



# THE KENT GARDENS TRUST

# NEWSLETTER

*Working for Kent's Garden Heritage*

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## From the Editor

*Hugh Vaux*

What a year it has been for blossom starting with the blackthorn which seemed to last twice as long as usual. Cherry blossom is the subject of the review by Charlotte Molesworth of the fascinating book by Naoko Abe, 'Cherry' Ingram.

Charlotte lives next door to the Grange at Benenden and her own charming garden was open on the same day for the National Gardens Scheme in May. Another avid plant collector and a friend of Ingram was Ben Tompsett of Crittenden in Brenchley who, also a fruit grower, pioneered research into dwarf rooting stocks for apples and pears.

Both Benenden Grange and Crittenden were included in the survey of Tunbridge Wells parks and gardens which was carried out by the KGT research team in 2008. These interesting reports can be read very easily on the KGT website,

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## *A decade of research with the Kent Gardens Trust*

# *Understanding Old Gardens*

*By Peta Hodges*



*Research group at Salutation House*

Peter Cobley, then Conservation Architect at County Hall, invited me to attend a seminar taking place at Bedgebury International School in 2008 organised by Tunbridge Wells Borough Council and Kent Gardens Trust (KCC). KGT was to recruit the volunteers at the meeting and I found myself being 'volunteered' before the day was finished.

In conjunction with the KCC, the Trust had produced a revision of the Compendium of Historic Parks & Gardens in the county in 1996 but this needed updating. English Heritage (EH) were recording the grade I and II sites, such as Sissinghurst, in much more detail and in 2008 it became possible to extend this process to the unlisted sites which were still important. This would produce an up to date record for conservation purposes, for future research and to inform the planning authorities. With the help of a grant from EH, Tunbridge Wells was made the guinea pig and Dr Barbara Simms, a professional landscape historian, was appointed in liaison with Virginia Hinze, a landscape architect recently retired from EH, in order to train and guide a group of volunteers as our mentors.

Those first six months were particularly interesting. Our training took us to such diverse destinations as Swindon where EH keeps the National Monuments records, KCC's Centre of Kentish Studies then at County Hall, Maidstone, now rehoused in the new Library, with a study day at Finchcocks for assessing site training and a tree identification day at Doddington Park. Otherwise we were researching the sites we had been allocated in local libraries or in the CKS. On completion of the project we had a reception at Finchcocks attended by Greg Clark, the Tunbridge Wells MP.

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## The KGT Spring Lecture for 2019

## The Chief Guardians of Our Gardens

A summary by Richard Stileman

Ambra Edwards gave the first KGT Spring Lecture to be held in Egerton Village Hall. Her lecture, based on her successful book, *Head Gardeners*, started by considering the varied and challenging role of head gardeners in history as well as today. First and foremost they have to be expert gardeners, but they also have to be managers (of teams needing training and guidance; diplomats (especially in relations with garden proprietors); and publicists (coping with demands for local and national exposure).

We were fortunate to have in the audience several local head gardeners including Troy Scott Smith, who has just moved from Sissinghurst to Iford Manor, and Viv Hunt of Godinton. This

prompted a lively debate following the conclusion of Ambra's talk.

Joined by Helen Yemm (gardening supremo at *The Daily Telegraph*), there was a full discussion of the impact of today's stresses and strains on the head gardener's role. Prior to the Lecture, Trustees of KGT gave a brief illustrated presentation on the role of the Trust in Research, Conservation, Planning Scrutiny, Publications and Events.

The 2020 KGT Spring Lecture will also be held in Egerton on Saturday March 14th when the Speaker will be James Bolton, well known ArtSoc Lecturer, garden historian, and proprietor of Border Lines, England's leading specialist garden tour company.



Hard Work in the Garden at Sissinghurst. Courtesy of Charlie Hopkinson.

