

Somerset Gardens Trust Programme 2021

I am pleased to send you our planned programme for the summer of 2021. We do hope that we have good SGT weather for our visits and that you will enjoy them and contribute to our fundraising in doing so. The detailed times and directions will be shown on the tickets.

Coronavirus

We must be Covid compliant for our visits. This means and for the welfare of all, we must ask that you do not attend an event if you have symptoms of Covid19, have had a positive test or have been asked to self-isolate through contact with someone who has tested positive.

Track and Trace. With our tickets we know who is going to attend and the Events Team member who is leading the visit (shown on the ticket) will check you in. However, it would be appreciated if a volunteer could stand-in if needed on the day. Please just put a note on the booking form.

Our hosts have advised us now what facilities they can offer, and this may change before we visit.

Should rules change and it is decided that an opening cannot go ahead, where possible it will be postponed and we will, as in 2020, refund your ticket.

Wednesday 9 June 3.30 pm Iford Manor, near Bradford on Avon, Wiltshire BA15 2BA By kind permission of the Cartwright-Hignett family

Iford Manor is the famous historic Italianate Grade-1 Listed Garden created by Edwardian designer Harold Peto who lived there from 1899 until his death in 1933. It is now the home of the Cartwright-Hignett family and, together with Head Gardener Troy Scott Smith, there has been an ambitious garden enhancement programme. He will begin our tour in the walled garden and glasshouses. William Cartwright-Hignett will show us the main garden.

There is a café for the purchase of tea and cakes before our visit starts.

Please note there is steep, uneven terrain and steps.

Wednesday 23 June 1030 am Holland Farm, South Brewham, Bruton, BA10 0JZ By kind permission of Nickie Gething
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Holland Farm was created from a derelict farmyard 14 years ago. It was designed by Libby Russell who, at the time, was working for Lennox Boyd. A French-style courtyard with fountain and Italian pots leads to a series of "rooms" surrounded by hornbeam and yew, filled with roses and summer flowers. There is a swimming lake and stunning views of Alfred's tower. There is the option to take a 10-minute walk to a stunning wildflower meadow if you are able. Coffee and biscuits.

Friday 2 July Late Afternoon Garden Party
to include AGM & Plant Swop/Sale
Belmont Farm, Hatch Beauchamp, TA3 6AA
By kind permission of John Townson

A new time of year for our AGM. Times and papers will be circulated in due course. We shall be able to take a walk around John's garden and grounds or visit St John's Church next door. Should you wish, you could bring plants for swop/sale from your car boot. Proceeds to be shared with SGT and a charity of your choice.
Refreshments.

Wednesday 7 July 2.00pm
Ven House, Milborne Port, Sherborne, DT9 5RA
By kind permission of Mr Mike Fisher

Grade 1 listed Ven House was built in the 18th century for James Medlycott, a London lawyer, and was surrounded by magnificent gardens of the English Baroque. Over 300 years later many of the features of these gardens still survive.

In the 1990s the house and gardens were restored by Tommy Kyle, an American decorator, but he sold up in 1999. Since then, Ven has had several owners, including Jasper Conran, but none of them made any great changes.

Mike Fisher and Charles Allen, who have owned Ven House since 2015, have redecorated the house and are restoring the gardens. Their head gardener, James Foster-Pegg, has refreshed the over-mature borders and is keen to show us the redesigned no-dig kitchen garden. The lake has been dredged and there are plans to redesign the west courtyard.

After a guided tour of the garden, we will be treated to tea and cake.

Thursday 8 July 2.30pm
Crowe Hall, Widcombe Hill, Bath. BA2 6AR
By kind permission of Fiona Lees

Listed terraced gardens surrounding a Georgian House 1 mile from the centre of Bath. There are views, meadows, ponds, follies and terraces. There is a rockery designed by William Carmichael. Carmichael trained at Edinburgh Botanic Garden and worked in the 1860s for the Prince of Wales at Sandringham before coming to Crowe in the 1870s to work for Henry Tugwell. The garden was remodelled then and restoration work continues today. Tea and cakes

Thursday 26 August 2.30pm
Hazlebury Manor, Wadswick, Box, Corsham, SN13 8HX
Hosted by Head Gardener Phylip Statnor

Head Gardener, Phylip Statnor, will show us around the 8 acres of Grade II organic garden in the grounds of a C15 fortified manor. There are huge yew hedges and topiary, stilt hedges of beech, wildflowers and a circle of megaliths. The vegetable garden and orchards should be in full production at the time of our visit. No refreshments and no toilet facilities.

Thursday 23 September 11.00am
Ashcombe Gardens, Simonsbath, TA24 7SH
Rob Wilson-North Head of Conservation & Access for the Exmoor National Park
Authority

Following the lecture in 2019, we are invited to see the progress made at the Knight family grounds at Simonsbath to restore and recreate this garden. A welcome coffee/tea, an update talk and a tour of the cottage and Ashcombe gardens. We will bring our own picnic lunch (and chairs). There will be the option of a more challenging walk in the afternoon. Please note the gardens comprise a level grass area in the valley. However, beyond that the valley is quite challenging (i.e., uneven, muddy and potentially wet).

And finally for 2022

A garden tour to North Wales is being planned. The provisional dates are 8 May 2022 for 4 nights.

Booking Tickets

A booking form is enclosed. Should an event be oversubscribed we will endeavour to allocate tickets fairly and let you know if you are on a waiting list. If numbers permit, you may be able to bring a guest. We charge a £2 supplement over the event price for members' guests and £3 for members of the public (refundable on joining the Trust at that event). As in previous years we will not make refunds, with the exception of serious illness or Covid-related compliance. Do advise us if you are unable to attend so we can reallocate your ticket to someone on the waiting list.

Members are expected to take reasonable care during visits. Neither Somerset Gardens Trust nor its officers accept liability for accidents.

Please also note that, as a rule, garden owners do not allow dogs.

The Events Committee

This year we are:

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We would love to hear your feedback and, of course, help with events is always welcome.