



RHS Fellows Patrons Events Programme 2024



How to book

Invitations or booking instructions are usually sent 8 weeks before each event. There are a limited number of places on our garden visits, UK tour and the overseas trips. Places are allocated on a first come, first served basis but if a garden visit is oversubscribed we will aim to repeat the trip on an alternative date. Fellows are welcome to bring a guest to all of our events.

Front cover image: Wildflowers at RHS Garden Wisley
All information is correct at time of printing but is subject to change.

A message from our Chair

I am delighted to share with you the RHS Fellows' Events Programme for 2024. I hope you find plenty to engage and entertain in the year ahead, whatever your level of gardening expertise may be. Fellows in search of expert advice can look forward to hearing from one of the UK's leading horticulturalists, and newly appointed RHS Council member, Claire Austin, as part of our popular Spring Conversation webinar. More expert advice comes later in the year when Garden Manager Sheila Das and her team provide an in-depth tour of edibles and the orchard at RHS Garden Wisley. As well as garden visits to Kent and Oxfordshire we will also be going behind-the-scenes to see how our friends at the National Trust are restoring Gertrude Jekyll's historically important garden at Munstead Wood. There will be more gardening heritage later in the year when author Sandra Lawrence talks to us about the remarkable horticultural pioneer, Ellen Willmott.

Our Walks and Talks take us to four of our five gardens this year: RHS Gardens Hyde Hall, Wisley, Harlow Carr and Bridgewater, meaning that we may well see a few more Fellows collecting their coveted Five Gardens Badge at the Annual Dinner in October.

RHS Chelsea Flower Show will, of course, be a highlight for many Fellows. Following its success last year, we will once again offer a drop-in lunch for Fellows on Preview Day, as well as our ever-popular breakfast and tour. Regular visitors to RHS Chelsea Flower Show might be curious to join us at Form Plants where Jamie Butterworth will show us how the nursery works with designers and prepares plants for the show.



The international tour to Japan in November marks the first long-haul trip for Fellows in five years and will be an opportunity to enjoy the famous autumn colours of gardens in Tokyo and Kyoto. The Mediterranean gardens of Sicily provide inspiration in April and in September we visit some of the best private and public gardens in North Yorkshire, including our very own RHS Garden Harlow Carr.

Throughout the year there will also be the opportunity to learn more about the charitable work of the RHS that your Fellows donation supports. I look forward to a busy year ahead in the company of our wonderful RHS Fellows.

Keith Weed CBE
RHS President
Chair of the Fellows



The Winter Walk at RHS Garden Hyde Hall

Winter Walk and Talk

RHS Garden Hyde Hall

Thursday 18 January
2pm – 4pm
Free Fellows event

Over the last 50 plus years many famous gardens have challenged our ideas of a garden in winter. Hyde Hall completed its 1.2 acre winter garden in 2016 and it has quickly

become embedded as a key feature of the garden. The highlights include bold stem colour, delicate scents and flower colour as well as the iconic willow sculptures dotted throughout the winter garden.

Join us and explore the wonderful winter garden, and other enchanting delights of Hyde Hall.

London Lunch

The Chesterfield, Mayfair

Thursday 15 February
12pm – 2.30pm
Free Fellows event

Fellows are invited to join us for lunch at The Chesterfield, Mayfair, followed by a talk from an expert speaker. This year RHS Head of Horticultural Relations, Emma Allen will be talking about the Award of Garden Merit (AGM) and the RHS plant trials programme. Every year the RHS undertake plant trials with more than 30 different plant groups. Plants are grown together and assessed by an expert panel who test plant health, performance and weather endurance. Our plant trials not only give valuable guidance to gardeners, but play an important role supporting commercial growers and encouraging high standards across the horticultural industry.



Emma Allen, RHS Head of Horticultural Relations



Claire Austin, RHS Council Member

Spring Conversation

Matthew Pottage in conversation with RHS Council Member Claire Austin

Virtual Event
Thursday 14 March
5.30pm – 6.15pm
Free Fellows event

Renowned plantswoman, nursery owner and perennials expert, Claire Austin began her career in horticulture in 1983 when she joined her father, David Austin, taking over his collection of peonies and irises. In 1999 Claire set up her own business, Claire Austin Hardy Plants, growing an impressive catalogue of perennials and holding the National Collection of both Bearded Irises and Hybrid Herbaceous Peonies.

