

Plant Heritage

National Council for the Conservation of Plants & Gardens



SUFFOLK GROUP JOURNAL

Spring 2018



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CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

MAGGIE THORPE

It is never any problem to write this when there are so many wonderful things to report.

Firstly, we have again been able to send £10,000 to the National Office, the biggest donation any group is able to make and they are of course immensely grateful. This would not be possible without all your wonderful help at our Plant Fair at Helmingham, an even bigger event than ever before. This fair is now very well established and is up there amongst the best in the country so, weather permitting, and with your help, we hope to see it grow even more. We have just signed up to the contract for the next two years and I look forward to seeing you all there. Please be sure to let Linda Weeks know of your intention to help - which will ensure you get a free pass (linda.weeks2@aol.com).

Our AGM and lunch party was a delightful event held in the beautiful Moat Barn by kind invitation of Benedicta Chamberlain. Plant Heritage's CEO Sarah Quatermain travelled from Hampshire to join us and gave a report on the changes being made at national level. She thoroughly enjoyed meeting us and chatted to members in between working through the quiz. This kept everyone amused and was won by Darren Andrews who shared the prize of chocolates with us all!

Very exciting finds are happening with our quest for lost daffodil cultivars and Sarah Cook has received some lost iris from America, now safely growing in her garden at Shelley which is a big responsibility. I look forward to your being able to purchase some when stocks have built up.

I want to thank all members of the committee for their sterling work and look forward to another successful year. The Propagation Group meets once a month and the plants raised there are taken back to Anne Tweddle's home where she nurtures them until ready to be sold. Anne has to be congratulated for the huge amount of £4500 raised throughout the year.

One sad note is the resignation of our treasurer, Justine Corney after 11 years in the post. We wish her well and thank her most sincerely for all she has done for us. In her place we have a new treasurer, Mrs Pat Stanley.

Make sure you keep an eye on our website to catch up on all that is going on and do not hesitate to get in touch with me if there is anything you wish to report or suggest. We like to have your input and ideas for speakers, visits and articles for the journal.

SUFFOLK GROUP EVENTS 2018

JANUARY

Saturday 27th

Talk: **Pond Owner's Calendar***

Speaker: Linda Smith, Waterside Nursery.

2.30 Stowupland Village Hall IP14 4BQ

About the speaker: Linda Smith started Waterside Nursery 21 years ago. The Nursery is the winner of six Chelsea Gold Medals and is the only recipient of a Chelsea Gold for Aquatic plants in the Chelsea Pavilion during the last 20 years. The exhibit showcases their plant range of water lilies and pond plants and also the small fibreglass container ponds with miniature plantings that allows water to be introduced to the very smallest of garden spaces.

FEBRUARY

Saturday 24th

Talk: **Kirstenbosch and the Cape Floristic Region.***

Speaker: Philyp Styner

2.30 Stowupland Village Hall IP14 4BQ

About the speaker: In 1999, Philyp took up a placement within the Kirstenbosch Botanic Garden in Cape Town, on the eastern slopes of Table Mountain which grows and maintains collections of indigenous South African flora gardens. Trained at Askham Bryan College, York, Philyp has gardened widely throughout the UK and was Head Gardener at Cottesbrooke Hall in Northamptonshire for 9 years. He regularly appeared on BBC Radio Northampton's gardeners' question time.

MARCH

Saturday 24th

Talk: **Hepaticas: The Ashwood Story***

Speaker: Sam Hopes

2.30 Stowupland Village Hall IP14 4BQ

About the speaker: Sam initially trained as a Field Geologist, but became more distracted by the plants than the rocks that dwelled beneath them! She re-trained at Birmingham Botanical Gardens and Glasshouses, and went on to work at the RHS Garden Wisley for a year with their Rock and Alpine team, with additional training at Kew and Great Dixter. Since then she has spent the last four years as part of the team at Ashwood Nurseries, growing hepaticas and roscoeas in particular.

APRIL

Saturday 28th

Talk: 28 to 360 acres; the delights and possibilities of RHS Garden Hyde Hall*

Speaker Robert Brett

2.30 Stowupland Village Hall IP14 4BQ

Through their 10 year Strategic Investment Plan, the RHS are making a very conscious shift to invest back in the organisation and this investment includes some major garden developments at RHS Garden Hyde Hall; a new Winter Garden; large scale Perennial Meadow and a new Global Growth Vegetable Garden. This talk centres itself two years into this Strategic Investment, and explores these new developments and other ideas as seen through the eyes of its new Curator, Robert Brett. Robert has had a distinguished career in horticulture including working at Cambridge's Botanic Garden and the Eden Project and began his training at Kew.

MAY

Sunday 27

PLANT HERITAGE SPRING PLANT FAIR

10am-4pm, Helmingham Hall, IP14 6EF.

Entrance £7

SEPTEMBER

Saturday 15th

Talk: A Passion for Climbers

Speakers: Jane Lindsay and Toni O'Connor.

2.30 Stowupland Village Hall IP14 4BQ

About the speakers: Tynings Climbers are a nursery specialising in hardy and tender climbers run by Jane Lindsay and Toni O'Connor. They are proud National Collection holders of Passiflora, Jasminum, Thunbergia and Mandevillas with many other unusual climbers. They are regular RHS flower show exhibitors and gold medal winners. Most of the plants grown on the nursery are propagated and grown from cuttings.

Sunday 16

PLANT HERITAGE AUTUMN PLANT FAIR

10am-4 pm, Helmingham Hall, IP14 6EF.

Entrance £7

OCTOBER

Saturday 29th

Talk: Mr Bowles and his Garden*

Speakers: James Hall and Helena Dove

2.30 Stowupland Village Hall IP14 4BQ

About the speakers: James Hall started his gardening career at RHS Harlow Carr in North Yorkshire and went on to complete a three year apprenticeship in botanical horticulture at Kew. He has been head gardener at Myddelton House Gardens since May 2015. Helena Dove started out in horticulture working at Langthorns Plantery in Essex studying at Writtle College. From here she gained a place on the Historic and Botanic Gardens Bursary Scheme (HBGBS). Though most of this apprenticeship was spent at Myddelton House Gardens, she also worked at Great Dixter, Chelsea Physic and Audley End as part of the scheme. Her main passion is kitchen gardening, and Helena has been Senior Kitchen Gardener at Myddelton House Gardens since September 2016.

