

ISLE OF WIGHT GARDENS TRUST



WINTER NEWSLETTER 2022



ISLE OF WIGHT GARDENS TRUST

Charitable Incorporated Organisation No. 1165283

Member of the Gardens Trust

Committee of Management (Trustees) 2020-2021

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Chairman John Brownscombe, Vicky, Moira and Pamela. Susan Dobbs behind the camera and John Harrison and Sue Giles hidden from view



Your committee also working hard with their display at the Wolverton show



At Hardy's cottage garden plants on our way to Folly Farm, on perhaps the hottest day of the year

Chairman's Forward

We start a new year and thoughts turn from reflecting to planning for the spring and the promise of renewal to come.

Although we are not fully back to the normalities of pre Covid, 2021 saw us able to once again enjoy the things we used to do before the restrictions. This included being able to meet up with friends, family, and others to enjoy celebrations, experiences, and interests together. The spectre of the new Omicron variant has brought uncertainty over whether there may be further controls necessary but the hope is that these may not be required and we can continue to gradually return to a more familiar, and once taken for granted, way of living.

The green spaces local to us have had heightened importance over the last two years. During lock down in the spring of 2020 they were often the only places available to many who are not fortunate enough to have their own gardens and even for those of us who do, were spaces where we too could find rest, relaxation, and perspective in a very worry time.

Whilst enjoying 'staycations' in England and re-visiting or discovering, new designed landscapes, it occurred to me that our inability to travel further afield is similar perhaps to that of the nobility in the early C19th whose Grand Tours of Europe were curtailed by the Napoleonic Wars. Back then as now this led to an increased interest and appreciation for the natural and designed landscape wonders of the UK.

The wider realisation of the health and well-being benefits of the green space around us, and the greater appreciation of the wealth of interest and enjoyment offered by the beautiful landscapes, parks and gardens across the UK, offer an opportunity. Following this proven public benefit, it's an ideal time for a designed landscape renaissance, with increased investment, restoration, and innovation to provide green spaces that appeal to a wide audience. Let us hope that this is harnessed and acts as a springboard for a brighter future; the Isle of Wight Gardens Trust will certainly look to play a part in making this happen.

We have seen a return to more IW Gardens Trust activity in the last few months including providing our thoughts on the Ryde Interchange project, discussions over the re-establishment of the review of the Local List by the Isle of Wight Council and comment on the draft of the Isle of Wight Planning Strategy. We have also had contact from developers in relation to the Perpetuus tidal power onshore connections at Flowers Brook and then commenting on the planning application, and the ongoing thoughts of developers over the yet to be published redevelopment proposals at Norris Castle. We were also finally able to enjoy a visit Folly Farm which had been postponed. We hope to continue with this approach and you will see some details of planned events in this edition.

We are pleased to once again be able to bring this newsletter to you in printed form. Following on from discussions at the AGM and more recently by the IWGT Committee our aim is to continue to do this, but to do so we will need to increase our subscription



rates from this April 2022. Please see the enclosed flyer detailing the new rates and can I please ask those of you who pay by standing order, to notify your bank of the increased cost going forward. For those like myself who are Life Members please could we ask you to consider making a donation to help us to cover print and distribution costs.

How wonderful to meet again! We had such delight after the AGM. Here Peter Grimaldi is giving a tour at Tyne Hall

Finally, we are looking for voluntary help with our bookkeeping and would ask anyone who may be interested in helping us to contact Chairman@iowgardenstrust.co.uk for a further discussion.

I also hope you enjoy this edition of our newsletter.

John Brownscombe

Chairman Isle of Wight Gardens Trust



The front of Eastcliff with the wildflower meadow. See following pages for reports

AGM Report

On Wednesday, 8th September, 2021 25 members of the Isle of Wight Gardens Trust attended the 2020/2021 Annual General Meeting at Bembridge Sailing Club. The Chairman John Brownscombe opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and acknowledging how good it was to be able to meet in person at last instead of virtually via Zoom as at the 2019/2020 Annual General Meeting held in February, 2021. John thanked members for staying loyal to the IWGT during this difficult time and hoped that members felt the Trustees were doing a good job.