In conversation with Matthew, Claire will offer top tips on growing the best peonies, discuss her Iris hunting travels, and tell us about the challenges of high rainfall and gales faced by her Welsh nursery. There will be an opportunity to submit questions.

Spring Walk and Talk

RHS Garden Wisley

Tuesday 23 April
10.30am – 1pm
Free Fellows event

Wisley never disappoints in spring, as both the woodland gardens of Battleston Hill and Oakwood spectacularly come to life. The Alpine Meadow, which has been managed as a flowering bulb meadow since the 1850s comes alive with a magnificent diversity of *Narcissus*, *Erythronium* and *Anemone* to name but a few. If Mother Nature doesn't lay on a spring frost, we will also have the added bonus of *Magnolia*. Join us for an expert led tour of Wisley in springtime.

Oakwood at RHS Garden Wisley



Giardino di Giulia, Valverde

The Gardens of Sicily

Sicily

Sunday 28 April – Friday 3 May
Pre-booked event

The beautiful island of Sicily is blessed with a balmy Mediterranean climate and, around Mount Etna in the east, fertile volcanic soil. The island has a rich cultural heritage and is home to a diverse range of rare and exotic plants. Our tour visits some intriguing nurseries, beautiful botanical parks, and stunning private gardens.

Fellows will enjoy a private tour of the remarkable Giardino di San Giuliano, a garden within the citrus-growing estate owned by the family of the Marquis of San Giuliano for 800 years. Casa Pennisi is a former hotel transformed into a private residence. The garden here was planted at the end of the 19th century and is a wonderful example of

late Victorian elegance. In contrast, work began on the contemporary flower garden at Le Stanze in Fiore in 2000. The garden is divided into interconnecting areas, or stanze, including a dense Burmese garden and a Chinese garden with eight connecting lakes set between lava rocks.

It is impossible to talk about the botanical culture and horticulture of Sicily without referring to the remarkable Faro family. Fellows will tour their Pietradolce Winery growing native Etna grape varieties, their original nursery, Piante Faro, and the Radicepura Horticultural Park, described as a 'living archive of Mediterranean plants'.

During the trip Fellows will stay at the Donna Carmela hotel. The hotel itself is set within beautiful, lush, manicured gardens making it the perfect base for a horticultural adventures on the island.



Jamie Butterworth, Founder of Form Plants

Form Plants

Surrey

Wednesday 8 May
11am – 2pm
£50

Form Plants was founded in 2020 by RHS Ambassador and Gold Medal winning designer, Jamie Butterworth. In recent years the nursery has supplied structural trees, topiary, and shrubs for a number of key gardens at RHS Shows. In 2023 the nursery grew the plants for Carol Klein's RHS Iconic Horticultural Hero Garden at the

RHS Hampton Court Palace Garden Festival and for Jihae Hwang's Gold medal winning Chelsea Garden, A Million Years Past. For this special pre-Chelsea, behind-the-scenes visit, Jamie will welcome Fellows to Form Plants' impressive eight acre showroom site in Surrey. There will be an opportunity to see the plants and trees that Jamie is growing for this year's RHS Chelsea Flower Show and learn first-hand about the preparation that goes into some of the amazing gardens we enjoy at the show.

RHS Chelsea Flower Show

A summary for Fellows

RHS Chelsea Flower Show is a week-long celebration of the very best in horticulture. A variety of events and activities, hosted and organised by different sections of the RHS, take place across the week. We hope that this summary helps Fellows make the most of this world-famous show.

Preview Day

Monday 20 May

Preview Day is always the Monday of Chelsea week and it is the day before the show opens to the public. Access to Preview Day is reserved for Fellows, special guests, press and the Royal Family. Security ID passes are required for all guests on Preview Day.

The Fellows' Breakfast and Tour

7.45am – 10.30am

Fellows are guaranteed two complimentary places. As an RHS Fellow, you will be invited to join us, with a guest, for our Fellows' Breakfast and Tour on Preview Day. Invitations are sent in January. Please RSVP by mid-April.

