

BORDER LINES

TOURS TO THE FINEST PRIVATE
GARDENS IN ENGLAND, ITALY
FRANCE AND SOUTH AFRICA



2017



WELCOME TO OUR GARDEN TOURS FOR 2017



As this booklet should reach you in the first days of January, we wish you a very Happy New Year and hope that the selection of gardens that we are offering this year will add to your sense of New Year bien-être.

We continue, as this has proved popular, to expand the number of house interiors that we will be visiting over the summer. We are delighted that these include a whole day at Deene Park (Tour 3), a visit to the Fenwick's astonishing house at Shilstone (Tour 6) and the wonderfully restored Norton Conyers (Tour 12). We have two three-day mini-tours, one to Devon and the other to Yorkshire, which can be taken as single days if you do not wish to opt for all three. We have a range of inspiring gardens new to Border Lines, as well as some favourites that we have visited in the past, but which are so well worth returning to.

The formula of a Border Lines day remains unchanged. We usually visit three gardens and start the day with coffee and biscuits, there will be a two-course lunch and the day will end with tea. Travel between the gardens will be by coach with the exception of Tours 3, 7, 10 and 14. When you book a place on a tour, we shall send you the directions to the meeting point for the day and the time to meet. The coach will leave promptly at the advertised time and we will not delay our departure to wait for latecomers. If you are going to be unavoidably late, please call me on my mobile and I shall give you directions to the first garden and we will meet you there. Please note that mobile signals are not always reliable in rural England.

If you would like to reserve places on any of these days, please email, apply online at our website, or telephone to check availability first. We shall reserve places for a maximum of 5 days, until you confirm by sending a completed booking form and payment in full by post or by bank transfer. A receipt for your payment and directions to the gardens will be emailed to you, or sent by post. This year, by popular request, we are limiting the size of both English and foreign groups. The English tours will have no more than 25 people, with the exception of Tour 3 where we have a maximum of 20 people. We regret that we are unable to offer a refund for any cancellations, you are more than welcome to transfer your place to a friend, but we request that you tell us the name and address of your substitute in good time.

Border Lines is also going to Naples in April and May and Southern Tuscany in May and information on these tours is also included after the English tours. We are planning to return to South Africa in October 2019, which will allow us time to discover more new gardens.

We now market all the tours abroad by email in the autumn and so if you are not already on our email list and would like to be added to it please let me know. If you would like further information on any of the English days or on our tours to Europe please do not hesitate to contact Karin or James.

Cover Illustration by Amanda Cooper of a Lead Dog by Alfred Jacquemart from the Bulbeck Foundry

Day Tours in England 2017

1. **Warwickshire** Tuesday 6th June
The Old Rectory, Hardwick Hill and Wardington Manor
2. **Gloucestershire** Wednesday 7th June
Daylesford and Kingham Hill House
3. **Northamptonshire** Thursday 8th June
Deene Park
4. **Somerset and Dorset** Monday 12th June
The Old Rectory Pulham, Forest Lodge and Stavordale Priory
5. **Devon** Tuesday 13th June
Hillersdon, Cadhay and South Wood Farm
6. **Devon and Cornwall** Wednesday 14th June
Trematon Castle, Shilstone and Ince Castle
7. **Devon** Thursday 15th June
Plaz Metaxu
8. **Wiltshire** Tuesday 20th June
Spilsbury Farm, Shute and Donhead Hall
9. **Wiltshire** Wednesday 21st June
Pound Barn, Pound Hill House and Cadenham Manor
10. **Oxfordshire** Thursday 22nd June
The Grange, Rofford Manor and Haseley Court
11. **Gloucestershire** Monday 26th June
Byewell, Througham Court and Moor Wood
12. **Yorkshire** Wednesday 28th June
Norton Conyers, Old Sleningford Hall and Littlethorpe Manor
13. **Yorkshire** Thursday 29th June
Sion Hill Hall, Langton Farm, The Manor House, Heslington
14. **Yorkshire** Friday 30th June
Mount St John and Havoc Hall
15. **Suffolk** Tuesday 4th July.
Kirtling Tower, Ousden House and Parsonage House
16. **Wiltshire** Friday 7th July
Chisenbury Priory, Moor Hatches and Wudston House

Tours in Italy 2017

Spring in Naples, Ischia and the Amalfi Coast
19th – 24th April & 3rd – 8th May

Siena and the Gardens of Southern Tuscany
15th – 19th May

James and Karin Bolton

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1. Warwickshire

Tuesday 6th June

£145

The Old Rectory, Aston-le-Walls

Philip Astley-Jones Esq

The two and a half acre garden at The Old Rectory was, apart from some established trees, including a very productive walnut, a blank canvas when it was bought by Philip Astley-Jones in 1993. Over the years, hedges have been planted, garden buildings, (one with an Indian theme, another based on a design by Humphry Repton), have been erected and allowed to mature, ornaments have been gathered and placed with care to add just the right note of formality around the 1790s rectory. All have a tale to tell, of people or of places where they were discovered and it is this layering of objects that makes the garden such fun and gives it such huge charm.

Hardwick Hill, Priors Hardwick

Mr and Mrs Diarmaid Kelly

Not long ago the garden at Hardwick Hill was overgrown, neglected and given over to a plantation of Christmas trees. With much hard work, Candida Kelly, a garden designer and botanical artist, has created the lovely garden that now surrounds the house. A wide lawn separates the generous terrace from the ha-ha and parkland beyond. On one side a magnificent Corsican Pine draws the eye upwards to the hanging woods, on the other, beyond a screen of pleached Malus, a long border leads to a pavilion with views to the distant Malvern Hills. A stone wall and hedges shelter the herbaceous planting on three sides of a square below the main lawn and a walk of winter-flowering plants leads back to the house. A beautifully maintained vegetable garden, a cutting garden, a fern-clad stumpery and an extensive orchard are among the other delights of this wonderful garden.