## A visit to Hush Heath Winery May 2019

By Alison Philip

Beautiful sunny weather contributed to a fascinating, informative and thoroughly enjoyable afternoon on the Hush Heath Estate. We toured the state-of-the-art winery and learned about the various stages of production of the award-winning still and sparkling wines produced at Hush Heath. We then set off on a wonderful walk through the vineyards planted in stages over the past few years as well as the apple orchards which produce extremely popular ciders. We saw and learned about the different types of grape variety and heard about the highs and lows of this very weather dependent industry. We returned to the newly opened visitors' centre via the very beautiful and ancient woodland of Snoad Wood

where we were lucky enough to see the remnants of this year's bluebells. A tutored tasting of six still and sparkling wines was followed by a delicious lunch.



Snoad Wood

## A Plantswoman in Essex and a Plantsman in Hertfordshire April 2019

By Tom La Dell

We arrived at Myddelton House to see the garden created by E A Bowles (1865-1954), author of *My Garden in Spring*, *My Garden in Summer*, *My Garden in Autumn and Winter*. The garden has been recently restored with a Heritage Lottery grant and shows the setting of E A Bowles' wide range of interests in garden plants. The whole garden is now a great case for the value of historic gardens in communities and for the visitors they bring in. Myddelton House itself is the offices of the Lea Valley Regional Park Authority and the gardens have free entry, a good car park and, of course, a café and plant sales.



The Remains of the Ruined House at Warley Place

Bowles was born in Myddelton House and filled the garden with plants and also oddities like the Enfield Market Cross, which he saved before it was broken up. Each area of the garden has a different feel to it, enhanced all the time as it is still being planted up year by year.

Bowles' well known 'Lunatic Asylum' is filling with his oddities such as a corkscrew hazel and corkscrew rush. This approach to gardening is reflected in the entertaining style of his three 'seasons' books but they are also packed with practical advice. The kitchen garden is a delight and steps down from the main garden and is enclosed with walls and glasshouses. This is clearly a much loved area for the garden team at Myddelton and seeds, vegetables and bulbs are for sale from a covered cart.

Bowles' special interest was his rock garden and it was a surprise to find that it was in the far corner of the garden, beyond the alpine meadow. It is an early example of a rock garden, before they became centrepieces as at our Kent examples of Mount Ephraim and Doddington. Here Bowles could grow his much loved crocus and snowdrops. This is the only part of the garden not fully planted and the garden's volunteers are making headway with this challenging task.

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Understanding old gardens continued from page 1

We have since covered Sevenoaks, Medway and recently Dover. Sometimes researchers left but we acquired new recruits as we tackled each project and they have come from all over Kent. Six of the original volunteers are still involved.

During each project the team met regularly and sites to be recorded were selected with the help of the other important person to be involved, Paul Cuming, KCC Heritage Environment Record Manager. He provided copies of 25" or 6" Ordnance Survey maps, editions 1-4, covering the period roughly 1850 to 1950, as well as an extract from a modern map. We were also given a recent aerial photograph and details of listings.

The initial project was written up by Barbara Simms but after that we had to write up our own reports to EH standards under the tuition of Virginia Hinze, our editor. If there was a famous owner in the past, this added extra interest to a garden such as Larkfield which was once the property of Octavia Hill at Crockham Hill, a woodland garden until the 1987 hurricane felled most of the trees. Present owners might not give permission to visit but in two such cases I traced the recent previous owners who loaned me considerable material which, together with Google Earth, meant that an actual visit proved unnecessary.

We had regular guided visits to sites or towns in other parts of the county such as Ramsgate, famed for its manufactured rock called Coade Stone, the recipe now lost. Other useful visits have been to St. Leonards, the seaside resort purpose built by Decimus Burton for the gentry, and more recently to Edwin Lutens' Salutation House in Sandwich.

Three years ago the researchers produced *Capability Brown in Kent*, a book to celebrate the tercentenary of the 18th century landscape gardener's birth in 1716 and, last year, a companion volume, *Humphry Repton in Kent*. Repton is not as well-known as Lancelot Brown but is considered the third most influential 18th century landscape gardener after Brown and William Kent. Repton worked on five sites still in Kent including Bayham Abbey near Tunbridge Wells, and the magnificent Elizabethan Cobham Hall, today a girls' school, near Gravesend, both of which retain features seen and worked on by Repton. The other three sites Vinters, Kippington and Montreal no longer exist in their original form but we have been able to bring their history to life.

