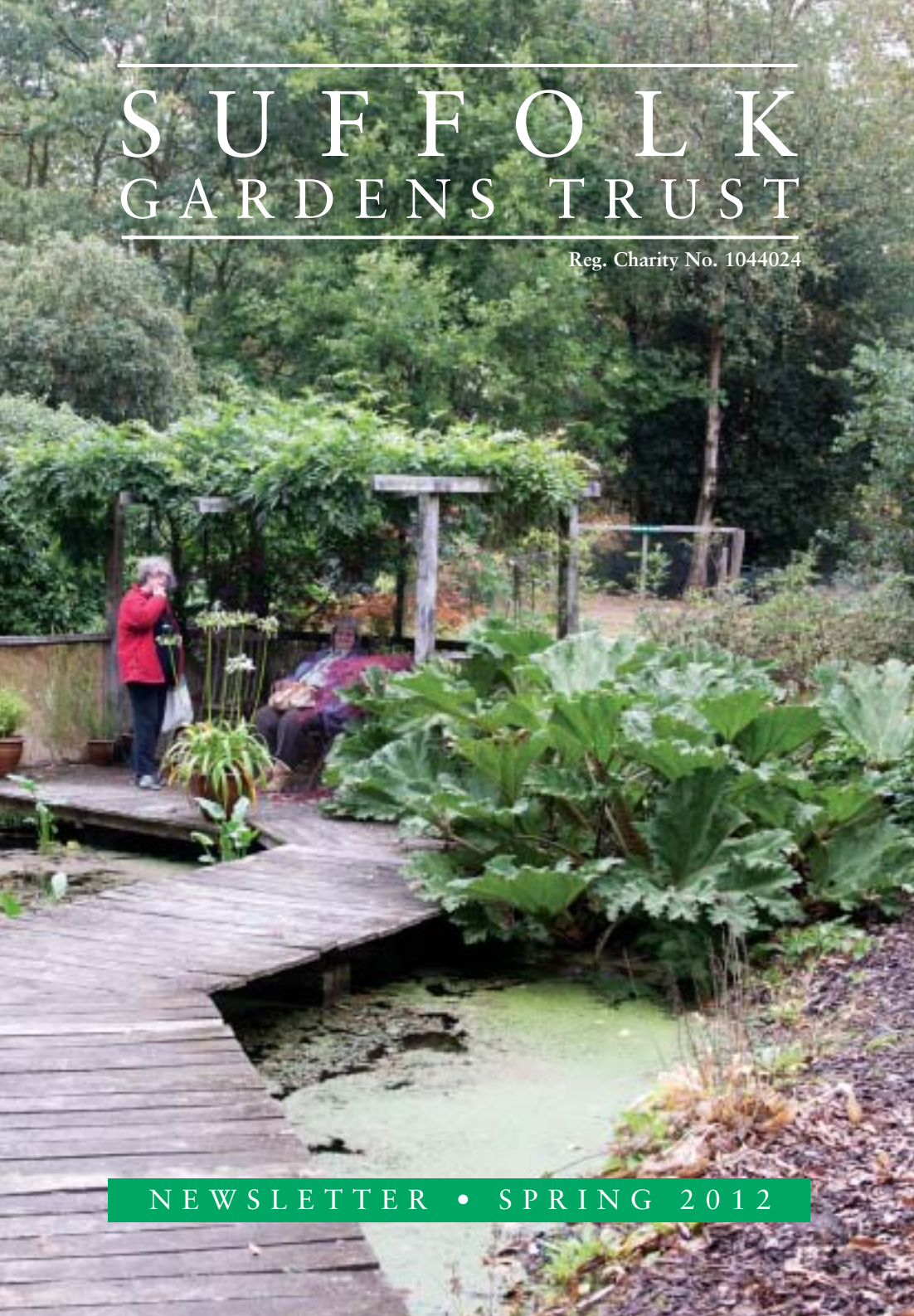


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# SUFFOLK GARDENS TRUST

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Reg. Charity No. 1044024



NEWSLETTER • SPRING 2012

## Suffolk Gardens Trust SPRING 2012

Newsletter 35

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**We need your help!**  
see pages 9 and 18

**Contributions to the autumn  
Newsletter should arrive no  
later than 10 September  
2012 sent to:**  
**Tina Ranft, email:**  
**yewdesign@btinternet.com**  
(address see back cover)

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#### **Disclaimer**

*The views expressed in this Newsletter are those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent those of Suffolk Gardens Trust. Whilst every effort is made to check the information provided, the editor and Suffolk Gardens Trust cannot be held responsible for any inaccuracies contained in this publication.*

## Membership **REPORT**

**Susan Paul**

The year 2011-12 has been a good year for new members and 30 have joined the Trust as at 1 January 2012. On the negative side, 16 members have chosen to resign their membership for a variety of reasons and we thank them for their past support. This leaves a total membership of 244. I look forward to meeting many of you at the various events that have been arranged through the summer and into the autumn.

On another note, please could I have as many e-mail addresses as possible as this method of reminder, and one of general contact, is easier and cuts the cost of postage. My e-mail address is: sue\_paul@hotmail.com

**Membership subscriptions for this year will be due on 1 April 2012.**

#### **Current subscriptions:**

Individual	£10
Student	£5
Family	£15
Corporate	£25

## 17th AGM 2012 **Sue Paul**

**To be held at CHILTON CHURCH  
(See 'Events' for further details)  
Saturday 16 June 2012 at 2.30 pm**

#### **AGENDA**

1. Apologies for absence (Officers and Council members only).
2. Minutes of the 16th AGM held at Thornham Walled Garden on 18 June 2011
3. Reports from the Council.
4. Election of Officers and Council members.
5. Any other business (of which due notice has been given to the Hon. Secretary).