He reported that due to Covid-19 many activities and events were curtailed and Kate Harwood's lecture and the proposed visit to Folly Farm had to be postponed. However Kate was able to give two free 45-minute Zoom lectures on Exotics and Glass Houses. Both lectures were well attended and members were able to ask Kate questions at the end of them. The Garden Museum, Royal Horticultural Society, the National Garden Scheme and John Phibbs were able to provide lectures and virtual garden tours and details were sent out via the IWGT website. Members were asked to let the Trustees know of any visits or events they would like to have organised. A small Events Committee has been formed of Susan Dobbs, Sue Giles, Sheila Caws and Moira Sibley.

Tim Woodcock, Treasurer, retired and John Harrison has temporarily taken control, but it is hoped that somebody will volunteer their expertise in accounting quite shortly. John reported that the accounts remain healthy although subscriptions were down due to Covid-19. Pamela England informed the meeting that in the year 2019/2020 there were 199 members, 50 of which were life members. There were eight new members. Membership comprised 80 single and 59 couples and one adult student. Reminders will be sent to those who have yet to pay their subscription.

Trustees Susan Dobbs (Events and Visits) and Moira Sibley (Secretary) stepped down by rotation and both were re-elected unanimously. It was proposed and accepted unanimously that Harrison Black be re-appointed as the Independent Examiner. Vicky Basford gave an overview of the work carried out by the IWGT sub-committee on planning and conservation. She is also continuing her work on the development and recording of the IWGT archive. John Brownscombe was sad to report the deaths of three valued members of the IWGT, Geoff Cadman, Chris Mann and John Hill.

After the formal part of the Annual General Meeting, at the invitation of Mr and Mrs Grimaldi and Sir Ian and Lady Cheshire, members visited their beautiful gardens at Tyne Hall and East Cliff.

Tribute to Geoff Cadman

Geoff Cadman died on 15th July 2021 at Highfield Nursing Home, Ryde. A Yorkshireman – Geoff came to work in the Island's Planning Unit in the late 1960s or early 1970s. From the start he took an interest in the Island's countryside, archaeology and landscape heritage. Geoff was involved with the Isle of Wight Gardens Trust from its foundation in 1989. Indeed, his connections with local historic parks and gardens go back even earlier than the Trust's foundation. As a senior Planning Officer, he was instrumental, with Isle of Wight County Councillor Ron Smith, and with the assistance of Planning Officer Stuart Traves, in commissioning a survey of these parks and gardens in 1987 and then arranging for the County Council to publish a book on the subject in 1989. Geoff and Ron ensured that the Isle of Wight was one of the earliest counties to study and seek to protect its heritage of designed landscapes. As freelance consultant on the survey and the book, Vicky Basford worked closely with Geoff at this time.

Geoff was for many years a trustee and committee member of the Isle of Wight Gardens Trust. He and his wife, Christine, enjoyed participating in garden visits and social events. In 2017 Geoff stood down as a trustee. Members of the trust celebrated his long service at a lunch held at the 'Fighting Cocks', Arreton. On standing down as a trustee, Geoff was made an Honorary Life Member of the Trust in recognition of his long service.

IWGT members Lorna McRobie and Mike Dawson were close neighbours of Geoff and Christine at the Strand, Ryde. Helen Thomas was in contact with Geoff earlier this year and enjoyed a chat with him on the phone. Our current Chairman, John Brownscombe, wrote to members after Geoff's death "I enjoyed working with Geoff when he was on our committee, benefiting from his extensive and longstanding knowledge. A great loss."



Geoff and Christine – second and third from left. Fighting Cock's Lunch 2017

Zoom talks from Kate Harwood

Kate gave our members two most interesting talks in March/

The first talk, attended by 34 members, was on greenhouses and the second on exotics through the ages. One learnt a lot about plant introductions particularly how camellias were first thought to have to be kept in a glasshouse for protection like the one at Chiswick House and Glasnevin.

By coincidence, we had a visitor who gave me a book about the the Loddiges, who had a nursery in Hackney and built the largest palm house in the world at 40 feet, housing some 2,500 species, supplying plants and other exotics across the world. This predated the Kew palm house built in 1848.



