

BORDER LINES

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



2018



WELCOME TO OUR GARDEN AND HOUSE TOURS FOR 2018



Once again a very Happy New Year. We hope that the garden and house days that we have arranged for 2018 dispel some of the gloom of early January with the promise of a glorious British summer.

This year we are, unusually, returning to two gardens that we included last year. This is because it will be the last opportunity to see the Boyds' wonderful garden at Ince. We have tours to some magnificent houses as well. I have wanted to visit Raynham Hall for many years and so I am delighted that we are able to see this lovely example of William Kent's work on Tour 12. Biddulph Old Hall (not to be confused with nearby Biddulph Grange) is entrancing and makes a perfect contrast to the Palladian splendour of Henbury Hall on Tour 3. This is also a year of returning to old friends, whom we have neglected for far too long, as well as visiting gardens that are entirely new. As always we have tried to ensure that every day gives contrasts in planting, design and now architecture.

The formula of a Border Lines day remains unchanged. We usually visit three gardens and start the day with coffee, 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, 13 and 15. When you book a place on a tour, we shall send you the directions to the meeting point 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 James on his mobile and he will give you directions to the first garden and we will meet you there.

If you would like to reserve places on any of these days, please email, apply via our website, 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 by post or by bank transfer. A receipt for your payment and directions will be emailed to you.

Border Lines is also going to Piedmont in April and May and Ninfa and gardens around Rome in May. In September we have a tour to Normandy and in early November we have arranged a short tour to central Rome to see galleries and palaces that are rarely open. Information on these tours will be available on our website shortly.

We are planning to return to South Africa in October 2019.

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 us know. If you would like further information on any of the UK days or on our tours to Europe please do not hesitate to contact James or Karin at the address below.

We very much hope to see you over the year.

James and Karin Bolton

Border Lines, Clapton Manor, Clapton-on-the-Hill,
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire GL54 2LG
Tel: 01451 821804 Mob: 07816 786 019

Email: james@border-lines.co.uk Website: www.border-lines.co.uk

Cover Illustration of Seend Manor by Amanda Cooper

Day Tours in England 2018

1. **Devon & Cornwall** Wednesday 16th May
Trematon Castle, Thorn House and Ince Castle
2. **Devon** Thursday 17th May
Mothecombe House, Lukesland and Bickham House
3. **Cheshire** Wednesday 6th June
Henbury Hall and Biddulph Old Hall
4. **Berkshire** Tuesday 12th June
Woolton House, The Old Rectory, West Woodhay and West Woodhay House
5. **Wiltshire & Hampshire** Friday 15th June
Maslens Farm, Redenham Park and Broadleas House
6. **Worcestershire** Tuesday 19th June
Conderton Manor, Birtsmorton Court and Morton Hall
7. **Berkshire & Hampshire** Wednesday 20th June
Earlstone Manor, Kirby House and Hazelby House
8. **Wiltshire** Thursday 21st June
Seend Manor, Manor Farm and a garden near Marlborough
9. **Oxfordshire** Tuesday 26th June
Rousham House, Court Farm and Worcester College
10. **Monmouthshire** Thursday 28th June
High Glanau Manor, Llanover and Allt y Bela
11. **Herefordshire** Friday 29th June
Brockhampton Cottage, Kentchurch Court and The Green
12. **Norfolk** Wednesday 4th July
Raynham Hall, Sennowe Park and Silverstone Farm
13. **Norfolk** Thursday 5th July
Chestnut Farm and Hunworth Hall
14. **Dorset** Wednesday 5th September
Farrs, Harvard Farm and The Old Parsonage
15. **Dorset** Thursday 6th September
Cranborne Manor and St Giles House
16. **Herefordshire** Wednesday 12th September
Brockhampton Cottage, Grendon Court and Scatterford Farm

Tours in Italy and France 2018

Spring in Piedmont

Monday 23rd –Friday 27th April 2018

Monday 21st- Friday 25th May 2018

Ninfa and Gardens of the Roman Campagna

Monday 7th - Friday 11th May 2018

Early Autumn in Normandy

Monday 17th- Friday 21st September 2018

Churches, Palaces and Galleries in Rome

Monday 5th-Thursday 8th November 2018

Wednesday 16th May

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 six years they have created a sumptuous garden. To the side of the house, the keep stands on its wildflower-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.

Thorn House, Wembury

Mr and Mrs John Gibson

The views from Thorn House, built on a terrace above the Yealm Estuary, must be among the most spectacular in the country. Dartmoor rises dramatically to the north and, to the south, one can almost see the sea. The house dates from 1806, but the garden was created by William Arkwright who arrived in 1920 and laid out the formal lawn, rose garden and Long Walk which are magnificently decorated with vast marble urns originally from Trentham in Staffordshire. Eva and John Gibson have been gardening at Thorn since 1981 and they have restored the formal gardens and spectacularly replanted the woodland garden which is the great glory of Thorn. Here wonderful rarities rub shoulders with champion trees; Umbellularia californica grows close to the largest Eucalyptus dalrympleana in the country. The ground, carpeted in spring with cyclamen growing under Azaleas, Magnolias and Rhododendrons from Nepal and the Australian Blue Mountains, slopes down to the glittering waters of the estuary below.

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, with low square towers at each corner, dating from the mid 17th Century. It stands on a wind-swept peninsula of the River Lynher, part of the complex estuary that makes up Plymouth Sound. In 1960 Patricia 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. Sadly Ince Castle is now on the market so this could be the very last opportunity to see it.

Meet at Ince Castle. Lunch at Thorn House.