Wardington Manor, Wardington

The Land Gardeners

Wardington Manor is a garden with a great past, but since 2009 it has been planted as a productive garden by Bridget Elworthy (the current owner) and Henrietta Courtauld - both of whom run The Land Gardeners. This is a business producing cut flowers for London events, designing and restoring walled gardens and researching soil health. The layout of the old garden remains within the ironstone walls, the structure of yew hedges and buttresses and the borders of established Magnolias and Azaleas. Great sweeps of blue Iris line paths, delphiniums and lupins burst out of borders, foxgloves riot with peonies and the Victorian walled kitchen garden is a blissful mixture of flowers and vegetables. A recent development of the organic garden is a whole new approach to compost-making to improve radically soil health, structure and fertility.

Meet at Wardington Manor. Lunch at Hardwick Hill

Victoria Logue of Whitehall Plants will have plants for sale at Hardwick Hill

2. Gloucestershire

Wednesday 7th June

£145

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, who acquired the estate in 1988, have magnificently restored the garden. Behind the Orangery, which houses a collection of citrus trees, lies 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 orchids. Yew hedges divide the Rose Garden, the Quince Lawn, the cut flower and pot gardens. This is a rare opportunity to see a wonderful 18th century garden beautifully restored, updated and functioning, as it surely would have done for Warren Hastings.

Kingham Hill House, Kingham

Mr and Mrs 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 a silver-leafed ornamental Pear, 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 the house.

Meet at Daylesford Farm Shop. Lunch at Daylesford Farm Shop

3. Northamptonshire

£150

Thursday 8th June

Deene Park, Corby

Mr and Mrs Robert Brudenell

The main drive to Deene Park, turns off the busy road from Corby, and winds serenely through the gently rolling park, until, at exactly the right point just before the lake, the house comes into sight. Turreted and gabled in soft mellow limestone, it has grown organically over six hundred years. For centuries Deene belonged to Westminster Abbey, who in 1514 leased it to Sir Robert Brudenell. Remarkably the Brudenells continued as tenants until they bought the house from the Church Commissioners in 1970.

The house comprises layer upon layer of architectural history, as generations of Brudenells added to and embellished it, from the 14th century doorway in the Billiard Room through to the chapel, which was completed in the 1970s. Fortunately Charlotte Brudenell, the current châtelaine, is an expert on the history of both the house and family and she will guide us from the Great Hall of the 1570s, with its hammer beam roof, built to entertain Queen Elizabeth on her progress to Burleigh, through the Tapestry Room with its fine Jacobean ceiling, to the Regency White Hall, Bow Room and Drawing Room.

The garden too reflects the changing tastes of different generations. Rectangular pools and formal canals were gradually transformed in the 18th century into a lake crossed by an elegantly balustraded bridge. The parterre on the south side of the house dates from the 19th century, but was completely redesigned by David Hicks in 1990 for Marian Brudenell. The Chinese Bridges, the Long Border and the White garden also date from this time.

Deene has been a family home for generations and emphatically remains one today. A great deal of its charm lies in this sense of enthusiastic permanence and determination to continue to add to the house and its collections.

As we are having lunch in the house at the kind invitation of Charlotte and Robert Brudenell, numbers on this day are restricted to a maximum of 20 people.

Meet at Deene Park. Lunch at Deene Park

4. Somerset and Dorset

£145

Monday 12th June

The Old Rectory, Pulham

Mr and Mrs Nick Elliott

The Old Rectory is a delicious castellated gothic house standing across the fields from its church. The terrace, on the east side of the house, is liberally planted with Alchemilla, Doricium and Verbena bonariensis. The garden extends past formal box beds and Portuguese laurel umbrellas, under-planted with Santolina, to a ha-ha and the expansive view of Bulbarrow Hill and the Dorset Downs. Yew hedges march away from the south side of the house, towards circular herbaceous borders crammed with Phlox, Persicaria, Lychnis, Veronicastrum and Anemones, at their peak in July, but planted for a long flowering season. Further from the house the garden becomes less formal, with a bog garden and two woodland gardens where native trees are planted with exotics and flowering shrubs.

Forest Lodge, Penselwood

The Hon. Mr and Mrs James Nelson

The garden at Forest Lodge is comparatively young. It is only after admiring the design; the Lutyenesque terraces, descending in curves to a circular lawn, the pleached hornbeams framing a rill and the large pond, which seems to vanish into the surrounding woodland, that one begins to take in the quality of the planting. By the house rose and perennial-filled borders line the terraces and lead to the Malus orchard, where spring bulbs are followed by later-flowering perennials. The informal walks around the pond are planted with acid-loving plants that relish the underlying greensand. Here, among Hamamelis, Stranvesia, Halesia, Eucryphia and Cornus 'Eddys White Wonder', Lucy has planted rarities such as Emmenopteris henryi. Marginals surround the pond, including drifts of Primulas and later-flowering Crocosmia in profusion.

Stavordale Priory, Charlton Musgrove

Sir Cameron Mackintosh and Michael Le Poer Trench Esq

Home of Cameron and Michael for over twenty years, the gardens, laid out by previous owner and garden designer Georgia Langton, have now been developed and extended by Michael and his team. "Arts and Crafts" is an overused phrase, but if meaning a garden of outdoor rooms, topiary, stone walls and gorgeous "tapestry-style" planting it can apply to much of what we see at Stavordale. Beds overflow with richly-coloured perennials with structure provided by tightly clipped box shapes and topiary yews. The vegetable garden is more a potager with fruit and flowers in the mix. Michael's birthday arboretum leads to the "Les Misérables" elephant and then through a woodland grove to a series of recently extended lakes surrounded by generous beds of moisture-loving Primulas and Iris. This is a garden of atmosphere and great horticultural passion.

