



Editor's Introduction

Those of you who came to the AGM 2019 may remember that Bettina Kirkham agreed to become Chairman at a convenient time. We agreed that should be after our December Trustee Meeting. Although no longer Chairman, my term as a Trustee runs until this year's AGM. No decision has yet been taken whether I shall seek a further term then.

Since our last Newsletter, we have welcomed Alison Mihail as a new Trustee, elected by the members at the 2019 AGM, but she had been appointed by the Trustees to fill a vacancy in September 2018, as reported at that time. Alison came with experience of organising functions, in particular for the Prince's Trust, which she has put to good use for our benefit over the past year or so.

We had also elected two more Trustees, both Councillors in their towns. Sadly, Ellen Crumly had to resign due to additional pressures on her in the lead up to the May 2019 local election, and Bruce McKenzie-Boyle has found that he too has had to reduce his commitments and resigned in December 2019. We are very grateful to both of them for the support they offered in the time they were Trustees and would be pleased to welcome them back in due course.

Indra Townsend has been a Trustee from the start of Berkshire Gardens Trust and has been a tower of strength to us all. With her husband David she has helped at so many events, opened her lovely garden by the Ingle, but perhaps most of all she has encouraged us all and raised our spirits.

David had a fall and was housebound for some time after being discharged from hospital. Indra has been acting as carer; although he has made a recovery, it is not yet complete. But they had been intending to leave their lovely house and garden at Ingle Spring and have been trying to sell and find a suitable house for the future. The Trustees were sad that she decided last Autumn that the time had come to resign as a Trustee. We hope we shall continue to see both of them at future events.

The good news from the AGM is that the Trust is financially in good heart, with a satisfactory bank balance and this means that we have not increased our subscription, which remains at the figure fixed 10 years ago. Not many organisations can say that. Our thanks to our Treasurer, Hugh Simon for his careful management of our finances and to our members whose support of our events have enabled us to run these at a modest profit.

2019 marked 10 years since the Trust was formed, and we celebrated that at a Garden Visit to Englefield in July. This is one of 4 garden visits we had in 2019. We also had our usual Spring and Autumn Lectures, the Autumn Lecture also being the date of our AGM. Reports on these events are set out in this Newsletter.

Many members who attended the AGM 2018 completed a survey about the BGT. Others did so afterwards when details were emailed. A report of the findings of that survey may be found in this Newsletter, but one of the questions asked about the provision of on-line booking. This has now been arranged and the current bookings may be booked through our website.

This facility is all part of the work done by Janet Fuller to simplify our administration. The website has been operational in its new form for over 18 months now. This gives up-to-date information about the Trust, with links to other organisations with similar objectives being developed. An article written by our Secretary, Fiona Hope, for one of those, the Berkshire Local History Association's Newsletter, is reproduced below.

This is part of a rethink about our outreach to other organisations and to inform Berkshire residents of the work which we aspire to do to conserve historic gardens for future generations. As part of this work, there was a Presentation to a few interested parties in September 2018. This used a PowerPoint Talk about the work of the BGT, which Fiona and Janet have developed. It has been further refined as a result of the comments made at the Presentation; and is now ready to be used. We would like to show it to groups who have an affinity with our objectives, so any contacts would be useful.

In this edition you will find an Article by our new Chairman, details of forthcoming events in our Summer programme, reports of past events, the response to our survey of members and information about the Trustees' aspirations for the future.

Sadly some of those events have had to be cancelled because of the restrictions imposed on us all to try to contain the spread of coronavirus. If any event is cancelled you will be refunded the price of the ticket. Where possible we shall try to rearrange for another time, but that is likely to be in 2021.