2. Devon

£145

Thursday 17th May

Mothecombe House, Holbeton

Mr and Mrs Anthony Mildmay-White

Enchanting Mothecombe House, where we will visit both the house and garden, though built in 1710, looks like a perfect post-Restoration house. It sits in a deliciously sheltered valley surrounded by intimate walled gardens; a formal flower garden with borders crammed with Echiums and a terrace designed by Lutyens (who also added the dining room onto the south side of the house) and a kitchen garden designed to attract bees. Below the house, an orchard gives way to woodland gardens, filled with Camellias, Azaleas, Rhododendrons, Pieris, Parottia and Cercidiphyllum which follow the course of a stream, through Gunnera-fringed pools, down to the sea.

Lukesland, Ivybridge

Mrs Brian Howell, Mr and Mrs John Howell

The Victorian gothic house at Lukesland was built in 1862 as a hunting lodge. It now sits in the midst of a 24 acre woodland garden that has been tended by the Howell family since 1930. A stream, sometimes a torrent, rises on Dartmoor and flows through the garden in a series of ornamental pools and cascades. On either side lie the gardens, Victorian in origin though substantially replanted by the Howells over the last 80 years. The Rhododendrons and Azaleas are magnificent in the spring, likewise a spectacular *Davidia involucrata* on the bank below the house. Perhaps the most remarkable plant, in a garden filled with horticultural delights, is the vast, tree-sized, *Magnolia campbellii* which was planted near the stream in 1936. It will, sadly have flowered long before our visit.

Bickham House, Kenn, Nr Exeter

Mrs John Tremlett

The 17th Century house at Bickham was given a deep, colonnaded veranda on two sides of the house as part of a Regency makeover. It stands, in a sheltered tree-clad combe, above its park with a timeless lake which, surprisingly, was dug out only recently by John and Julia Tremlett. There was no garden when Julia inherited apart from some good trees, shrubs and bulbs, now a seven-acre garden wraps comfortably around the back of the house. A terrace gives onto a long lawn with borders to one side, behind these the woodland garden of Camellias, Magnolias, Rhododendrons and a very tall *Liriodendron* is spectacular in the spring. A formal courtyard, with a central pool, lies behind the house and, beyond, the walled garden is still a hugely productive mixture of vegetable, fruit and flowers. A central path edged with *Nepeta*, leads the eye down the length of the garden to an avenue of *Trachycarpus fortunei* and a Millennium summer house.

Meet at Bickham House. Lunch at Lukesland.

3. Cheshire

£145

Wednesday 6th June

Henbury Hall, Macclesfield

Mrs Sebastian de Ferranti

It is difficult to decide whether the house or the garden at Henbury Hall is more remarkable. The house was built in 1984-1986, a collaboration between the owner Sebastian de Ferranti, the architect, Julian Bicknell, and the artist Felix Kelly. It is a reinterpretation of Palladio's Villa Rotonda for life in 20th Century England. The 12 acre garden, whose origins belong to a former Hall, lies secretly in the lake-filled valley below the house. Occasional glimpses of the Palladian dome, arising from the banks of Rhododendrons, Azaleas, Embotriums, Cornus, Parottia and Magnolias, which are interspersed with maples and birches, give the garden a dream-like quality. A Chinese bridge designed by Felix Kelly at one end of the lake, is echoed by an oriental pavilion at the other, while a gothic ruin sits among mounds of Gunnera. On the far side of the lake long glasshouses, containing a collection of figs frame the entrance to a large kitchen garden. During the morning we will visit both the house and the garden.

Biddulph Old Hall, Biddulph

Nigel Daly Esq and Brian Vowles Esq

The history of Biddulph Old Hall is long, involved and fascinating. It is a house with remarkable connections, to the Pre-Raphaelites, the Cotswold Arts and Crafts Movement and, most splendidly of all, to the gardens of Ninfa. The original building was a Tudor hall house, which was greatly extended by the Biddulph family in the 1580s when they built "a statelike and fair house of stone". The new house was besieged by Parliamentary troops during the Civil War and suffered extensive damage. The Biddulph family retreated back into the old house, and remained until the house was bought by James Bateman, the creator of the celebrated garden at Biddulph Grange. His son, Robert, the Pre-Raphaelite painter, lived at Biddulph Old Hall. After many decades of neglect, the house was bought by Nigel Daly and Brian Vowles, who have stabilised the ruins, planting a garden inside the walls appropriately reminiscent of Ninfa (Ada Caetani who initiated the planting of Ninfa was Robert Bateman's cousin) and, magically, have restored the old hall. While doing all of this, Nigel has also written a book about Robert Bateman. We will be shown around both the old and new halls by Nigel and Brian, who will explain the history of both.

Meet at Henbury Hall. Lunch at Henbury Hall.

4. Berkshire

£145

Tuesday 12th June

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.

The Old Rectory, West Woodhay

Mr and Mrs Rupert Bradstock

Anna Bradstock has gardened at the Old Rectory for last 20 years. She trained at the English Gardening School and then worked at the Savill Garden at Windsor and more recently at Harcourt Arboretum. The entrance to the house is ordered and simple, with fastigate Hornbeam and a pair of cloud-pruned Phillyrea at the front door. On the southern side, a wide lawn, framed with deep generously-planted herbaceous borders, backed by yew hedges, lead the eye over the ha-ha to the downs beyond. At the end of the lawn, Anna has planted a small arboretum, now maturing well. Specimen trees include *Halesia*, *Davidia* and *Metasequoia* among a mass of flowering *Cornus* and *Philadelphus*. The Cottage garden provides a variety of conditions for shade loving plants and a dry sunny terrace bed for *Euphorbia* and shrubby *Salvia*.

