

ISLE OF WIGHT GARDENS TRUST



SPRING NEWSLETTER 2023



Front cover- Sundial in frost, Northcourt December 2022.

Climate emergency. Is time running out? Will our plants and gardens adapt to these weather extremes?

ISLE OF WIGHT GARDENS TRUST

Newsletter content.

2. Contents
3. Trustees and contacts
4. Chairman's forward - John Brownscombe
5. Tribute to Peter Marsden - John Harrison
6. East Dene – Vicky Basford
7. Christmas party report – editor
8. Norris Castle update – Vicky Basford
9. Marine Villa project—Vicky Basford
10. News and views at Northcourt 5: mounts and mounds— John Harrison
11. Mounts and mounds continued
12. Hafod and the picturesque - editor
13. Abridged history of the Garden Trust movement – Mike Dawson
14. Events details
15. William Robinson at Gravetye – editor and Tom Coward
16. Levelling up Wentworth Woodhouse – editor
17. Wentworth Woodhouse continued
18. Abbotsbury - editor
19. Swiss cottages and the Alpine picturesque—
report on talk by Kate Harwood—John Brownscombe

Back cover photo—marine villas on the Island that maybe subject to development.

ISLE OF WIGHT GARDENS TRUST

Charitable Incorporated Organisation No. 1165283

Member of the Gardens Trust

Committee of Management (Trustees) 2023

John Brownscombe (Chairman), Moira Sibley (Secretary),

Vicky Basford (Research),

Pamela England (Membership),

Susan Dobbs, John Harrison , Sheila Caws, Susan Giles, Jane Watson

Newsletter John Harrison

Website Editor

John Brownscombe

Conservation Committee

Vicky Basford, John Brownscombe and James Harrison

Registered address

Northcourt, Shorwell, Newport, Isle of Wight PO30 3JG

Website

www.iowgardenstrust.co.uk

Contacts

Events: please contact Susan Dobbs 01983 612132

Membership: please email membership@iowgardenstrust.co.uk or telephone 01983 752194

For any other enquiries, please email contact@iowgardenstrust.co.uk or telephone 01983 865662

Chairman's Foreword

Welcome to our Spring newsletter, we hope you enjoy reading this edition.

We have an exciting year ahead of us in 2023 as we embark on a new project which we are calling Garden History Detectives. Our first focus is on the Marine Villas of the island and we are looking for volunteers to join us as we learn more about these important sites.

Our planning and conservation work continues. We have provided further input into the consultation on the proposals for Norris Castle, our only Grade I registered park and garden on the Island, considered and commented on plans for East Dene which is in new ownership and once again are contributing to the Local List panel to ensure locally important sites are also recognised, conserved and if possible enhanced.

With a full events programme, we hope there will be a visit or activity that will be of interest to you. We are particularly pleased that Tom Coward, Head Gardener of Gravetye Manor, and regular contributor to *Gardens Illustrated* magazine has agreed to come and speak to us about his work honouring the influence of William Robinson's design at this important garden.

Thank you as always for your continued support, we wouldn't be able to do all that we do as a small charity without it. Subscriptions are due in April for those who pay annually and please make sure that any standing order instructions reflect the current rates of £15 for a single annual membership and £20 for a joint annual membership. If you can also please consider and confirm that you are happy for us to claim Gift Aid.

With best wishes John
Brownscombe. Chairman



Tom, our home-bred boy . Swiss Garden, Old Warden, Biggleswade as shown in Kate Harwood's talk (see article on page 19)

Tribute to Peter Marsden.

We were much saddened by the death of Peter Marsden in December, at the age of 90. Peter took over from John Harrison as Chairman from 1994 and took the Trust to a new level, in particular helping to create the Local list of historic parks and gardens, which the Isle of Wight Council added as an annex to the local plan. This ensured we are consulted on planning applications impacting on these sites. He also helped in adding Northcourt, Ventnor Botanic Gardens and Woodlands Vale, to the National Register of Parks and Gardens, and served as vice-chairman of the Association of Gardens Trusts.