Charles Elly

The Future from our Chairman

Let me introduce myself to those members who don't know me. I have been a BGT Member since 2010, attending the initial meeting at Basildon Park and later the inauguration at Englefield Park in 2009. Since then I have been a Trustee and led on planning matters drawing on my experience as a landscape planning advisor to several local authorities including in particular West Berkshire, as a qualified landscape architect with a very keen interest in historic landscapes. I retired from running my own landscape planning practice in 2020 and, apart from BGT, my main interests are walking, music, art and gardening. In addition, I am a member of FOLAR which actively looks after the Landscape Institute's archive at MERL, BBOWT and the Chiltern Society. I'm married to Roger, with two children (Anna who works for Historic England and Peter who is a landscape gardener) and one grand-daughter. I took over from Charles Elly on 1 January 2020 after Charles served over

6 years providing a steady hand in expanding our activities and maintaining membership. I would like to thank Charles for his excellent work as our Chair, and hope that I can build on this.

Due to the efforts of our Trustees in 2018 and 2019, we have expanded the range of work and the number of garden visits, culminating in the Englefield 10th Anniversary in July 2019. We are now building on this to provide a diversity of talks and more garden visits for our Members. At the time of writing (March 2020) the delivery of these plans is on hold as the Coronavirus grips the world but we will continue to do what we can behind the scenes until normality returns.

The programme of events for 2020 was settled by February this year and we hope to do the same by next February for the 2021 programme. We are hoping to rearrange events that are cancelled in 2020 and hold them in 2021. Next year we are aiming to revisit the Ribbon of Green Walk from Watlington House to Caversham Court and hold a half day Study Day for Members. We are also trying to promote walks through our parks and gardens using Public Rights of Way. The first, organised through North Wessex Downs AONB and Pipsticks Walks, is scheduled for 25 June 2020 which we hope will go ahead. We hope to expand this across specific parks or gardens across Berkshire over time.

Our research programme has stepped up under Janet Fuller's, our vice Chair, leadership and more work has been done by Ben Viljoen on Purley Hall. We have had offers to help with research but we could do with more. We hope to share the results with you in 2021. Our work on planning applications continues with a team of 4 of us sharing the work load. Again extra help would be very welcome as the case load varies in numbers and complexity. This year we are hoping to link up more with other organisations such as MERL, the North Wessex Downs AONB, CPRE, and others, continue to strengthen our links with Watlington House, Caversham Court and others and build up links with other organisations looking after our parks and gardens.

Much is being done to ensure that our governance and management is robust, including necessary amendments to the Membership Rules, carrying out risk assessment and ensuring appropriate insurance cover for events, updating our finances, and a virtual library of digital documents.

Bettina Kirkham

Past Events

Happy Tenth Birthday!

We celebrated the Ten Years of the Berkshire Gardens Trust at Englefield on July 16th 2019. We gathered in the Long Gallery for tea and welcome from our President and our Chairman spoke about the future aims and aspirations of the Trustees.





We were pleased to welcome several official guests headed by the Lord Lieutenant, the High Sheriff and Mayors or Chairs of our Unitary Authorities. Three of our four founding members also came, together with Lady Benyon who was pleased to welcome us to Englefield.

Around 90 of us attended this event and it was a good opportunity for the Trustees to say thank you to those who had supported us as members as well as to thank the official guests, their predecessors in office and the authorities they represent for all their support.

On a beautiful summer day we were able to walk round the grounds accompanied by Lady Benyon. A very appropriate venue, as it was where our inaugural Meeting had been held. We were indebted to Bettina Kirkham, Alison Mihail and Helen Parvin who made all the arrangements, including getting a sponsor for English sparkling wine for the toasts, and producing a brochure showing key events in the life of the Trust and a photographic exhibition on display in the Gallery. We also thanked Janet Fuller for handling ticket sales, manning the door and acting as MC for the afternoon. We look forward to our next Anniversary.

AGM 2018 and Autumn Lecture by Simon Goodenough

The meeting was held at Purley Barn and started with the Annual General Meeting ("AGM"). It was Christina Hill-Williams' first meeting as President and she gave a warm speech highlighting both the successes of the past and the actions underway to address the challenges of the future. This theme was echoed by Charles Elly who also thanked all of the Trustees for their commitment to the organisation.