We aimed to appeal to the wider public, not simply landscape historians. We teased out the histories of the families who lived in the properties, particularly over the period when Repton was consulted, and have found perfect illustrations including from Repton's famous red books with his charming watercolour sketches. A mini biography of Repton shows how his new ideas attracted a wide range of clients, many with more modest and smaller estates. I hope you will read the book and enjoy finding out how Repton's legacy was to influence English gardening style right up to today.



Larkfield once the garden of Octavia Hill

From the Editors' continued from page 1

looking under 'what we do' and following the research heading; well worthwhile doing. There you will find reports on nearly 90 parks and gardens in Kent.

In her article, Peta Hodges describes her experience of working with this research group from its foundation in 2008. Hopefully, this will encourage others to come forward and volunteer. It is fun and the detective work can become quite addictive.

2020 is the 400th anniversary of John Evelyn's birth and although he was born in Surrey, he spent much of his life in Kent where he planted his much admired garden at Sayes Court in Deptford. Little remains of his creation (now in the London borough of Lewisham) but his extensive writings and translations are available in modern editions. His self-imposed exile at the start of the Civil Wars took him all over Europe, eventually returning with a huge store of knowledge. He was immensely talented with wide interests and an enormous circle of friends and acquaintances. His duties kept him in London during the plague of 1665 and he witnessed the great fire in the following year. A friend of Samuel Pepys and Sir Christopher Wren, his diary extends over a period of great changes 1620-1706.

Hopefully we shall learn much more about John Evelyn over the next 12 months and KGT will help this process with a poster display at the Spring lecture. The Spring Lecture itself (March 14th) will be given by James Bolton on the subject of *The Grand Tour*, and will demonstrate how John Evelyn's gardening interests were kindled by visits to Italian, French and Dutch gardens. There will also be a full day's outing to Wotton Park near Guildford (the Evelyn family home) and nearby Albury Park (the best surviving garden embracing his ideas).



John Evelyn Esq.

In the meantime don't forget the KGT books on *Capability Brown* and *Humphry Repton*.



By Richard Stileman

## Two Sussex Gems. Town Place and Clinton Lodge. June 2019

Some of us had been to Clinton Lodge before, but no one had been to Town Place. We were all enchanted, amazed and impressed in equal measures by both gardens, which are happily just three miles apart.

Town Place has been the subject of recent and Gardens Illustrated and English Garden articles and it was quickly obvious why garden journalists have been flocking to see this remarkable 3 ½ acre creation of Anthony and Maggie McGrath, looking surprisingly mature after just 30 years. It's not only the variety of shapes of the many 'rooms' in the garden, but also the obvious quality of the plantsmanship and exquisite attention to detail in everything. Almost too good to be true!



Henry Moore at Town Place

For those that didn't come the website is [www.townplace.org.uk](http://www.townplace.org.uk) and they have several NGS days in June and July. They are also prolific photographers and there is always something new on Instagram.

We ate a marvellous lunch in the recently adapted stable at Clinton Lodge before Lady Collum gave us a

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## All in a Garden Green

*A summer concert at Mount Ephraim.*

by Tom la Dell and Hugh Vaux

Our Garden Green was populated with flowers and birds, all representing love. Love portrayed by the elegant music of the 17C and 18C and pictured here so beautifully by Steven Divine (harpsichord) and Kate Semmens (soprano).



Kate Semmens and Steven Devine in performance at Mount Ephraim

Their enthusiasm and enjoyment of the occasion began with a grand entrance down the magnificent staircase of the hall at Mount Ephraim which provided the setting and acoustic to fit the occasion.

The music, largely English, was compared with contemporary Italian music which included the never failing Monteverdi. Not only did we enjoy Steven's keyboard pieces on the harpsichord but also the first appearance of the newly acquired octavina, a miniature spinet which had become so popular in the 18C and whose performance completely belied its size.

Kate sang with her usual clarity and feeling, providing us with a full range of garden moods and showing us just how these pieces were to become so popular with audiences in the urban Pleasure Gardens such as Vauxhall. We were so lucky to have been entertained by two such distinguished performers.