Bicton Palm House



Bicton Palms

By chance we came back from Devon and found ourselves staying next to Bicton Park Botanic Gardens (well worth a visit). Lord Rolle built the 29 foot palm house, inspired by John Loudon, in 1825 with 18,000 panes of glass, which then inspired the palm house at Kew and is now the second largest of its kind after Kew. (Editor)

Another sad loss

On November 24th Jack Thompson, Patsy Thompson's husband died in a nursing home.

He was always such a support in all the events Patsy organised for the Trust.



AGM Visits to Bembridge Gardens

Following our Annual General Meeting at Bembridge Sailing Club on 8th September, members had the opportunity to visit two notable Bembridge gardens. Tyne Hall and East Cliff are adjacent to each other in a coastal location to the northeast of Love Lane and were first developed as the grounds to marine villas in the early 19th century.

Tyne Hall has been the home of members Peter and Davinia Grimaldi for nearly 40 years, who gave us a guided tour. The garden was last visited by IWGT members in 2010. The property was probably built in the 1830s of local stone from nearby Bembridge Ledge. In the 19th century the grounds contained about 30 acres including park-like grounds, pleasure gardens and a kitchen garden. The grounds now comprise about 12 acres including six acres of paddock extending towards 200 metres of cliff-edge with stunning views over the Solent to the north-east. The formal garden area includes a rose garden and is divided from the paddock by a ha-ha surmounted by stone pilasters. Behind the house is a spacious productive kitchen garden. There are mature trees, in particular an oak thought to be nearly 150 years old and recent plantings including a rare specimen of the Wollemi Pine and a number of fine trees including magnolia planted when the Grimaldis first moved to Tyne Hall. An avenue of camellias and less common shrubs leads down to a pavilion overlooking the sea. The situation is most impressive and has been maintained to a high standard, commanding an impressive part of the Island's coastline.



Davinia Grimaldi welcomes Liz and Sally in the Rose Garden at Tyne Hall

The original house at **East Cliff** was built in the Regency period when the surrounding estate comprised some 52 acres. Ornamental gardens, parkland and a walled kitchen garden were shown on the 1866 six-inch Ordnance Survey map. In 1933 East Cliff was owned by the Earl of Fitzwilliam, one of the founders of Bembridge Sailing Club but the house was destroyed in a fire at that date. A new house was commissioned from architects Armstrong and Gardener, the latter



having been a pupil of Sir Edwin Lutyens. This house is spacious and light with a distinctive, green-tiled roof. East Cliff is now the home of Sir Ian and Lady Cheshire and we were welcomed to the property by Lady Cheshire. The present-day grounds of 15 acres have recently been completely remodelled by garden designer Arabella Lennox-Boyd who has described East Cliff in her book *'Gardens in My Life'*, published this year. We started our tour in the forecourt on the east side of the house. Passing an enclosed garden of roses and perennials with a white theme and a paved terrace to the south of the house we emerged beside the pool garden and continued to another large terrace at the west side of the property onto which the drawing room and reception areas open. Deep beds anchor this terrace to the house and yew cubes draw the eye on to the generous double borders with bold planting of delphiniums, Eupatorium, phlox and veronicastrums. On the north side of the house, beyond a sea-facing terrace, a simple double line of yew cubes leads the eye to the wider coastal vista. This frontage of the garden contrasts with the intricately planted areas around the house. It consists mainly of



informal grassland with large specimens of *Quercus ilex*. However, a final surprise awaited us. On either side of a wide mown area leading towards the cliff-edge were wildflower meadows still vibrant with colour at the end of the summer.

Vicky Basford

Report on the 'Blooming Gardens' weekend held at Osborne House on Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th June 2021

The Isle of Wight Gardens Trust was asked by Linden Groves of the Gardens Trust if we would be willing to take part in the 'Blooming Gardens' weekend at Osborne House, jointly organised by themselves and English Heritage. The general aim of the weekend was to a) promote and celebrate garden visiting and b) raise awareness of the Gardens Trust as an organisation devoted to the promotion and protection of gardens nationally and regionally. Toby Beasley, head gardener at Osborne House explained that the Gardens and Landscape department of English Heritage want to focus on the historical aspect of gardening so 'Blooming Gardens' is a bit different from other garden events.