Members and their guests were delighted to welcome Simon Goodenough, Estate Manager at Folly Farm, as speaker at our 2018 Autumn Lecture. Simon's brief was to give us an insight into Folly Farm gardens. Simon gave us a clear insight into the design features of the gardens, designed originally by the Lutyens Jeykll partnership and re-created in the new Millennium by Dan Pearson for the Oppenheimer family home. With his close professional involvement and depth of experience, Simon was able to give a view on the rationale that with a 'nod' to Jeykll, retains and develops aspects of the original design whilst generating new ideas and foci that clearly create an outstanding garden for the Millennium.



Simon Goodenough with Carol Jackson-Doerge, then Chairman of West Berkshire Council, Christina Hill-Williams, Graham Barker, then High Sheriff of Berkshire, and Charles Elly

Folly Farm itself is a beautiful 'Arts and Crafts' style home central to the overall garden design. The family commissioned Dan Pearson in 2007 to renovate what had become a 'lost' garden, faded and in decline. The formal areas today blend eventually into surrounding grassland and provide 'colour and interest' through the year ensuring something in every season for the family when they are in residence.

With the house as the central feature a series of singular gardens have been retained, often with features of their own that are artistically designed to draw the eye, inward looking, back to the family home. The land is poorly drained lying as it does in the Kennet Valley. To alleviate flooding one of the first jobs was to create a lake as catchment that itself feeds a watercourse, the long rectangular canal tracking through the gardens and for a practical purpose critical in the summer just past, for irrigation. Simon expertly took us on an illustrated tour through the 'Wind Garden' with its grasses and dogwoods, the 'Summer Pool Garden' with vibrant oranges and yellows, a 'Flower Parterre' for a rolling display through the year and a 'Spring Garden' that surprised us all as it is one without bulb planting.



Rectangular Pond. Used with permission of Folly Farm

A unique feature that links house and garden, indoor living and outdoor living is Lutyens' colonnade of curving pillars with a deep and calm rectangular pond as its 'courtyard' looking out over the gardens. An amazing place to sit and restore the soul on a summers evening. It is the personal insights like this that speakers bring to BGT's lecture series that help to make our events particularly rewarding.

On this theme, we also heard about the 'Walled Garden', divided into rectangles by Dan Pearson, for produce and copious cut flowers for the house and importantly a private family space.

On the periphery of the garden complex a variety of mixed planting dissolve into open pasture and the countryside. Pear and Apple orchards, spring bulbs set in grass blending into wildflower meadows all carefully managed to maintain variety of species and ultimately connect with the wider landscape.

A thoroughly enjoyable insight into one of the finest gardens in the south of England combining classic design and up to date flair that complement a fine country home.

The Talk inspired us to arrange another visit to Folly Farm. We were fortunate to be able to arrange it the following June – see report below.

Spring Lecture 2019

“The Art of Deception in the 17th Century Garden”

A discourse on deception is a surprising garden history topic yet this is exactly what members were treated to at the Trust’s Spring Lecture in early March.

Dr. David Marsh, the Chair of the Education, Publications and Communications Committee of the Gardens Trust and a popular speaker about historic gardens, introduced his audience to the world of ‘make believe’ in the pleasure gardens of the seventeenth century. These were created by a master of the art of deception, John Evelyn (1620 – 1706), also a diarist and contemporary of Samuel Pepys. The gardens so crafted with skill and often great financial investment were a phenomenon of their time, admired and wondered at by the ‘polite society’ of late Stuart England.

David’s insight into the lengths that people were prepared to invest in an artifice to both delight and make a bold statement as to one’s wealth and position, was fascinating. Inspired by grand examples of the ‘art’ during a period as a refugee in Continental Europe, John Evelyn recreated the ‘paradise that was Eden’ in the gardens of his wealthy clients in England. An expert at artifice, his wonderful and substantial creations, often employing water to drive mechanical devices, would not go amiss in today’s theme park. However, these ingenious devices were both to entertain and to enjoy intellectually, as Evelyn believed that gardens were the recreation of paradise and brought one closer to God.