*Meet at The Old Rectory, Pulham. Lunch at Forest Lodge
Marina Christopher of Phoenix Perennial Plants will have plants for sale at Forest Lodge*

5. Devon

£145

Tuesday 13th June

Hillersdon House, Cullompton

Michael Lloyd Esq

Hillersdon is a young garden, restored after many years of neglect with huge energy and enthusiasm by Michael Lloyd. The house was built in the late 1840s in a slightly more prominent site than its predecessor, overlooking two lakes, parkland and distant Cullompton. Terraces, anchoring the house into the hillside, are planted with beds of lavender and Gaura and lead to a vista of double borders framing an Ionic temple at the end of the kitchen garden. Above this, a stumpy link up to a grass terrace walk along the side of the valley. It is backed by a spectacular line of sweet chestnuts, probably planted in the 17th century, whose trunks, twisted and fluted with maturity, have become living sculptures. A woodland garden, newly planted with the original 100 varieties of Rhododendrons that Hooker and Wilson brought back to the UK in the mid 1800s, leads down to a wood and cob temple, whose columns are reflected in the water of the lake.

Cadhay, Ottery St Mary

Rupert Thistlethwaite Esq and Caroline Prior

Cadhay is a 16th and early 17th century courtyard house behind an 18th century façade and indeed the courtyard, with its flint and sandstone chequerwork pattern, is, as Pevsner remarks, “exceedingly pretty”. The two-acre gardens which wrap round the house and the medieval stewponds, date from the early 20th century. Topiaried yews strut across the lawn below the Long Gallery, double herbaceous borders draw the feet down to the ponds and the woodland gardens beyond. These are planted with Rhododendrons and Azaleas followed by a succession of later-flowering shrubs and perennials. The extensive kitchen garden to one side of the house has been triumphantly brought back to life and productivity by being partially let out as carefully controlled allotments.

South Wood Farm, Cotleigh

Dr Clive Potter

In 2005 Arne Maynard was commissioned to design the garden around South Wood Farm. He decided to create the feel of a yeoman farmer’s garden around the ancient thatched hall house. A wooden gate leads into the first garden, a sheltered space by the house, protected by walls and espaliered crab apples, with a central topiaried bay tree and tables of clipped yew to balance the rich planting of Allium, Thalictrum, lupins and Rosa ‘Felicity Parmentier’. A plum and damson orchard leads into the kitchen garden, where vegetables happily rub shoulders with cut flowers and where soft fruit is grown in individual wooden fruit cages. Behind the house, the garden becomes less formal and merges imperceptibly into the wooded landscape.

Meet at South Wood Farm. Lunch at Cadhay

6. Devon and Cornwall

£150

Wednesday 14th June

Trematon Castle, Saltash

Mr and Mrs Julian Bannerman

In 2012 Julian and Isabel Bannerman sold Hanham Court, their house near Bristol, and took on the lease at Trematon. They acquired a real castle, complete with battlemented keep, and a late Georgian house with spectacular views across the River Tamar to the Navy at Devonport. In only three years they have created a sumptuous garden. To one side of the house, the keep stands on its wild-flower-studded mound, cowslips and primroses in April, ferns, wild thyme and marjoram in summer. A great sweeping bank, decorated with signature Bannerman obelisks, is awash with Iris, peonies, roses, Salvias and Campanulas. Rambler roses are trained against the walls, the gatehouse border is another mass of roses and peonies. Euphorbias are everywhere in the spring and Echiums in the summer. It is a work in progress, but what progress has been made.

Shilstone, Modbury

Mr and Mrs Sebastian Fenwick

In 1997 Sebastian and Lucy Fenwick discovered a Grade II listed farmhouse in a secluded valley. Intrigued by the landscape surrounding the farmhouse, which was all that remained of a substantial manor house; they bought the property and then built an entirely new house, which reflected three periods of English architecture; the 1600s, 1690s and 1730s. The result is a remarkable and beautiful house, which feels like an old house that has been brought into the 21st century. The garden reflects the history of the site, excavations showed terracing around the natural amphitheatre of the valley. The walled garden to the west of the house still has its raised walkway and gazebo tower, while below the house lie the remains of a Jacobean grotto, possibly the earliest in the country. We will be given a tour of both the house and the garden.

Ince Castle, Saltash

The Viscount and Viscountess Boyd of Merton

Ince Castle is approached by a long avenue and is an unusual and attractive, crenellated building, dating from the mid 17th century, with low square towers at each corner. It stands on a wind-swept peninsula of the River Lynher, part of the complex estuary that makes up Plymouth Sound. In 1960 Patricia, Lady Boyd started to design the garden, laying out the formal garden to the south of the castle, with a wisteria lawn leading down to a lily pond and built the enchanting shell house and dovecot in 1964. The woodland garden, planted with magnolias, camellias and other shrubs around the 19th century bowling green was created at the same time. The current owners, Simon and Alice Boyd, have lowered the lawn on the east side, added the wooded mound and the evergreen oak allée.