West Woodhay House, West Woodhay

Mr and Mrs Harry Henderson

Inigo Jones built the house at West Woodhay, but the garden is almost entirely the creation of Harry Henderson and his father. The Hendersons acquired the estate in 1920 and, in 1948, James Russell of Sunningdale Nurseries began planting the Arboretum, taking advantage of the pockets of acid soil. Since 1997 Harry Henderson has extended the lake with a series of pools and considerably added to the arboretum, particularly with *Crataegus*, *Sorbus*, *Malus* and *Betula*. An Italian garden by the house is a new addition. A double avenue of *Prunus sargentii* and *Tilia* 'Winter Orange' runs east from the house and lake. The old walled garden has been replanted to the designs of Veronica Mackinnon, part ornamental with areas for good foliage, part working kitchen garden and part home for chickens and bantams.

Meet at West Woodhay House. Lunch at The Old Rectory.

5. Wiltshire & Hampshire

£145

Friday 15th June

Maslens Farm, Alton Barnes

Mr and Mrs Michael Balston

It is interesting to see what garden designers do in their own garden. Michael and Meriel Balston had a large garden which they swapped six years ago for this one closer to the Marlborough Downs. The enchanting 15th Century farmhouse with additions is surrounded by a walled garden which, though comparatively small, packs quite a punch. On one side of a pleached lime allée a box parterre, due to be replanted with *Teucrium lucidum* this winter, shares the space with a shrub-fringed lawn with steps leading to a raised terrace. On the other, there is a large circular pool in planted paving. Behind the house, a sunken garden leads to Meriel's studio and beyond that a small vegetable garden. This is a garden where strong structural elements are combined with interesting planting as you would expect from a vice-president of the RHS.

Redenham Park, Andover

Lady Clark

Redenham Park, built in 1784, has been Olivia Clark's home since 1976. The world is kept at bay by a deep screen of trees and beyond lies a wide bowl of parkland with the house at its heart. The garden, designed by Olivia Clark, sits discreetly behind the house and is, in high summer, an abundance of roses and perennials. The rose garden is planted with pink and white-flowered roses with a foam of *Alchemilla* in the paving. An arch, covered with Paul's Himalayan Musk, leads through to the main late-summer borders. After a calm green interlude of pleached limes and a croquet lawn with a tapestry hedge, a door in a cob wall opens onto a series of gardens with espaliered pears and apples and a mass of scented roses, culminating in the immaculate kitchen garden.

Broadleas House, Devizes

Mr and Mrs Richard Cardiff

Broadleas House, then a neglected wilderness, was bought by Lady Anne Cowdray in 1946. She gardened here for 63 years until her death in 2009. Fortunately, Mr and Mrs Cardiff, have maintained the best of Anne Cowdray's magnificent garden while adding their own contemporary contributions. A long terrace, where shrubs and perennials sprawl comfortably across the gravel, leads past an enclosed garden, in which *Salvia involucrata* 'Bethellii' flourishes with little winter protection. The Bannermans have added a thatched garden house near a Camellia-hedged secret garden. Pleached hornbeam and yews screen a vegetable garden en route to a new bee-friendly garden. The most spectacular feature of the garden is the four-acre combe lying below the house. Here, among ancient oaks, Anne Cowdray planted Magnolias, Camellias, Rhododendrons and Hydrangeas, as well as wonderful Cornus, Acers and Paulownias. This long was, and still is, a wonderful garden.

Meet at Broadleas House . Lunch at Redenham Park.

6. Worcestershire

£145

Tuesday 19th June

Conderton Manor, Conderton, Tewkesbury

Mr and Mrs William Carr

Conderton Manor dates from 1675 and formed part of the neighbouring Overbury Estate. In the 1930s Brenda Colvin designed the formal terrace behind the house. With the exception of some of the larger trees, particularly the magnificent cedar which dates from 1880, the tree planting started in the 1950s when the garden was extended. The Carrs took over in 1970 and continued to plant trees which have now reached maturity. From the terrace, steps lead up to the vegetable garden, now planted ornamentally. At this point the garden becomes, as Jane Carr describes it, "a walk among trees" and good trees there are, including a well-established *Pterocarya fraxinifolia*. The walk culminates in an informal grass terrace with long views of the Cotswold escarpment and the Severn valley.

Birtsmorton Court, Nr Malvern

Mr and Mrs Nigel Dawes

Birtsmorton is a medieval dream of a house. Sitting in a wide moat, the house, built round a courtyard filled with pots, is, in fact, a wonderful mixture of styles dating from the 14th to the 20th Centuries, giving a very mellow sense of continuity. A terrace outside the great hall is generously planted with *Salvias*, *Nepeta* and *Erysimum*. In the garden, the large Westminster Pond supplies water to the moats. Clipped yew hedges conceal the white garden, designed by Veronica Cross, which is centred on a large old lead cistern. Outside the yew hedges, sheltered by walls on two sides, are sumptuous mixed borders awash with roses, tree peonies, *Geraniums* and *Hemerocallis*. Behind this is a potager with tunnels planted with *Vitis purpurea* trained amongst silver *Pyrus salicifolia*.