# Patron & Chairman's **REPORT**

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**Gabriella Marlesford & Polly Burns**

As ever, our warmest wishes for 2012. We hope it is a fruitful and enjoyable year for all of you and your families. A particularly warm welcome to new members. This year has been a record year and our total membership now stands at an all time high of 244.

Comparing notes on what we want to say, some days before the shortest day in 2010, we both realised that this year so many people were dreading the hour going back and the arrival of winter. Is this our age? Or is it a reflection of a deep pessimism throughout the country? We do not subscribe to the age theory, so it has to be the economy or the weather, and whereas we had got to the point where snow had delighted us enough last year, the interminable greyness is proving very sapping this year.

Thanks to the Events Team of Stephen Beaumont, Diane Boyd and Judith Gowland we have an interesting and varied range of garden visits to look forward to. Sadly Eleanor feels she needs to take a year off while Geof has extended medical treatment. We have heard from Eleanor recently and are delighted that Geof is doing very well. Above all Geof, we want those wonderful photographic memories of our visits.

A big thank you to the Council and to Tina for her wonderfully designed newsletters that are such a pleasure to read and refer back to and the envy of many a County Garden Trust, indeed many are starting to look very similar, 'the sincerest form of flattery'? But they lack the photographic and layout brilliance.

By the time you receive this we will have contacted you with proposals to reduce our administrative costs and work more 'smartly'. If you have not completed a Standing Order form and let Polly or Sue have your email address, please think about doing it straight away. Leading by example the Council members' email addresses are at the back of this newsletter. We are also working on setting up a website. We've resisted this for some time on the grounds that unless someone updates it regularly and it is well designed it is a negative, rather than positive asset, but now it is possible and the hope is it helps reduce our administrative costs and increases our membership.

Creating a neat link this brings us on to the annual plea for more help, we really do need to relieve Council members by having a designated Planning Officer, and (see page 17) if you have an interest but feel you need more information, there is the Working Together initiative from the AGT and the Garden History Society on 15th March to get you up to speed, or even into overdrive. Polly, too, wishes to remind you that she is definitely standing down in June, so we need a Chairman and Vice Chairman. The more help we have then, the more initiatives we would like to explore can go ahead. Please do not be a shrinking violet!

Our first visit will just about coincide with the first violets so we look forward to seeing you all at events, in particular all our new members – it is not a daunting experience and some say rather addictive.



## SAA Conference

# LOOKING BACK TO LOOK FORWARD

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Jenny Broster gives an appreciation of the Suffolk Agricultural Conference held at Trinity Park, 10 November 2011

The Suffolk Gardens Trust was one of four sponsors of this conference. Stephen Moss, organiser of the conference, introduced the chairman for the day, Lady Tollemache, at the start of what turned out to be a most informative and enjoyable time. The two morning speakers concentrated on garden history. Edward Martin's talk entitled 'A Forgotten Few' illustrated fascinating remnants of, what seemed more than a few, medieval Suffolk gardens. Included were the gardens at the castles of Clare (see page 6) and Mettingham, at the halls at Badley, Combs, Long Melford and Somerleyton, at Hengrave Park, at Boundary Farm, Framsdon and Pettistree Lodge. Along the way we learnt how colour was introduced to gardens given the limited palette provided by plants in Tudor times; how stretches of water, firstly moats and later canals, were designed to dominate the landscape and how the waste from creating the water feature was used, in some places, to provide prospect mounts.

Caroline Holmes', lecture was indeed 'A Walk Through Garden History' in this country, illustrating how gardens changed their form through time from the Roman garden at Fishbourne, thought to have been built around 77AD, to Piet Oudolf's and Tom Stuart-Smith's modern prairie designs at Trentham Park via Chatsworth, Stourhead, West Dean and Biddulph Grange, again, to name a few out of many.

After lunch the speakers and the chairman were joined on the platform by Jim





Kim Wilkie's sculpted grass space at Heveningham Hall.  
Photo courtesy Edward Martin.

Marshall and Sarah Cook, known respectively for their knowledge of Malmaison carnations and Cedric Morris irises, to form a panel for a lively Gardeners Question Time.

Kim Wilkie then took the rostrum to show how the new landforms he creates are inspired by the past. He started by saying how the UK, on the 53rd parallel, is in just the right latitude to show the contours in the landscape to advantage, particularly in the low light of morning or evening. He showed a picture of a traditional ridge and furrow field pattern to illustrate this. He then developed this idea, illustrating his work at five sites in the UK. Of special interest to our Suffolk audience was his work at Heveningham, where the jaded parterre has been replaced by a modern sculpted grass space. His project at Boughton Park, near Kettering with a 7 metre high pyramid and an inverted pyramid of the same depth, with quiet reflective water at its base, brought to mind the mounts and stretches of water that featured in Edward Martin's talk earlier.

All too soon the day was drawing to a close with just time for tea, cake and perhaps some retail therapy at the trade stands before leaving. It was a splendid day, one with which the Trust can be proud to have been associated. I, for one, would like to thank all who contributed to make the conference a success.

**POSTSCRIPT:** You may recall Suffolk Local History's weekend at Belstead House 4–6th May 2012 was advertised in the Diary section of the last newsletter. As part of that weekend, Edward Martin will be leading a day visit, which will include the park and gardens at Heveningham, to see the Capability Brown landscape and Kim Willkie's work mentioned above. The weekend is open to all. To check if places are still available, contact Belstead House, Tel: 01473 686321.