Members enjoyed an entertaining and informative evening - a fascinating insight into the minds of our forebears.



AGM and Autumn Lecture 2019 by Dr. Helena Chance

“The Factory in a Garden: Picturesque and Pictorial Landscapes for Labour in the early 20th Century”

The Annual General Meeting followed its usual course with the changes in Trustees and Chairman referred to in the Editor’s Notes above. Financially we were in good heart, although the cost of the 10th Anniversary party had been heavily subsidised to ensure maximum attendance by our members. This and the cost of the sails which now mark the venue of our events, were exceptional items.

Following the formal AGM and light refreshments, our Autumn Lecture was given by Dr. Helena Chance. Helena is Associate Professor of Design Studies at Buckinghamshire New University and is a design historian with a special interest in how people experience designed landscapes.

This lecture was based on her recently published book “The Factory in a Garden”. She referred to the well-known factory settings like Bourneville and Leverhulme. Helena also looked at how offices and factories have incorporated outdoor spaces into their workplaces. She followed the progress of the factory garden from the industrial revolution to the Second World War.



*Helena (on left) and Charles (at right)
at the beginning of Helena’s talk*

It is interesting how the modern fashion for ‘greening’ is only a development of the Industrial Revolution where more enlightened industrialists like the Chocolate manufacturers, appreciated the beneficial effects of a pleasant atmosphere for breaks. The rooftop gardens and atria of the modern office recognises the importance of plants and gardens in all our lives.

Visit to Great Martins, Shurlock Row

Thanks to the President, in May 2019 we were invited to this little-known garden providing a unique opportunity for members, because the gardens are rarely, if ever, open to the general public.

We were given a conducted tour by the Head Gardener and the Manager of the Estate. Both of them were extremely knowledgeable about the plants and more particularly the development of the garden. All gardens develop and change, but in this case it has been built over the course of the last four or five years, although its maturity would suggest a longer period.

When purchased by the present owner the estate had been used primarily as paddocks for polo ponies. Apart from some garden around the House, which has Tudor origins, the rest

of the Estate was grass. Now there are herbaceous borders flanking a lawn, a lake and Stumpery behind, and a vegetable garden. A rhododendron walk leads the visitor around the lake. At the time of our visit the spring bulbs were still showing either side of the drive leading to a car park to serve visitors. Adjacent to that a wildflower meadow was being planted.

After our tour we were entertained to tea in the hall adjacent to the House. We were very grateful to our host and his colleagues for a memorable afternoon.

Visit to Folly Farm in June 2019

Berkshire Gardens Trust was privileged to enjoy tours of this highly regarded Grade II* garden on a lovely summer's day with Tim Stretton, Head Gardener, Rachel Roncon, Assistant Head Gardener and Simon Goodenough, Estate Manager.

The gardens were originally laid out by Sir Edwin Lutyens with Gertrude Jekyll planting in the early 20th century following a commission to extend the original 17th century timber framed farmhouse into what is essentially an Arts and Crafts house. The current owners have overseen work on the wider, informal landscape and a revitalisation of the original Lutyens formal gardens with 21st century planting by Dan Pearson.

The formal gardens are now approached through a rural landscape setting of woodland and wild flower meadows.

Within the formal gardens the Dan Pearson planting complements Lutyens' original features and reflect Jekyll's 'drifts' of colour, with a mixture of planting, textures, shapes, and colours. The yew-hedged formal 'garden rooms', in particular, create a big impact and were a veritable feast for the eye.