NOVEMBER

Sunday 18th

Annual General Meeting
Details to follow

** Talks free to members, £5 to non members*

FREE PLANT AT PLANT FAIR

Each year at the Spring Plant Fair at Helmingham Hall, Suffolk Plant Heritage gives away free a plant which has been specially raised for us. The 2018 free plant is *Penstemon* 'Drinkstone Red'.

It is hardy, a good shade of red and flowers for a long period over the summer. It has long tubular flowers and long medium green foliage, with an elegant appearance. Keep dead-heading it to encourage flowering and cut back in spring to new shoots coming from the base.

This cultivar was bred by Fred Barcock at his Drinkstone Nursery in Suffolk. It is currently available from four suppliers in the RHS Plantfinder. The material for the free plant came from the Suffolk Punch Garden at Hollesley, where there's a National Plant Collection of plants introduced or bred in Suffolk.



PROPAGATION REPORT

ANNE TWEDDLE

Is Suffolk the only county group with a propagation officer? Here is what we have been up to.

Iris Project

A project set up to try and find lost cultivars, bred by British breeders working from the 1910s to the 1950s. Why, you might wonder. The point of trying to find and save these cultivars is manifold but here are some thoughts:-

Historically, the iris was a hugely fashionable flower in the 20th century (it still is come to that), and there were a lot of good people breeding iris. Many advances were made in colour breaks and the improved stamina of the tall bearded iris we are collecting.

Genetically, the gene material of the cultivars, once lost is finally lost.

Garden worthy, this aspect of conservation is something we don't always talk much about. It is important we find and save cultivars that are good garden plants, that is plants which will grow in a variety of conditions and perform well. All the British plant breeders we are seeking were prizewinners in their field and had established reputations.

.... On with the project.

Approximately 70 cultivars have been located, many of which we have found in the USA. They have almost all been brought back here. The final few will come next year when the rhizomes are large enough for lifting. The story of this work has been interesting and huge amounts of fun with an added plus of new-found friends in conservation across the water too. We have sent material to the US and will no doubt be asked to send more in future years. The Historic Iris Preservation Society of America is our contact while botanic gardens and other gardens have also been a source of material.

The iris cultivars are currently being bulked up in various gardens in Suffolk. We expect to have these available for sale in 2-3 years. Some will go to form new National Plant Collections, and some will go into the National Plant Exchange so other Plant Heritage members can have *free* access to this material.

Fullers Mill Garden - a waterside gem in the heart of Suffolk



Fullers Mill Garden is an enchanting and tranquil waterside and woodland garden, situated on the banks of the River Lark at West Stow in Suffolk.

Fullers Mill Garden combines a beautiful site of light dappled woodland with a fabulous collection of rare and unusual shrubs, perennials, lilies and marginal plants, collected over the course of 50 years by the creator of the garden Bernard Tickner MBE. In 2013 the garden was gifted to Perennial, the only UK charity dedicated to helping all those

who work in or are retired from horticulture, in times of need.

Private visits from groups are welcomed by prior arrangement, with guided tours available from staff and plenty of parking for coaches. Tea, coffee and delicious home-made cakes are available to purchase from the Bothy. Plants propagated from the garden are available for sale.

Open 1 April – 30 September 2018
Weds & Fri, 2.00pm – 5.00pm | Sun, 11.00am – 5.00pm

West Stow, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, IP28 6HD



T | 01284 728888
E | fullersmillgarden@perennial.org.uk
W | fullersmillgarden.org.uk

Narcissus - Engleheart

The dispersed National Plant Collection of narcissus cultivars bred by Rev. George Engleheart, is owned by the Suffolk Group. Eight members of the group grow the cultivars. We are searching for and researching into Rev. George Engleheart, who bred over 700 cultivars of daffodil. We won't be collecting them all!

In 2017 the project achieved its full accreditation as a National Plant Collection and we have increased our cultivar numbers to 34.

The daffodil world of 100 years ago when the Rev. Engleheart was working is a fascinating one. The great and the good led the way. Showing daffodils was as important as breeding them.

From the 1890s until the First World War daffodils commanded huge prices, and deep pockets were the order of the day. It appears those in 'the loop' would buy up entire stocks of cultivars (which might in fact be quite low numbers), grow them on carefully and show them.

We haven't got to the bottom of all this yet, but so far it's a fascinating story full of colourful characters with very competitive streaks. There will be more to follow in later journals I'm sure.

Threatened Plant Project

Many of you will be familiar with RED LABEL plants found on our plant table at talks and sales. The red label indicates a plant that has been checked and is known to be grown in only one garden or being sold currently by a single nursery. Because of its low availability it is deemed 'Threatened in cultivation.' It doesn't mean it is hard to grow, or not garden worthy.

When you see a red label, it is an opportunity for you to do hands-on conservation by growing this plant. If you register your plant under the Plant Guardian Scheme, even better. That way there is a formal recognition you have this plant in active conservation.

What was all that on the moon, about one small step?

We are hoping to be able to take advantage of material in the Threatened Plant project this year with our propagating group.

There is plenty of active conservation going on in Suffolk, but always room for more. If there is a particular genus you are interested in, talk to us and maybe we can work together.

PROPAGATION GROUP SESSIONS

ANNE TWEDDLE

We have all the arrangements in place to run our propagating sessions during 2018. Should you be interested in giving us a try, you will be most welcome. Just let us know in advance.

The sessions are held at the church hall in Stowupland. The hall is attached to the church. We begin at 10am and are usually cleared up by 12noon. If you are a beginner and would like to know more about propagating the plants you grow, then do come along. We will teach you the techniques.

All the plants we raise are sold to benefit the aims of Plant Heritage. 2017 saw us turn over not far short of £5,000. Your efforts will be appreciated, Plant Heritage will benefit and you will learn something new about propagating. The dates are:

Tuesday 16th January

Tuesday 27th February

Thursday 22nd March

Tuesday 17th April

Wednesday 16th May

Thursday 21st June

Wednesday 18th July

Wednesday 22nd August

Thursday 20th September

Wednesday 17th October

Wednesday 21st November.

In July we always do twin scaling - chopping up daffodils and snowdrops. In September we will be doing hydrangeas. Earlier in the year we do cuttings from herbaceous material.