Meet at Ince Castle. Lunch at Shilstone

7. Devon

£130

Thursday 15th June

Plaz Metaxu, Coombe House, Witheridge Alasdair Forbes Esq

There are a number of gardens in Britain that are concerned with ideas even more than plants; in particular Ian Hamilton-Finlay's garden at Little Sparta, Charles Jencks's Garden of Cosmic Speculation in Dumfriesshire and Christine Facer's at Througham Court. Plaz Metaxu, "the place that is between" is one of these gardens. Its underlying themes are classical mythology, art, music and psychology. Influenced by Taoism and Buddhism, particularly in the treatment of spaces, it is a garden of concepts and poetic symbolism, but like William Kent's garden at Rousham, it is possible to enjoy the planting and this magical garden's relationship with the surrounding landscape, particularly the valley, quite as much as the essential meaning underlying the garden.

The garden seems to start rather conventionally, with, in front of the house, a lawn running down to a stream and to one side, an enclosed garden with a charming wooden seat built into the top wall. The courtyard behind the house changes the tone immediately, created primarily for contemplation, it is dedicated to the god Hermes, who is able to move effortlessly between the world of the gods and that of men. The main part of the garden lies in the valley below the house, where the stream flows round a central lake that draws the visitor further into the garden and Alasdair Forbes's classical world.

Tim Richardson has described Plaz Metaxu as "one of the most significant new gardens to have been made in Britain in recent decades." We will therefore spend the whole morning in the garden with Alasdair Forbes. After lunch we will be free to return to explore the garden on our own and the more energetic can walk the perimeter Pastoral Loop which gives wider views across the valley which Alasdair Forbes likens to a caesura – a suspenseful pause breaking up a line of verse.

Meet at Plaz Metaxu. Lunch at Plaz Metaxu

8. Wiltshire

£145

Tuesday 20th June

Spilsbury Farm, Tisbury Jamie and Tania Compton

The garden at Spilsbury Farm is an intriguing mixture of formality and wildness. An orchard next to the house leads to vistas lined with clipped blocks and pyramidal hornbeams in long meadow grass that are focused on ancient oak trees. Within this strong framework, Jamie and Tania seem happy to let nature enjoy a controlled riot. The house is approached by a lovely gravel garden planted with *Perovskia*, *Euphorbia myrsinites* and *Santolina*. Box, clipped into balls, keep clouds of fennel at bay, borders billow with *Eryngiums*, *Sedums*, cardoons, grasses and roses mingle with meadow grasses. Pots filled with summer annuals dress the terrace and furnish steps.

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. 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 in a rill richly planted with perennials into pools inspired by Moorish gardens. 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 beech hedges and creating a new garden in a courtyard outside her kitchen. Jellicoe's masterpiece is in very safe hands.

Donhead Hall, Donhead St Mary Mr and Mrs Paul Brewer

Early Georgian Donhead Hall stands on a slope grandly surveying its deer park, which laps up to the walls of the house. The garden, designed by Martin Lane Fox, rises on terraces behind it. An elegant orangery faces a swimming pool across a box parterre and on the next terrace, lines of *Betula jacquemontii* and clipped *Viburnum tinus* make a very understated pairing. An upper terrace with a border running its entire length leads to the vegetable and cutting gardens at the highest point of the garden. A vista runs from a lovely octagonal pavilion, by way of grass steps and a formal pool surrounded by a box of pleached limes, back to the south façade of the house.

*Meet at Shute House. Lunch at Shute House
Marina Christopher of Phoenix Perennial Plants will have plants for sale at Shute House*

9. Wiltshire

£145

Wednesday 21st June

Pound Barn, West Kingston Mr and Mrs Philip Stockitt

Philip and Barbara Stockitt moved from Pound Hill House into the barn next door, where she had had her plant nursery. She has created a new garden here, smaller than the one she left, but with echoes of the features that worked so well at Pound Hill House. Here is the same use of hedges and dry stone walls for structure and, of course, the same abundance of roses now mixed with grasses. Topiary is important in the garden and Barbara still has a topiary nursery. Beyond the barn is a sunken terrace with patterned paving interspersed with box, geraniums, Verbena and Erigeron. The main garden is a wide rectangle lawn, enclosed by yew hedges with generous borders, divided by smart yew buttresses, filled with roses bred by her brother, David Austin.

Pound Hill House, West Kingston Mr and Mrs Simon Tatham

The garden at Pound Hill was originally created by Barbara Stockitt in the late 1980s, in spite of advice from Graham Thomas that nothing would grow on this high windswept Wiltshire plateau, and has recently been taken on by Simon and Minnie Tatham. The garden entirely suits the mellow Cotswold stone house, wrapping round it like a blanket. Intimate spaces, formed by Wisteria-clad walls and clipped hedges, are filled with roses and link together to form vistas across the garden. A long rose and Wisteria pergola cuts through an ancient orchard and beyond an avenue of sweet chestnuts draws the eye from the tennis court. On the south side of the house a sunny, sunken terrace, sociably furnished with tables and chairs and a box-hedged and rose-filled parterre gives on to a large open lawn and contrasts well with the enclosed spaces.

Cadenham Manor, Foxham Mr and Mrs Martin Nye

The wonderful four-acre garden around the late 17th century house at Cadenham Manor was laid out by Victoria Nye's grandmother, who bought the house in 1945 and started with an unremarkable farmhouse garden. From the forecourt of the house a stroll through the orangery leads to the first of a series of formal spaces immediately around the house; from the Lavender Garden one passes the South Borders into the sunken parterres and the first of the moats that are such a significant feature of the garden. Away from the house the garden relaxes and spreads around further moats, there are more garden rooms enclosed by clipped hedges, including a vegetable garden, white garden, peony and Iris walk and a long vista to an Ionic temple. The last surprise of all is the Canal Garden formed from the remains of Wilts and Berks Canal.

