted, largely, with roses. Formal perennial borders, with roses trained on wooden obelisks, frame the entrance to the new formal pond garden. A pair of *Clerodendron trichotomum* flank the steps down to the pond beyond which an avenue of *Sorbus aria* 'Majestica' lead the eye to gates set in the surrounding yew hedges.

Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> July

### **Little Sparta, Dunsyre**

#### **The Trustees of the late Dr Ian Hamilton Finlay**

From the road it is a gentle ten-minute walk uphill to the isolated five-acre garden at Little Sparta, the masterpiece of the late Dr Ian Hamilton Finlay, poet and garden-maker. The garden that Ian Hamilton Finlay created from 1966 to his death in 2006, on a south-facing slope of the Pentland Hills, continues the tradition of emblematic and intellectual gardening, which flourished in Italy in the mid-16<sup>th</sup> century and in Britain two hundred years later. It is all too easy to lose oneself in happy speculation as to what it all means. However, the essence of this garden is far more magical, and beguiling; it is a fragment of woodland, merging into the surrounding moorland, where the world of Ancient Greece is caught and fused with 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century painting and politics.

### **Newhall, Nr Carllops**

#### **Mr and Mrs John Kennedy**

The house at Newhall stands on the edge of the precipitous glen formed by the River North Esk, which was much beloved by the Romantic poet Allan Ramsay. The two-acre walled garden, which is the domain of Tricia Kennedy, is a wonderful combination of Victorian utility and contemporary practicality, but gardened by a skilled plantswoman and flower-arranger. Gravel and cobble paths meet at a central roundel, planted in blues and yellows in the early part of the year, followed by yellows, reds and orange into the autumn. One path runs from here towards an unlikely (in a walled garden), but spectacular, pair of Wellingtonias, under which Tricia has replaced vegetables with a rich palate of plants; Astilbes, Rodgersia, magnificent Hostas and the last of the blue-flowered Meconopsis, so desirable to all those, like me, who cannot grow it.

### **Portmore, Eddleston, Nr Peebles**

#### **Mr and Mrs David Reid**

Portmore is magnificent; a huge Scottish baronial house designed by David Bryce in the 1850s with extensive views towards the Pentland Hills, and the walled garden that Chrissie Reid has created is as magnificent. Approached from the house, railings give a view into the garden over the restrained perimeter planting of white and yellow. Yew hedges and pleached limes divide the garden, with vistas towards stone benches and urns. The central borders, in the blue, pinks and purples of Salvias, Echinops, Thalictrum and lupins, lead to the extensive glass houses at the top of the garden. These are, simply, the most spectacularly planted and maintained that I have ever seen. Behind is the terraced working area of the garden and, outside the walled garden, is an informally-planted, and more recent, water garden, which merges into a woodland walk leading gently uphill to give views back towards the house.

*Meet at Little Sparta. Lunch at Newhall*

## 22. The Borders

£160

Friday 9<sup>th</sup> July

### Carolside, Earlston

#### Mr and Mrs Anthony Foyle

The elegant 18<sup>th</sup> century house at Carolside stands in its park on the banks of the meandering Leader Water. Wooded hills rise on either side, giving a sheltered feeling not usually associated with The Borders. Behind the house, Rose Foyle has created a hugely romantic garden both outside and within the oval-shaped walled garden. Through a gate in the surrounding wall, a central path leads between borders overflowing with Delphiniums, lupins, Veronicastrum, Salvias and Nepeta to south-facing glass houses, home to a spectacular fig. But the glories of the garden are the roses, which, as behoves the National Collection of pre-1900 Gallica Roses, are breath-taking when in flower. Outside the walled garden, a walk leads to the Secret Garden and on to the Winter Garden, a Potager and Herb garden before returning to the lawns by the house. The garden was shortlisted for the HHA award 2020.