This evening could only have happened through the kindness and generosity of Sandys and Lesley Dawes who had invited us to hold the concert in their home at Mont Ephraim. A marvellous evening, the only dark tones were the background of threatening thunder portending the entrance of the gods as in a Handel opera.

## Godinton July 2019

By Alison Philip

We were again blessed with beautiful weather for our visit to Godinton House on 11th July and enjoyed a fascinating private guided tour of the house, gaining an insight into the history of the building and those who have lived there. The influences of many generations of the Toke family as well as later additions by Reginald Bloomfield and Libertys of London were explained and we were fascinated and amused by the paintings, photos and personal mementos of the last owner. The collection of porcelain was exquisite.

After a tasty lunch, we explored the garden in the company of Head Gardener Viv Hunt, who described the restoration of many parts of the garden and ongoing programme of conservation. From the long herbaceous borders to the lily pond, the newly developed wild garden and

the more formal rose garden and views to the park beyond, our walk was educational and enjoyable. We ended our afternoon surrounded by the delphiniums, roses and sweet peas in the beautiful walled garden with its extensive glasshouses and small orchard. A delightful day.



Delphiniums at Godinton

## A Visit to Smiths Hall at West Farleigh and Nettlestead Place April 2019

By Andrew Wells and Liz Logan

The magnificent wisteria draped around the courtyard of Smiths Hall made for an uplifting welcome by Stephen Norman to his family's home of 70 years, owned by the Brewer family from the mid-1400s to 1774. Stephen illustrated the history of the house and garden with Kip's engraving of John Brewer's newly rebuilt house of 1719. Brewer's layout of the garden remains, lawn to the north of the house, parterres to the east and beyond them a bowling green, now a lawn containing a swimming pool. The pool is overlooked from the north by a copy of a pavilion shown by Kip, designed in 1961 by Sir Albert Richardson, PRA. Stephen and the head gardener, Jon Fenlon, who had previously worked at Sissinghurst, then showed us round the garden which has been considerably extended in the past half century. We enjoyed hundreds of white and maroon tulips anticipating the later massing of peonies, roses and irises, the long herbaceous borders, the 21C sunken garden and ornamental pond. The tulip tree avenue led us into the park where we admired the 21C American arboretum containing silver and sugar maples, red oaks, choke berries, liquidambar and American persimmon.



Wisteria at Smiths Hall

After lunch at West Farleigh's Ticked Trout pub, we were welcomed to





The view from Nettlestead Place

Nettlestead Place by its owner since 1978, Roy Tucker, who showed us over the garden with the head gardener, Anthony Bradshaw. The striking 13C manor house, near derelict from the 18C until restored by Ronald Vinson in the 1920s, stands in a commanding position above the River Medway 100m to its east and the large and tranquil sunken pond immediately to the south. Below the east terrace, planted with Alpines, spring bulbs and dwarf shrubs, is a meadow where daffodils, spring bulbs and tulips grow in abundance. The ground then descends steeply, with a canal, paths and steps meandering along the terraced slope, which includes a long 45° embankment planted with Cistus and conifer. Near the bottom a large grove of tall bamboo provides almost jungle excitement. A gentle climb back up the hill took us through several compartments all hedged with beech or yew and planted with distinct themes: a herbaceous garden of varied island beds a new succulent garden and a Thuja plicata maze; plants everywhere discreetly marked with clear zinc labels. We passed a handsome walnut tree, estimated to be over 600 years old, on our way back to an excellent home-made tea kindly provided by Annabel Tucker in the atmospheric undercroft.

### A Little Quiz...

Answers on page 8.

	A	B	C	D
Can you identify the type of fruit blossom?				

*A Plantswoman in Essex and a Plantsman in Hertfordshire April 2019 - continued from page 3*

Our final stop was Warley Place. This is the long abandoned and partly restored garden of the extraordinary Ellen Willmott (1858 to 1934), who was a friend of Bowles. She inherited a fortune and spent it all on plants and gardens. Besides Warley she had a garden on each of the French and Italian Rivas. We were taken round by excellent guides from the Essex Wildlife Trust who manage the 25 acres in a sensitive balance of nature and garden conservation. The house and the many glasshouses have gone and only the walls of the conservatory and the kitchen garden remain. The rock garden was a famous feature. It winds down a rock lined valley to the pond at the bottom. Thousands of tons of stone were imported and a huge range of alpine plants graced the rocks. She loved bulbs too and the daffodils have survived but, due to the early season, we caught the tail end of them, and bluebells, in a lovely valley.