After being Chairman for eight years he continued with vetting planning applications, and his wife Elizabeth continuing to organise events and several very successful trips away. These included three-day visits to these counties: Cornwall 1995, Cheshire 1997, Kent and Sussex 1999, Northumberland 2001, and Essex and Suffolk 2004. The list of gardens visited both on and off the Island was endless including their own garden at Lucerne, Niton. It was a highly successful partnership, and they both joined the Trust for a further trip to North Devon and Normandy, organised by John Harrison. Peter used his training as a Rear Admiral to manage the affairs of the Trust with great efficiency and, despite no training his planning comments were well respected by planning officers. He forged close links with the planning officers and with other organisations such as the CPRE and the National Trust of which he was on the local committee.

After retirement as a committee member he took on the role of President until 2018. As such he played a key role in supporting the then Chairman, John Harrison, in organising the National Conference of Gardens Trusts in October 2010. He much enjoyed watching cricket, concerts, walks, and supporting the beagles.

A memorial service will be held at Niton church on April 14th at noon, where the Trust will be represented.



The partnership in retirement at Lisle Combe



Peter at Westover

Planning Application for East Dene Marine Villa

*East Dene
and
Bonchurch
Old church.
1836 George
Brannon*



East Dene at Bonchurch was the childhood home of the poet Algernon Swinburne in the 1830s and 1840s. This historic property came on the market in 2021 and the Coach House was sold separately from the main house and grounds. In December 2022 a planning application was submitted for the development of the main house at East Dene as a boutique hotel with a proposed single storey spa, 16 eco-holiday lodges and associated parking in the grounds. Whilst East Dene is currently neither on the National Register of Parks and Gardens nor the Local List we believe that the designed landscape of its pleasure grounds is of potential national significance and is an important part of the setting of the Grade II* main building. Its significance was highlighted in the recent report on marine villas in England prepared by Dr Kate Feluś for Historic England. Dr Feluś has ranked the most significant Isle of Wight marine villa sites, taking into account survival and quality of landscape. East Dene was among the top three, scoring only slightly less than Puckaster and Norris Castle.

The Isle of Wight Gardens Trust has written to the Isle of Wight Council in response to the planning application, stating that the site is a rare and important example of a surviving marine villa ensemble. We conclude that the pleasure gardens and the designed landscape features which they include, in the absence of benefitting from their own designated status, should be considered as part of the curtilage and setting of the Grade II* East Dene main building and therefore be given significant weight in consideration of any change on this site. Our letter also states ‘we believe there is sufficient evidence of the national importance of this Marine Villa site to warrant pursuing its addition to the National Register of Parks and Gardens’.

The consultation period for this planning application has now ended. There have been 77 letters of objection from members of the public as well as letters from various statutory consultees expressing concerns. We understand that Historic England is now reviewing East Dene and assessing whether it should be added to the Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England.



Isle of Wight Garden Trust Christmas Luncheon



Many thanks to Susan Dobbs for this very atmospheric photo of the Springhill and Norris headland from the Squadron as well as organising a perfect lunch for 30 members and their guests. Thanks also to the Squadron for an excellent meal and presentation and all those who gave raffle prizes.

After lunch, Vicky Basford, our Conservation Officer, pointed out to members the visual importance of the Springhill site. She referred to the yet to be decided planning application for the combined Norris Castle and Springhill sites. The latter property we had hoped would be added to the National Register. Martin Drury, a former Director General of the National Trust, came as Susan Dobbs' guest and talked to members about whether the National Trust might consider acquiring the coastline within their Enterprise Neptune fund as an important piece of landscape which could help enable public access through the proposed coastal path. A most enjoyable lunch in a perfect setting. Thank you Susan.



New information on Repton's involvement in the design of Norris Castle



Copy from Peacock's Polite Repository - engraving supplied by the Gardens Trust

In 2018 Vicky Basford and Helen Thomas wrote a booklet entitled *Repton on the Isle of Wight* to mark the bicentenary of Humphry Repton's death, available at projects-iowgardenstrust.co.uk. Repton was the most important landscape designer in the late 18th and early 19th centuries and is thought to have been involved in work at several Island properties including Norris Castle. Unfortunately, none of the famous Red Books, which Repton often prepared for his clients, have been discovered for any Isle of Wight landscapes so we are dependent on other evidence, including Repton's drawings for six Isle of Wight properties which were engraved for *Peacock's Polite Repository*, an almanac cum diary for gentlemen. These engravings were often associated with places that Repton had improved. However, recently new evidence has come to light in the form of a page of proofs inscribed (apparently in Repton's hand) 'Proof Impressions of plates engraved from drawings by H Repton of scenery improving under his direction'. The proofs include one of Norris Castle used in the 1805 Polite Repository and is very welcome confirmatory evidence of Repton's involvement in the creation of the Grade I registered landscape, currently the subject of a planning application opposed by the Isle of Wight Gardens Trust.