### Whitburgh House, Pathhead

#### Mr and Mrs Alastair Salvesen

The dignified Neo-classical Whitburgh House stands at the top of a south-facing slope with long views over its magnificent dovecot to the Lammermuir Hills beyond. But behind the house lies its chief glory, the walled garden, originally created by Elizabeth Salvesen and her gardener Vincent Dudley in 1998, but redesigned in 2005 following extensive touring of gardens in the UK and abroad under the guidance of Noel Kingsbury. The result is an inspirational garden, that rises to a crescendo in the second half of the summer, with the structure of pleached beech hedges, yew pyramids rising out of a carpet of *Sesleria autumnalis* and *Prunus cerasifera* 'Pissardii' hedges, complemented by perennial planting which has to be robust and low-maintenance and anything but dull. The planting is intriguing even before entering the garden, with galvanised troughs of *Darmera peltata* at the entrance. Inside the plant combinations are very striking; swathes of brilliant green parsley underplant *Crocsmia*, *Miscanthus* curves sinuously in a beech enclosure, *Argyranthemum* 'Jamaica Primrose' is planted in bins framing the greenhouse door, red-flowered *Schizostylis* edges paths and *Stipa tenuissima* winds through red-leaved kale.

*Tour 22 continued overleaf*

## **Corbet Tower, Morebattle**

### **Mr and Mrs Simon Fraser**

Sheltered by the surrounding Cheviot Hills, almost a stone's throw from the English border, Corbet Tower is a garden of great charm and variety. Over the past sixteen years Simon and Bridget Fraser have continued to develop the garden they inherited, adhering to the happy mixture of wild, formal and productive themes. A substantial herbaceous border introduces the abundant walled vegetable and cutting garden, whose beds are filled with 12 different varieties of Rhubarb, Sweet peas, Delphiniums and Dahlias, with paths lined with Nepeta, Lavender and espaliered apples. From here the ground descends to a formal rose garden filled with old shrub roses including Ispahan, Tuscany Superb and Madame Hardy, before falling away into a woodland dell with the original medieval Corbet Tower and adjacent pond. The Victorian Scottish baronial house stands proudly on a terrace overlooking the garden, the surrounding parkland and the gently rolling hills.

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> September

### **The Grange, Chalgrove**

**Mr and Mrs Peter Farren**

Vicky and Peter Farren bought the Grange for its ten-acre garden, which had been so neglected that apart from the structure of trees and the lake, they had to rise to the challenge and start from scratch. An arboretum surrounds a rectangular pool, once used for swimming. Behind the house, curved borders are sheltered by yew hedges beyond which lies an orchard of venerable apples and a vegetable garden with raised beds. The garden runs down to a stream and beyond to the willow-fringed lake, crossed by elegant wooden, Wisteria-clad bridges onto a densely planted island. On the far bank, borders filled with Miscanthus and late summer-flowering perennials lead past paddocks fenced with cleft chestnut to the wild flower meadow and new woodland walk.

### **Wormsley, Stokenchurch**

**Mr Mark Getty**

The two-acre walled garden at Wormsley was built in 1740 in the most sheltered spot in this cold windswept valley high in the Chilterns. The estate fell into a state of disrepair until it was bought by Sir Paul Getty in 1985. Penelope Hobhouse was commissioned to rebuild and redesign the walled garden. Following her brief, the garden was divided into four quadrants separated by brick and knapped flint paths and buttressed yew hedges. Two quadrants are for entertaining, a green theatre in one and a croquet lawn in another. The third is the kitchen garden proper, growing fruit and vegetables and backed by an array of glasshouses, Charlotte Tremlin, the Head Gardener, aims to keep this quadrant looking as much like a potager as possible. The fourth quarter is a flower garden with a mix of shrubs and perennials which, not only have to be in perfect form for the opera season in mid-summer, but have to continue to perform through into the autumn.