## 1. THE MEDIEVAL GARDENS OF CLARE CASTLE



Based on his fascinating talk at the SAA conference in November 2011, Edward Martin provides the first in a series of articles on some of the lost historical gardens of Suffolk

The Norman motte with the remains of the keep, viewed from the 19th-century station platform. The area in between would, in the 14th century, have been filled with imposing buildings bedecked with banners and other symbols of lordship. The spiral path up the motte was added in 1848 by a Mr J. B. Armstead.

Documentary evidence for England's medieval gardens is very scarce, but the gardens of Clare Castle have the good luck of frequent mentions in the fourteenth-century estate records of Elizabeth de Burgh, known as 'the Lady of Clare'. Elizabeth was born in 1295 into a family of great prestige and wealth, being the youngest daughter of Gilbert de Clare, Earl of Hertford and Gloucester and a granddaughter of King Edward I. She was married at thirteen to the heir to the earldom of Ulster, but was widowed by the time she was eighteen; a year later her only brother was killed at the battle of Bannockburn and she became a co-heiress to the huge de Clare estate – her portion being the East Anglian estates and the lordship of Usk in Monmouthshire. Her second husband only lasted five months and the third only lasted five years; so by the age of 27 she was a widow three times over. Not surprisingly, she then seems to have decided to live as an independent woman – principally at Clare Castle, her family's ancestral seat. However she remained religiously and culturally active – founding Clare College in Cambridge in 1336 and a Franciscan friary at Walsingham in 1347. She died in 1360 and was buried in the church of the Convent of the Minoresses at Aldgate, London, within whose precinct she had a house. Her tomb is lost, but was so impressive that the earl of Pembroke expressed a wish for a similar one in 1375.

The estate accounts record these features of her gardens at Clare:-

*The Great Garden:* In 1347 sand was taken ‘from the mount next the Lady’s chamber’ to the *herbarium* [garden] and two men spent two days sanding, strewing and gathering stones in the garden and walks. The garden was cleaned and railed with rods around the walks [*aluras*] and turf was dug near *Clarethall* (Claret Hall across the Stour in Ashen in Essex) and brought in to repair the surface of the ‘Great Garden’. In 1345–6 Michael the carpenter worked on the Lady’s garden for three weeks and iron casements were supplied for two glass windows in the Lady’s upper chamber, from which she might look down at the garden. In 1352 a fountain costing £2 16s 11½d was made in the castle and the garden was again railed. The location of this garden is uncertain, but a strong contender is the rectangular enclosure (D on the map) to the east of the inner bailey (B) that contained the castle’s domestic buildings. Unfortunately, this area was badly damaged when the railway was put through it in 1865 and twentieth-century enlargement of the surrounding moat and the cutting of a new channel to convert the remains of the enclosure into a ‘wildlife island’ for water birds.



Clare Castle as shown on the 1846 tithe map (Suffolk Record Office, T146/1). **A** is the Norman motte crowned by the remains of a thirteenth-century stone keep; **B** is the inner bailey, which contained the domestic buildings (halls, chambers, chapel, kitchen, brewhouse, bakehouse etc); **C** is the outer bailey; **D** is the likely site of the castle gardens.

*The pool:* In 1342 there is mention of ‘the pool above the garden, part of the moat’. In 1351 a payment of 4d was made to two little children ‘who fished in front of my Lady’ on the 23 May. In 1388 two men were paid for work about the pool [*stagnum*] in *le Cloggardyn* for keeping fish there. This could be the large rectangular pool, surrounded by a geometrical arrangement of four smaller pools, that is shown on the 1846 tithe map in enclosure D. None of these ponds is now visible on the ‘wildlife island’.

*The sepulchre and the tomb:* In 1342 Robert the carpenter was paid 3d a day for five days to make a ‘tomb’ above a ‘sepulchre’ in the lady’s garden (William his mate was paid 2½d for the same period). In 1343 two sawyers sawed boards for the ‘tomb’ in the Lady’s garden to make rails, a ground sill, lintels, pillars and studs ‘for the said screen [*parclos*]’, taking thirteen days and being paid 6s 6d. William the carpenter covered [*tegent*] the tomb [*tumb* written above *sepultur* deleted] for three days and was paid 7½d. This is a confusing feature to find in a garden, but the most likely explanation is that this was a circular timber structure modelled on the Holy Sepulchre Church in Jerusalem, the rotunda of which contains a structure reputed to be Christ’s tomb. Numerous copies of the Holy Sepulchre and its tomb were made across medieval Europe (eg. San Sepulcro in Bologna, Italy and the round church of Holy Sepulchre in Cambridge). The Lady may have sat and contemplated in her sepulchre with a prayer book or a ‘book of hours’ produced by her own illuminator (illuminators are recorded in the accounts in 1339 and 1351).

*The houses for the animals:* In 1342 a ‘certain house’ in the garden was roofed for the Lady’s deer, and this was done again ten years later. This suggests that she had an enclosure where she kept tame fallow deer. In the same year two men also repaired ‘the glass chamber in the house of the pheasants’ [*camera vitrea in domo feysants*]. Pheasants were valued as creatures of living colour and had been introduced into Britain by the mid-twelfth century (they are native to central Asia and south-east Russia), so this was probably a form of aviary, but the glass chamber could be the earliest known example of a glasshouse for plants. Swans were also kept on the water around the castle.