Toby, Alan Hickey and the team were extremely helpful and friendly in making sure we were well set up for the weekend, providing a gazebo, chairs and tables and helping with transporting our equipment from car to stand. This included our books, booklets, newsletters and the new membership forms which highlight our charitable work. He is hopeful that next year they will be able to follow their usual format and have more exhibitors back once again.



Vicky and Moira at Osborne, part of our loyal committee with a display on The Garden Trust and Isle of Wight Gardens Trust

The IWGT had a successful weekend although there were fewer activities organised and less people attending than usual. We were lucky with the weather and managed to talk to quite a few people selling a number of our books and booklets. We secured three new members and others showed an interest in becoming members. The Gardens Trust provided the stand with two pull-up

banners, promoting their work and advertising some famous gardens. This has prompted the Trustees to purchase two banners of our own to display at future events, specifically about the Isle of Wight Gardens Trust and highlighting our charitable work.

Following the event the Gardens Trust held a Zoom debrief meeting with the County Gardens Trusts who were involved in other areas. The Gardens Trust reflected that there were considerable challenges in organising the event especially due to the pandemic and the fact it was their first time. They were grateful to the County Gardens Trusts for their enthusiasm and energy. John Brownscombe commented that the IWGT had found the event a good test bed for us appearing at more events in the future. As a result, the IWGT decided to man a stall at the Wolverton Manor Garden event.



Some of us had not been to Osborne since the restoration of the lower terraces enabled the public to visit. For the Blooming gardens event, historical information of each of the roses was given but with a late Spring many were not yet blooming

Folly Farm visit

Finally, after postponing last year, 27 members and their friends descended on Folly Farm on July 22nd on what may have been the hottest day of the year. But what a treat. We felt like royalty, especially with a staff of six serving us tea under the shade of a pergola in the walled garden. Thanks to Simon Goodenough head of the estate, one of our former committee members, we were one of just half a dozen groups this year to see this fabulous garden owned by the Oppenheimer family, and surrounding the Lutyens designed house and gardens. What a day to remember and well done Susan for organising a special day.

Simon told us how the waterlilies were removed so as to show off this reflection in the Jekyll designed canal. Note the old 18th century house and the Lutyens extension to the left.

For a full description of our visit by our Chairman see <https://tinyurl.com/FollyFarmarticle>



Hardy's Cottage Plants with coloured posts indicating areas of planting



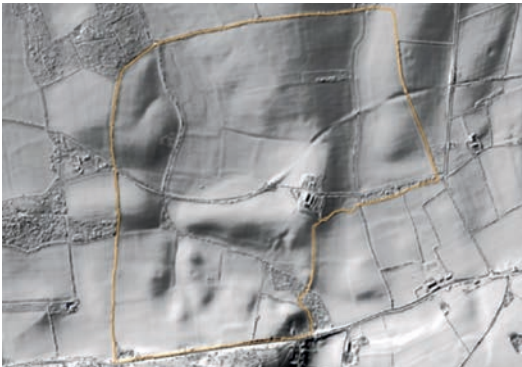
Room in the IOW minibus for all the plants we bought



Regretfully we could not take photographs

Introduction to research on Old Park, Calbourne by Vicky Basford

An addendum to the newsletter discusses an area now known as Great Park. This lies to the north of the Carisbrooke-Calbourne Road and west of Betty Haunt Lane, approximately 3 km west of Carisbrooke. It is a former deer park created by William the Conqueror shortly after the Norman Conquest and is described in the Domesday Book of 1086 as the *King's Park*. The deer park boundary remains almost intact and is a remarkable survival. An historic



Great Park Lidar Imagery showing outline of park
LIDAR map rendering provided by houseprices.io.
Creative Commons Attribution Licence CC BY 4.0

landscape assessment of Great Park was recently carried out in connection with a Countryside Stewardship application and has been drawn on to describe events in the park's history. The site retained its parkland character until the late 17th or early 18th Century and was visited by King Charles II in 1671. Great Park was sold by the Commissioners of the Queen's Woods to Sir John Simeon of Swainston 3rd Bart in 1864 and has changed hands several times since that date. It has been in arable use until recently but it is now hoped to restore the character of the former deer park with its wood-pasture, associated tree and shrub cover and, where appropriate, recreated woodland. Great Park is private but a public footpath starting beside Betty Haunt Lane runs from east to west through the centre of the former park and allows walkers to view the landscape.