Morton Hall, Redditch

Mr and Mrs Rene Olivieri

The fritillaries growing in the wildflower meadow were the clincher for Anne Olivieri when she first saw Morton Hall in 2007. However, the garden around this handsome 18th century house which looks out over the Vale of Evesham towards Wales, required much work; trees were thinned, overpowering laurel hedges reduced or removed, the drive moved and ground subtly re-landscaped. The result, in an astonishingly short time, is a journey through a series of discrete, but interlocking, spaces. From the meadow, where fritillaries have been joined by mass plantings of *Narcissus*, the path leads past a tea house into a sunken Japanese garden. Monumental rock steps lead to the south garden planted in blues and pinks and from there to the walled kitchen garden, where vegetables and perennials are planted in hot colours to reflect the passage of the sun.

Meet at Birtsmorton Court. Lunch at Birtsmorton Court.

Wednesday 20th June

Earlstone Manor, Burghclere

Mr and Mrs Bruce Ginsberg

This is a truly remarkable garden created by a passionate grower of box. The house, once owned by William of Wykeham in the 14th century, was a recusant manor and is believed by archaeologists to be the oldest house in Hampshire. It was extended in the 17th and 18th centuries and the house matches perfectly the formal and topiaried style of the garden, where box is clipped into patterns and forms parterres, knots and mazes, softened by great billowing mounds of rosemary and lavender. All is framed by tall hornbeam hedges cut into arches and curved into theatrical apses. Two mounts give wonderful bird's eye views of the garden. In delightful contrast, a Georgian-style chinoiserie garden is a recent addition and echoes the wooden Chinese bridge across the lake.

Kirby House, Inkpen

Mrs Richard Astor

Kirby House is often described as a 'stately home in miniature'. The original house was built in 1733 and then over doubled in size by Admiral Franklin in 1761 to house four large tapestries that he had captured from a French ship. Its setting on the northern edge of the South Berkshire Downs with views of Combe Gibbet is enchanting and the garden a delight. Areas of the garden were designed by Harold Peto for his brother Basil who lived at Kirby from 1906-1912. A terrace, with a simple box parterre gives onto the main lawn with views to the downs beyond. There is a lake, lily pond garden, reflecting pool, herbaceous, shrub and rose border divided by yew buttresses and a walled garden. The garden is enhanced by contemporary sculpture including two works by William Pye.

Hazelby House, East Woodhay

Mr and Mrs Patrick Hungerford

Patrick Hungerford took on the garden owned and designed by Martin Lane Fox and has, over the years, developed it with huge panache. The rose garden has been opened up to be better seen from the house. Roses, under-planted with Nepeta, Geraniums, and Alchemilla, are anchored with box and standard Ligustrum superbum. A yew arch leads to a long rose-covered pergola which ends with a snail-shaped mound which gives views over the wild-flower meadow and, through a curtain of woodland, to the downs beyond. Shrub borders have been replaced by lawn to open the view to the lakes and the woodland garden, in the latter a seam of acid soil encourages Rhododendrons and Hydrangeas to thrive among clumps of Gunnera and Rheum. A spectacular greenhouse, filled with tender treasures, presides over an immaculate kitchen garden.

Meet at Hazelby House. Lunch at Kirby House.

Thursday 21st June

Seend Manor, Devizes

Mr and Mrs Stephen Clark

Pevsner maintains that Seend is full of good houses and among them is Seend Manor, built in 1767 and blessed with a wonderful stable yard and a walled garden. Stephen and Amanda Clark have lived and worked all over the world and the brief that they gave Isabel and Julian Bannerman was to create a four-part garden that reflected their lives. So the garden spectacularly commemorates, in quarters separated by avenues of pleached hornbeams, England, Africa, China and Italy. Summer-flowering perennials and roses predominate in England, a swimming pool and loggia, reclaimed from a 1820s house in Bristol, for outdoor entertaining suitably in Italy. China is dominated by an antique pagoda which is encircled by a beech hedge cut into a wave pattern or maybe a Chinese dragon. The Bannermans and the Clarks have collaborated closely on the garden to produce architectural detail of great quality and with strong personal symbolism.

Manor Farm, Huish, Marlborough

Mr and Mrs James Roberts

Hidden up a lane running into the southern flank of the Marlborough Downs is the tiny hamlet of Huish. The garden at Manor Farm, which is a combination of good planting, clever design and wit, lies on the gentle slope to the south of the house. A terrace separates the house from the main lawns and to one side an enclosed allée is contained by pleached limes under-planted with *Pittosporum* and *Euonymus*. A woodland garden planted with hydrangeas leads to a willow-fringed lake and an impressive sculpture of a crowing cockerel. The swimming pool is discreetly walled with a distinctively modernist flourish and furnished with elegant, almost spherical, pots. An adjacent walled garden is adorned with a fossil encrusted pavilion, designed by Julian and Isabel Bannerman.

A garden near Marlborough

After an interval of seven years I am delighted to be able to return to this very private garden where water plays such a major role. The Kennet fringes the garden and feeds mill streams and pools with ginclear water. On one side of the house lie the formal gardens created by Avray Tipping. Here, Arts and Crafts spaces, divided by walls and yew hedges, run from the arched entrance towards the walled kitchen garden. A wooden door in a wall opens onto a sloping lawn decorated with yew cones, from where an archway leads to raised double borders awash with shrub roses and peonies. Cordoned apples are trained against the walls of the kitchen garden and brick raised beds are filled with vegetables. Beyond this is a recently planted maze. In contrast, on the far side of the house the planting is more relaxed as paths meander through groves of willows to a fishing hut on the bank of the river.

Meet at the garden near Marlborough. Lunch at Manor Farm.