Fellows' Preview Day Lunch

12pm – 2.30pm

Fellows and their guests are invited to join us for a private lunch. This will be a drop-in service and Fellows are welcome any time until 2.30pm, allowing them to make the most of their time in the showground. Invitations are sent in January. Please RSVP by mid-April.

The President's Lunch

12pm – 2.30pm

The President's Lunch is not a Fellows' event, but Fellows can request a place. This is a formal, seated lunch for the wider horticultural industry. More information is available on request.

Security ID Passes

If you plan to attend the Fellows' Breakfast and Tour, the Fellows' Lunch or the President's Lunch you and your guest will need a security ID pass. We will contact you in due course to arrange this. Please send in your security data by the given deadline so we can arrange to send your passes in advance of the show.

The RHS Chelsea Flower Show Charity Gala

7pm – 9pm

The Charity Gala is not a Fellows' event but we reserve a number of tickets to this sell-out evening for Fellows to purchase. Fellows are entitled to purchase two tickets. Fellows apply for their tickets via the public ballot, but their application is guaranteed to be successful. The ballot closed in September 2023 and after this deadline we cannot guarantee Gala tickets will be available. Any Fellow joining the programme after this date should contact the Fellows Team if they would like to purchase Gala tickets.

Public Show Days

Tuesday 21 May to Saturday 25 May

RHS Chelsea Flower Show tickets go on sale in September and usually sell out quickly. Fellows can purchase tickets even after the show has sold out online. Contact the Fellows Team for more details.

If you have any further questions about the RHS Chelsea Flower Show please contact us at fellows@rhs.org.uk.

RHS Chelsea Flower Show Fellows' Preview Day

Royal Hospital Chelsea

Monday 20 May

7.45am Fellows' Preview Day Breakfast and Tour

12pm – 2.30pm Fellows' Preview Day Lunch

Free Fellows events

RHS Chelsea Flower Show is undoubtedly the horticultural highlight of the year and Fellows have access on Preview Day from 7.45am to 3pm. The show celebrates outstanding and inspiring horticulture from across the industry and Preview Day offers a unique crowd-free opportunity to explore gardens at close hand and mingle with the press, designers, and celebrity guests.

Fellows are invited to join us for breakfast followed by tours of the showground with our RHS experts. The Fellows' Lunch is a relaxed drop-in service allowing Fellows the opportunity to make the most of their time in the showground.

The Savills Garden. Designed by Mark Gregory



Myeloma UK - A Life Worth Living Garden, designed by Chris Beardshaw, sponsored by Project Giving Back



Chelsea Pensioners Billy Knowles (left) and Archie Ferguson

Munstead Wood

Surrey

Thursday 30 May
10am – 1pm
£50 per person

In 2023, after 74 years in private ownership, the National Trust acquired Munstead Wood, the Grade-1 listed home and garden of pioneering horticulturalist Gertrude Jekyll. Munstead Wood's eleven acre garden surrounds an Arts and Crafts house that showcases Jekyll's collaboration with architect Sir Edwin Lutyens. Munstead Wood

is where, from the 1890s until her death in 1932, Jekyll grew her influence on national and international garden design, transformed horticultural practice, and inspired others to become gardeners through her books and more than 1,000 articles.

Plans are currently being developed around how to open Munstead Wood to the public but Fellows have been invited to explore the garden and see at first-hand how the National Trust are restoring this internationally significant garden and horticultural gem.



Munstead Wood



Lambeth Palace

Fellows' Garden Party

Lambeth Palace Garden

Wednesday 5 June
6.30pm
Free Fellows event

Lambeth Palace played host to our Fellows' Garden Party nearly a decade ago and we are delighted to be able to return to this stunning venue once again. At just over ten acres, Lambeth Palace is one of the oldest and largest private gardens in London and is rarely open to the public. This oasis, hidden

from the rest of the city is home to impressive historic White Marseilles fig trees, planted in 1556. The Long Walk planted with London Plane trees, offers a stunning view across to Parliament while the Medicinal Garden has an abundance of beautiful scents in summer.