*Meet at Cadenham Manor. Lunch at Pound Hill House
Victoria Logue of Whitehall Plants will have plants for sale at Pound Hill House*

10. Oxfordshire

£145

Thursday 22nd June

Haseley Court, Great Haseley Mr and Mrs Desmond Heyward

In 1954 Nancy Lancaster moved to a near-derelict Haseley Court and began to create the stylish and elegant English garden to match the interior decoration of the house which she worked on with John Fowler. There was topiary here in 1543 and the ancient topiary chess set, still in excellent shape, miraculously survived the Second World War. In 1982 Desmond and Fiona Heyward moved into Haseley Court and initially shared the garden with Mrs Lancaster, who died in 1994. Since then, Fiona Heyward has continued to develop the garden, making it very much her own, with advice from David Hicks and Penelope Hobhouse. At its heart, the walled garden, with its hornbeam tunnels, is a beguiling mix of old roses, foxgloves, peonies and other summer-flowering perennials. This garden gets better every year and is still immensely stylish and elegant.

Rofford Manor, Little Milton Mr and Mrs Jeremy Mogford

Jeremy and Hilary Mogford started at Rofford with a blank canvas and began to lay out the garden to their own design, only later calling on Michael Balston to advise on the detailed planting. Far from resting on their laurels, this beautifully maintained garden is constantly evolving. The entrance court sets the pace, with pleached limes growing from elegantly clipped box drums. Throughout the garden the planting is carefully considered; profusion in the borders, simplicity and restraint in planting and colour in the smaller garden rooms around the house. The long vista, across the croquet lawn, which leads the eye into the countryside beyond the ha-ha, is balanced by the immaculate walled kitchen garden, beyond which lies the serene wood and water garden around the lake.

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, while behind the house, curved borders are sheltered by yew hedges beyond which lie an orchard of venerable apples and a vegetable garden with raised beds. From the house, 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 to paddocks fenced with cleft chestnut and to the wild flower meadow and new woodland walk.

*Meet at Haseley Court. Lunch at Rofford Manor
Victoria Logue of Whitehall Plants will have plants for sale at Rofford Manor*

11. Gloucestershire

£145

Monday 26th June

Bywell, Sapperton 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. 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 a huge variety of shrubs and crowned with a line of Italian cypress. Around the house water, first encountered and crossed at the foot of the bank, becomes an important and unifying feature of the garden; first as a canal, then circular infinity pool, a cascade and finally a naturally planted pool. Everywhere the planting is sumptuous and the garden ornaments, all created by Alex, are witty and downright impressive.

Througham Court, Througham Anthony Hoffman and Christine Facer Hoffman

Througham Court must be one of the most exciting and challenging gardens in the country. Inspired by both her background as a scientist and the work of her friend Charles Jencks, landscape designer Christine Facer Hoffman has created a garden full of scientific symbolism that ranges from the Fibonacci Sequence to a number of key formulae that govern the working of the universe. The Arts and Crafts layout of yew hedges and sunken gardens (by the Cotswold architect Norman Jewson) merges blissfully with 21st century science. This is a remarkable garden around an impressive 17th century house in a lovely setting. It inspires thought, but with huge charm and great style. For many, the image of plum-coloured flags fluttering against the rolling green hills of an intimate Cotswold valley is unforgettable.

Moor Wood, Woodmancote Mr and Mrs Henry Robinson

The Robinson family have been at Moor Wood since 1911 and the National Collection of Rambler Roses since 1983. The house, shaded by a spectacular Lebanon Cedar, has evolved into something rather grander from three 18th century cottages. It stands under a wooded bank, looking west over its sheltered valley into ancient Moor Wood. Here Henry has established his collection of 150 Rambler Roses, while Susie, with advice from Lady Mary Keen, has rationalised the garden around the house, where clipped yews give structure to summer perennials, a semi-formal vista ends with wooden gates open onto the landscape. It is the Robinson's philosophy that landscape and garden should blend seamlessly. They have developed a garden that does just that and then explodes into flower in the last weeks of June.

*Meet Moor Wood. Lunch at Througham Court
Victoria Logue of Whitehall Plants will have plants for sale at Througham Court*

12. North Yorkshire

£145

Wednesday 28th June

Norton Conyers, Wath, Nr Ripon Sir James and Lady Graham

Mentioned in Domesday Book, but now reckoned to have been a settlement founded by the monks of St Cuthbert's in the 7th century, Norton Conyers has been the home of the Graham family since 1624 with a break of only 20 years. The present house is medieval, with alterations and extensions in the 16th, 17th and notably the 18th centuries. The distinctive Dutch gables date from the end of the 17th century. James I and Charles I visited the house, but perhaps the most significant visitor was Charlotte Brontë who based Thornfield Hall in Jane Eyre on Norton Conyers. The house has undergone 30 years of restoration which culminated in being treated for a serious death watch beetle infestation. We will tour the house with Sir James and Lady Graham, before visiting the walled garden with its 18th century orangery and double perennial borders backed by towering yew hedges.

Old Sleningford Hall, Mickley Mr and Mrs Tom Ramsden

Old Sleningford Hall dates from 1810 and the ornamental garden, walled garden and mill pond date from this time. Tom Ramsden's parents came to Old Sleningford in 1954 and restored and simplified the garden, removing gloomy Victorian shrubberies and opening up views from the house. Tom and Jane took over the house in 2005 and have made more changes including the semi-formal terrace to the south of the house, with box hedges, Nepeta and pots of Agapanthus. The walled garden and mill pond lie below the house. A wide herbaceous border runs the length of the tall south-facing brick wall, the glass house is given over to Pelargoniums and tomatoes in the summer, and the beds are a mouth-watering display of vegetables and fruit, all contained within a swag-topped yew hedge through which clammers scarlet-flowered Tropaeolum speciosum.