Sunken Pool Garden, Used with permission of Folly Farm

The Sunken Pool Garden, inspired by the game of Ludo from Lutyens' time in India, has a 'hot' colour scheme with a central bed of five varieties of Kniphofia from pale oranges through to reds. There is also a 'top-down' viewpoint from the four corner benches at the top of Lutyens' ziggurat Portland stone steps. The richly planted borders of the adjacent Flower Parterre include tapestry-like purples, the reds and pinks of salvias, feathery astilbes, punctuated by small trees such as the snowdrop tree (*Halesia carolina*) and cornus, while the raised White Garden to one side of the garden is more compact though still full of textures.

The square-acre Walled Garden is a productive garden to envy! Fully organic, its quadrants are laid out to a new design as no Jekyll planting plans were available, punctuated by gazebos. The mixture of flowers reflects Jekyll's colours, while there are also espaliered and wall-climbing fruit trees, a huge range of vegetables, hop poles emerging from wonderfully productive raised beds, herbs including collages of flowering thymes.

The formal rectangular Dutch canal and its flanking lawns are precisely edged and complemented by simple planting. A view of the house is reflected from above one end of the canal, thanks to the restored viewpoint which was key to the original Lutyens design. The overall impression is an almost monastic atmosphere in contrast to the more densely planted garden areas.

Visit to Winchester August 2019

In the morning we were first treated to a guided tour of Winchester Cathedral by Mark and Ann Lovett, BGT Members and experienced Cathedral guides. We gained a far better insight into the complex history and construction of the Cathedral and its treasures through their enlightened and amusing talks, which came highly recommended.



It is always a great pleasure to meet colleagues from other Gardens Trusts, and not least those from our neighbours at Hampshire Gardens Trust. The afternoon was spent with Sally Miller and her team of fellow garden researchers, who very kindly took us on a very enjoyable and informative guided tour of a series of gardens from around the Cathedral up to the Great Hall. The gardens are all visible or accessible to the public and, although more modern in their design, all reflect their individual historic settings.

We first visited the Dean Garnier Garden. The land was part of the Deanery Garden in the Close but was given by the Dean for the creation of a public garden in 1994/1995 in memory of Dean Garnier, a keen horticulturalist. The garden comprises three garden rooms, designed to create individual spaces of different character reflecting its ecclesiastical setting.

We then went onto the Water Close Garden created in 1958 on the site of a row of small cottages opposite Colebrook House. Close by we came to the Abbey Gardens next to Abbey House. The Garden Temple with its Doric portico and 4 columns was erected in 1759 originally to screen the Abbey Mill from views from the house and gardens. The land was finally purchased in 1890 to create a Public Pleasure Ground; as it remains today with lawns, a rose garden and colourful displays of bedding planting; bounded by the River Itchen.

We left this Cathedral group to go onto College Street Garden, designed by one of the Art Masters of Winchester College to include a pergola and brick and stone detailing, typical of the 1920s. We then continued up the narrow historic streets to the military area, first visiting Searle's House Garden, laid out in 1954 as a Garden of Remembrance by

Captain F R Sawyer in a 18th century style for the Royal Hampshire Regiment. The garden is planted with roses from the battlefield of Minden and a tree from the Ploegsteert.

Higher up the hill we entered the Peninsula Square Gardens on the parade ground vacated by the army in the 1980s. As part of the conversion to residential use the parade square was laid out as a formal garden set around a grand pond with fountains; interspersed with small lawns, hedges of lavender and compact evergreen shrubs, including tree 'soldiers'.



Finally we reached Queen Eleanor's Garden, a little gem on the south side of the Great Hall. Designed by Dr Sylvia Landsberg in consultation with John Harvey, this is the first example of an authentically constructed and planted medieval garden in Britain. From there we were gratefully led to an excellent tea room near the Military Museum.