*Meet and Lunch at The Grange*

# DAY TOURS 2021

## BOOKING TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. All tours in the 2021 programme in the UK are £160.00 per person. All those who retained their places in re-scheduled tours will have them at the 2020 cost. The cost includes coffee in the morning, a two-course lunch with wine, afternoon tea. Because of Covid-19 and social distancing requirements, no coach transport will be provided and so travel between the gardens will be by car.
2. The group sizes are limited, so we recommend that places are reserved either by email or telephone. **Please do not send payment until you have confirmation that places are available.** Once availability is confirmed, the booking form and payment in full must be received by Border Lines within five days of the reservation being made. Places on tours cannot be held longer than this. Payment may be made preferably by bank transfer or by cheque, payable to Border Lines. Account details can be found on the booking form. A receipt for your payment and directions to the gardens will be emailed to you. **Please acknowledge receipt of this email and please tell us if you do not receive the directions and starting times for the day.**
3. To avoid inconvenience to both the other members of the group and the garden owners, we shall not wait for latecomers. If you are unavoidably late, then please call James Bolton, who will give you directions to the next meeting point.
4. Please inform us of any dietary requirements/allergies when making your booking.
5. No refunds will be given for cancellations. You may transfer your place to a friend, but are requested to inform Border Lines in writing or by email, giving the name and contact details of the recipient.
6. If the owner's personal circumstances change, Border Lines reserves the right to change or cancel the tour. In the event of cancellation of a tour, for whatever reason, you will be offered a refund of the cost of the day only.
7. Please be aware that while the owners and Border Lines have made every effort to ensure your safety in the gardens, there may be, particularly in wet weather, slippery slopes and paths and other hazards. If you require assistance in the gardens please inform us.
8. **Border Lines, James Bolton Garden Tours Ltd and the garden owners cannot accept responsibility for loss or damage to you, or your personal effects, during your visit to the garden, which you enter at your own risk. Cars are also parked at your own risk and no responsibility can be taken for your vehicle or its contents.**
9. Places on the tours can only be booked once you have read and accepted these terms and ticked the box on the booking form to signify your acceptance.

# TOURS ABROAD 2021

## Houses and Gardens around Dublin and Central Ireland

Monday 6<sup>th</sup>- Friday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Monday 13<sup>th</sup>- Friday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Irish gardens come in all shapes and sizes and rarely is there a duff one. Enthusiastic gardening, usually taking advantage of the mainly acidic soil and the abundant rainfall, has been happening in Ireland for centuries, from the formal 17<sup>th</sup> century canal garden at Killruddery, through the great woodland gardens inspired by William Robinson in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, to the gardens of designers and plantsmen and women being created and tended today, invariably filled with interesting planting and gardened with huge confidence, knowledge and great generosity.

In this five-day tour, based in the centre of Dublin, we will cover the whole spectrum of Irish gardening in and around Dublin, south into County Wicklow and west as far as Offaly. We will visit historic gardens, including some spectacular gardens inspired by William Robinson, perhaps the most influential of all Irish gardeners, a garden designed by Lutyens and contemporary gardens created by the best of today's gardeners including Helen Dillon and the siblings, June and Jimi Blake. We are also visiting a number of houses, in two of them we are having lunch and the others we are visiting for their spectacular interiors and collection of paintings.

## Palaces, Galleries and Churches of Rome

October 2021

So much has been written about Rome already that it is difficult to express anything of the magic of this city with any originality. From its foundation in 753BC, it has piled layer upon layer of building and culture. From Republican Rome, through the imperial era and on into the centuries of Papal rule, the city evolved constantly. Classical temples rose and fell, medieval architecture was succeeded by the glories of the Renaissance, represented triumphantly by the rebuilding of St Peter's by Bramante and Michelangelo, and the decoration of the Vatican by Raphael. The Counter-Reformation was expressed by the Baroque architecture of Bernini and Borromini and, in painting, supremely by Caravaggio.

In this four-day tour we visit a wide range of buildings within walking distance of our centrally located hotel. We will see buildings rarely open, or seldom visited, to provide another view of Rome than the one the casual tourist sees.

James Bolton Garden Tours Ltd.

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## DESIGN AND GARDEN HISTORY LECTURES

### Garden History Lectures

As well as running *Border Lines*, I lecture on garden history to The Arts Society, County Garden Trusts and other societies across the UK, Europe and Australia. Please let me know if you would like me to give a talk to a group. Lectures cover English, French and Italian gardens.

### Garden Design

I started my gardening life at the Inchbald School of Design and then I was appointed head gardener at the Old Rectory, Farnborough. I set up my garden design business in 1992 and since then, I have been involved with a specialist perennial plant nursery and designed gardens across southern England from Suffolk to Devon as well as Portugal and the United States.

I still design gardens and I am also delighted to give design advice or consultations on gardens on a one-off basis.



## BED AND BREAKFAST AT CLAPTON MANOR



Karin has been doing bed and breakfast in our home in the Cotswolds for the past 26 years.

Our Tudor, Grade II listed house sits at the centre of the hamlet of Clapton-on-the-Hill. Set in the heart of the Cotswolds, we are the perfect base for visiting all the great gardens of Gloucestershire.

For further details please see our website [www.claptonmanor.co.uk](http://www.claptonmanor.co.uk) or contact Karin on 01451 810202.