The Kitchen Garden at Myddelton House

The designs of these two gardens have not become well known in garden history as they are led by a desire to grow as many plants as possible in a rather naturalistic setting. In this sense they are more like botanic gardens in their inspiration rather than the combination of design and plantsmanship of Hidcote and Sissinghurst which we all know and love.

*A few plants you may know and have in your garden:*

*Erysimum Bowles Yellow and Bowles Mauve  
Crocus sieberi Bowles White  
Bowles golden Grass (Millum effusum Aureum)  
Bowles golden sedge (Carex elata Aurea)  
Cerastostigma willmottianum  
Rosa willmottiae  
Potentilla nepalensis Miss Willmott  
Corylopsis willmottiae*



The Rock Garden at Warley Place



# Planning in Kent

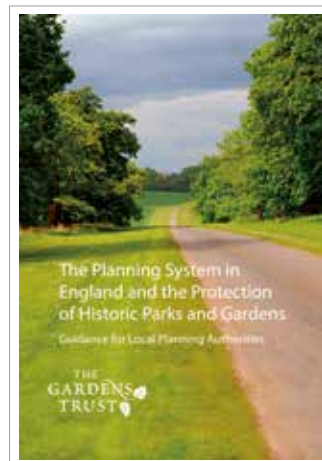
By Mike O'Brien.

Did you know that the Kent Gardens Trust (KGT) is consulted on planning matters which affect listed parks and gardens in Kent?

The aim of KGT is the protection and conservation of the gardens, historic parks and designed landscapes in Kent. One of the ways this is achieved is the conservation role KGT plays in the planning system.

KGT is affiliated to the Gardens Trust (GT) which is a statutory consultee for parks and gardens listed on the 'Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Interest in England' by Historic England. The list contains over 1650 sites, 61 of which are located in Kent. The GT have produced a leaflet 'The Planning System in England and Wales and the Protection of Historic Parks and Gardens' which offers guidance to the local planning authorities. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) is the statutory document which planning authorities are required to follow.

Local planning authorities have to notify GT when they receive a planning application connected with these sites. GT produce a weekly list of the applications they have received, which is then circulated around all the various county garden trusts. Local planning authorities may also have local lists identifying heritage assets valued by the local community, which may include parks and gardens. KGT have been involved in the production of these local lists for Tunbridge Wells, Medway, Sevenoaks and Dover



Planning System in England

authorities by the preparation of the various site reports which can be seen on the KGT website.

When a planning application is notified to KGT from the Gardens Trust, (or even from an individual who may be affected by an application), a group of KGT members prepare a response which is normally forwarded the Gardens Trust for their formal reply to the planning authority. Often the planning applications are fairly insignificant resulting in a 'no comments' response.

Some applications require further research of the history of the site to ensure that our response is supported by various historic records to add weight to our comments.

Recently we have responded to a planning application for a new all-weather hockey pitch for a school near Sevenoaks where we were concerned on the screening, floodlighting and colour of the playing surface as the site is in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) as well as being a Grade I site. A similar application was also commented on for an all-weather rugby pitch adjacent to Knole Park where we were concerned how it would affect the setting of the adjacent park.

It is pleasing to see that we have now being involved more in the pre-planning stage of

various schemes such as the new spillway at Mote Park in Maidstone, a refurbished historic garden at Walmer Castle and currently major changes to the facilities at Scotney Castle.

If you would like to learn more about the planning process the GT organises courses on the subject, or if you would to join us in providing comment to planning applications then please contact us via the website.

