SUSSEX GARDENS TRUST

# Sussex Gardens Trust 2023 Garden Visits Programme

It was a pleasure to see so many of our members and their guests at our garden visits last year. It was also a beautiful summer, so let us hope that the sun shines on our outings again this year. We have a varied programme across the county and we hope that our selections for this summer are of interest to you. Two highlights are the opportunities to hear from, and speak to, two local designers: Juliet Sargeant in April and Kristina Clode in July. We will keep you informed by e-mail including links to the online booking system.

**Saturday 22 April: 2.00 pm – 4.45 pm**
**One Garden, Stanmer Park, Brighton, East Sussex BN1 9SE**
**The AGM will be held at 4.15 pm**



*Photo © One Garden Brighton*

The restoration of the Walled Garden of the Manor House within Stanmer Park started in 2019, was opened in 2021, and won the Sussex Heritage Trust's Landscape and Gardens Award 2022 and the South Downs Award the same year. It was designed by Dominic Cole, President of The Gardens Trust and past Chairman of the Garden History Society. It now forms part of Plumpton College's horticultural centre of excellence for training and education and has been open to the public since 2021, along with a café, restaurant, market and garden centre.

After a talk from Peter Wood, Head Gardener, on the development of One Garden, our lecturer for the afternoon is Sussex based Garden Designer Juliet Sargeant. Juliet is a multi-award-winning garden designer with gold and silver-gilt medals from The RHS Chelsea Flower Show and The People's Choice award.



*Photo © Juliet Sargeant*

In her talk, entitled '*"Here's One I Made Earlier" – The Making of The New Blue Peter Garden: Discover Soil*', Juliet will take us on the journey to creating the new garden at The RHS Gardens Bridgewater.

We have the meeting room booked for all day and you can bring picnics. There are various cafés in the park itself for hot drinks etc. Tea will be served at 3.45 pm, with the AGM at 4.15 pm.

Tickets are £15 per person, although members attending the AGM only are, of course, free.





*Photos courtesy of Riverhill*

### Monday 22 May: 2.00 pm – 4.30 pm
### Riverhill Himalayan Gardens, Riverhill, Sevenoaks, Kent TN15 0RR

Riverhill is the home of the Rogers family. John Rogers, a botanist, friend of Darwin and founder member of the Royal Horticultural Society, bought the property in 1840. He chose the site for its lime-free soil and the potential he saw for growing rhododendrons and azaleas being introduced from the East. Today three generations of the family live on site and all have added in some way to the development of the garden. There is no river at Riverhill and the name derives from the Saxon term 'rither' meaning a hill. Indeed, the views across the Weald of Kent are spectacular.

At the end of the twentieth century the gardens were in a decline, but thanks to the Channel 4 programme 'Country House Rescue' in 2009 they started a major restoration reversing the decline. We will have a private tour with the Head Gardener, Misako Kasahara, who will be able to talk about the history and restoration of each area whilst focusing on the current plans.

As well as the rhododendrons, there are many other features to discover, including a walled garden, rock garden, rose walk, woodland garden and terrace. We will end with tea and cake.

Tickets for members will be £16 and £18 for guests.

### Tuesday 27 June: 11.00 am – 12.30 pm and 1.30 pm – 3.00 pm
### Mill House, Mill Lane, Balcombe, Haywards Heath, West Sussex RH17 6QT

Graham and Alison Musker's lovely garden in Balcombe has been on a recovery mission since they arrived in 1998. Now with the help of Alex Bell, their gardener and garden designer, the garden has returned to its best with varied beds of perennials and grasses. The lake is an important feature, cooling the air and creating a micro-climate for mainly naturalistic planting and giving wonderful views as one looks



*Photo courtesy of Alex Bell*



*Photo courtesy of Alex Bell*

back on the house. Our June visit should see the garden at its best. Alex will give a brief introduction at the beginning of each session and be around to answer questions; Alison will kindly serve coffee or tea and cake at each session.

Tickets for members will be £7 and £9 for guests.

Our long-standing members Jim and Sue Stockwell, who I am sure many of you know, live nearby. They have offered to let members picnic in their garden from 12 noon (either before or after their visit to The Mill House). Jim and Sue open their garden regularly for charity and if you wish to take a picnic a £5 donation would be gratefully received for the NGS and there will be plants and jam for sale in aid of St Peter and St James Hospice. They have created their garden over the last twenty years and it is planted for year-round interest. In June expect to see the roses and herbaceous borders looking great. The garden also has ponds, vegetables and fruit. The address is 47 Denmans Lane, Lindfield, Haywards Heath, RH16 2JN.

**Wednesday 26 July: 2.00 pm – 5.30 pm**
**Sedlescombe CE Primary School, Brede Lane, Sedlescombe, East Sussex TN33 0RQ, then 4 Waterworks Cottages, Waterworks Lane, Brede, East Sussex TN31 6HG**

Kristina Clode is an award-winning Sussex Garden designer as well as a long-standing member of SGT. Our visit will take us first to Sedlescombe CE primary school to see the Sensory Garden that she designed. It won both the Society of Garden Designers 'Design for the Environment' award in 2021 and the Sussex Heritage Trust award in 2022. Kristina will talk to us about her design which sought to appeal to children as well as encapsulate the importance of gardening for wildlife, sustainability and enjoyment. We will then travel the short distance to Kristina's own garden in Brede which she has created over the last 13 years. It includes a perennial wildflower meadow, a pond, wisteria covered pergola and mixed borders with a number of unusual plant specimens. We will end our afternoon with tea and cake at the Red Lion, Brede.

Tickets for members will be £17 and £19 for guests.



*Sedlescombe school Sensory Garden K Clode 2019*



*Waterworks cottages Fire Circle K Clode 2020*

## Thursday 17 August: 2.00 pm – 5.00 pm
## Malthouse Farm, Streat Lane, Streat, West Sussex BN6 8SA

This rural 5-acre garden has been developed over the past twenty years into a series of garden rooms with stunning views to the South Downs. Using design techniques such as hornbeam hedges to filter the strong south-westerlies and home-grown willow to stake growing plants, the garden is packed with flowers of all shapes, sizes and colours giving a wonderful display throughout summer and autumn. Terracotta pots and glass sculptures add more interest as you explore 'rooms' such as the Gravel Garden, the Hot Garden and the Late Summer Garden. At the front of the house is an enclosed space full of soft box shapes. Elsewhere there is a 'maze' of mown paths in amongst a grove of silver birches and an orchard with wild flowers. Following an introductory talk by the owner, we will be free to explore the garden, with tea and cake included.

Tickets: £15 for SGT members and £17 for guests.





*Photos courtesy of Sue Stockwell 2014*

## Thursday 7 September: 2.00 pm – 4.30 pm
## Parsonage Farm, Kirdford, nr Billingshurst, West Sussex RH14 0NH



*Photos courtesy of Jim Stockwell 2012*



We will end our season of visits at Parsonage Farm the home of Victoria and David Thomas. The gardens have been planted over the last thirty years initially with guidance from the late Anthony du Gard Pasley. The formality of the garden is dictated by the architecture of the house and reflected in the pleached lime allée and yew cloisters. The garden also has a topiary walk, tulip tree avenue, turf amphitheatre, jungle walk and informal autumn shrubbery with glorious autumn colours. As ever we will conclude our visit with tea and cake.

Tickets: £14 for SGT members and £16 for guests.

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All SGT garden visits can be booked here:
https://bookwhen.com/sussexgtevents
If you have difficulty booking please email
information@sussexgardenstrust.org.uk

For the latest on all our events go to our website and click the Events tab.

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