The Garden Party will take place on the affectionately nicknamed Queen Victoria Lawn, as Queen Victoria's diamond Jubilee celebration was hosted there in 1897. Lambeth Palace Head Gardener, Nick Stewart Smith, will join us for the evening.



Friar Park and Culham Court

Oxfordshire and Berkshire

Thursday 6 June
10.30am – 4.30pm
£100 per person

This is a rare opportunity to visit two private gardens that are not usually open to the public. The Victorian neo-gothic mansion at Friar Park was built by eccentric lawyer Sir Frank Crisp who commissioned Henry Ernest Milner to design the gardens. In more recent years they have been restored by the current owner. As well as a Japanese garden, Elizabethan garden and Walled garden, this magical and playful park features wonderful topiary, a grotto and a sandstone replica of the Matterhorn stones, complete with an alpine meadow.

Culham Court is a charming 18th century house overlooking the river Thames and set in 3,500 acres of land. The terraces and walled garden were designed Tom Stuart-Smith. Tom took a minimal intervention approach for the terraces so as not to compete with the far-reaching views across the river. For the walled garden Tom created a wonderfully intimate space. Two intensely planted sides to the walled garden, one for spring effect and the other for summer, sit either side of a calm, quiet and natural central space with an elegant, rectangular canal and contemporary bronze pavilion. From this enclosed private retreat there is a stunning view to a newly commissioned classical style chapel built by Craig Hamilton on the hill opposite.

Tea will be served following our visit to the garden.

Old Bladbean Stud and Goodnestone Park

Kent

Thursday 20 June
10.30am – 4.30pm
£100 per person

Old Bladbean Stud and Goodnestone Park are two wonderfully contrasting gardens. Carol Bruce's garden at Old Bladbean Stud was created from scratch between 2003 and 2011 while Goodnestone Park has a wealth of history stretching back hundreds of years.

We start our day at Goodnestone Park, which became an RHS Partner Garden in 2023. The manor house was built in 1704, and the first formal gardens were laid out soon after. Jane Austen would have known the 18th-century walled garden and lime avenue as her brother Edward married a daughter of the house, and she was a regular visitor. Following a period of neglect during the Second World War, Lady Fitzwalter and her head gardener John Wellard undertook the massive task of restoring and developing the garden which is now considered one of the most beautiful gardens in Kent. Today the 15 acres of garden and parkland are managed by Head Gardener Paul Bagshaw, who will conduct our tour. Lunch will be served in the Coach House.

After lunch we travel independently to Old Bladbean Stud where Carol Bruce has transformed an abandoned smallholding into a breathtaking garden. All the herbaceous plants were originally grown by Carol



Goodnestone Park Walled Garden

from seed and she manages the garden alone, without the help of any gardeners. The three acre gardens were designed to function as an ornamental ecosystem without irrigation, with a large number of perennial species encouraged to self-sow, and with staking, mulching and chemical use kept to an absolute minimum. The garden features a romantic walled rose garden, an enclosed yellow and white garden, 300ft long symmetrical double borders and an organic fruit garden. After our tour with Carol we will enjoy tea and cake in the Yellow Garden.



Old Bladbean Stud

RHS Hampton Court Palace Garden Festival

Fellows' Breakfast and Tour Fellows' Afternoon Tea

Hampton Court Palace, Surrey

Monday 1 July

Breakfast and Tour: 9am – 11.30am

Afternoon Tea: 4pm – 6pm

Free Fellows event

Enjoy the world's largest flower show before it opens to the public. There is something at Hampton Court Garden Festival for everyone; the Get Started Gardens created to inspire novice gardeners, the incredible

Show Gardens from the industry's top designers and Feature Gardens packed with ideas to save money, encourage wildlife or cope with climate change. As well as the gardens, the floral marquee will be abuzz with a plethora of specialist nurseries and exhibitors. Fellows will enjoy a seated breakfast followed by tours with our experts.

Recover from a busy day at the show with afternoon tea from 4pm. Fellows are welcome to attend either or both events.