*The vineyard:* In 1341 William, the castle gardener, was paid 2s for going to various places to get vine scions to plant, and in 1343 four cartloads of rods were brought to support vines by the Great Gate of the castle. The Great Gate lay between the two castle baileys, so this suggests that the vineyard was in the outer bailey (C on the map). The outer bailey was also the site of a garden growing items for sale – beans, herbs, leeks, onions and madder for dye. It also housed the Lady’s ‘Great Kennel’ for her huntsmen and hunting dogs. There was another garden, together with barns and stables, in the earthwork enclosure at the northern end of Clare that the Lady would have known as *Erbury*, but is now called Clare Camp. This produced foodstuffs for the castle, but also for sale.

Very little remains of the Lady of Clare’s gardens. Her tomb is lost, but she can perhaps take consolation from the fact that despite the death and danger that beset so many members of her family, one of her descendants is now Queen of England.



Council members have discussed setting up an SGT website on several occasions, but previously concluded that unless someone with experience of managing websites could be found it would not be cost effective. Now, after looking at our rising administrative costs, we have concluded that we need to offset rising postal costs by communicating with members by a website. Additionally, it could be the medium for attracting new members and being able to disseminate more information to members. We have identified websites and their designers that we find user-friendly and attractive, but would welcome a member to join us to make the final choice and work with the designer in setting up and managing it.

So, if you have any experience of managing or writing for websites and are interested please contact me, Polly Burns, email: [surry.burns@keme.co.uk](mailto:surry.burns@keme.co.uk)

## A new **HERITAGE CENTRE**

**Polly Burns**

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In the Autumn 2010 Newsletter we reported on Suffolk County Council's 'New Direction' and the proposal that SCC's Archaeology and Record Office services should be hived off together with The Museum of East Anglian Life to form a 'Heritage Cluster'. With political and personnel changes in SCC we wondered if the 'New Direction' might be a change of direction. After several meetings, attended by members of the SGT Council, a draft paper to be considered shortly was put out for consultation and comment.

Not too much change of direction – the Cluster has become a Centre – but the same organisations stand to be amalgamated under the lead of the Museum of East Anglian Life (MEAL), and it is hoped that other like services will join them later. In the fullness of time – and subject to getting Heritage Lottery funding – it is envisaged that all would be accommodated together, with space in which Suffolk's archaeological heritage could be displayed and the Record Offices could expand their activities as well as provide the extra storage, which will be required when they run out of space in 2016.

Whether this would be on the Abbots Hall site or elsewhere is not discussed, or even if the site is large enough to take in such a sizeable complex. How this will be financed is not at all clear, but the timescale is spelt out: A decision in February 2012; the new organisation established in April 2012; service and staff transfer by September 2012. A time scale which seems too short for it to be achieved effectively.

All of the staff's conditions of service are to be protected, but the paper makes it clear that volunteers will be expected to take on a lot of the work in future. Why do organisations think there is a bottomless pit of willing, active volunteers, when, with people having to work longer and the younger generation less inclined to volunteer, it seems obvious that there will be less?

We have replied to the proposals expressing reservations.

## The Jubilee Woods **PROJECT**

The Jubilee Woods Project launched by the Woodlands Trust aims to plant six million trees creating large numbers of woods and copses, in tribute to The Queen on her Diamond Jubilee. At Great Barton, the local Community Group have already successfully applied for assistance from the Trust in the shape of hardwood trees for planting in a newly-planned village woodland, together with advice on landscaping, to encourage a rich habitat, which people, wildlife and wildflowers will find equally sympathetic. In contrast, the Clanks Care Farm at Toft Monks near Beccles – dedicated to providing a woodland haven to people recuperating from mental health problems or other serious illnesses – has been given enough trees to create a new wood of c.2.5 hectares. If you belong to a group interested in comparable projects, why not apply to the Trust? Free packs of 105 or 420 trees are available in four different assemblages: wildlife, year round colour, wood fuel or wildlife harvest, as well as free advice and information about planting trees and woodland creation. Tel: 0844 245 7018, email: [woodlandcreation@woodlandtrust.org.uk](mailto:woodlandcreation@woodlandtrust.org.uk) **NS**

## Orchard Survey **BEARS FRUIT**

Following on from a hopeful start in 2009 (See *Newsletter* No. 30, Autumn 2009), the Suffolk Traditional Orchard Group have now secured Heritage Lottery Funding, which will enable them to continue investigating the county's old orchards, and to continue to graft and plant old varieties of apple, planning to cover c. 700 sites in over 470 parishes, with the help of 110 volunteers (a welcome increase on the original 35), and to restore and plant over 20 orchards, securing the future of many threatened varieties, and offering free advice on all matters affecting their cultivation. So far some 120 different varieties have been identified in Suffolk, but it is believed that up to 250 exist. Can you help? If so please contact Paul Read email: [ReadHF@aol.com](mailto:ReadHF@aol.com) **NS**



## Did You **KNOW?**

If you are planning to visit a National Trust property or garden you may now consult a recently created online bibliography of over 4,000 books and articles about their collections nationwide. The properties are listed in alphabetical order, and Suffolk is well represented with substantial contributions on Melford Hall and Ickworth House and Park. The earliest reference in the bibliography is an account of a visit by Queen Elizabeth I to Melford Hall in 1578. The bibliography is regularly revised, most recently in May 2011. Visit the National Trust website for further information: [www.nationaltrust.org.uk](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk) and use the search facility, top right. **NS**