Tuesday 26th June

Rousham House, Bicester

Mr and Mrs Charles Cottrell-Dormer

The house and garden at Rousham is the masterpiece of the 18th Century architect, interior designer and landscaper, William Kent. Not only did he remodel the house for General James Dormer (whose family still own it), creating what Pevsner describes as “*one of the most exquisite small rooms of the 18th Century in England*”, but he redesigned the 25 acre garden into its present form, miraculously preserved. Statues and temples, carefully positioned by Kent, act as eye catchers, drawing the visitor further and further into the garden. As if all this history were insufficient, there is also the lovely 20th Century planting in the walled garden. Entering through a wrought-iron gate concealed behind ancient bulging yews, the double borders stretch the length of the garden towards the church. Low box hedges segregate the roses by the pigeon house and a long border of Dahlias riot away at the end of the summer.

Court Farm, Tackley

Mr and Mrs Andrew Peake

The entrance to Court Farm, a tall 17th Century stone farmhouse, gives no indication of the expansive garden behind. The garden was originally created from a working farmyard by Andrew Peake's parents and in more recent times was replanted with advice of plantsman and nurseryman Christopher Brown. Since then, the garden has been gently transformed to open it up to the landscape beyond which includes not only a series of remarkable geometric Jacobean stew ponds, but also a large 18th Century lake which the Peakes have, very recently, restored. A long stone terrace which separates the lawn from the house border has, at one end a pergola-covered seating area, with views across the park towards the church and, at the other, a woodland garden which has been replanted.

Worcester College, Oxford

The Provost and Fellows

The garden at Worcester College is much older than it seems, dating back to the end of the 13th Century. The 26 acre garden seems to have attracted serious botanists and gardeners throughout its history, from the 18th Century planting of specimen trees, the creation of the lake inspired by Picturesque theorist Richard Payne Knight in 1817, to the donation of rare specimens by Miss Ellen Willmott at the beginning of the 20th Century. Today under the care of Simon Bagnall, the Head of Gardens, the gardens are as not only as immaculate as one would expect, but borders are filled with rarities as well as old friends. The spirit of horticultural experimentation continues unabated; rare trees including *Aesculus Wilsonii*, *Catalpa speciosa*, *Quercus shumardi* and a recently planted *Quercus suber* (Cork Oak). Wonderful Jekyllesque borders are enlivened by exotic plantings of, among other delights, two different kinds of banana.

Meet at Rousham. Lunch at Court Farm.

Thursday 28th June

High Glanau Manor, Lydart

Mr and Mrs Hilary Gerrish

In 1923 Avray Tipping, the garden writer and architectural historian, built the house at High Glanau and laid out the garden. When Helena and Hilary Gerrish moved here they were determined to restore Tipping's garden. The result is a wonderful Arts and Crafts garden with distant views over the Usk valley towards the Brecon Beacons. Double borders in white, blue and yellow lead away from the south side of the house, parallel to a lower Sedum walk. A restored wooden pergola ends the borders, behind which a wall conceals the vegetable garden and the large Edwardian glasshouse by Messenger & Co. To one side of the house retaining walls support perennial-clad terraces, between which steps run down to an octagonal water-lily pool.

Llanover, Abergavenny

Mr and Mrs Ross Murray

Elizabeth Murray's family have lived at Llanover since 1792, when the bones of the garden, particularly the ponds, rill, the Round Garden and the landscaping of the park, were created. Later generations have added to the gardens, particularly in the planting of trees and shrubs, most notably Elizabeth's father, Robin Herbert CBE, who was President of the RHS. Apart from the rich collection of spring-flowering Magnolias and Rhododendrons, the two arboreta in the garden have fine specimens of Taxodium, Davidia, Cornus, Acers, Nyssa and Liquidambar for autumn colour. The garden is blessed with abundant water which flows from the hills above to fill the ponds, pour over cascades, meander through the bog garden and eventually join the nearby River Usk. In summer the roses abound, and the bog garden is filled with Rodgersia, Persicaria, Iris and Primulas.

Allt y bela, Llangwm Ucha, Usk

Arne Maynard Esq

Arne Maynard created a wonderfully formal garden of rooms around his first house in the Fens and here at Allt y bela, an isolated, tall, cinnamon-coloured, late-medieval farmhouse, reminiscent of a Borders' Pele Tower, he is making a very different sort of garden. The house sits in a shallow valley and the garden is restrained and understated to allow the house and landscape to take centre stage. Yew cones and spheres punctuate the garden, beech is trimmed into spirals and tiered stands, box, clipped into organic shapes, create patterns in the wildflower bank. Beyond the highly productive vegetable garden, a stream fringed with marginals flows past fruit trees and then turns and runs in a controlled stone-walled trough past the house and away down the valley.

Meet at Usk. Lunch at Llanover.

Friday 29th June

Brockhampton Cottage, Brockhampton

Peter Clay Esq

Peter Clay inherited Brockhampton and its wonderful views towards Ross-on-Wye and engaged Tom Stuart-Smith to create an ever-expanding garden immediately around the house. The result is a romantic mixture of structural planting and borders filled with Euphorbia, Alliums, Geraniums and Erymurus spilling away from the rose-covered house. Topiaried columns of beech march along a grass terrace on one side of the house with views between them onto an orchard of perry pears. In the valley, Peter has created a lake around which he has created a second, less structured, garden of trees and shrubs, approached through a spectacular wild-flower meadow. Visits to Brockhampton Cottage were, in past years, always in the early autumn to see the late summer-flowering perennials (see Tour 16), but now that wild-flower meadow is well established with five or six species of orchid in swarms it has become a garden to visit in June as well.