Spring Lecture on 6th March 2020

Mick Thompson, the Gardens Manager at Ashridge Management College, spoke to us about the evolution and continued development of the gardens at Ashridge. He was able to enlighten us about the gardens which are now part of the College and for which he is responsible and the wider park which is owned and tended by the National Trust. Both the House, now College, and estate have been the subject of continued development for 1000 years. The site of a monastery since 1283, the property was retained by the Crown when Henry VIII dissolved the monasteries. It was acquired by Thomas Egerton in 1604 and remained in private ownership by the Dukes of Bridgewater and then the Brownlow family until it came into the ownership of the National Trust.

Capability Brown carried out work on the Park and later Humphrey Repton planned the alterations to the garden. In the present day the garden is being remodelled to his plans, although the cost has led to a number of changes.

Assisted by images of the red book and photos of the estate today, Mick was able to give us a rounded view of what can be seen now. Fortunately, members will be able to judge for themselves as a visit to Ashridge is one of the garden visits in our 2020 Programme.

NB Sadly this visit is a victim of coronavirus, and has been postponed.

Results from our Survey

First of all, thank you so much to everyone who responded to the survey. It was the first time we've done something like this, and it was great to get so many responses!

The good news is that our members like our events with more than 80% saying they were "very satisfied" and no-one saying they were not happy. And 96% of people who responded are members to support the conservation of historical parks and gardens – as well as having an active interest in either history or gardening or both.

When organising events, a few people noted that having more day-time events would be nice, particularly if they can be in venues close to public transport. We will definitely keep this in mind. As always, any suggestions for gardens and parks to visit as well as good locations for lectures are welcome.

We asked if members would be interested in a wider range of events – "Yes" is the answer! All of our suggestions were positively received, so we will start to look at organising a garden-history themed event, visits to modern gardens as well as historical gardens in neighbouring counties.

The majority of the people who responded want to continue to receive the newsletter (83%) – hence this issue - and would like to have more content on our website (56%). We will be progressing this soon. 72% said that they would be "very likely" to use online booking for events. We have enabled online booking. We have had some discussion about using social media but your responses suggested that this is not likely to be used very often so we won't progress with this.

We also asked if people would recommend BGT to a friend or colleague – particularly important to us given that a "word of mouth" recommendation is how we currently get new members. We received a positive response to this, which is really good, so please talk to your friends about joining!

We like to get feedback at any time, so there is no need to wait for another survey – just email bgtmembership@gmail.com or leave a comment via the website at www.berkshiregardenstrust.org.

Moving Forward

[This article was written for the Berkshire Local History Association by Fiona Hope]

The **Berkshire Gardens Trust (BGT)** aims to promote the conservation and management of historically-significant parks and gardens across the Royal County of Berkshire. That might sound rather grandiose and lofty, but it is really important as the pressure to develop land for new homes and businesses keeps intensifying. This article explains what we actually do and why you should consider joining our group.

Berkshire has a wealth of historically-important parks and gardens. These range from nationally important sites such as Benham Park, West Berkshire (Grade II on the Historic England Register) and Eton College, Windsor and Maidenhead (Grade II), public parks like The Forbury Gardens, Reading (Grade II) and Herschel Park (Grade II), Slough. Many of the regionally and locally important landscapes of which we are aware are private or

commercial residences, such as Bagnor Manor, Newbury, Shottesbrooke Park (the Landmark Trust) near White Waltham, Maidenhead and Woodside, Crimp Hill near Windsor (which we understand is one of Elton John's residences!).

Part of our aim is to allow more people to appreciate our landscape heritage. We do this by organising lectures and garden visits for our members. In brief, we have a Spring and Autumn lecture which are open to all (with members' preferential rates). There is an annual programme of visits to designed landscapes where we provide a bespoke guided tour, as well as refreshments. Over the past 10 years we have visited a number of Berkshire's parks and gardens, starting with Waltham Place, Twyford and including Eton College and the 'Capability' Brown landscape of Caversham Park, until recently home to the BBC Monitoring Service and local radio. BGT was formally launched with an event at Englefield House in July 2009, so it seems fitting that we had our 10-year celebration there! For more information about our events, please visit our website at www.berkshiregardenstrust.org which also provides more background on the Trust.