New Marine Villas Project for Isle of Wight Gardens Trust

The Trustees have recognised a need for new projects which will allow members to become actively involved in recording historic gardens and will encourage volunteers to join the Trust and contribute to its work. We envisage a series of 'Garden History Detective' projects similar to the very successful Walled Kitchen Garden Project of 2014. The first project will be on marine villas. As described in the Autumn 2022 newsletter, a report on marine villas in England by Dr Kate Feluś concluded that the Isle of Wight has some of the best examples in the country although their associated designed landscapes have fared less well. Nevertheless, the Island has retained some intact marine villa settings which need to be fully recorded and conserved. Even where the grounds of marine villas no longer survive there is a need to understand the history of these sites. We are launching the marine villas project with a presentation on 13th May and encourage members to book a place on the events booking form as soon as possible as we will be advertising the presentation widely. There will be six to eight meetings during the project where volunteers will learn how to use documentary sources, online sources, historic maps, photographs and illustrations to research historic sites. There will also be a visit to the Record Office to examine original documents and manuscripts. We hope to make several field visits to fill in record forms and take photographs where permission has been granted. Our aim will be to produce a publication like the one compiled for walled kitchen gardens. The project will conclude with a celebratory event in late autumn 2024.



East Cowes from West Cowes

English School 19th c

View of wooded grounds at Springhill Marine Villa with East Cowes Castle in the background.

Reproduced by kind permission of Robin McInnes

Northcourt news and views 5: mounds and mounts.



One of the earliest features at Northcourt could be the Mount which gives extensive downland views, connecting with the terraces of similar date.

Although often associated with fortifications as mottes, man made mounds became fashionable in Tudor and Stuart gardens, looking downwards to a garden design and outwards to a surrounding landscape. Sometimes they were made from

fortifications but at other times especially made to support maybe a banqueting house or gazebo. As Francis Bacon put it in his famous essay *On Gardens* of 1625: 'At the End of both the Side Grounds, I would have a Mount of some Pretty Height...to looke abroad into the Fields'.



To the left is Lord Hartford's mound at Marlborough drawn in 1776, known as Merlin's Mound. It was thought for many years that Merlin's bones were buried under the mound, and also as a Norman motte, the Seymour family made it a feature for the grounds of their castle in the late 17th century and added a shell grotto in the early 18th century. Now in the grounds of the College there is a Conservation Trust restoring it, and English Heritage surprised all as a result of an archaeological dig to date it about 2400 BC. Now theories suggest it may be an offering to a Neolithic earth god. To the left is the mound under restoration.



The picture to the right shows two of the Northcourt gardeners in 1931 with the Mount banks well clipped. By 1963 they were bramble covered but then flymos and strimmers came to the rescue. In 2022 we let it go wild until a late summer trim. However is that right, following current re-wilding fashions but making the form less clear?





The classic mounts were “snail mounts” making climbing gentle, as with Lady Hartford’s mound but the one at Northcourt, painted here in about 1840, is only half a mount set into the downs behind. It formed a vital part of the enjoyment of the picturesque landscaping of 1795 by Catherine Bull.



One of the most photographed mounts is that of Lyveden New Bield, Northants, thought to be 1583 built for Sir Thomas Gresham. His house and landscape were never completed but it is now a most important Grade I landscape of its period. Should our mount be grounds for Northcourt also to be Grade I?

It is hard to imagine that the Northcourt mount is of prehistoric origin, not being in a prominent downland position and Northcourt was not a military site. It might have been used as a high point for signalling to Carisbrooke Castle via beacons on Chillerton Down, announcing an invasion but there is higher land nearby. Held back on the north side by a crenelated stone wall suggests that the landform might date back to the 17th century (the house was built in 1615 and excavation and retaining walls would have been necessary). It does not look down on the 1835 parterre but towards the steam, church and the bridge. In probability I believe the form is 17th century but Catherine Bull may well have modified it around 1795. An archaeological dig may well come up with some surprises as at Marlborough?