Kentchurch Court, Pontrilas

Mrs Jan Lucas-Scudamore

There have been Scudamores at Kentchurch for a thousand years. The square tower's foundations are Anglo-Saxon. The 14th century house was remodelled by John Nash in 1795. It sits snugly under the lea of wooded hills with its park, containing not only a herd of fallow deer, but the largest specimens of field maples in the country. The gardens were laid out after 1815 in a series of walled enclosures where riotous perennials are barely contained within their borders and have indeed taken over an otherwise abandoned greenhouse. In contrast, the kitchen garden is immaculately ordered, with delicious combinations of vegetables and flowers, such as an eye-catching pairing of cavolo nero and blue cornflowers. Sweet peas, Clematis and roses in abundance fill the other beds. Jan Lucas-Scudamore will show us the interior of her house, before giving us lunch.

The Green, Welsh Bicknor

Mr and Mrs Patrick Vaughan

The Green, almost impossible to find, seems very remote, but its setting, gazing eastwards on a shoulder of hill surrounded on three sides by a loop of the River Wye, is magical. In 1981 Patrick and Lorna Vaughan moved into an abandoned farmhouse and Lorna began to create a garden from scratch. The hillside setting lends itself to terraces and the highest point of the garden is an enclosed south facing courtyard, filled with roses, citrus trees and grey-leaved perennials sprawling over wide cobbled steps. Curving steps lead down to a box parterre, whose clipped lines are softened by clouds of Euphorbia wulfenii. Below this is a productive potager to supply the house. The lowest level is a long blue and white border edged with Nepeta x faassenii. A woodland garden slopes down to a new pond and nearby Lorna Vaughan and her gardener Anna Stankiewicz are establishing wild-flower meadows and keeping bees.

Meet at The Green . Lunch at Kentchurch Court.

Wednesday 4th July

Raynham Hall, Fakenham

The Marquess and Marchioness Townshend

William Kent was active in decorating Norfolk houses during the 1720s, particularly at Holkham and Houghton, but it is a particular and rare pleasure to be able to see his work at Raynham. The house was started in the 1620s by Roger Townshend, inspired by the work of Inigo Jones, and continued to evolve throughout the century. It was only in 1724 that Kent became involved with the interior decoration of the house for 'Turnip' Townshend, the second viscount. He designed the magnificent Marble Hall, the very typical enfilade of rooms on the east side of the house (which reveal how surprisingly intimate this large house is) and the State Dining Room with its screen based on the Arch of Severus in Rome. Lord and Lady Townshend will take us around the house and we will also hope to have talk on the portraits by Conservationist Restorer Kiffy Stainer-Hutchins.

Sennowe Park, Guist

Mr and Mrs Charles Temple-Richards

The approach to Sennowe is spectacular. The arrow-straight drive enters the park between a pair of lodges and blocks of woodland before opening into parkland undulating down to a lake and the River Wensum. The house which stands on a shoulder of hillside gazing proudly out over park, lake and the landscape beyond, was originally built in 1774, remodelled by Decimus Burton (of Kew Palm House fame) in 1855 and then transformed in 1907 in the Edwardian Baroque style for Thomas Albert Cook, grandson of Thomas Cook, whose descendants live here still. The Italianate garden of the same date falls towards the park in monumental terraces. This is a wonderful and very comfortable house, whose history will be explained to us by Charles Temple-Richards, the current owner, before lunch in the winter garden.

Silverstone Farm, North Elmham

George Carter Esq

George Carter has been gardening the two acres at Silverstone Farm for the last 20 years. He was originally a sculptor who turned garden designer during the 1980s. His style is architectural, classical and green. He has divided the garden into a series of beautifully proportioned, predominantly hornbeam-hedged theatrical spaces and vistas, decorated by sculptural objects ranging from gates formed out of garden implements (very much his trademark) to urns made from plywood. Invariably the practical is made beautiful; a modest garden shed is given a Vanbrughian makeover, a wooden post has a delicious apple-shaped lead finial. This is a garden concerned with structure and ornament, but based on a very sound knowledge and appreciation of plants.

Meet at Silverstone Farm . Lunch at Sennowe Park.

There are seven extremely comfortable double and twin bedrooms, all with stunning views across the terraced gardens and park at Sennowe available for bed and breakfast. If you would like to book, please contact Virginia Temple-Richards directly at info@sennowepark.com. The website is www.sennowepark.com

13. Norfolk

£110

Thursday 5th July

Chestnut Farm, West Beckham, Holt

Mr and Mrs John McNeil Wilson

John and Judy McNeil Wilson moved into Chestnut Farm in 1963 and immediately started work on the garden. Initially they were concerned with levelling to create a croquet lawn, but soon planting became the priority. The result is a garden filled with wonderful horticultural delights growing with great vigour in this mildly acidic glacial soil. In the woodland garden a *Pittosporum* and *Griselinia*, more trees than shrubs, show how big these can get if grown well. An old paddock has been transformed into a botanic sweet tin with *Hoheria*, *Sorbus* and *Malus* species, *Acer griseum*, *Liriodendron tulipifera*, and *Calycanthus* among so much else. This is a garden of huge charm gardened with great expertise and enthusiasm.

Hunworth Hall, Hunworth, Holt

Henry and Charlotte Crawley

Hunworth Hall was built in 1699 and the Dutch style of the house is echoed in the formal layout of the garden. This is no mere historical recreation, although old estate maps provided the inspiration for the contemporary layout, but is an original design, from scratch, by Henry Crawley. Clipped beech, *Thuja* and evergreen oak hedges divide the gently sloping area into different rooms along a central vista that runs the length of the garden. Two canals which run at right angles are overlooked by a charming pavilion based on the original at Westbury Court in Gloucestershire. The last section of the garden is a working kitchen garden.