This year I would like to take advantage of material recorded in the Threatened Plant Project. If we can achieve this it will make a great conservation programme for us, and good conservation work for Plant Heritage.

It's a friendly chatty group, so don't be put off by being a beginner. Should you like to come along contact Maggie Thorpe maggiethorpe37@gmail.com or me Anne Tweddle anne@tweddle1.co.uk

NEW MEMBERS

We are delighted to welcome nine new members who have joined Suffolk Plant Heritage since September 2017.

Philippa Black, Dedham

Mr. Stephen Godfrey, Burstall

Miss Deborah Murray, Ipswich

Mr. John Owles, Alderton

Mrs. Heather Passmore, Thwaite, Eye

Elizabeth Smith, Little Green, Earl Soham

Mrs. Patricia Stanley, Witnesham

Mrs. Jennifer Young, Woolverstone

Sushila Zeitlyn, Snape

The committee and members look forward to meeting you at the Stowupland talks and other events. Please introduce yourself when you sign in at the membership table. If you would like a lift to events contact our membership secretary Isobel Ashton 01284 754993.



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PLANT HERITAGE NEWS

FOR AN UPDATE ON WHAT'S
HAPPENING AT NATIONAL
OFFICE VISIT THE CURRENT
ISSUE OF NEWSLINES
ON THE WEBSITE
WWW.PLANTHERITAGE.COM

TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT
SUFFOLK GROUP ACTIVITIES
VISIT
WWW.SUFFOLKPLANTS.ORG.UK

NATIONAL PLANT COLLECTIONS

DOROTHY CARTWRIGHT

Suffolk is pleased to have two new National Plant Collections.

The Santolina Collection is held by Jon Rose at Botanica Nursery, Campsea Ashe. The collection is beautifully arranged on a raised bed for visitors to view. Jon writes about his collection on page 14.

The Narcissus (introduced by the Rev. G. Englehart) Collection is a dispersed collection held by eight Suffolk Group members in their gardens. Some have just a few varieties of narcissus while others have up to 20. This is an interesting way to keep a collection. Darren Andrews and Anne Tweddle did the paper work to get the application in to National Office.

Collection holders have worked hard displaying their collections and giving talks at the Helmingham Plant Fair. They have also given talks to various garden groups.

Sue Wooster and her Alpine Campanula collection has been filmed by Gardener's World and should be seen on the programme this year.

Collection holders had a very interesting annual meeting hosted by Rupert and Sara Eley at East Bergholt Place.

After the meeting they were given a tour by Rupert of his *Euonymus* collection and other unusual plants in his garden.

Euonymus bungeanus
'Fireflame', part of Rupert
Eley's National Collection.



SUFFOLK'S NATIONAL COLLECTIONS

AESCULUS	Framlingham	Robert Grimsey, 01728 685203
CAMPANULA	Bury St. Edmunds	Sue Wooster, 07879 644958
DIANTHUS (Malmaison)	Ipswich	Jim Marshall, 01473 822400
DIANTHUS (Perpetual Flowering Carnations registered in the UK before 1970)	Ipswich	Jim Marshall, 01473 822400
EQUISETUM	Stowmarket	Anthony Pigott, 01449 766104
ERYSIMUM (perennial)	Walpole	Dr Simon Weeks, 01986 784348
EUONYMUS	East Bergholt	Rupert Eley, 01206 299224
HOSTA	Stowmarket	Mickfield Hostas, 01449 711576
IRIS (Sir Cedric Morris introductions)	Ipswich	Sarah Cook, 01473 822400
MUEHLENBECKIA	Burgate	Jan Michalak, 01359 783452
NARCISSUS (Rev.G.Englehart introductions)		Dispersed collection
SANTOLINA	Campsea Ashe	Jon Rose, Botanica, Chantry Farm, IP13 0PZ, 01728 747113
SYRINGA	Stowmarket	Norman's Farm, lilacprez@hotmail.com
SUFFOLK GARDEN PLANTS (C 20th Hardy)		Margaret Wyllie, The Suffolk Punch Trust, Hollesley, 01394 411327

MY SANTOLINA NATIONAL COLLECTION

JON ROSE, OWNER OF BOTANICA NURSERY

I started my collection of Santolinas, also known as ‘Cotton Lavenders’, almost by accident. I had been growing these easy going trouble free sub-shrubs in my nursery, Botanica, for many years and I had - without realising it - most of the species and cultivars available.

While on holiday in the Lake District one year I bought *Santolina* ‘Lemon Fizz’, for me an awful sounding name but it stirred me into looking at other cultivars. Having referenced the RHS Plant Finder I realised there was no one with a National Collection.

By this time, I had rather fallen in love with these much-overlooked shrubs



Santolina pinnata ‘Edward Bowles’.

that I decided to start collecting rather more seriously and so the collection began.

The smell of their foliage always reminds me of the Mediterranean, which is of course from where they originate. Though santolinas are from sunny climes they are perfectly happy in our British garden climate.

They tolerate quite a degree of dry shade but they are happiest

in a sunny spot and are not demanding on cultivation. They thrive if they are not overfed and drainage is good. They make excellent formal edging with a long flowering period of button-like flowers which range in colour from bright golden yellow to the most delicate pale yellow and cream.

Unlike lavender they respond well to the occasional hard pruning back. Regular trimming as new growth begins and again after flowering is all that’s needed to keep them looking neat and tidy.

Plant Heritage members and the public are very welcome to visit and see progress of the site chosen for the collection. And of course I am always



Santolina display at Botanica Nursery in Campsea Ashe.

interested in hearing from anybody who has these rather forgotten plants, particularly anyone with *S. benthamiana*, or *S. chamaecyparissus* 'Double Lemon'.

www.botanicaplantnursery.co.uk

PLANT HERITAGE 2018 AGM AND MEMBERS WEEKEND

27-29 April 2018

The AGM and Members' Weekend will be held in the historic market town of Wareham in Dorset. The programme includes a visit to Abbotsbury Subtropical Gardens and a talk by Neil Lucas, a leading ornamental grass specialist and owner of Knoll Gardens in Wimborne.

