



BERKSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

EVENTS PROGRAMME 2026



SPRING PROGRAMME

TUESDAY 10TH FEBRUARY 7PM: ZOOM TALK *BOOKING NOW*

Derek Jarman's Garden at Prospect Cottage: Talk by Jill Francis, author and landscape historian. £7 members and non-members.



The garden at Prospect Cottage on Dungeness Point was created in the late 1980s by the controversial, supremely talented theatre-director and gay rights activist, Derek Jarman. Jarman created a wonderfully artistic landscape from stones, shells and driftwood scavenged from the beach, along with old tools, discarded rusty objects and an improbable array of indigenous and introduced plants. The result was a garden of ethereal beauty. **To be recorded.**

TUESDAY 17TH MARCH 7PM: SPRING LECTURE *BOOKING NOW*

Re-designing your historical garden: Talk by Adam Scott, Windsor Castle and Bagshot Park Garden Manager. Purley Barn. £15 members / £18 non-members.



Following our visits last year to Windsor Castle, and in anticipation of a second Spring visit, Adam will bring us up to date with the history of the Grade I listed gardens and how he has interpreted and implemented His Majesty The King's approach to the re-design of key private and publicly assessable areas of the garden. Adam will highlight how monarchs through the ages have influenced the garden design.

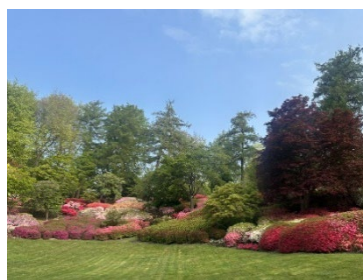
SUMMER PROGRAMME

THURSDAY 7TH MAY 10.30AM:

VISIT TO VALLEY GARDENS, VIRGINIA WATER *BOOKING NOW*

Guided walk around the Valley Gardens with Sian Thomas, committee member of Friends of Savill Garden and member of BGT. Meet at The Savill Garden car park.

£12 members / £15 non-members (parking excluded).



The vision for the gardens was created 80 years ago by Sir Eric Savill. A great opportunity to visit the historic Valley Gardens in Windsor Great Park guided by Sian Thomas. We will see a National Collection of rhododendrons with the world-famous Punch Bowl, recently restored with its Japanese azaleas. We will meet at the car park and walk up to the gardens together.

THURSDAY 9TH JULY 9.45AM:

TALK AND VISIT TO CAVERSHAM COURT

Illustrated talk by Megan Aldrich, historian, on the history of Caversham Court to be held at Reading Rowing Club on the River Thames, followed by a private guided visit to the Caversham Court with Vickie Abel, Chair of the Friends of Caversham Court. £15 members / £18 non-members (including tea and coffee).



Caversham Court has a fascinating history. Despite the loss of the house, the garden and its listed walls and structures beside the river Thames survive. This is a Green Flag and Green Heritage Site award winning public park in the care Reading Borough Council supported by the Friends of Caversham Court.

THURSDAY 27TH AUGUST 2PM: VISIT TO WATERPERRY GARDENS

Inspired by Ursula Buchan's talk on Valerie Finnis in 2025 we will enjoy a guided visit to Waterperry with Rob Jones, Head Gardener.

£23 members / £26 non-members (including entrance).



Waterperry Gardens have been a source of inspiration and a gardener's delight for more than eighty years. Many of us have been to Waterperry but we will have an opportunity to hear about the wonderful progress made at the gardens in recent years and the splendour of the late summer/autumn plantings. Refreshments will be available to purchase at the café on site.

AUTUMN AND WINTER PROGRAMME

TUESDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER 2PM: VISIT TO ROYAL HOLLOWAY COLLEGE

Following Daniel Steel's excellent presentation in October 2024, we will enjoy a visit to the gardens guided by Daniel, conservationist, garden history and landscape manager, master arborist, and horticulturist.

£12 members / £15 non-members.



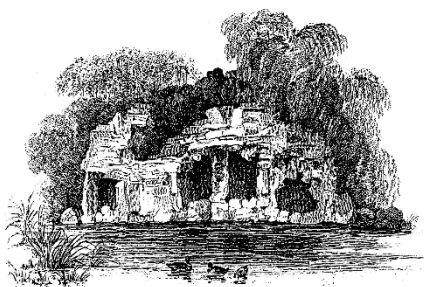
Royal Holloway University sits within 135 acres of beautiful parkland. The 130 year old historic buildings, including the stunning Founders Building, are surrounded by formal designed gardens mainly comprising shrubs and some large, ancient parkland trees. We will also visit the wider campus which includes less formal areas such as wildflower meadows, ponds and woodland which Dan and his team are managing for both their amenity value and the wildlife. Refreshments will be available to purchase at the cafés at the college.

EARLY OCTOBER: AFTERNOON AGM AND TALK/VISIT

Final details to follow.

TUESDAY 10TH NOVEMBER 7PM: ZOOM TALK

Landscape historian Sarah Rutherford will give an illustrated talk on the history of grottos including Ascot Place, Berkshire. £7 members and non-members.



Sarah is currently writing a book on Grottos in the UK to be published later this year. She has extensive experience as an author and researcher which she will bring to her illustrated talk. She will focus on the extraordinary grotto at Virginia Water, and that at Ascot Place, a private Grade II* Registered Park and garden. **Zoom talks will be recorded unless otherwise stated.**

DETAILS FOR ALL EVENTS WILL BE SENT OUT TO ALL MEMBERS AND APPEAR ON OUR WEBSITE WITH A LINK TO BOOK VIA TicketSource OR CLICK ON:

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/berkshire-gardens-trust>