Littlethorpe Manor, Nr Ripon Mr and Mrs John Thackray

Littlethorpe is a late-Regency house, but the eleven-acre garden has been extensively re-landscaped since 1998 by the head gardener, Eddie Harland. Immediately behind the house is a sunken white garden, with a pattern of wide box hedges enclosing Santolina, Pyrus salicifolia and the white polyantha rose 'Katharina Zeimet', around a central armillary sphere. Beyond is the old walled garden, now transformed into an ornamental garden with a central circular gazebo supporting honeysuckle and Rosa 'Francis E. Lester'. A brick pergola leads through a blue and yellow border towards the front of the house. Here the previously sloping lawns have been levelled, Irish yews frame an ornamental pool and steps lead down to a lime avenue. Across the lake, surrounded by generous marginal planting, is an eye-catcher in the form of a classical temple. This is a spectacular garden, imaginatively planted and beautifully maintained.

Meet at Littlethorpe Hall. Lunch at Old Sleningford Hall

13. North Yorkshire

£145

Thursday 29th June

Sion Hill Hall, Kirby Wiske W H Mawer Trust

The current house, which replaced an earlier manor house almost on the same site, was built in 1913 to the designs of Walter Brierley, "The Yorkshire Lutyens". It was bought in 1962 by Herbert Mawer, who, for the last twenty years of his life, collected paintings and furniture for Sion Hill and formed the trust to maintain his collection in the house. The five-acre garden, which has been restored by the trustee, Michael Mallaby, lies to the south of the house. A large parterre of clipped box and hornbeam leads to the Long Walk, whose double borders were originally laid out in the 1850s. A woodland walk meanders down to the river, with views across the old park and on to the partially-walled kitchen garden, now used to grow vegetables and cut flowers. Michael Mallaby has celebrated the 100th anniversary of the building of the house by planting a Centenary Rose Garden. We will be given a tour of the house by Michael Mallaby, before visiting the garden.

The Manor House, Heslington, York

George Smith Esq MBE and Brian Withill Esq

The Manor was originally an 18th century farmstead. In 1946 Lord and Lady Deramore began to create this three-acre plantsman's garden. In 1968 it became the home of George Smith, the world renowned flower arranger, and Brian Withill. Subdivided by mellow brick walls, George has devised a series of intimate gardens exploiting the favoured micro-climate. A closer examination reveals colour-themed borders, tranquil ponds, wooded walks and even a corner for Mediterranean exotics. The painterly planting is exemplified by careful plant associations of colour, form and texture as befits a flower arranger's eye. Refreshments will be served in the tiled loggia, once the cartsheds, decorated with George's lavish flower groups. A small nursery of home-grown plants offers an interesting selection including Hosta 'George Smith'.

Langton Farm, Great Langton

Mr and Mrs Richard Fife

In the autumn of 2012, the house and garden at Langton Farm were flooded by the nearby River Swale. Rising to the challenge, when the floods abated, Annabel Fife commemorated the event by planting 8,000 Narcissus 'Actaea' in circles in an avenue of ornamental pears which runs down to the river from the house. The garden is a collaboration between Annabel, a garden designer, and her husband Richard, who has contributed much of the structure of the garden, particularly the pleached limes and beech hedges. The perennial planting, largely dictated by colour, is all Annabel's work. A mill stone fountain and four Malus mark the centre of the main garden where the four borders are colour-themed.

*Meet at Sion Hill Hall. Lunch at Langton Farm
George Smith will have plants for sale at The Manor House, Heslington*

14. Yorkshire

£145

Friday 30th June

Mount St John, Felixkirk Mr and Mrs Chris Blundell

The house at Mount St John stands on the edge of the Hambleton Hills, close to Sutton Bank, with a seemingly endless view across the Vale of York. Tom Stuart-Smith was given the difficult task of creating a garden on the sloping ground below the house, always competing with that view. This he has achieved so spectacularly that one becomes utterly engrossed by the garden. Stone terraces level off the ground into a series of borders filled with perennials, anchored in place by large box spheres and beech clipped into tumps. Great billowing masses of Salvia, Phlomis, Digitalis, Knautia, Eryngium and Echinacea swirl round these fixed points leading the eye back over the garden. To one side of the house a valley was originally filled with monastic stew ponds which have been restored and linked by cascades. The margins of the pools and the sides of the valley continue to be replanted. Elsewhere, in this garden of impeccably high standards, are an immaculate vegetable garden, cutting garden and glasshouses.

Havoc Hall, Oswaldkirk

Mr and Mrs David Lis

David and Maggie Lis moved to Havoc Hall in 2008 and immediately set about the garden, which, at that point, was three and a half acres of paddock and half an acre of lawn. The transformation in seven years is truly remarkable, particularly as, with the heavy clay soil, it has not all been plain sailing; yew hedges have become waterlogged and died, the harsh winter of 2010/11 killed much of the new planting. Today the garden is flourishing. A sturdy oak pergola leads from the terrace down to a knot garden with surrounding white borders. Steps lead down to a large lawn, with borders filled with pinks and reds interspersed with Pyrus salicifolia and on to a smaller lawn enclosed surrounded by hot-coloured borders. The main lawn has topiaried hornbeams, a surrounding hornbeam hedge and views across a wild-flower meadow and small lake towards the Howardian Hills in the distance.