Meet at Chestnut Farm. Lunch at Hunworth Hall.

Wednesday 5th September

Farrs, Beaminster

Mr and Mrs John Makepeace

John and Jennie Makepeace moved to Farrs in 2001 from nearby Parnham and set about a complete restoration of the 1730s house, and the design and replanting of the gardens. The house was finished in a year, but the garden was only completed in 2008. The first section wraps around the house in a simple, but effective combination of lawns and ancient yew hedges which have acquired that organic undulating shape that only antiquity can bestow. Beyond the yew lies a wonderful contrast and exactly the sort of garden one would expect from one of our leading contemporary furniture designers. A slender tapering wooden bridge arches across a pond set in a sea of grasses towards a stone and knapped-flint pavilion. Beyond, and again in contrast, lies Jennie's garden and studio. It is a delicious mixture of cutting and kitchen garden, with beds crammed with fruit and vegetables jostling with annuals and perennials.

Harvard Farm, Halstock

Mr and Mrs Tim Hobson

Harvard Farm is a garden that reveals itself slowly. The house sits on a windswept hill protected from the east by mature shrubs and trees, mostly grown from seed. The main lawn and garden are on the west side, sheltered by walls and the remaining barns. It has been a labour of love, which becomes apparent as Dilly Hobson talks about the conditions they encountered when they bought the property; derelict farm buildings, yards of concrete and a punishing wind. It is difficult now to imagine that there has not always been a garden here and one in which first-rate planting is mixed to perfection with the structure of old barns and the cloud-clipped evergreen shrubs which are the contribution of her son Jake Hobson, whose company, Niwaki, supply wonderful clippers, secateurs and ladders.

The Old Parsonage

Ben Pentreath Esq and Charlie McCormick Esq

The Regency Old Parsonage stands above the mainly 1850s church looking across a lovely Dorset valley. The garden was originally laid out by Ben Pentreath some nine years ago, but has acquired a new lease of life since Charlie McCormick took it over. New double borders, backed by yew hedges, which have already achieved a remarkable maturity, stretch away from the french windows of the drawing room and below this is the tour de force of the Dahlia walk that runs for almost the whole length of the garden and looks its spectacular best as late summer merges into autumn. An ancient beech stands above the parson's path to the church and beyond this is Charlie's passion, the vegetable and cutting garden. A smart row of white painted cloches span the borders between rows of competition sweet peas, more experimental dahlias and vegetables for the house.

Meet at The Old Parsonage. Lunch at Harvard Farm.

Thursday 6th September**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 wild-flower 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 12th September

Brockhampton Cottage, Brockhampton

Peter Clay Esq

Peter Clay, the founder of Crocus, the internet plant company, inherited Brockhampton and its wonderful views towards Ross-on-Wye and engaged Tom Stuart-Smith to create an ever-expanding garden immediately around the house. The result is a romantic mixture of structural planting and massed perennials in borders spilling away from the house. Topiaried columns of beech march along a grass terrace on one side of the house with views between them onto an orchard of perry pears. In the valley, Peter has created a lake, which by careful contouring of the hillside, is perfectly visible from the house. Here he has created a second, less structured, garden of trees and shrubs, approached through the wild-flower meadow.

Grendon Court, Upton Bishop

Mr and Mrs Mark Edwards

The garden at Grendon Court is also by Tom Stuart-Smith and shows his versatility as a designer. The scale of Kate Edward's vision for the house and garden is breathtaking: on one side, part of the house was buried to create a new garden space; on the other the hillside was excavated to form a new terrace. The final result justifies her bravery and confidence in her designer. The garden surrounds the house and settles it happily into the landscape. Late perennial borders run away from new terracing by the house on either side of the main lawn leading to box and grass borders at the far end. The main part of the garden, which lies above the house and is visible from the first floor rooms, is approached by steps up the steep bank. A path through late summer-flowering herbaceous planting leads to a summerhouse and a swimming pool entirely screened by a mass planting of *Miscanthus*, which in September, will be at its best.

Scatterford Farm, Newland, Coleford

Sean Swallow

Scatterford Farm stands in a shallow valley on the western edge of the Forest of Dean. Around the 15th century yeoman's house and farm buildings Sean Swallow, a garden designer, has created a garden over the last seven years. It is a garden that sits comfortably with its landscape, designed for the late summer when the mass of *Lobelias*, *Asters* and *Eupatorium* come into their own. There is a firm structure to the garden, particularly by the house where a hornbeam tunnel, under-planted for spring-flowering, runs along one side of a lawn which has an elegant oval pool at its centre. Dry-stone walls divide the various spaces of the house and moss softened steps lead gently up the slope onto another large lawn which, amphitheatre-like, has been sculpted into a series of curving grass terraces. A large stone barn, partially covered with *Rosa filipes* 'Kiftsgate', stands between the lawn and a large natural pond, lushly planted with marginals and drifts of *Lythrum*, *Astilbes* and *Primulas*.

Meet at Scatterford Farm. Lunch at Grendon Court.