[Mounts and Mounds 1: reusing the past | The Gardens Trust](#)

[Mounds & Mounts 2: the heights of fashion | The Gardens Trust](#)

Hafod Estate, near Caernarvon, Wales– comment by John Harrison

Writing in the last newsletter about picturesque landscapes, I am delighted that the National Trust for Wales has taken over the management of the 200 hectares of the Hafod estate near Aberystwyth. Many consider this to be the finest historic picturesque landscapes of the 18th century in Europe, harnessing the natural landforms and waterways. Once a hunting lodge for Welsh chieftains and then the home to a Cistercian monastery it became home to the landed gentry.

From 1782 Colonel Thomas Johnes built a gothic house here creating a series of vistas, or visual experiences as part of a vast canvas. He laid out his grounds with curving walks designed to create points of view planting some 3 million trees on his estate. He was inspired by William Gilpin's ideas about picturesque landscapes, and learnt from his family's ownership of Croft Castle. His father was married to a grand-daughter of Richard Payne Knight, of Downton, Herefordshire, from whom inspiration was drawn and from his cousin Uvedale Price at Foxley, who was a leading proponent of the picturesque. Embellishments consisted of a gothic arch, an Alpine Bridge running to the Cavern cascade and a ladies' walk around the river Ystwyth gorge.

Most of the land is owned by Natural Resources Wales who in partnership with the Hafod Trust took on the restoration and conservation project, winning the Georgian Group Architectural award for the restoration of a Georgian landscape. See <https://www.Hafod.org>



The establishment of Garden Trusts – early history (abridged version)

The second half of the twentieth century saw a substantial growth of public interest in the conservation of historic gardens. The Garden History Society (GHS) was founded in 1965 to encourage and promote the study of garden history. From the beginning it published newsletters and occasional papers and, from 1972, the academic journal *Garden History*. During the 1970's the society became more widely known, particularly through the efforts of leading conservation campaigner Mavis Batey (1921-1993) as Honorary Secretary (later GHS Chairman and President) as it pursued an active conservation and campaigning role and was involved in some high profile cases. A well publicized, ground breaking exhibition, 'The Garden: 1,000 Years of British Gardening', mounted in 1979 at the Victoria and Albert Museum, included a section on the need for conservation. The National Heritage Act 1983 set up a government agency, later known as English Heritage, responsible for heritage conservation, including the establishment of a national Register of Historic Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest. From then on, local planning authorities were required to take account of the historic value of parks and gardens when deciding planning applications.

By the 1980s there were many county-level organizations in England concerned with conservation of local heritage, wildlife and landscape. These included various county historic buildings trusts, county wildlife trusts and county branches of the Campaign for the Preservation (later Protection) of Rural England and a historic gardens trust (Sussex) involved in restoration of local gardens.

In June 1982 a meeting at Avington Park, organized by Hampshire County Council, agreed to form a charitable trust to promote interest and concern for historic gardens in Hampshire, modelled on the existing and successful Hampshire Historic Gardens Trust. The new organization would be called a gardens trust, not a historic parks and gardens trust , so that it could be involved with the creation of gardens for educational purposes and gain support of gardeners. In applying to the Charity Commission for charitable status, one issue was securing public benefit, in return for the Hampshire Gardens Trust (HGT) giving assistance to private owners.

A particularly significant, joint meeting of CGT representatives was held over two days in October 1989 on the Isle of Wight and included a lecture and visits to gardens. This formula would be followed for the next twenty-five years. Such engaging annual conferences, with delegates from all over the country, allowed individual CGTs to share their county's notable historic park assets with a series of related, explanatory talks .

That 1989 Isle of Wight meeting agreed to set up a steering committee to examine the feasibility of the formation of an association of gardens trusts, Representatives of fifteen trusts or so steering group members attended the next joint meeting in March 1990, together with other organisations and Mavis Batey. They expressed a diversity of views on the proposal to establish a formal association. Kent Gardens Trust (GT) supported the suggestion for meetings to exchange views and information but was against any form of bureaucracy. Concerns were expressed about the cost of an association and the danger of losing the individuality of separate trusts. However, the meeting agreed draft objects of an Association and for a constitution to be drafted that might also embrace site-based trusts such as Painshill Park. Later in practice, such trusts became members of their local county or country gardens trusts — see www.iowgardenstrust.co.uk for full article.

Isle of Wight Gardens Trust events 2023.

Saturday June 3rd Northcourt, Shorwell, PO30 3JG . 18.00 pm.