Further details from National Office
www.membership@plantheritage.org.uk

SPRING FLOWERING SHRUBS DAY

Thursday 26 April 2018 at Fullers Mill Garden,
 West Stow, Bury St Edmunds IP28 6HD

10am to 4pm

£17.50 per person to include tea/coffee, lunch & homemade cake

Enjoy a relaxing day learning about the variety of beautiful spring flowering shrubs in this wonderful 7 acre garden, established over 60 years by Bernard Tickner. Simon McWilliams from Hedgehog Nurseries will talk about his love for viburnums and other shrubs.

For bookings please ring Fullers Mill Garden on 01284 728888 or email adellbridge@perennial.org.uk by 5th April

THE NATIONAL PLANT EXCHANGE

ANNE TWEDDLE

You might ask ‘how does your garden grow?’ For me this year it is much more of how well my terrace has benefited from the National Plant Exchange.

I have written about this wonderful plant exchange in the past in an attempt to encourage you all to take part. Maybe the process has left you dazed. Well try looking at the outcome. The two plants below came to me in the 2017 plant exchange and they have delivered a lot of pleasure. Both are straightforward to grow, and have been a delight from the day they arrived.

Both of these plants came to me with a red label, which means they are *threatened* in cultivation. What an opportunity to do hands on conservation and get so much pleasure in the process.

Should you be interested in taking part on the National Plant Exchange, just let me know, and I can explain what’s involved.

Rose ‘John Gwilliam’

A very pretty little rose with clusters of double small pink flowers. The bush is compact. I have it growing in a pot where it is very happy. Full sun seems to please it best, and it will flower all summer. The bugs appear to



leave it alone and the leaf is glossy and healthy. Full size is reputed to be no more than 90cm.

Avondale Plants near Coventry sent me this story about John Gwilliam.

‘We knew John when he was chairman of the HPS West Midlands Group, and he gave me my plant about 15 years ago! He and his father grew it but were

never able to identify its name, even through the Rose Society. We wanted to pay tribute to him by naming it after him, and when he died there was a photograph of his rose on the cover of the Order of Service!’



Since then I have learned of a hedge of it growing at Hill Close Gardens in Warwick. I'm told it is very successful as a hedge and very popular with all the visitors to the restored 16 pleasure gardens, which make up Hill Close Gardens.

It has made a lovely addition to the pots on my terrace. The plant came through the National Plant Exchange with a red label, meaning it is *threatened* in cultivation. It is known to be available from one nursery or in a single garden.

Conserving something as charming as this little dear is a pleasure and easy. It's currently listed as available from Avondale Plant.

Cuttings of this rose have been taken, and we should have some for sale before too long. This plant can be registered under the Plant Guardian Scheme by anyone buying it.

Pelargonium 'Roller's Satinique'

Another lovely plant from the National Plant Exchange. This scented leaf cultivar was hybridised by Carol Roller of California. Classified as (U) in the Pelargonium family, which means 'Unique – they are busy plants with lobed leaves and medium sized showy flowers.'

From the day it arrived in May 2017, it has not been out of flower. The plant has grown well too, but it's the steady wave after wave of pretty coral/pink dainty flowers that make it so charming. A nicely balanced plant too. The leaves have a faint perfume of eucalyptus. I water regularly and feed with a dilute tomato feed once a week.



This plant came with a red label indicating *threatened* in cultivation. Hill Close Gardens in Warwick list it, but unfortunately they don't offer mail order.

We have taken cuttings of this lovely geranium, which will be available for sale in 2018.



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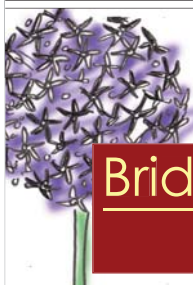
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HEALING GARDENS

WIDGET FINN

Cleve West, the Chelsea gold medallist and award-winning garden designer, will be the guest speaker at the East Anglian Garden Group meeting on Saturday 17 February, talking from a personal perspective about 'Healing Gardens'. In particular he'll focus on the much celebrated Horatio's Garden which he designed for the Spinal Treatment Unit at Salisbury Hospital and was opened by the Duke of Cornwall in 2012.

During his school holidays Horatio Chapple, who planned to study medicine, was a volunteer at the unit where his father David worked as a consultant. Together they came up with the idea for a garden and Horatio drew up a questionnaire to find out what the patients wanted.

Tragically, on an expedition at the age of 17, Horatio was killed by a polar bear. There followed an outpouring of love and goodwill from all over the UK, and donations flooded in for his garden to be created.



Cleve West, whose best friend had been a patient at the spinal centre and knew it well, designed the first Horatio's Garden.

Following its enormous success, as shown in patients' feedback, the charity was set up to create Horatio's Gardens nationally at the other ten regional spinal injury centres in the UK. The gardens are a beautiful, living symbol of the hopes that Horatio had for a future of making a difference to the lives of others.

Cleve West's talk on Healing Gardens takes place at Chamberlin Hall, Bildeston IP7 7EZ on Saturday 17 February, starting at 2.30pm. Tickets cost £7.50 (to EAGG members) and £12.50 (to non-members) including tea. A donation of £2.50 per ticket will go to the charity Horatio's Garden. Advance booking only from Matthew Long, email: flagpartnership@btinternet.com, phone 01449 741551.



Photos Peter Kendall





SUFFOLK GROUP
AUTUMN PLANT FAIR
HELMINGHAM HALL
SEPTEMBER 2017

BERNARD TICKNER MBE

1924-2017

WIDGET FINN

Many Plant Heritage members knew Bernard Tickner and have visited Fuller's Mill, the beautiful garden which he created at West Stow over nearly 60 years.

Bernard was born at Hadleigh where his father was a bank manager and a keen gardener. After military service in World War Two he joined Greene King, becoming head brewer then production director where he developed the award-winning Abbot Ale. But despite his successful brewing career, his enthusiasm, energy and solace were always focussed on his love of plants.



Bernard moved, with his Norwegian wife Betzy (known as Bess), to Fullers Mill in 1958 and began making the garden in what was an area of rough scrub and woodland, set on the River Lark. Today the gardens cover some seven acres, laid out as a series of interconnecting areas. In January 2013 he entrusted it to Perennial, the UK's only charity dedicated to helping all horticulturists, in order to secure its future so that visitors can enjoy the garden for years to come.

Bernard was mainly self-taught and was determined to absorb information from all books he could find on plants and horticulture. He studied Latin, Greek and botany to equip himself to engage with the world of plant



science and horticulture. Experience built over the years was inspired and encouraged by his peers, including Beth Chatto and Christopher Lloyd. Being colour blind, he was most interested in the sculptural quality of a plant, but was always amused to receive compliments on his colour schemes.