The Floral Marquee

Explore Charleston: Welcome to Charleston. Designed by Sadie May Stowell



Southend City Council: The Miller's Garden

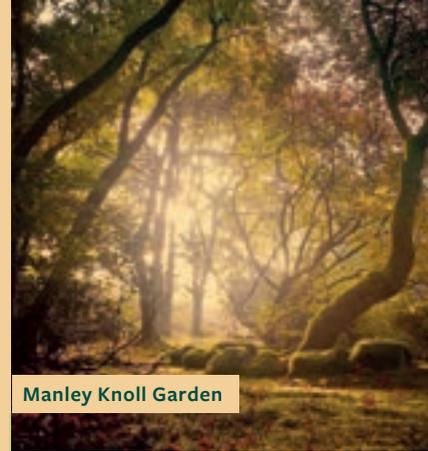
Summer Walk and Talk

RHS Garden Wisley

Tuesday 9 July
10.30am – 1pm
Free Fellows event

Summer at Wisley can be a challenging time for the garden team, as the garden is on sand and changing climate extremes mean that Wisley often records the hottest temperatures in the UK. That said, the heat makes way for brilliant displays in the Exotic Garden, the unusual crops in the World Food Garden, and staggering herbaceous Hibiscus in the Mixed Borders with flowers the size of dinner plates. Join us for an expert led tour of the garden in all its summer glory.

Mixed Borders at RHS Garden Wisley



Manley Knoll Garden

Manley Knoll

Cheshire

Tuesday 16 July
2pm – 4pm
£50 per person

The gardens, land and woodland at Manley Knoll are a much-loved family space framing an Arts and Crafts Period house. Alongside the formal gardens, yew hedging, herbaceous borders and long reaching views to the Welsh Hills and Shropshire, Manley Knoll is also home to one of the best collections of tree ferns in the North. Arguably the most unexpected feature of the garden is the so-called quarry garden. Built on the site of disused 19th century quarries, it is an enchanting space of waterfalls, stone terracing, stone staircases and sculpture. Largely ericaceous planting shows off multiple large specimen rhododendrons, azaleas and piers.

We will be joined by Head Gardener Thomas Leese, and by Róisín Timpson, whose family have restored and improved the gardens over the past twelve years.

RHS Flower Show Tatton Park

Tatton Park, Knutsford

Tuesday 16 July
5pm – 7pm
Free Fellows event

This year we celebrate 25 years of RHS Flower Show Tatton Park. The show celebrates a variety of talent, a majority of which is based in the Northwest. There will be a broad range of gardening exhibits; inspirational Show Gardens from established designers, exciting gardens from the next generation of promising young designers, bite sized borders and collaborative community plots.

Fellows are invited for an early evening reception with a group of RHS VIPs, followed by tours of the showground with our experts.



The RHS and MEN Ginell Garden.
Designed by Jason Williams



Paradise Garden at RHS Garden Bridgewater



Music Pavilion at RHS Garden Bridgewater

Walk and Talk

RHS Garden Bridgewater

Wednesday 17 July
1.30pm – 5.30pm
Free Fellows event

Fellows are invited to join us for an afternoon of activities at RHS Garden Bridgewater.

We start with lunch followed by an expert talk. We finish the afternoon with a private tour of the gardens with Bridgewater curator, Marcus Chilton-Jones. As well as exploring the wonderful Weston Walled Garden and Paradise Garden, Marcus will show us the latest developments at the Chinese Streamside Garden and explain the exciting plans for the Arboretum and Working Wood.

Garden Party at RHS Garden Bridgewater

Wednesday 17 July
6pm – 8.30pm
Free Fellows event

Fellows are invited to join the Garden Party at Bridgewater. The Garden Party takes place after the garden has closed to the public and is a wonderful time to see Bridgewater in all its summer glory.

1.30pm – 5.30pm
Lunch
Expert Talk
Tour of RHS Garden Bridgewater

6pm – 8.30pm
After-hours Garden Party

Fellows are welcome to attend both, or either event.



RHS Garden Wisley

RHS Garden Wisley Flower Show

RHS Garden Wisley

Thursday 5 September
4pm – 7pm
Free Fellows event

Fellows are invited to enjoy the RHS Wisley Flower Show after-hours. RHS Wisley Flower Show is a wonderful celebration of late summer colour bringing together magnificent floral displays, exhibitors and specialist nurseries. Fellows are welcome from 4pm until 7pm and can enjoy complimentary refreshments in the Tulip Tree Room.