Talk about **William Robinson and Gravetye Manor** by head gardener Tom Coward £ 15 per person to include glass of wine. Donation to be made by IWGT to the Friends of Oakdown Trust, Tom's chosen charity. A chance also to wander through the Northcourt gardens.

Booking essential as per the enclosed by April 30th.

Thursday June 29th June. Abbotsbury, Dorset. The Friends of Ventnor Botanic Gardens have invited us to join them for the day at £45 per head including ferry, coach and lunch at the Abbey House Hotel. Please see booking form for more information and description page 18. The Friends are also organising a trip to Thenford in Northamptonshire , home to Mr. and Mrs. Michael Heseltine, on October 19th, and if interested contact Sally Peake for details as she may have spare places . (sallyepeake@btinternet.com)

Early Booking essential for Abbotsbury—Please see details enclosed by May 15th

Wednesday July 5th 12.00 AGM. At 10.00 there is a tour of the garden at Farringford House (lasting up to an hour) followed by the **AGM at Warren Farm, Alum Bay** PO 39 0JB . You may wish to have a light lunch afterwards at Warren Farm and visit Farringford House for a timed tour of the house at 14.45 (booking in advance essential on 01983752500). Entry charge to the garden £4.50, except for RHS members who are free. There are no facilities at Farringford House, but if you have time after the AGM or before the tour do not miss the exhibition of the history of the restoration of house and garden. To have an idea of numbers please let us know by June 15th.

The Newt, Somerset in October 3rd or 17th.

The Newt, was formerly Penelope Hobhouse's house and garden, then known as Hadspen House, until it was subject to a very major development by the owners of Babylonstoren near Cape Town. The wonderful parabola walled garden is trained with apples and pears, a new cascade, a farm shop amongst the many attractions.

The Newt sponsors the RHS Chelsea Flower Show and the journey by coach or minibus is likely to take 1hr and a half. The cost for the trip will depend on numbers but could be up to £75 per head including all travel and lunch. Please complete the enclosed if interested.

Gravetye Manor, William Robinson's Wild Garden

William Robinson is often considered one of the most important garden writers of his generation. He was born into poverty in 1838 in rural Ireland and after a training in horticulture emigrated to London in 1862, working in the gardens at Regents Park. Very soon he started writing and his huge amount of work shaped the way we all see gardens today. Amongst other writings he started *The Garden* magazine and *Gardening Illustrated*. His best known books are *The Wild Garden* and *The English Flower Garden*. By 1885 he had become wealthy enough to purchase Gravetye Manor where he spent the rest of his life working on his dream garden. He was an early practitioner of the mixed herbaceous border of hardy perennials, and a champion of the "wild garden", vanquishing the ideas of high Victorian pattern gardens of planted out bedding schemes. He advocated against anything formal, mixing shrubs, climbers and perennials planted in natural looking drifts, using groundcovering plants so that no bare soil was exposed.

Eventually he owned 1,000 acres around Gravetye with much planted as woodland with wild flowers and narcissi. On his death at age 96 it was left to the Forestry Commission who left it derelict for many years until in 1958 it was leased to a restaurateur. William Robinson had a huge influence on gardening styles of his time, being a good friend of Gertrude Jekyll and other notable persons.

Gravetye today is the result of a huge restoration scheme which the owners the Hoskings started in 2010, to restore the gardens as a legacy to Robinson, planting the borders in the same naturalistic style, and restoring the wild flower gardens.

Tom Coward, born on the Island, worked with Christopher Lloyd and Fergus Garrett at Great Dixter before becoming head gardener at Gravetye. As well as working there he has frequent articles published particularly in *Gardens Illustrated*, launched by William Robinson and *Country Life*.

We are very proud to have Tom come and talk to us about the history of this colourful character and his impact on modern gardening, as well as explaining the work involved in renovating and caring for such a special garden.



Levelling up Wentworth Woodhouse- good news.

It is really pleasing how levelling up funds are being used to support heritage. One of the largest beneficiaries must be **Wentworth Woodhouse**, near Rotherham, the longest house in Britain, which has been saved by the Wentworth Woodhouse Preservation Trust.

It has been awarded over £4.6m for the completion of the restoration of the stable block after another £4m was awarded by the heritage lottery fund towards the restoration of the camellia house, now almost complete. The restoration of the garden is ongoing but now the National Trust has agreed to manage the house and gardens of 50 acres on behalf of the Trust.