Bernard was always ably supported by his wife Bess and before she died in 2007 they established a charitable trust in order to safeguard the long-term future of the gardens for public benefit. The Fullers Mill Trust was activated in 2004 to promote scientific, horticultural, botanical, scenic, educational, research and ecological objects including conservation of nature, improvement of horticultural methods, vocational training and enjoyment of the public. In January 2013 the assets and aspirations of the Fullers Mill Trust were transferred as a gift to Perennial, the Gardeners’



Royal Benevolent Society, thereby further extending the original objects into the care and welfare of people connected to the broader gardening and horticultural community.

Peter Newman, chief executive of Perennial, says “Bernard was, to all those who knew him, a force to be reckoned with. His place in the world of horticulture, through the creation of Fullers Mill Garden, and his subsequent gifting of it to Perennial, shall be his legacy for many generations to come. I must thank him for his generosity in bestowing his garden to our care – I know that it gave him tremendous pleasure that Perennial, a charity that looks after gardens and gardeners so well, was going to look after his.”

The garden at Fullers Mill is vibrant evidence of Bernard’s lifelong love of plants. The garden is home to over 80 types of lily and a similar number of snowdrop cultivars which bloom from October to March. The collection of



Euphorbia is equally striking. During one of their regular excursions to Crete, Bernard's wife discovered *Iris cretensis* 'Bess Tickner', which was subsequently introduced to the garden. Bernard also developed a fine collection of alpine plants which benefit from the sandy, well drained but moist soil alongside Mill Stream. One is named after him, a yellow form of *Fritillaria pyrenaica*, which he discovered in the Pyrenees some 30 years ago.

His love of gardening led to a lifelong commitment to ecological and wildlife conservation and throughout his lifetime Bernard was a loyal and generous supporter of the Suffolk Wildlife Trust. Most recently he donated £100,000 to the SWT Appeal to purchase more land to extend the Lackford Lakes reserve and extend the existing visitor centre. Its appeal target was reached on 6 November, the day before he died. The new extension will be named The Bernard and Bess Tickner Wild Learning Room.

Bernard's book, *A Scratch in the Soil*, is available to purchase at £8.50 from Fullers Mill Garden, West Stow, Bury St Edmunds IP28 6HD or from www.perennial.org.uk For more information about the garden and opening times the advert on page 8 or visit www.fullersmillgarden.org.uk

Photograph of Bernard in his garden by Jonathan Coe, other pictures courtesy Charlie Coleman.

BETH CHATTO, HER BOOKS AND HER ARCHIVE

CATHERINE HORWOOD BARWISE

Last summer I helped pack up around 30 boxes of folders, diaries and books which comprise the Beth Chatto Archive. For the past five years, I have had the enormous privilege of helping Beth (as we all fondly call her) prepare her archive for transfer to the Garden Museum in London's Lambeth. During this time, Beth (now 94) and her family asked me to become her authorised biographer and, needless to say, I jumped at this unique opportunity.

While the biography is still work in progress, this gave me the opportunity to study Beth's papers before we sent them off to the museum. The Garden Museum has recently re-opened after an 18-month refurbishment including the installation of dedicated archive space. This means that, for the first time, garden researchers will be able to study original material from some of the most famous names in this field. Beth's papers sit close to those of Russell Page, John Brookes and Penelope Hobhouse.

Recently I gave a talk at the Garden Museum about Beth, and we asked for a show of hands of those who remembered Beth's ground-breaking stands at Chelsea back in the late 1970s and 1980s – she was, of course, one of the very first to display plants in groups as they should be grown. Lots of hands shot up and there was great excitement at the sight of some of the early catalogues for her nursery, *Unusual Plants*, which we had dug out of the archive for this event. In those early days, they were indeed unusual.

Beth remembers almost being disqualified from an early RHS show for showing euphorbias. One nameless judge thought they were weeds!

The archive now has all her nursery records and manuscripts along with a set



of her published books. I'm lucky enough to have my own treasured copies in my gardening library.

Everyone has their 'Beth' favourites - *Dear Friend and Gardener* (1998), written with Christopher Lloyd is still in print. Not many know it was a put-up job – more of that when the biography comes out! Her books on damp, shade and woodland gardens and, most famously, gravel gardens continue to be in print and to inspire a new generation. (It was marvellous seeing so many of them at the Garden Museum wanting to know more about Beth.) Other books such as *Plant Portraits* (1985) and *The Green Tapestry* (1989) are collectors' items now. Hang on to them if you have them!

It was *The Dry Garden* (1978) that first catapulted Beth to fame, encouraged to write it by that her good friend and plantsman, Graham Stuart Thomas. I'm currently reading Penelope Lively's marvellous new book, *Life in Garden* and was delighted to see her say, "Beth Chatto's *Dry Garden* has me wanting to move at once to East Anglia, shed forty years, and start a new, robust gardening life with a garden full of artemisias, santolinas, eryngiums, grasses, all the Mediterranean things."

In contrast to Lively's dream, I am in the process of doing the opposite – moving away from my beloved garden in Clare which many of you may have visited on its NGS open days or group visits. I can't take too many plants with me so I'm having to choose very carefully which treasures come to London – but that's another story.

Books are a different matter but just as difficult to select the 'keepers'. Inspired by a blog written recently by Noel Kingsbury who is moving from Wales to France (<http://noels-garden.blogspot.co.uk/2017/10/overwhelmed-by-garden-books.html>), I'm gradually weeding out (such an appropriate term) the more practical books and donating the gorgeous coffee-table garden books that keep us inspired through dark winter months to Suffolk Plant Heritage to help raise funds.

But to keep me going when I retreat to my London flat will be – you guessed it – my precious pile of Beth Chatto books. My favourite was and always will be Beth Chatto's *Garden Notebook* (1988). In this more than any other I can hear Beth's voice as she tells us about her daily routines bringing in anecdotes of family life in and around the house and nursery central to her gardens in Elmstead Market. Times – and gardens – change but there's vicarious pleasure to be found in such a classic gardening book.

Beth's words will always transport me back to East Anglia even if I'm no longer gardening there myself.