Meet at Mount St John. Lunch at the Carpenter's Arm, Felixkirk

15. Suffolk

£145

Tuesday 4th July

Kirtling Tower, Kirtling

The Lord and Lady Fairhaven

Built in 1530, Kirtling Tower is the remnant of the largest house in Cambridgeshire. Twenty-five years ago Lord and Lady Fairhaven started to lay out a garden here, but the garden gained momentum when they moved here from Anglesey Abbey and Richard Ayres, former head gardener at the Abbey, advised on the layout of the garden beyond the 1000 year old moat. The walled garden was rescued from dereliction and formally planted with herbaceous borders against the old brick walls. In front of the house an avenue of walnuts reaches across the park and a secret garden has been laid out with advice from Penelope Hobhouse. This garden starts informally with a large pool planted informally with flowering shrubs and trees, including a beautiful cut-leaved *Alnus glutinosa* 'Imperialis', and culminates in a formal circle of clipped beech and fastigate oaks.

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 16 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 House, where only a clock tower and the old stable block remained. In front of the latter, now their house, they created a formal yew-hedged rose garden. Yew hedges surround the clock tower and wind, in undulating curves, towards gates into the park. Further from the house, the garden becomes more informal; a bog garden fills a former moat and a spring garden is maturing fast. Beyond this a beech wood runs down to two former monastic stew ponds.

Parsonage House, Helions Bumpstead

The Hon. Mr and Mrs Nigel Turner

Annie and Nigel Turner have lived in Parsonage House for over 25 years. The old yew hedge by the lane hides the garden with its borders filled with a mix of plants designed to give colour and interest for a long period. The clipped box and yew give a balance to the informality of the gravel garden in front of the house, and the different areas of the pond and its surroundings, the greenhouse used to propagate the plants together with an extensive pelargonium collection, the old and new pool gardens, and the orchards over the lane, add interest to a traditional English garden. The wild-flower meadow enables the butterflies, crickets and orchids to thrive and thereby increases the wildlife as well.

Meet at Parsonage House. Lunch at Ousden House

16. Wiltshire

£145

Friday 7th July

Chisenbury Priory, East Chisenbury

Mr and Mrs John Manser

The two borders in the forecourt of Chisenbury Priory have been recently replanted by Tom Stuart-Smith. This spectacular garden, planted and maintained with great skill and enthusiasm by John Manser, is contained within sheltering chalk walls. Behind the house a lawn extends to a spectacular modern rose-covered wrought-iron pergola, whose uprights alternate with buttresses of yew. The willow-shaded stream, whose banks are obscured by clumps of Hostas and Gunnera, runs through the length of the garden. Beside the house a number of smaller gardens, box-hedged to hold in check Iris and Allium, sweet peas and rambling roses, give onto an orchard with mown grass paths winding through the long grass and apple trees.

Moor Hatches, West Amesbury

Mr and Mrs Guy Leech

The garden at Moor Hatches was also designed by Tom Stuart-Smith, who laid out the garden from 2008, starting from scratch. The brief was to create a low-maintenance garden, which related to the surrounding landscape. An archway leads through to a forecourt with wide stone paths and borders of hot-coloured plants including *Rosa chinensis* 'Mutabilis'. From the house, a lawn stretches down to the River Avon, where pools have been created and planted naturally in the newly-reformed river bank. Behind the house is the garden around the swimming pool contained within thatched cob walls. The beds around the pool, on two levels, are a mixture of grasses and later summer-flowering perennials with blocks of beech hedges to give a permanent structure to this space.

Wudston House, Wedhampton

Mr and Mrs David Morrison

Wudston House is a recent creation, born out of a redundant farmyard and completed in 2009. The garden, a passion of David's, was started in 2010. Beside the house a hornbeam tunnel, supported by an impressive oak framework, separates a vegetable garden from a sunken garden filled with late-flowering perennials. The garden is best seen from mid-summer and the double borders which, with ranks of tall hornbeam pyramids, frame the main lawn, are filled with unusual perennials and shrubs, many the result of David's collaboration with Nick Macer, who has played a major role in the border planting, as well as being actively involved in the development, from 2014, of the arboretum. Where the garden merges into the countryside of the Vale of Pewsey, David has worked with Professor James Hitchmough of Sheffield University on the planting of a large, semi-circular, perennial meadow, incorporating bands predominantly of South African, Eurasian and North American plants.

Meet at Wudston House. Lunch at Moor Hatches

Marina Christopher of Phoenix Perennial Plants will have plants for sale at Wudston House

Spring in Naples, Ischia and the Amalfi Coast

Wednesday 19th – Monday 24th April 2017 (Fully Booked)

Wednesday 3rd – Monday 8th May 2017 (Fully Booked)

In the late Neapolitan spring, the air is redolent with the scent of lemon blossom and the wisteria is in full bloom. Across the Bay of Naples, Vesuvius and Capri seem to hang in the opalescent light. On the Amalfi coast the mountains, terraced with lemon groves, plunge into sunlit seas.

This is a six-day tour, with three nights at the five-star Grand Hotel Parkers in the centre of Naples, with all rooms enjoying the spectacular view of the Bay of Naples, and two nights in Ravello at the Hotel Villa Maria.

On Wednesday we arrive in Naples in the late afternoon and drive to the Grand Hotel Parkers. That evening we have dinner together in the hotel.

The second day is spent in Naples exploring the city; we will start at the Archaeological Museum to see the mosaics from Pompeii and the superlative Farnese collection of classical sculptures. We will walk through the well-kept Botanic Garden and then have lunch in a private villa. In the afternoon, we will return to the centre of the city to visit the Pio Monte della Misericordia and the cloister of Santa Chiara.

On Friday we take the ferry from Naples to Ischia and cross the island to La Mortella. On the way we will visit the Villa Arbusto Museum. From here we continue the short distance to La Mortella to visit the remarkable garden, created by Sir William and Lady Walton from 1958 with help, initially, from Russell Page, who laid out the lower, almost sub-tropical, part of the garden. At the end of the afternoon we will return by ferry to Naples.