Work on the house has just received an award from the SPAB (Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings) and the garden has won the prestigious garden award by the Historic Houses Association, sponsored by Christies. Ben Cowell, Director-General of the HHA said ““The rescue of the house at Wentworth Woodhouse is one of the most significant heritage achievements of recent years. The work the team has achieved with the gardens is also nothing short of spectacular and deserves just as much attention. We are thrilled to be able to recognise that work with this award, which is testament to the strong support Wentworth Woodhouse has from its local community.”

The present house was built for Thomas Watson-Wentworth, Marquess of Rockingham from 1724, a great nephew of the first Earl Stafford, who won fame as Charles 1’s administrator. It was built on a very grand scale to boast of his power and wealth and there are some 50 separately listed structures on the estate.



Having been an educational establishment for a number of years, after a short period back in private ownership it is wonderful to see the house being much used again for education and for parts of the house and gardens to be open to visitors, many of whom are from the local communities. Definitely one for the next visit to Yorkshire so we can see how our taxes have been spent .

What a long way heritage conservation and in particular the appreciation of historic parks and gardens has travelled since Mavis Batey set up the Gardens History Society and the Gardens Trusts following on!

Part of the camellia house and the stable block below.



Abbotsbury Gardens

Another win for Isle of Wight gardeners with David Pearce, an apprentice trained at Ventnor funded by the Friends, has been appointed curator of Abbotsbury Gardens, near Weymouth.

It is hoped that on June 29th he will have time to talk to us about his plans. Abbotsbury sub tropical gardens were developed by the Strangways family, the first Countess of Ilchester building a castle on the cliff in 1765. A walled garden was created for fruit and vegetables shortly afterwards and in 1808 the fields were enclosed by the third Earl, Henry Fox-Strangways in 1808. He was a keen plant collector and introduced many tender species.

The Castle burnt down in 1913 and replaced with a poorly constructed building which was demolished in 1934. The gardens were restored in the 1960s and further restored after the Great Storm of 1987 damaged the shelterbelt, despite there no longer being any house .

The microclimate is unique with warm air from the Chesil Beach maintaining a humid and warm atmosphere. It is a most atmospheric place to be reminding us of those great Cornish valleys.

Come and join us for tea at Abbotsbury in these subtropical gardens.



Swiss Cottages and the Alpine Picturesque - an illustrated talk by Kate Harwood

On a dark winter's evening we were once again treated to an excellent illustrated talk by Kate. We were taken on a journey of discovery viewing the dramatic landscapes of the alpine regions of Central Europe. These had been the source of inspiration for scholars of the emerging natural sciences of botany and geology, artists seeking to capture and often exaggerate the wonder and awe of landscape and those immersing themselves in the expected thrilling experience of a world of bandits, noble savages and terrifying heights and crossings.

Kate used wonderful drawings, paintings, and photographs to tell us about the immense influence that these journeys had had on the design and fashion for all things Swiss and Alpine in designed landscapes and architecture back in England. We were shown examples of how the Swiss Cottage style was adopted and adapted as a preferred form for garden buildings and cottage orné as the height of picturesque fashion from the late C18th to mid to late C19th. Sometimes being an accurate reflection of what could be found in Europe, but often a less rustic interpretation for genteel tastes. Steep roof lines either tiled, shingled, or thatched, wide eaves, barge boards of carved wood or cut logs, balconies and covered chimneys all being important features.

The Swiss and Alpine influence extended to garden features with the use of rustic bridges to span created ravines, rock gardens seeking to reflect the mountain ranges and rugged landscapes. Often more stylised than authentic these structures sought to evoke the experience of the wild but on a smaller tamed scale. An element of showmanship would seem to have been part of this with examples of emulation of mountain ranges in standing rock form and even a miniature to scale Matterhorn as the acme of a rock garden at Friar Park with resident gnomes. Later in the C19th and into the C20th a more naturalistic approach to rock gardens and alpine planting including a fashion for alpine meadows.

We are so fortunate to have Kate as a friend of the IW Gardens Trust and I for one am looking forward to what knowledge of designed landscapes and their origins she will share with us next.



The alpine bridge over Shorwell Shute— part of the picturesque landscaping of Northcourt of about 1800.

Woodlands Vale, on the National Register, built for Lord Calthorpe, is now for sale with Winkworths and Spence Willard and is one of our most impressive marine villas.



Marine villa view – East Dene. How will the setting be affected?