A VICTORIAN PLANTSMAN AND BOTANIST

ADVOLLY RICHMOND

The Rev. Thomas Birch Freeman (1809 - 1890) was a British missionary of Anglo-African descent. His success in founding churches and schools in the Gold Coast, now modern-day Ghana, has previously been well documented. However his contribution to botany, plant collecting and horticulture has been overshadowed by this religious legacy.

Some sources have suggested that Birch Freeman was trained at the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew. Unfortunately Kew's pre-1841 archival records have not survived; therefore it is difficult to ascertain the true circumstances by which Birch Freeman came upon his vast botanical and horticultural knowledge.

Thomas Birch Freeman was born in December 1809 just outside Winchester. Very little is known about him until 1833, when at the age of 24 we find him working as a head gardener at Orwell Park near Ipswich in horticulture to the extent that Lady Harland managed to grow *Ipomea speciosa* (Morning glory) in their stove-house which was featured in Curtis' Botanical Magazine in 1824. While he was head gardener at Orwell Park Birch Freeman attended shows as a judge for the Ipswich Horticultural Society in the early 1830s.



Orwell Park, an estate established in 1729 by Admiral Edward Vernon (1684 – 1757), already had an interesting connection with plants before Birch Freeman's arrival. When Francis Vernon (1715 – 1783), the admiral's nephew, inherited the estate he was able to indulge his interest in plants. This was undoubtedly encouraged and supported by his term as commissioner at the board of trade where he would have had access to foreign plants. In 1776 he wrote an article advocating the nurturing of exotic plants saying that:

The catalogues of curious plants which are now in Britain, and what we are constantly procuring from the different parts of the world will do honour to our nobility and gentry in the ages to come.

The article also mentioned *Mimosa pudica*, *Nepenthes* as well as sedum or ice plant as he called it. At this time Orwell Park was said to possess a ‘pretty’ collection of curious and well managed exotics including a recently flowered *Selenicereus grandiflorus* or night blooming cereus. When Francis died in 1783 over 260 exotic specimens including 100 pineapple plants were put up for sale.

In 1837 Birch Freeman converted to Methodism which sadly cost him his job. He joined the Wesleyan Methodist Missionary Society and set out for the Gold Coast. Birch Freeman spent many years actively collecting and cultivating plants and trees on the Gold Coast and would almost certainly have sent seeds and plants back to England. On one of his many journeys to the kingdom of Ashanti he recorded that:



Ipomoea speciosa.

I saw a splendid species of Epidendrum clinging to a tree, at a considerable height from the ground. Anxious to obtain it, I sent a person up the tree...the man having obtained the plant, descended in safety.

Perhaps one of his most outstanding achievements was his involvement in the introduction of *Coffea Liberica* (Liberian Coffee) to various British colonies via Kew. This was in response to the devastating effects of the fungal leaf infection *Hemilia Vastatrix*. This proved to be a turning point in the production of coffee in many parts of the British Empire with some such as

Ceylon turning to tea production instead. Birch Freeman regularly corresponded with Sir Joseph Dalton Hooker at the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew as well as with local governments in the various colonies.

The Rev. Thomas Birch Freeman died on the 12th August 1890. In November of that year the Kew Bulletin published an article confirming his contribution to Kew’s colonial distribution programme. Birch Freeman was more than a minister: he was a pioneer, architect, horticulturalist, diplomat, educationalist, farmer and botanist.

An initial examination of Birch Freeman’s archive has revealed someone who was not only devoted to his religion but also extremely passionate about plants and science. My research aims to finally bring his horticultural legacy out of the shadows.

The benefits of manure were featured in the last issue when Neil Bradfield promoted the contribution his two donkeys made to his Suffolk garden. Here it is cows and other smaller livestock who are helping African smallholders to turn round their lives around.

GROWING THEIR WAY OUT OF POVERTY

NICOLA HOBBS

Manure, manure and more manure was usually the answer when I asked what the secret was to the prolific plots I saw in Rwanda last autumn. I was there on a study tour organized by the development charity Send a Cow to help us volunteers understand more about its approach to tackling food poverty in Africa.

To the muck must be added the good training provided by the charity and a lot of very hard work and enterprise by the smallholders themselves. Many of them go on to teach their neighbours how to increase the yields, so for every person directly helped there may be 10 more supported indirectly. We heard claims of crop yields increasing by up to eight times that achieved before they started with Send a Cow. Intercropping was also



recommended in some cases – for instance planting beans between corn. You can always identify a property of a Send a Cow beneficiary in Rwanda – rather than a well swept mud courtyard round the home, there are well mulched raised beds filling every possible space.

Rwanda is a small country and densely populated; much of the flatter land has been exhausted by over-cultivation. The manure being applied to such good effect is mostly from the cows provided by the charity. A single cow, kept in a large airy pen where its manure and urine can be collected, and fed by nourishing crops such as Napier Grass grown for it by the owner, can turn a family's life around from not knowing where the next meal is coming from to real food security.

In cases where a cow might be difficult to look after, for instance in a child headed household, other livestock is given – goats, chickens or rabbits - whose droppings can be collected. And of course composting of all materials is normal practice; as is water harvesting through devices such roof guttering and the application of plant based fertilisers.

One of our visits was to a 58 year old widow living in a remote area north east of Kigale who had been in extreme poverty before she heard about Send a Cow. The cow and the training have totally transformed Laurence Mukamurenzi's life. Her now very fertile plot on the edge of a steep hill includes chili, rosemary, onions, peppers, spinach, amaranthus, cabbages, aubergine, courgette, pumkin, bean, avocado and comfrey. The last she uses used mostly as liquid fertilizer but also as food when young. Many are cropped twice a year. Through the sales of surplus milk and vegetables, she has been able to buy more land and now employs people to help her tend the crops on her half hectare.



This was my fourth visit to Africa with Send a Cow and I have met many very inspiring people whose own hard work following a bit of help has led to total transformations of life styles and opportunities. Participants on these study tours, who pay their own costs, are enabled to gain a privileged insight into other lives and places that mere tourists to these countries never can.

Rwanda, the 'land of a thousand hills', is a really beautiful country and its people delightful. It's hard to believe that only 22 years have passed since the terrible genocide. The lack of litter puts us to shame (plastic bags were banned seven years ago) and once a month everyone spends time on a

special work day on projects to benefit the community.