## King's Cross transformed by Richard Stileman

The 70 or so acres north of Kings Cross railway station have been the focus of one of the biggest and most enlightened urban renewal programmes in Europe. 'Enlightened' because much of the old (including Victorian warehouses, the iron gasometers, the canal, the coal drop sheds) has been retained and not dwarfed by the new - offices, residential blocks, and retail premises. There is a lot of open space, much of it green with careful planting of trees (including the now famous 'new' pin oak (*Quercus palustris*) imported from Germany and sited next to the restored German gymnasium. There are extensive shrub and herbaceous borders, much of this planting designed by Dan Pearson. Water is used imaginatively throughout. The architecture is varied and stimulating, not least the



Kings Cross

extraordinary upward curving rooflines of the restored Coal Drops, executed by Thomas Heatherwick. The resulting 'feel' is one of openness and inclusiveness, where all tastes are catered for.

We were so lucky to have a near perfect day of weather, but also to have, once again, a marvellous guide in Diana Kelsey. Her ability to put everything into its historical, economic and social context is invaluable, and we can always hear what she is saying! Our walk concluded with lunch with a Kentish connection - the new Chapel Down 'Gin Works' restaurant. A super meal was preceded by a tasting of Bacchus and Chardonnay all the way from Tenterden! A great day out.



## Book Review

**'Cherry' Ingram:  
The Englishman Who  
Saved Japan's Blossoms.**

By Naoko Abe.

Published by Chatto.

List Price £18.99



Naoko Abe came to visit us in our home which was the kitchen garden formally part of the garden of The Grange in Benenden, Cherry Ingram's home in Kent. Thankfully, we were able to put her in touch with Ernie Pollard, husband of his daughter Veryan, who had rescued his diaries, notes and papers from his study after his death in 1981 and kept them safely. They form the basis for her truly wonderful book.

Naoko writes about Japan's change from isolation to industrialization to war and finally peace; every part of her story is threaded and woven with ornamental cherry trees. They are the core, the glue of her book in which is embedded the rescue of the great white cherry, Taihaku.

Collingwood Ingram was born in 1880 to a wealthy family in Westgate on Sea; his grandfather had founded the Illustrated London News. A sickly child, educated at home, he was a skilled artist and free to indulge his passion for ornithology. Ingram served in France during the 1st World War and although he escaped serious injury, he struggled to adjust to civilian life on his return.

Ingram and his wife, Florence, had visited Japan on their honeymoon in 1907. He had been smitten by Japan and so when the family move to Benenden in 1919 it proved the ideal opportunity to further his passion for Japanese flowering cherries. He became determined to collect as many as he could for his new garden

The cherries with their short but glorious flowering season, played an important cultural role as a symbol of new life and new beginnings. However, when Ingram returned to Japan in 1926, to his great sorrow it had hugely changed, becoming industrialized and modernized. The rich variety of wild, collected and old hybrid flowering cherries had been largely lost, cut down or neglected, some varieties disappearing altogether and replaced by the quick growing, easily propagated Somei-yoshino cherry that had now become their main choice.

On this visit, Ingram met Seisaku Funatsu, an elderly statesman whom Ingram described as 'the fountainhead of cherry lore'. Seisaku showed Ingram a scroll, painted by his grandfather of a particularly prized tree of some 130 years previously, but now extinct to which Ingram exclaimed 'but this tree is growing in my garden in Kent' to which the old man made no reply but smiled and bowed deeply. Piqued by obvious doubt, 'I resolved there and then to convince him'.

Getting Taihaku back to Japan took several years and many failed attempts, finally solved by inserting the scions into a potato. Sadly, by then the old man had died but Toemon Sano whose forebears had tended the gardens of the Ninna-ji-Temple in Kyoto successfully grafted them and in three years produced a sapling robust enough to take further scions. Taihaku was finally home and safe.

Politically much had changed and the return of this tree as a gift from an Englishman was scorned by many. When war came, the pink petals of Somei-yoshino were used as a symbol painted onto the fuselage of many kamikaze planes. A sign on the Taihaku, planted at the Hirano Shrine in Kyoto was removed as it mentioned Cherry Ingram, an Englishman's name.

Ingram's daughter-in-law, a military nurse, was a Japanese prisoner of war for three years and witnessed at first hand the brutality with which they treated their enemies and Ingram's love and enthusiasm of the national flower dimmed following the publication of his book Ornamental Flowering Cherries.