### Gardens and PEOPLE

'BUMPS', a play by Sheila Dewey adapted from the original theatre production, is about the enduring friendship of Gertrude Jekyll and Edwin Lutyens, and has been recorded for a CD which was available from 18 November 2011. Sheila Dewey's play tells of their lifelong artistic partnership, revealing Gertrude's playful side, rarely evident in the photographs of her, with Annette Badland and Graham Seed in their original roles. This story, both funny and moving, is perfect for a winter-bound gardener to listen to on a dull, wet day – or for a gardener resting in the sun, with the bees buzzing around. Price: £14.99 including p&p for UK destinations. For more information, including an audio clip and ordering details visit [www.gardensandpeople.co.uk](http://www.gardensandpeople.co.uk)

You might also like to visit their sister site, [www.accessiblegardens.org.uk](http://www.accessiblegardens.org.uk) which is dedicated to accessibility to gardens for children, disadvantaged families and the disabled. Editor: Bella D'Arcy Reed, Member Garden Media Guild, MSGD (Rtd), Tel: 01621 892 737, 11, Sawyers Rd., Little Totham, Maldon, Essex CM9 8JW **NS**

### Suffolk Gardens AT RISK

Three major Suffolk gardens are highlighted in the most recent edition of English Heritage's *Heritage At Risk Register 2011: East of England*, although there have been some welcome improvements at both Shrubland Hall and Bawdsey Manor since the last report (See Newsletter No. 30, Autumn 2009). However, at Shrubland, while there have been some positive changes in the management of the landscape, the garden features and planting have significantly decayed, and there is a threat of a major development within the setting of the park to the southwest. At Bawdsey, the Pulhamite Cliff Garden remains under threat from coastal erosion, the planting and pulhamite are in poor condition, although some useful restoration work has been carried out on the garden's buildings.

Euston Park, a newcomer to the register has problems of a different kind – described as 'the lack of a revised and robust management strategy' for the wooded pleasure grounds, and are in particular, 'at risk from the over mature (and original) planting.'

The register also draws attention to the continuing problems of the Orangery at Glevering Hall and the Umbrello at Great Saxham. Copies of the register may be obtained from English Heritage Customer Services Department, tel: 0870 333 1181, email: [customers@english-heritage.org.uk](mailto:customers@english-heritage.org.uk). For more details visit: [www.english-heritage.org.uk/risk](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/risk)

The Pulhamite Cliff  
Garden at Bawdsey



**NS**

# EVENTS 2012

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## WINTER LECTURES

**There is one final lecture left in our winter lecture series. If you haven't already booked, please contact:**

**Patricia Shepherd  
Mallow House,  
8 Lambseth Street,  
Eye, IP23 7AG.  
Tel: 01379 870 172**

**SAT 31 MARCH 2012, 2.30–4.30**

**Brandeston Village Hall, The Street, Brandeston,  
IP13 7AD**

**Nicholas Newton: 'The Essence of Gardening and  
Why We Garden At All'**

Nicholas Newton is a garden designer and consultant based in Suffolk. In the last 15 years he has worked on a wide range of commissions from formal country house gardens to coastal retreats and contemporary town gardens. He also works in commercial landscape design and tree surveying in relation to proposed developments. He is a registered member of the Society of Garden Designers and an associate of the Landscape Institute.

**Cost:** £5, Guests £6

**Directions:** Brandeston is 13 miles north-east of Ipswich, between Cretingham and Kettleburgh. Follow A1120 towards Framlingham, at Earl Soham just after the pub bear right signposted Brandeston and follow the road for about 1.5 miles – the village hall is on the right with large gates and gravel drive. Plenty of Parking.

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## GARDEN VISITS 2012

The Events Team of Stephen Beaumont, Diane Boyd and Judith Gowland have, once again, devised a very varied and unusual programme of gardens that are not open to the public plus favourites that many of you have asked if we could visit again. In the case of Chantry Park – a much loved open space for the inhabitants of Ipswich – we will have the benefit of the Park Manager to guide us round and reveal its many hidden pleasures.

Lord and Lady Hart have invited us back to Chilton Hall. Older members (and I mean that in terms of Trust membership!) will remember the beauty of the hall and garden when we visited in 2006, and our shock at the proposed building of a 24/7 warehousing site adjacent to this idyllic setting. You will all be equally shocked to hear that as I write in January, this has not been resolved, despite the fact that the proposed development is clearly in breach of the legislation designed to protect historic listed buildings and landscape, Babergh District Council's own development criteria and legislation designed to protect wildlife. The Harts have worked tirelessly and extremely professionally to rebut claims



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and interpretation of the law made by Prolog, together with the support of English Heritage, The Garden History Society, the AGT, Suffolk Preservation Society and Suffolk Gardens Trust. By the time you read this, a decision should have been made and I have agreed to attend the meeting of the Planning Committee to add our support. Let us hope that we will be able to celebrate.

There are so many different features to admire in this year's programme – historic orchards, lovely planting, passionate garden designs, a new venture in visiting a number of small town gardens and so many places we have not previously visited.

Many thanks to the Events Team, who continually surprise with their inventiveness and above all a very big thank you to owners who have so generously allowed us invade their own very special places.

Please note, the owners of Wood Farm and Levington Hall have asked that we keep numbers to 50. As ever we will take the first 50 applications we receive and maintain a waiting list.