The other part of what BGT does is to understand the importance of Berkshire's parks and gardens so we can comment on planning applications that might negatively impact them. As BGT does not own any of Berkshire's designed landscapes, we need to liaise with and influence others to recognise their value and significance. We currently have 186 designed landscapes listed in an initial Gazetteer, which we would like to develop through research in order to help us comment on and contribute to planning applications which may affect them or their neighbourhood. These range from sites which feature on the Historic England Register as being of national importance to those which are or may be regionally or locally important, due either to their owner, designer, their particular style(s), and their setting. BGT is always keen to make positive points about any such proposals whenever possible, as well as alerting planning authorities to features and views which we feel may be adversely affected by development or changes.

While there is lots of publicly available data about the design, evolution and ownership of some of the better-known sites, we know very little about others including parks and gardens which may have changed substantially over the years. We are therefore keen to liaise with others across the county, including the owners of the landscapes concerned, to learn as much as possible about our gardening heritage before it disappears.

If you are interested in knowing more about and helping to conserve the historical landscapes of Berkshire, then please ask us to come along and give your organisation a presentation about our work – we love talking about it! If you would like to join the Berkshire Gardens Trust, a membership form is available on our website.

Future Events

All the Summer visits are on the BGT website: www.berkshiregardenstrust.org, and bookings can be made through a link on the website or direct with our Membership Secretary. They are set out below, and are open to members and guests, but most do have an upper limit.

Kirby House, Inkpen - Gardens Tour

PLEASE NOTE that this garden tour may need to be cancelled due to coronavirus. We will make a decision about it at the beginning of May.

Friday 5th June

The Astor family home features a walled garden, lily pond garden, formal borders, and a terrace designed by Harold Pinto. We will be escorted by Lady Katherine Astor and her gardener. Includes tea and biscuits. Size of group is limited to 30.

£18 for members; £20 for non-members

Watlington House, Reading, National Garden Scheme

Sunday 5th July

Run by National Gardens Scheme and supported by the Berkshire Gardens Trust. Click on the NGS link for full details.

Earlstone Manor, Burghclere - Gardens Tour

Wednesday 15th July

Privately owned and rarely open to the public, Earlstone Manor's unique gardens have been carefully recreated over the last 30 years to reflect an Elizabethan Jacobean garden. Our afternoon visit will include tea and cake in the 16th century barn, followed by an introduction by the owner Mr Bruce Ginsberg. Group limited to 30.

£18 for members; £20 for non-members

Cliveden

Monday 17th August

This visit to the National Trust property includes a tour of the house and gardens. Size of group is limited to 36 (split into 2 groups). Tea is not included.

£6 for members and non-members.

Non NT members also pay £14 to NT on the day.

Crockmore House, Henley - Gardens Tour

Thursday, 17th September

Afternoon visit. Julia Kirkham's garden was designed by Christopher Bradley-Hole in 1999 and has matured into a modern classic. Includes tea.

£19 for members; £22 for non-members

Autumn Lecture and AGM: Sanctity, Vice and Virtue. The History of a Thames Valley Manor House, Ben Viljoen

Friday 9th October in Purley Barn

A lecture about Purley Hall.

£15 for members; £18 for non-members.

Contacts

Trustees

Bettina Kirkham (Chairman)

Janet Fuller (Vice-Chairman and Membership Secretary)

Fiona Hope (Executive Secretary)

Hugh Simon (Treasurer)

Alison Mihail

Charles Elly

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Or by post c/o Chilton Lodge, Speen Road, Speen, Newbury, RG14 1RN

Further information about the Trust, our Programme and past activities may be found on our website: www.berkshiregardenstrust.org Applications to join may be downloaded from the website.

Our aim is to identify, understand, appreciate and promote the conservation of historically significant designed landscapes in Berkshire.