On the fourth day we leave the Grand Hotel Parkers and head for Caserta. We will have a tour of the palace and then visit the English garden at the far end of the park. We will have lunch in an intriguing eighteenth century palazzo nearby, before visiting another nearby private garden. From here we drive south to Ravello stopping, en route, to see the spectacular first century frescos at the Villa Poppaea.

On the Sunday we have a free morning to explore Amalfi before driving to Paestum for lunch. The Greek temples, which date from before 450BC, are astonishingly well preserved, but what makes Paestum so magical is its sense of remoteness.

On the last day of the tour the morning is free to explore Ravello, its cathedral and the garden of the Villa Rufolo, before we meet for our final lunch at the Villa Cimbrone. The villa dates back to the eleventh century, but was rebuilt by Lord Grimsthorpe by 1917. From here we return to Naples Airport to catch an evening flight to London.

Total Cost: The six days, including three nights in the five-star Grand Hotel Parkers in the centre of Naples and the four-star Hotel Villa Maria in Ravello (two people sharing), five lunches, one dinner, all entrance fees to the gardens and travel by luxury air-conditioned coach, ferry and hydrofoil (flights to and from Naples are NOT included), will cost £3,250.00pp. For anyone requiring the single use of a double room, there will be a supplement, levied by the hotels, of £530.00.

Siena and the Gardens of Southern Tuscany

Monday 15th – Friday 19th May 2017

Hill-top Siena, for so long the arch-rival of Florence, will be our base for this five-day tour. It is, even more than Florence, the archetypal medieval Italian city, narrow streets running between tall and imposing palazzi to the huge, fan-shaped Piazza del Campo where the Palio is run twice a year. The distinctive striped cathedral, perched on the top of one of the city's hills, catches the eye from almost every direction. We are based in the five-star Grand Hotel Continental, the former seventeenth century Palazzo Gori Pannilini, built by Pope Alexander VII as a wedding present to his niece Olympia Chigi. Situated in the very heart of the city, this very comfortable hotel is only a few minutes' walk to the Piazza del Campo, the cathedral, excellent shopping and myriad restaurants.

On the first day we take a morning flight from London Heathrow to Pisa and lunch in a private villa en route to Siena. On arrival in Siena, we check into our hotel where we will have a dinner en groupe that evening.

On Tuesday, the morning is free to explore Siena. We drive a short distance out of Siena to Castello di Celsa, superbly sited on the crest of a hill overlooking the Rosia valley. After lunch at Celsa we drive to the Villa di Geggiano. The villa started life as a modest manor house which was aggrandised to celebrate a significant marriage in the 1760s by the Bandinelli family, who owned, and still own, the villa.

On Wednesday we drive south and visit a lovely Benedictine church. From here we continue on to a private garden attached to a wine estate. We will have lunch at Castello di Potentino, a fifteenth century castle which has been restored in the last few years by the Greene family. In the afternoon we will visit a nearby sculpture garden.

On the fourth day we drive to Cetona to see one of the loveliest houses and gardens in Tuscany. We continue to Pienza for lunch followed by tour of the Palazzo Piccolomini and a chance to explore the town. We return to Siena in the late afternoon.

On Friday we check out of our hotel and drive south to visit the Bosco della Ragnaia, which is the work of an American, Sheppard Craige. We continue to La Foce, perhaps the finest work of English architect and garden designer Cecil Pinsent. After a tour of the garden we will have lunch at La Foce, before continuing to Rome Fiumicino airport for an evening flight to London Heathrow.

Total Cost: The five days, including four nights in the five-star Grand Hotel Continental in Siena (two people sharing), five lunches, one dinner, all entrance fees to the gardens and travel by luxury air-conditioned coach (flights to and from Pisa and Rome are NOT included), will cost £2,950.00pp. For anyone requiring the single use of a double room, there will be a supplement, levied by the hotel, of £720.00.

Day Tours Booking Terms and Conditions

1. All tours in the 2017 programme are £145.00 per person, except Tours 3 and 6 which are £150 and Tour 7 which is £130pp. The cost includes coffee in the morning, a two-course lunch with wine, afternoon tea and transport in a comfortable coach to and from the gardens (No coach on tours 2, 3, 7, 10 and 14).
2. The group sizes are limited so we recommend that places are reserved by telephone, email or online via the website. Please do not send payment until you have confirmed that places are available. Once availability is confirmed, the booking form and payment in full must be received by Border Lines **within five working days** of the reservation being made. Places on tours cannot be held longer than this. Payment may be made by cheque payable to Border Lines or by bank transfer. A receipt for your payment and directions to the gardens will be emailed to you, if possible, otherwise sent by post. Please acknowledge receipt of this email. **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 will not wait for latecomers. The coach will depart from the meeting point at the time stated for each day. 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.

BORDER LINES

DAY TOURS BOOKING FORM 2017

Full Name *including first name (Mr/Mrs/Title)*

.....

Address

.....

.....

County Postcode

Telephone.....

Mobile phone

(This is vital in case we need to contact you on the day)

Email address

Please supply the name and address of your guest(s). This information is required by garden owners.

Name

Address

.....

County Postcode

Name

Address

.....

County Postcode

Name

Address

.....

County Postcode

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| Tour | No of places | Fee | Total |
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Total

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 I enclose a cheque for £ payable to Border Lines

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Account number : 06541201 Sort code: 83-91-35

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Email: james@border-lines.co.uk

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If you know anyone who would like to receive information about Border Lines tours, please let me have their details below:

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County **Postcode**

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Address

County **Postcode**