Detail from John Speed Map of Wight Island 1611
showing 'Waching park' and 'Woottone Park'
Digital image reproduced by permission of the
Isle of Wight Council

Isle of Wight Garden Trust Events 2022

Events arranged so far:

MAY 4th Wednesday. Minibus Trip to Sussex to visit John Brookes' Garden near Arundel with a lecture on its history. We will have a pub lunch on the way to our afternoon visit booked at Architectural Plants near Pulborough. There will be room in the minibus boot should you wish to buy plants!

Wightlink Fishborne ferry around 9.00am – return to be confirmed

Cost for the visit £60 – pub lunch pay locally

Please complete booking form by March 24th - minibus limited to 16.

John Brookes MBE discovered the garden in the early 1970s when, as the Director of the Inchbald School of Garden Design, he took his students to look at gardens. What immediately attracted him was that Denmans was not trying to be something it was not. In 1980 he persuaded Joyce, or “Mrs.



Photograph – www.denmans.org/gallery

J.H.”, to let him renovate the old stable block, which he named Clock House, and he moved in, starting his own Clock House School of Design. The garden has been an inspiration to so many garden designers, particularly with the success of bringing the house and garden together.

Architectural Plants. A fit of pique drove Angus White to start this business in the spring of 1990. He was furious and perplexed that he couldn't buy the plants that he had fallen in love with and was determined to do something about it.

“To my mind, these plants all had something in common – they were highly sculptural and tremendously green. To quote from our first catalogue: ‘in the jargon of horticulture, these are known as ‘architectural plants’. Not because they belong in buildings but because the plants



themselves have their own ‘architecture’ – strong, sometimes spectacular, shapes which bring a distinctive year-round presence to a garden.”

Angus is most keen on Niwaki pruning of evergreens - maybe not very natural but with really good structure, giving all-year-round interest. The nursery stocks a hug range of evergreens and exotics which also supplies their garden design business.

JUNE 8th Wednesday 3.00pm. Visit to Louise and Derek Ness to see their magical garden at the **Old Rectory Kingston**, (PO38 2JZ) created at the turn of the century. Specialities are the bearded iris, English and shrub roses, with wild flower fields, a pond and a new walled garden with fruit, vegetables and cut flowers. The garden was a finalist last year for best NGS garden of the year, attracts many followers on open days and should be at its prime. Tea will be included, and a possible visit to the old chapel opposite.



Limited to 30 visitors - cost £10

Please complete the booking form by May 7th

JUNE 21st. The 31st AGM at Northcourt, Shorwell, PO30 3JG.

Arrangements to be confirmed by email but expected to start at 16.00 with tea and talk about the gardens, and opportunity to tour. AGM is expected to be held in a marquee in the garden to ensure plenty of fresh air.

MARCH 30th. Online illustrated talk with Kate Harwood at 19.30, entitled ‘Mid 20th Century Gardens’. This will be will Teams rather than Zoom, but all you will need to do is to tap on this link or copy into your browser when we send you a reminder email, or you can type in this into your search engine browser: <https://teams.live.com/meet/94822468804576>

National Gardens Scheme. After a very successful year on the Island after lockdown was eased, the NGS will have 17 gardens open on the Isle of Wight in 2022 of which 7 are new gardens. One of these is **Eastcliff on June 25th 2pm-6pm**, so if you missed visiting after the AGM, put it in your diary.

Northcourt is open on April 10th (and September 18th) 12.00-16.00 for Camellias and later magnolias. (see www.ngs.org.uk for all the gardens). Salterns open by appointment for groups.

Walking festival. Mike Dawson will be leading a walk around Historic Ryde. Please look at the walking festival website for more details. A date between May 7th and 15th is to be fixed. See www.isleofwightwalkingfestival.co.uk for information when published.

Wolverton Show. September 3rd and 4th. We propose to have a stand there again so please look out for us, and enjoy the show.

Heritage Open Days. September. Mike Dawson is also doing a tour around St.John's Park, East Ryde. This will be sometime between September 9th-18th. See www.heritageopendays.org.uk which will be updated in the summer to give dates.

STOP PRESS: Note from the Editor.....