**Polly Burns**

## QUERIES

**If you have any queries about the event do please contact the member of the 'Team' who is responsible for organising it – as indicated by their initials in the entry. See the back cover for contact telephone numbers.**

**SB – Stephen Beaumont**

**DB – Diane Boyd**

**PB – Polly Burns**

**JG – Judith Gowland**

## BOOKING

**As last year please return the enclosed booking slip to Nigel Surry at: 177 Melford Road, Sudbury, CO10 1JU**

Grade II listed 124 acre park, which is said to be based on a design by Capability Brown and dating back to the 18th century. It was much improved and added to during the course of the 19th and early 20th centuries before



**SATURDAY 19 MAY 2012, 2.30pm**  
**Visit to Chantry Park, Hadleigh Road**  
**Ipswich, IP2 0BP. Teas** **DB**  
Courtesy of Ipswich Borough Council.  
Alan Gilbert, the Park Manager, will guide us through the English Heritage

the owner, Sir Arthur Churchman, gave it to Ipswich Borough Council in 1928. 'The Chantry' is now run as a nursing home by Sue Ryder Homes and the park and gardens as a public park, though retaining many of the original features. Alan will lead us round most of

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the most fascinating features and has promised some surprises!

**Cost:** Members £6, Guests £8

**Directions:** Leave the A14 at the Copdock interchange (junction 55) take the A1214 towards the town centre. Go straight on at the first roundabout and at the first set of traffic lights turn left onto the A1071 as if going to Hadleigh. In less than half a mile take the first turn on the right. After about 1 mile turn right through the ornate stone gateway, marked Sue Ryder Homes. Follow the drive. Near to the house there is a T-junction, turn right, and you will find a car park shortly afterwards on the right.

If you come through Ipswich take the Colchester Road, which leads onto Valley Road, Chevallier Street and Yarmouth Road. At the major junction proceed as if going to Colchester, keep in right hand lane and take turning to Hadleigh Road – Sainsburys is on your right. Continue for about 1 mile, then turn left into gate marked Sue Ryder Homes. Continue as above.

**SATURDAY 26 MAY 2012, 2.30pm**  
**Four Gardens in Philip Road, Ipswich,**  
**nos. 40, 46, 50 & 56, IP2 8BQ.**

**Teas**

**DB**

Courtesy of Sue Allen (56), Diane Boyd (50), Christine Miller (46) and Danica Lee (40)

Do you often wonder what lies behind a Victorian terrace? Do you feel that it would be very limiting to have a small town garden? Prepare to be surprised by four delightful and different town gardens lovingly cared for by their owners with imagination and flair. Meet

up outside no. 50 and return there for tea. Philip Road is situated high over the town giving panoramic views of the town centre and the newly restored waterfront. Bring your binoculars!

**Cost:** Members £6, Guests £8

**Directions:** From the Copdock interchange of the A14 (junction 55) take the A1214 London Road towards the town centre. In about 1½ miles, after the railway bridge and at the foot of the hill, turn right into Ranelagh Road. Pass Ipswich Station on your right, then fork right into Willoughby Road. At the T-junction turn right, then take first left and first left again into Philip Road. Park in Philip Road or surrounding roads.

If coming through Ipswich take Colchester/Valley/Yarmouth Road. At major junction proceed as if going to Colchester. Turn left before the railway bridge into Ranelagh Road and continue as above.

**SATURDAY 16 JUNE 2012, 2.30pm**  
**AGM at Chilton Church followed by a**  
**visit to Chilton Hall, Waldingfield**  
**Road, Sudbury, CO10 OPS. Teas **PB****

Courtesy of Lord and Lady Hart and the Trustees of Chilton church.

We will sprint through our AGM in the beautiful redundant church of Chilton



## EVENTS 2012

and then repair to the gardens of Chilton Hall – a listed Elizabethan moated house, with one of the oldest walled gardens in Suffolk. A magical wooded site with walks and luxurious planting, it is also a haven for wildlife, including newts and bats and there is also a Victorian garden constructed in two days to delight and surprise the then owner's wife.

**Cost:** Members free, Guests £6

**Directions:** From Sudbury take the B1115 to Lavenham. Leave the ring road at McDonalds, at second (Homebase) roundabout turn right into Chuchfield Road. You will see the church on your left. Park on road. Directions to Chilton Hall from church: Turn round and return to (Homebase) roundabout, go all the way round as if going to Lavenham. As the houses peter out there is a shelter belt of trees on right, the gated entrance to Chilton Hall is on the right, on a double bend (please exercise care).

**SATURDAY 23 June 2012, 2.30pm**  
**7, Ropers Court, Lavenham,**  
**CO10 9PU. Teas**

**JG**

Courtesy of Mrs Maureen Thompson, President of Suffolk Gardens Group and former owner of the well-known garden at Sun House, Long Melford.

A small but structured garden, well-filled at this time of year. Lavenham is well worth a visit in itself with many medieval buildings in such a compact space.

**Cost:** £5.50 Members, Guests £7.50

**Directions:** From Lavenham High Street, leaving the Angel Hotel on your right proceed to brow of hill, Post Office is

on left. In 50 yards, go through the archway on your left and round bend to left. Turn left and the house is at the end of the cul de sac.

**Parking:** Is restricted so car-sharing would be good. Otherwise parking is available in High Street car parks or in Spring Street, across High St. from the archway.

**SATURDAY 7 JULY 2012, 2.30pm**  
**Wood Farm, Sibton, Nr.Yoxford,**  
**IP17 2JL Teas**

**SB**

Courtesy of Andrew and Amelia Singleton

An informal country garden of a local garden designer. Including a white garden, mediterranean-style courtyard, vegetable plot, blue and yellow border, large unfenced ponds, orchards and meadow walks.

