

Wednesday 26th February 7pm

Zoom Talk: Topiary: a history of creative use.

Bruce Ginsberg is a founding member of the European Boxwood and Topiary Society in the 90's and was its chairman for a number of years. Bruce's fascinating talk will cover the history of the use and cultivation of topiary, ranging from East and West, from Roman times onwards, to contemporary topiary use. Bruce says: "I am intrigued by how we separate and structure a piece of space and do something to it, to hold the eye and open the heart. Topiary helps structure the space and focuses us on both the small and intimate, and the boundless endless patterning in all directions".

**OUR FORTHCOMING CELEBRATION OF THREE OF BERKSHIRE'S
BEST SPRING GARDENS**

Tuesday 11 March 2pm

Private Early Spring Garden Visit to Compton Elms, Pinkneys Green

A rare opportunity to enjoy Alison Kellett's atmospheric garden filled with snowdrops, primroses, hellebores and fritillaria, interspersed with anemone and narcissi under a canopy of ash and beech. The rest of the garden is made up of a collection of rooms, framed by yew and box hedging. There is a small kitchen and cutting garden, bordered by fruit trees. The back borders are set off by the fantastic view across farmlands to Knowl Hill. Light refreshments will be provided.

Thursday 3 April 2pm

Private Spring Garden Visit to St Timothee, Pinkneys Green

Continuing a celebration of wonderful spring gardens in Berkshire, we will enjoy a private guided tour of Sarah & Sal Pajwani's 2 acre country garden planted for year-round interest with a variety of different colour themed borders all set against the backdrop of a 1930s house. The event starts with an illustrated slideshow talk and home-made teas followed by time to explore the winter garden. St Timothee was filmed for Gardeners' World in 2021 and voted as the South East and overall winner of The Nation's Favourite Garden competition run by The English Garden magazine in 2021.

Tuesday 8th April 2pm

Unique Spring Garden Visit to the spring planting at Windsor Castle

With the kind permission of His Majesty The King and the Constable and Governor of Windsor Castle, we are very pleased to offer a guided tour of the new spring planting at Windsor Castle, with the Head Gardener at Windsor Castle, Adam Scott. The tour will include the Jubilee Garden, the Moat Garden and the newly created Venus Garden. We will be shown around the excellent glasshouses and have an opportunity to purchase plants, grown by the gardeners at Windsor.

SUMMER PROGRAMME

Thursday May 8th all day

Visit to Orleans House Gallery, Marble Hill Park and Turner's House Garden,

Our tour will start at Orleans House Gallery, viewing the immediate garden, from where we will look at the magnificent and recently restored James Gibbs Octagon Room which in the 18th century offered fine views of Johnston's renowned gardens. We will then take a short walk to nearby Marble Hill House, a property and garden built for Lady Henrietta Howard, mistress of King George II. After lunch at the Marble Hill Café, we will go for another short walk to JMW Turner's Villa on Sandycoombe Road. Built to JMW Turner's own design with the help of his friend, the

architect Sir John Soane, the villa was accompanied by a five-acre garden. We will visit at a time when the flowers are out in full bloom.

Tuesday 10th June 2pm

Our second private visit to the gardens at Windsor Castle

With the kind permission of His Majesty The King and The Constable and Governor of Windsor Castle, we are very privileged to offer our second guided tour of the gardens at their best, with the Head Gardener at Windsor Castle, Adam Scott; taking in the Jubilee Garden, the Moat Garden and the newly designed Venus Garden. Following the tour, you are invited to join us for a special reception in the Moat Garden, with Lieutenant General (Retd.) Phil Jones, Constable and Governor of Windsor Castle, who will speak about the life of the Castle.

Tuesday 5th August 2pm

Private Visit to the Gardens at Ufton Court, Ufton Nervet, Berkshire

Located in the picturesque village of Ufton Nervet in the stunning Berkshire countryside, we will enjoy a private visit to the Manor House, a Grade 1 listed building, dating back to the Norman Conquest, and nestled in 16 acres of secluded grounds. We will visit the grounds and gardens including the Grade II listed walled garden and terrace, traditional herb garden, the breath-taking Dell, and the sweeping driveway lined with ancient oak trees. Tea and light refreshments will be provided.

AUTUMN AND WINTER EVENTS

September event – TBC

Early October 6.30pm

AGM followed by a talk by Alex Denman, former RHS Chelsea Flower Show Manager and Head of Shows Development

Drawing on her extensive experience with the Flower Show, Alex's talk will focus on the history of the Chelsea Flower Show, its many design influences and fashions, leading lights, and recent developments in garden design.

Wednesday 19th November 7pm

Zoom Talk: A talk by Ursula Buchan on the life and work of Valerie Finnis

Valerie Finnis led an extraordinary life not least as a famous photographer, plantswoman, member of the Blomsbury Group, judge at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show and teacher at the Waterperry School of Horticulture for Women. Ursula Buchan, professional gardener and gardening writer, was a long-term friend and mentee of Valerie Finnis, and executor of her will and is now chairman of the Finnis Scott Foundation.

Details for all events will appear on our website with a link to book via TicketSource.