2018 marks the 30th anniversary since Send a Cow was started by a small group of farmers in the west of England sending 24 in-calf heifers to Uganda. This is being marked in the UK by a campaign focusing on gardening, to 'raise funds to help families grow their way out of poverty'.

I will again be having a stand at the Suffolk Group's plant sale at Helmingham on 27 May to promote our activities. I will also be selling plants from my garden in Grundisburgh throughout the spring and summer to raise funds for Send a Cow. For more information about the charity visit www.sendacow.org and or contact me on 01473 738267, nicola@nicolahobbs.com



Photographs by Egide Kayitera. Left Laurence Mukamurenzi. Above neighbour Angélique Uwamariya and her cow which has brought her family so many benefits.

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MEMBERS' GARDENS OPEN IN 2018

GABLE HOUSE, HALESWORTH ROAD, REDISHAM, BECCLES
NR34 8NE Brenda and John Foster 01502 575298

Sunday 18 February 11am-4.30pm Entry £4.00
SNOWDROP DAY in aid of The National Garden Scheme. Large
collection of snowdrops, aconites and cyclamen in a one-acre garden.
Plants for sale. Soup lunches and home made teas

Sunday 2 September 11am-5pm Free Entry Autumn bulbs and perenni-
als. Collections of cyclamen, crocus, colchicums, fritillaria, erythroniums,
etc. Plants for sale. Salad lunches and home made teas

Groups welcome at other times by appointment

THE PLACE FOR PLANTS – EAST BERGHOLT PLACE GARDEN,
EAST BERGHOLT PLACE SUFFOLK CO7 7UP
Rupert and Sarah Eley 01206 299224 sales@placeforplants.co.uk

Sunday 8 April iao National Garden Scheme 2-5pm

Sunday 29 April iao National Garden Scheme 2-5pm

Sunday 13 May iao St Elizabeth Hospice 2-5pm

Sunday 3 June iao St Marys Church, East Bergholt
Part of village garden opening 11am-5pm

Twenty acre garden and arboretum original laid out at the turn of the last
century and re developed over the last 20 years by Rupert. It holds a fine
collection of Rhododendrons, Camellias and Magnolias as well as
flowering Cornus, and climbing roses. Unusual trees seldom seen in East
Anglia as well as topiary and a waterside walk with summer hydrangea
interest.

FULLERS MILL GARDEN, WEST STOW, BURY ST EDMUNDS IP28
6HD Contact Annie Dellbridge 01284 72888
adellbridge@perennial.org.uk

Sunday 13 May 1-5pm Entrance £4.50 iao National Gardens Scheme

Sunday 15 July 10-5pm Entrance £4.50 iao Suffolk Nurseries Plant Fair

Sunday 7 October 1-5pm Entrance £4.50 iao National Gardens Scheme

BURES OPEN GARDENS

Saturday 26 and Sunday 27 May 1-6pm Entry £5 Proceeds shared between St. Mary's Church and a local charity.

Contact Ken Jackson, 01787 227860

Twenty gardens open around the village.

HIDDEN GARDENS OF GRUNDISBURGH, BURGH & CULPHO

Saturday 9 June and Sunday 10 June 2-6pm. Entry by programme £5 available from Grundisburgh Green IP13 6TA at the time or Williams Stores a week in advance. Children free. Contact Catherine Laxton, 01473 735228, catherine@laxton-interiors.co.uk

Wide range of village gardens and allotments open. Lunches in The Dog pub, teas in parish rooms, plant sales from Katie's Garden on The Green. Art exhibition in grounds of Grundisburgh House.

OLD NEWTON OPEN GARDENS

Sunday 10 June 11am-5pm Entrance £4, children free
Contact: Libby Brooks 01499775334 familybrooks@btinternet.com

Gardens of varying size, character and age are all included in Old Newton's Open Gardens. A circular trail of the village takes in 20 gardens and the village allotments. Alongside the gardens is a Scarecrow competition, the theme of which will be weddings. There are refreshments and music, and plants for sale. The day will end with Songs of Praise at 5.30pm in St Mary's Church

LAVENHAM SECRET GARDENS

Sunday 10 June 11am-5pm Entry £5, children free Contact Gaye Hodges 01787 248207 or Tourist information 01787 248207

Around 23 gardens in a variety of sizes and settings, many hidden behind old walls, some offering teas and plant sales. Restaurants, cafes and shops open. Proceeds to village causes and charities.

WORTHAM OPEN GARDEN WEEKEND on A143 between Bury St. Edmunds and Diss. Contact Joy Cornish 01379 309538

Saturday June 16 and Sunday June 17 11am – 5pm Entry £5

Approximately 15 gardens with a wide range of plants including one that opens for the National Garden Scheme. Plants generously donated by Howards Nurseries will be on sale and delicious refreshments available from two of the gardens.

All proceeds will go to support Wortham Village Hall

BATTELYS COTTAGE, THE LING, WORTHAM IP22 1ST

Sunday 29 July 1-5.30pm Entry £4 Open for National Garden Scheme
Contact Andy and Linda Simpson 01379 644174 lindaruth11@gmail.com

A one acre plantsman's garden with a wide range of trees shrubs and perennials. Vegetable garden, potager, ponds stream and meadow area as well as meandering paths and borders. For full details see the NGS website. Refreshments available.

HULLWOOD BARN, BOLTON LANE, SHELLEY, IPSWICH IP7 5RE

For open days for National Collection of Cedric Morris Irises contact Sarah Cook sarah@malmaisons.plus.com For National Collection of Malmaison Carnations contact Jim Marshall jim@malmaisons.plus.com in early May. Plant Heritage members welcome at any time by appointment.

Details of Plant Heritage members' open garden events in 2018 can be included on the special e-letter. Please use the format: Name and address of garden, your name and contact details, date and time of opening, entry fee, brief description of garden.
email to isobel.ashton@btinternet.com
before 15 March

THE NATIONAL OPEN GARDENS WEBSITE, RUN BY TWO
KEEN GARDENERS, WELCOMES DETAILS FOR FREE
INCLUSION: WWW.OPENGARDENS.CO.UK

EASTON WALLED GARDENS

If snowdrops, roses, sweet peas or dahlias are your passion, then head up the A1 to Easton Walled Gardens near Grantham in Lincolnshire. Ursula Cholmeley restored the ancient 12-acre garden belonging to her husband's family, transforming it from a neglected wilderness into one of the UK's leading gardens. In 2017 it was highly commended in the Hudson's Heritage Awards, and with good reason.