**Cost:** Members £7, Guests £9

**Directions:** Take the A1120 which runs from A14 near Stowmarket to A12 at Yoxford, proceeding through various villages until you arrive at Peasenhall. In the village take the second turning to the left, signposted to Halesworth and Walpole. After about ½ mile follow the road round to the right. After a further 400 yards there is a drive to the right between a cluster of barns. At the top is Wood Farm.

**SATURDAY 14 JULY 2012, 6.00pm**  
**Garden Party at Marlesford Hall,**  
**Marlesford, Woodbridge, IP13 OAU.**  
**Food and wine.**

**PB**

Courtesy of Lord and Lady Marlesford.

A unique opportunity to see the delightful gardens of our Patron, Lady Marlesford, set in beautiful parkland,

## EVENTS 2012

with a walled garden, roses and peaceful shaded walks. Our usual range of nibbles, wine and soft drinks. Please could you list your guests' names on the reverse side of the booking slip for this event.

**Cost:** Members £8.50, Guests £10.50.

**Directions:** From the A12 north of Wickham Market, take the left turn to Marlesford. On the outskirts of the village right fork into Hall Road, towards Parham. At top of hill, on the road junction, the Lodge House and gates are on the left.

**SATURDAY 1 September 2012, 2.30pm**

**Frythe Barn, Wooten Green, Stradbroke, Nr Eye, IP21 5JP. Teas JG**  
Courtesy of Carol and Don Darling.

The Darlings have ceased their wanderings jobwise in Europe and S. America and are putting down roots in Suffolk. Their long-term project is the field adjacent to Frythe Barn, which has become a garden of some stature in the



last three to four years. When we go the grasses, which are a feature, should be to the fore.

**Cost:** Members £6.50, Guests £8.50

**Directions:** From the A14 travel north

on the A140 and turn right onto the B1117 through Eye and on to Stradbroke. In the village turn right onto the B1118 Wilby Road towards Framlingham. After about 1 mile there is a sharp double bend (first left and then right). Turn left just after these bends, into Neaves Lane. At the next bend turn left, and the barn is on your left. If travelling from the A1120 turn north onto the B1116 at Saxstead Green. Take 2nd left onto B1118 towards Stradbroke. Travel to Wilby and after leaving the village turn right into Neaves Lane before the double bend.

**SATURDAY 15 SEPTEMBER 2012,**

**2.30 pm. Levington Hall, Nr. Ipswich IP10 0LH. Teas**

**SB**

Courtesy of Mr Albert and Dame Marjorie Scardino, with appreciation to the late Mr Christopher Gladstone and to Mrs Gladstone

The gardens are laid out with a walled garden incorporating an ancient orchard from c.1800 and earlier, a newly replaced orchard, fish pond from 1830, parkland and new ponds.

**Cost:** Members £8, Guests £10

**Directions:** From the roundabout where the A14 and A12 meet southeast of Ipswich (junction 58), take the A1156 west towards Ipswich. Take the first turn left onto the (Old) Felixstowe Road.

After about 1 mile turn right onto Bridge Road signposted to Levington village. After 1 mile, and in the village turn left into Church Lane, which becomes single track at the Ship Inn. Down the hill for about 200 yards and turn left through the white gates.



• **15 March 2012. Association of Gardens Trusts & Garden History Society. Conservation Workshop.** 'Update on Working Together for Conservation of Historic Designed Landscapes'. 11—1pm. 70 Cowcross Street, London EC1M 6EJ. Jonathan Lovie the Principal Conservation Officer of the Garden History Society and Linden Groves their Conservation Officer will be attending. Please contact the AGT Co-ordinator, Teresa Forey-Harrison for further details, tel: 020 7251 6210.

• **31 March to 10 June 2012. 'Gainsborough's Landscapes: Themes and Variations'.** Compton Verney House, Warwickshire CV35 9HZ. For further details, please tel: 01926 645500

• **15 April 2012. Suffolk Wildlife Trust Plant Sale, Redgrave and Lopham Fen, near Bressingham, IP22 2HX.** Specialist nurseries, tools, donated plants by SWT volunteers, seeds. Adults £1, children free. For more information please email: redgrave.education@suffolkwildlifetrust.org

• **16 April 2012. Suffolk Record Office, Bury St Edmunds. Landed Houses and Estates in West Suffolk.** Clive Paine (10 weeks) Starts 2pm, repeated Thursdays 2pm. This course traces the development of individual estates and houses, from their origins to their break-up. Estates studied will include Culford, Livermere, Hardwick, Hengrave, Rushbrooke, Great Barton and Nowton. Life on the estate in the 'big-house' and tied cottages will also be examined. Field visits will form an essential part of the course. Please contact the Bury branch of the Record Office for further information, tel: 01284 741 202

**3 May 2012. 'Historic Vistas, Current Perspectives, Future Prospects'.** Research and Recording Study Day at Studley Royal, North Yorkshire. The Association of Gardens Trusts, Yorkshire Gardens Trust and the National Trust with The Garden History Society. Cost: £39, including tea/coffee, sandwich lunch and guided tour of the water gardens. For further information please contact, Teresa Forey-Harrison AGT Co-ordinator tel: 020 7251 2610 or email: co-ordinator@agt.org.uk

• **4–6 May 2012. Suffolk Local History Council, Belstead House Weekend 'Suffolk Estates c.1750–1850: Their buildings, their gardens, parks and management of their wider estates'.** Further details will be available nearer the time, although it is known that a field trip will be included to Heveningham Hall to see the Capability Brown landscape, and also the new Kim Wilkie garden to the rear of the hall with its grassed terraces. Telephone enquiries: 01473 686 321.