Across Britain, the cherries he so loved and had saved from extinction were hugely popular, alive and well. In Spring 1981, Hokusai and then Taihaku flowered outside his bedroom and as their petals began to fall, Ingram's life came to a peaceful end.

A review by Charlotte Molesworth

*'Cherry' Ingram: The Englishman Who Saved Japan's Blossoms by Naoko Abe was featured as Book of the Week on BBC radio soon after its publication. The warmth and friendship between Naoko's Japanese friends and colleagues as well as all English people involved in its evolution and research was inspirational. 'Cherry' Ingram is published by Chatto (£18.99).*

The image is: Taihaku in blossom at Benenden May 2019

Two Sussex Gems - continued from page 4

brief introduction to the 6 acre garden, as well as the 17C house which she continues to restore in ways and with materials faithful to its age. It's quite impossible to describe the garden in any detail briefly as there is such variety of form, structure and planting: the 17C style herb garden, the Cloister Walk, the Wild Garden, Pear Walk, Pool Garden (the best setting for a real



Herb Garden at Clinton Lodge

swimming pool in a garden I have ever seen), Double Herbaceous Borders, and then the Pye Garden, where a large and intriguing water sculpture from William Pye is surrounded by a romantic collection of 18C and 19C roses. Then there are marvellous views to the Deer Park and beyond! A special garden with real magic and spirit.

[www.clintonlodgegarden.co.uk](http://www.clintonlodgegarden.co.uk)



# DELOS

Have you visited Sissinghurst recently? If so, you will have seen a 'New Vision', the major project to create Delos?

Not all Vita and Harold's ideas were successful. An area of their garden known as 'Delos' was inspired by their visit to the Greek isle in 1935. On their return they aimed to emulate the feel of Delos at Sissinghurst. However, the Kent climate and north-facing position of the garden, combined with their limited knowledge of Mediterranean planting, meant that the garden never really became all they hoped for and instead resulted in a woodland feel. The new concept addresses their issues around light, drainage and Mediterranean planting.

Garden designer, Dan Pearson, is working with the Sissinghurst team to complete Vita and Harold's vision. Using current design practices, clever landscaping and a broader spectrum of planting, a more robust and sustainable garden will be created while still maintaining the spirit of Vita's ambition.

There is a helpful exhibition in the gatehouse and more details can be found on-line

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/sissinghurst-castle-garden>



*Progress in Delos. This is how the garden looked in the middle of August.*

## Don't forget *Humphry Repton and Capability Brown in Kent.*

**Humphry Repton in Kent** is the companion volume to **Capability Brown in Kent**. Both books will interest not only garden historians but anyone keen to know more about the social history of the county and the lives of the leading figures of the time.

### Obtaining your copies:

Our books can be obtained directly from Kent Gardens Trust by e-mailing [info@kentgardenstrust.org.uk](mailto:info@kentgardenstrust.org.uk), or phoning **01322 861679** in office hours. Each book is available to members for just £8, inclusive of members' discount and postage. The books are also available via most bookshops, as well as Amazon and Waterstones online.



# Walmer Castle and the Lost Pleasure Grounds.

*By Mike O'Brien*

Kent Gardens Trust were privileged to be invited to celebrate the opening of Walmer's Lost Pleasure Grounds on 21 May. English Heritage had been awarded Lottery funding to allow restoration of the perimeter woodland paths and opening up the Glen (a former chalk quarry) which had originally been created as part of the gardens by William Pitt the Younger and his niece Lady Hester Stanhope in the early 19C.

A family trail has been created through the woods with a variety of activities for all ages to enjoy at various points. Evergreens have been planted in the Glen to represent the design mentioned in Lady Hester Stanhope's letters while a new glasshouse café allows visitors to enjoy refreshments in the kitchen garden setting together with a purpose-built learning room for community use.



*The Woodland at Walmer Castle*

### Quiz answers from page 4

- A) Crab Apple (John Downie), B) Cherry (Minton Glory), C) Cider Apple (Le Bret), D) Pear (Blakeney Red)

Kent Gardens Trust, Registered Charity No. 298861

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