From 17-25 February the garden's snowdrops will, hopefully, be at their best and visitors will be able to buy rare snowdrops from galanthophile Jackie Murray. There will also be an exhibition of pictures by three distinguished botanical artists



called 'A Year in the Garden' which continues till 11 March.

The glory of the garden in the summer is its collection of sweet peas. Ursula and her team of helpers have raised 100 varieties which are displayed in the walled garden, and sweet pea seeds are for sale by mail order. For details go to www.easton-walledgardens.co.uk



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**Editorial contributions to the
Autumn 2018 issue of
Suffolk Plant Heritage Journal
are wanted by 1st July.
Please send articles and
photos to Widget Finn,
widget.finn@gmail.com**

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY 2018

Jan 14 Su	Essex HPS Richard Hobbs
Jan 20 Sa	Harveys Garden Plants Snowdrops
Jan 21 Su	Norfolk PH Kit Grey-Wilson on Alpines
Jan 27 Sa	Middleton House Snowdrop Sale
Feb 3 Sa	EAGG Julian Ives – Natural Pest Control
Feb 3 Sa	AGS Snowdrop Conference
Feb 4 Su	East Ruston Snowdrop Event
Feb 4 Su	AGS Mid-Anglia Wim Boens
Feb 6 Tu	Boxford Garden Club John Foster
Feb 11 Su	Gable House Redisham Open garden
Feb 17 Sa	EAGG - Cleve West – Healing Gardens at Chamberlin Hall Bildeston
Feb 18 Su	HPS Essex John Amand - Unusual Bulbs
Feb 18 Su	Norfolk PH, Peter Blake on Ferns
Feb 18 Su	HPS Snowdrops
Feb 18 Su	Great Comp Snowdrops
Feb 25 Su	EAGG - Chippenham Park Snowdrops
Mar 3 Sa	EAGG Steve Edney on Dahlias
Mar 3 Sa	Cambs&Beds HPS Val Bourne
Mar 10 Sa	Monksilver Nursey ‘Spring Thing’ Plant Fair
Mar 18 Su	Norfolk PH, Martin Walker York Gate
Mar 25 Su	RHS Wisley Spring
Apr 3 Tu	Boxford GC Neil Bradfield ‘Ulting Wick through the Seasons’
Apr 6 Fr	RHS Orchid London
Apr 7 Sa	EAGG Harriet Rycroft – Containers
Apr 7&8 Sa/Su	Framlingham Country Show
Apr 7&8 Sa/Su	Gt Dixter Spring Plant Fair
Apr 8 Su	AGS Mid-Anglia Julian Sutton

Apr 15 Su	Suffolk WLT Plant Fair Lopham Fen
Apr 15 Su	Norfolk PH Gala, Plant Hunting & Conservation
Apr 15 Su	Essex HPS Joe Sharman on Variegation
Apr 21 Sa	Felbrigg Hall Plant Lovers Fair
Apr 21&21	Essex PH Plant Fair Hyde Hall
Apr 29 Su	Stanton & Wyken WAG Plant Fair Wyken Hall
May 6 Su	Norfolk PH Hethersett Plant Fair
May 6 Su	Woottens Spring Plant Fair
May 7 Mo	Quay Theatre Plant Fair Sudbury
May 19 Sa	Cambridge Botanic Plant Fair
May 22 Tu	Chelsea Flower Show till 26th
May 26 Sa	Creake Abbey Plant Lovers Fair
May 30& 31	Suffolk Show
Jun 5 Tu	Boxford GC Tricia Holman on Dyes
Jun 9 Sa	East Ruston Old Vicarage Plant Fair
Jun 9 Sa	Essex HPS Lecture Day (Bob Brown & Crug)
Jun 10 Su	Lavenham Open Gardens
Jun 17 Su	Bury Hidden Gardens
Jun 24 Su	Chelsworth Open Gardens
Jul 3 Tu	Boxford GC Matt Tanton Brown
Jul 15 Su	Suffolk Nurseries Plant Fair Fullers Mill
Jul 15 Su	Chenies Manor Plant Fair
Jun 20 th	Norfolk PH, Rose Workshop
Jul 22 Su	AGS Mid-Anglia with Richard Hobbs Lopham Fen & Tim Fuller Plantsmans Preference
Jul 25 We	Sandringham Show
Aug 7 Tu	Boxford GC Luci Skinner Woottens
Aug 26 Sa	Norfolk PH Plant Fair, Hethersett
Aug 26/27	Walsham le Willows Open Gardens

*PH Plant Heritage HPS Hardy Plant Society WLT Wild Life Trust
EAGG East Anglian Garden Group*

CEDRIC MORRIS – ARTIST AND GARDENER

Those of you who have followed in the Journal Sarah Cook's search for lost Cedric Morris irises to add to her National Collection will be interested in several exhibitions coming up this spring.

On 10 February a major exhibition of Cedric Morris paintings will open at Gainsborough's House, Sudbury, part of a collection of 100 of his works which have been bequeathed to the museum. Maggi Hambling, a student and friend of Morris, has selected the works for the exhibition.

Cedric's achievements as a gardener will be celebrated at an exhibition at the newly-revamped The Garden Museum in Lambeth Palace Road, London, with some of his exquisite flower paintings. He was a friend of Paul Nash, Christopher Wood and Ben and Winifred Nicholson, and was a crucial figure in the British Modern tradition.

He and his life-partner Lett Haines founded the East Anglian School of Painting and Drawing at Hadleigh which was attended by Lucian Freud and Maggi Hambling.



Cedric Morris achieved national stature as both a painter and plantsman – cultivating at least 90 new varieties of iris – and the exhibition will show how Morris's two disciplines intertwined. 'Artist and Gardener' runs from 18 April – 22 July.

The exhibition at Philip Mould Gallery, Pall Mall, London, will highlight some of Morris' most significant works from his travels at home and abroad. 'Beyond the Garden Wall' runs from 18 April – 15 July.

Sarah Cook will be giving talks on Cedric Morris and his irises to complement these exhibitions – on 8 May at The Garden Museum and on 1 June at Gainsborough's House.

For further details contact www.gardenmuseum.org.uk and www.gainsborough.org

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