• **18–20 May 2012. 'Pineapples: art, status and the Fitzwilliam Museum'.** Institute of Continuing Education, University of Cambridge, Madingley Hall. (Margaret Davis) For more information about this residential course go to the website: [www.ice.cam.ac.uk/](http://www.ice.cam.ac.uk/)

• **25–27 May 2012. 'Gardens and Literature'.** Department of Continuing Education, Oxford University, Rewley House, 1, Wellington Square, Oxford, OX1 2JA, in conjunction with the Garden History Society. Directors of Studies, Dr Mark Smith and Michael Symes. For more information about this

weekend school, please email: enquiries@conted.oxac.uk or tel: 01865 270 360.

• **27 May 2012. Plant Heritage (formerly NCCPG) Spring Plant Fair at Helmingham Hall, 10.30–4pm.** For further details, please contact Katy Day, Helmingham Estate Office, tel: 01473 890 799 or email: events@helmingham.com

• **9 June 2012. 'Parks, Gardens and Designed Landscapes of Medieval Wales', McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research, Department of Archaeology, University of Cambridge, Downing Street, Cambridge, CB2 3ER.** Speakers: Dr David Jaques, Dr Paul Everson, Dr Paula Henderson, Cathy Stoertz, Spencer Smith and Magnus Alexander. For further details, please contact Dr S. Oosthuizen c/o the above address or email: smo23@cam.ac.ukoo

• **23 June 2012. 'The Plant Hunters'.** Department of Continuing Education, Oxford University Rewley House, 1 Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JA. Course Tutor: Dr Patrick Harding. For further details, please email: enquiries@conted.oxac.uk or tel: 01865 270 360.

• **7–9 Sept. 2012. 'Polite Society: Lifestyle, Parks and Gardens'.** Association of Gardens Trusts AGM and Annual Weekend Conference, hosted by Avon Gardens Trust. This residential conference is based at the Mercure Bath Francis Hotel, an elegant Georgian building on Queen Square in Bath. The theme of 'Polite Society' will be explored

through visits to designed landscapes within Bath and the surrounding area. We shall visit Badminton, rarely open to the public, Dyrham Park, Prior Park and Sydney Gardens. For further information or to reserve a place contact Ros Delany email: r.delany@virgin.net or tel: 01275 371 398.

• **15–16 Sept. 2012. Melford Hall Autumn Show, 10.30–4pm.** We hope that SGT will have a stall at this popular event, now in its 5th year. Further details will be available June/July from Veronica Stuart tel: 01787 374 067 or email: veronicastuart@btinternet.com

• **16 Sept 2012. Helmingham Hall Plant Sale, 10.30–4pm.** For further details, please contact Katy Day, Helmingham Estate Office, tel: 01473 890 799 or email: events@helmingham.com

## **HELP**

**Spring Plant Heritage Sale  
at Helmingham Hall &  
Melford Hall Autumn Show**

**Can you spare just a  
couple of hours?**

**If so, we would really appreciate  
some help manning our stall in  
May and September.**

**Please contact Sue Paul on  
01728 723 670**

# My Favourite **GARDEN BOOK** Polly Burns

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Pondering over our lack of a book review for this newsletter, I thought that if I kicked off, SGT members might be moved to share their favourite garden books to entertain and inform their fellow members. All contributions to the editor (contact details on back cover) before the *Autumn Newsletter* deadline of 10 September 2012 please.

I often wonder whether Nigel and I can cram more books into Sudbury and Spoleto, but we usually succeed. My 'Desert Island' book out of the thousands we have would definitely be *The Oxford Companion to Gardens*, so important it is to me that I actually have one here and another there. First published in 1986, it was published in paperback in 1991 (the Spoleto copy) and in 2001 (the Sudbury copy) and has been republished a few years back – perhaps I should get that one too so I could achieve anorak status by comparing and contrasting all three!

From Aalto to Zug the 628 pages delight and inform and then there is the bibliography...It has been described as the perfect bedtime book, perhaps too heavy for that, it certainly is invaluable to learn about the gardens of the world and major personalities and while away hours before a fire or lolling in the sun. Just pick on a subject, then follow the asterisk link, and wander freely and widely, perhaps this is a slight criticism, in that one can be lead pleasurably down many an allee (page 9) and up and down every patte d'oie (page 424) and finish up at a point where one has crossed continents and spanned centuries and forgotten the original query. There are copious photographs, drawings and plans, all in black and white, but nevertheless excellent, and I think I prefer that rather than the distractions of colour.

This should have taken me twenty minutes to write, but in fact spotting the Garden of Eden (page 154), only 4 references in ten lines, but I noticed that on the opposite page there is a potted history of Egypt...Now where was I?

So I commend it to you all.

*The Oxford Companion to Gardens*, eds. Sir Geoffrey and Susan Jellicoe, Patrick Goode and Michael Lancaster (Oxford University Press, 2001). ISBN 0-19-860440-8

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## Books **WORTH NOTING**

*Design and Landscape for People: New Approaches to Renewal*, Clare Cumberland and Lucy Musgrave. £29.95 (Thames & Hudson, 2009).

*Vauxhall Gardens A History*, David Coke & Alan Borg. £55.00 (Yale University Press, 2011).

*Christopher Lloyd: His Life at Great Dixter*, Steven Anderton. £10.99 (Chatto & Windus, 2010).

## FRONT COVER:

Green Island Gardens, Suffolk Gardens Trust visit in October 2011 (Courtesy Geoffrey Soar)

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