Spring in Piedmont

Monday 23rd –Friday 27th April 2018

Monday 21st- Friday 25th May 2018

Piedmont is a country of the border lands; in Italy and yet with a strongly marked difference. Around Turin, the Alps, rising to the west in a huge embracing arc, are a constant presence. Turin feels unlike any other Italian city; it is laid out in a grid pattern, a legacy from the Roman town founded in 28BC, but these elegant streets have wide colonnades, which make for very agreeable strolling and many end dramatically in a vista of snow-covered peaks. It is a city of great charm, filled with treasures; royal palaces are scattered in profusion in and just outside the city, baroque churches in equal number, a fine art gallery attached to the Royal Palace, and a world class Egyptian Museum, which contains the largest collection of antiquities outside Egypt.

On the first day we catch an afternoon flight from Gatwick to Turin and check into our four-star hotel in the heart of the city. We spend the morning of the second day exploring the city before lunch in a local pasticceria. The afternoon will be free to visit the Egyptian Museum, the Palazzo Madama or to shop.

The following day we drive to visit a private garden in the hills above the Po valley. The garden was designed by Paolo Pejrone, Italy's leading contemporary garden designer. Open lawns fringed with trees contrast with terraces draped extravagantly with Wisteria and, below the villa, the long views south towards Liguria. After lunch we drive round Turin to the Venaria Reale, a vast former royal palace, which has recently undergone extensive and imaginative restoration. The gardens have been restored in a modern interpretation of a formal baroque garden.

On Thursday we travel south to see the astonishing gothic frescos in the Castello di Manta. We continue to a private botanic garden nearby and then, after lunch, we visit Paolo Pejrone's private garden. Paolo Pejrone has designed gardens across the world and his own five-hectare garden, which unfolds over the hillside behind his house, is rarely open and a delight to see.

On the last day of the tour we visit the royal palace at Stupinigi, built by the court architect, Filippo Juvarra in 1729, as a hunting lodge. The curiously-shaped palace culminates in the enormous central hall, whose roof is suitably adorned with a vast bronze stag. We conclude the tour at Villa Silvio Pellico, whose garden, designed by Russell Page in the 1950s, has been so often photographed as to become the iconic image of his work. After a tour of the garden we will have lunch before returning to Turin Airport for the late afternoon flight to Gatwick.



Total Cost: The five days, including four nights in the four-star Hotel Victoria in Turin (two people sharing), four lunches, one dinner, all entrance fees to the gardens and travel by luxury air-conditioned coach (flights to and from Turin are NOT included), will cost £2,300.00pp. For anyone requiring the single use of a double room, there will be a supplement, levied by the hotel, of £225.00.

Ninfa and Gardens of the Roman Campagna

Monday 7th - Friday 11th May 2018

Rome has long exerted a magnetic fascination. Around the city, Romans wishing to escape the heat and bustle, have built villas and created enchanting gardens. The middle of the 16th Century was the heyday of the formal Italian garden, when cardinals created extravagant retreats replete with grottos and statuary, clipped evergreens, citrus trees in pots and, above all, copious flowing water. Gradually this gave way to the informal English style and the greatest of all Italian gardens at Ninfa.

Though our first night is in an hotel near Lake Bracciano, north of Rome, this five-day tour is otherwise based in Frascati, a small town on the slopes of the Alban Hills.

We fly to Rome Fiumicino Airport in the afternoon of the first day and drive to a garden created by the present owner. Spectacular Mediterranean pines are softened by roses which smother the walls of the castle. We will then continue on to our hotel nearby for the first night.

The second day starts with a visit to Villa Farnese at Caprarola. Behind the imposing five-sided palazzo, lies an enchanting secret garden. From here we drive to lunch at Castello Ruspoli, where the garden of clipped box, laurel and rosemary hedges was designed in the 1600s. In the afternoon, after visiting the Villa Lante, one of the loveliest and best-preserved Renaissance gardens in Italy, we continue to Frascati and our hotel for the next three nights.

On Wednesday we visit the Villa d'Este at Tivoli, where water, in an endless stream, pours from fountains, cascades down water staircases and fills mirror-like pools. We continue to Arabella Lennox-Boyd's palazzo in the Sabine Hills, where we have lunch before visiting her garden. Afterwards we return to Frascati for an afternoon free to explore the town.

On the following day we visit two spectacular gardens south of Rome. In the morning we go to a private garden, created by Dan Pearson over the last 20 years, in the ruins of a medieval fortress. After lunch we continue to Ninfa, where, from the 1890s, an abandoned medieval town was transformed into one of the most beautiful gardens in the world. Roses riot over the old stone walls and wisteria, swathed over bridges, is reflected in the fast-flowing streams.

On the last day we start with a tour of a garden exuberantly filled with shrub and climbing roses created by one of Italy's most inspirational rose growers. We continue to Giardino della Landriana for lunch followed by a tour of the garden which was designed by Russell Page and the owner, Lavinia Taverna, from 1968. We then return to Fiumicino Airport for a late afternoon flight to London.



Total Cost: The five days, including four nights in four-star hotels (two people sharing), dinner on the first night, four lunches, all entrance fees to ten gardens and travel by luxury air-conditioned coach (flights to and from Rome are NOT included), will cost £2,300.00 pp. For anyone requiring the single use of a double room, there will be a supplement of £220.00.

Day Tours Booking Terms and Conditions

1. All tours in the 2018 programme are £145.00 per person, with the exception of tour 13 which is £110 per person. 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 3, 13 and 15).
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 confirmation 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 bank transfer payable to Border Lines or by cheque. A receipt for your payment and directions to the gardens will be emailed to you. 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.

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BORDER LINES

DAY TOURS BOOKING FORM 2018

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

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

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County **Postcode**

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Tour	No of places	Fee	Total

Total

Please tell us if you have any food allergies:

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 I enclose a cheque for £ payable to Border Lines

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