The County Gardens Trusts celebrates 40 years

I have just had an excellent report on the early years of the County Gardens Trusts from Mike Dawson, who has been a member of our committees and who, with Lorna McRobie and Gilly Drummond were the driving force behind the movement. Gilly Drummond as first chair of the Hampshire Gardens Trust, the first Trust to incorporate, and later the first chair of the Association of Gardens Trusts, has now handed over the HGT presidency to Alan Titchmarsh. Below is our picture of the two of them with school award prizewinners at our AGM at the Royal Yacht Squadron. We wish Gilly well in her partial retirement and thank her for all the support she has given us (living just a few miles across the water from Cowes).

A full report on the founding of the Gardens Trust will appear with the next newsletter. Reading the report reminded me it was the Isle of Wight that set the scene for the first conference of County Trusts in October 1989 where we proposed the setting up of a formal Association.



Gilly Drummond and Alan Titchmarsh

Orchard Cottage – renamed The Orchards, St. Lawrence Undercliff

Recent research by Jo Thornton

The original Orchard Cottage was a farm building dating from at least the 16th century. In the late 18th century - early 19th century, a cottage orné, most likely designed by John Nash, was built by Mr James Mackenzie Esq.

These plans are from the sketch book of Repton when he was working in the office of John Nash, which were drawn up for James Mackenzie.



On James Mackenzie's death, his wife was recorded as living there prior to 1813,

when it was sold to Sir Willoughby Gordon, who was the Quarter Master General of the Army. The cottage orné was completely remodelled and rebuilt on a grand scale into what Gordon saw as being a Gentleman's seaside villa.



Lady Gordon was an avid artist and she captured its rural charm in this sketch prior to its rebuild.

The description below is from the 1826 *The Repository of Arts* and details the house and gardens:

The gardens having a gushing fountain, rocky fragments, verdant slopes, winding lawns, orange walks.

The house itself is described as being irregular, with continual additions. The dining room having cabinets full of shells, there was a library with richly carved furniture, and a circular stone staircase that led to a small room that contained richly inlaid cabinets and rare birds.

The drawing room contained rare and fine china, with alabaster figures. There were three French windows opening onto a veranda, which formed a sitting room commanding splendid views of the undercliff.



This map of 1904 shows the location of the Fountain and also of the bath house.

The bath house was built by Sir Willoughby due to his love of the sea. He built himself a two roomed cottage located on the rocks at the beach edge. Being a busy man he constructed an office upstairs so he could attend to his business matters, with a bath house below that was filled by the tides. Unfortunately the bath house was washed away during a storm in 1914, the remains were blown round to Binnel Bay.



This engraving from Puckaster shows the bath house located on the edge of the rocks next to the beach.

Guests at The Orchard, included David Wilkie and J M W Turner, as well as Swinburne. In addition, Queen Victoria was a visitor after the death of her husband. She had

announced that she wished to visit the Gordon residence in private when it was unoccupied and have an indoor picnic! This caused the steward of the property a lot of anxiety and stressful preparation. The house was under the charge of Sir Willoughby Gordon's adult children, Sir Henry Percy Gordon and Julia Emily Gordon, as Sir Willoughby had passed away by this time and his wife was terminally ill at the family's home in Chelsea.

The Queen's Equerry, Lord Charles Fitzroy, arranged the visit, firstly visiting the steward of The Orchards, William Sheath, and then by writing for permissions from the Gordon family. He accompanied the Queen on her visit and sent a messenger on the morning of the visit, followed by a footman with the provisions for the luncheon prior to the Queen's arrival.

Other Events and Talks

www.iowgardenstrust.co.uk – do check this for news and events.

There are back issues of our newsletters and research articles to read – see archive tab. There are three Articles recently posted.

Do also look at www.thegardenstrust.org for other events on the mainland but more importantly lectures you can listen to online.

Thanks to help from the Gardens Trust, on 21st August 2020 Historic England added a number of new sites to the Register of Historic Parks and Gardens. Of these Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe's Shute House garden, Shaftesbury is worthy of a visit from us in the future. John Brooke's garden of Denmans we plan to visit. This was added along with Beth Chatto's garden in Essex. All being well a visit to Shute could be arranged for 2022 – maybe combined with Iford Manor, near Bradford-on-Avon (designed by Harold Peto and recently restored).

Northcourt News and Views 3

Following in from the two articles in the last newsletter and circulated in February 2021, John Harrison has done more research on the parterre at Northcourt. Thanks to the library at the University of Southampton the original designs of the parterre have survived and this is shared with you as an attachment. The parterre was designed by the then owner Sir Henry Percy Gordon in 1842 to replace the orangery. John explores its origin, inspiration and journey through 179 years.



Parterre in full bloom at Northcourt



VISIT to Denmans and Architectural Plants



Wednesday May 4th 2022. £60.00 is required before March 24th.

Please complete your details below and return it with payment made payable to the Isle of Wight Gardens Trust or pay by bank transfer to Isle of Wight Gardens Trust account number 45468560

Sort code 309599 ref: fully followed by your surname.

Name (s)

Address

Email

Tel no. Mobile

Date

Any dietary requirements or disabilities

Visit to the Old Vicarage, Kingston Wednesday June 8th (between Chale and Kingston) at 15.00. Please book by May 7th.

Name (s)

Possible Summerset visit. I am interested in a possible visit to Shute House, Hestercombe and other Dorset and Somerset gardens possibly in mid to late September 2022, involving a night away.

Name (s)

Please send forms and cheques to Susan Dobbs, Salterns Cottage, Seaview, PO345AH

Email sk.dobbs@icloud.com or telephone 01983612132

Please note that vaccinations make these trips possible. However we may need to take precautions and provide test evidence.

Magazines to read

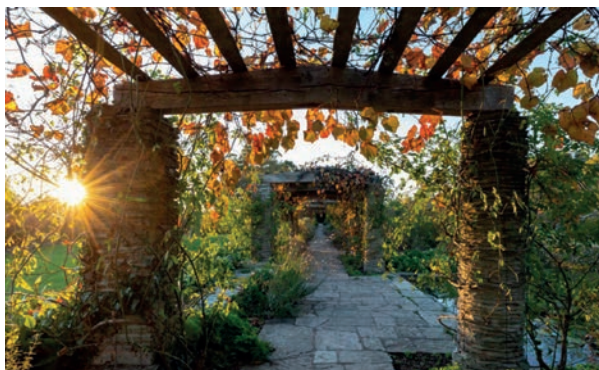
Country Life is celebrating its 125th year this week. Founded by Edward Hudson the first garden writer chosen was Gertrude Jekyll, who introduced him to Lutyens in 1899. Lutyens trained as an architect with Harold Peto, and it is interesting to see the Peto influence of the pergola at Hestercombe at the bottom of this page. Hudson described Lutyens as a genius and commissioned him to build the Deanery Garden, Berkshire, for himself and later to restore Lindisfarne Castle and finally in the 1920's Plumpton Place in Sussex. Lutyens wrote many articles for Country Life having formed a very close friendship, involving Jekyll in projects as at Lindisfarne Castle. Lindisfarne became for Hudson the ultimate expression of romanticism. Hudson's circle of friends included William Robinson who contributed to Country Life, being just one of the great garden writers admired by readers, followed by the likes of Christopher Lloyd. This edition has a really excellent article by Timothy Mowl on the history and interpretation of what he describes as "the most intellectual garden in the country"- William Kent's Rousham.

Country life is in the process of digitalising at least 130,000 images of many country houses. This will be a most valuable resource. To my surprise and amusement one of those historic images copied in this issue is Norris castle in 1906 as it was advertised thus: "One of the most picturesque marine estates in the kingdom – this offers a unique opportunity for a syndicate to develop the Estate as a high-class watering place, as a pier could be erected, at which passenger steamers could call"!

In the Christmas edition Country Life has a mouth-watering article about growing oranges and orangeries, with a wonderful picture of the Lutyens designed orangery at Hestercombe. This reminded me of Kate Harwood's excellent zoom talk on this subject. We really must pay a visit there-such a leading garden restoration story, especially with the Lutyens and Jekyll partnership. Hestercombe now holds the national archives of the Parks and Gardens UK.

The excellent The English Garden magazine has not one page but ten whole pages on cultural and garden tours. How very tempting! Let us follow the garden path and enjoy what is beyond!

Lutyens at
Hestercombe





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