RHS Wisley Flower Show

Weekend Walk

RHS Garden Wisley

Sunday 28 July
7.45am – 10.30am
Free Fellows event

A rare opportunity to enjoy Wisley on Sunday morning, before it opens to the public. We begin with a tour of the garden taking in many seasonal highlights including the glorious exotic garden, the iconic mixed borders and the fragrant Bowes-Lyon rose garden. After the tour Fellows are invited to a breakfast in the Tulip Tree room.

Places are limited but Fellows are welcome to bring additional guests to this event.



Piet Oudolf Borders at Scampston Hall

© Marianne Mejerus

The Gardens of North Yorkshire

North Yorkshire

Sunday 15 September - Thursday 19 September
Price tbc
Pre-booked event

Known as ‘God’s own country’, Yorkshire is England’s largest county and home to some spectacular gardens. Based in North Yorkshire, we will explore some excellent private and public gardens, as well as visiting RHS Garden Harlow Carr, a garden dominated by water, stone and woodland and very much part of the surrounding Yorkshire landscape. The itinerary for this trip will be available from March 2024.



Autumn colour at RHS Garden Harlow Carr

Autumn Walk and Talk

RHS Garden Harlow Carr

Tuesday 17 September
12.20pm – 3pm
Free Fellows event

Autumn at Harlow Carr is a beautiful time of year. The Main Borders are full of late summer colour as purple flowering Eupatorium act as a dark foil to brighter coloured Heleniums and the graceful stems of the flowering grasses. Lush tropical planting in the sub-tropical garden contrasts with the alpine treasures flowering in the Alpine House and the first flowers on the autumn bulbs, which seem to bloom earlier every year.

Please note: Fellows joining the Gardens of North Yorkshire tour will automatically attend this Walk and Talk. Other Fellows are welcome to book places on the Walk and Talk as a stand-alone event.

Learning Session: Edible horticulture

RHS Garden Wisley

Tuesday 24 September
4pm – 7pm
Free Fellows event

A learning session gives our horticultural experts more time to talk in detail about a subject, demonstrate techniques and answer questions. This year we visit the edible landscape with Edibles Team Leader, Paul Kettell.

During the session we will hear about composting, companion planting, watering and the no-dig experiments in the World Food Garden and take a look at some of the more unusual crops grown there. We will visit the Wisley vineyard and sample some of the produce from the World Food Garden and Orchard. There will also be an opportunity to hear about the new vegetable trials field and the move to a more sustainably managed orchard.

Please note that our learning sessions can involve a practical element.



The Orchard at RHS Garden Wisley



Trinity House

Fellows' Annual Dinner

Trinity House, London

Tuesday 15 October
6.30pm – 10pm
Free Fellows event

The Fellows Annual Dinner takes place at Trinity House, the Grade-1 listed headquarters of the General Lighthouse Authority for England, Wales, the Channel Islands and Gibraltar. Trinity House was designed by architect Samuel Wyatt and built in 1796 but the corporation actually came

into being in 1514 when the Royal Charter was granted by Henry VIII.

The building houses a remarkable collection of maritime artefacts that bear testament to the prominent role played by Trinity House in the nation's maritime history. In its 300 year lifetime, the house has welcomed royalty, prime ministers and Lords of the Admiralty and now, Fellows of the RHS. Our dinner takes place in the elegant library, with excellent views across the River Thames to the Tower of London.



Heather Landscape at RHS Garden Wisley

Autumn Walk and Talk

RHS Garden Wisley

Tuesday 22 October

10.30am – 1pm

Free Fellows event

The naturally acidic soils at Wisley pave the way for magnificent displays of autumn colours, where the *Acer*, *Nyssa*, *Parrotia* and *Liquidambar* tree collections set the landscapes alive with colour. The tender collection of *Nerine sarniensis* cultivars flower in the temperate glasshouse with a much wider range of colour than the hardy species, and it's an opportune time of year to re-visit the orchard project to see progress with the new chemical free management strategy.

The Gardens of Japan

Japan

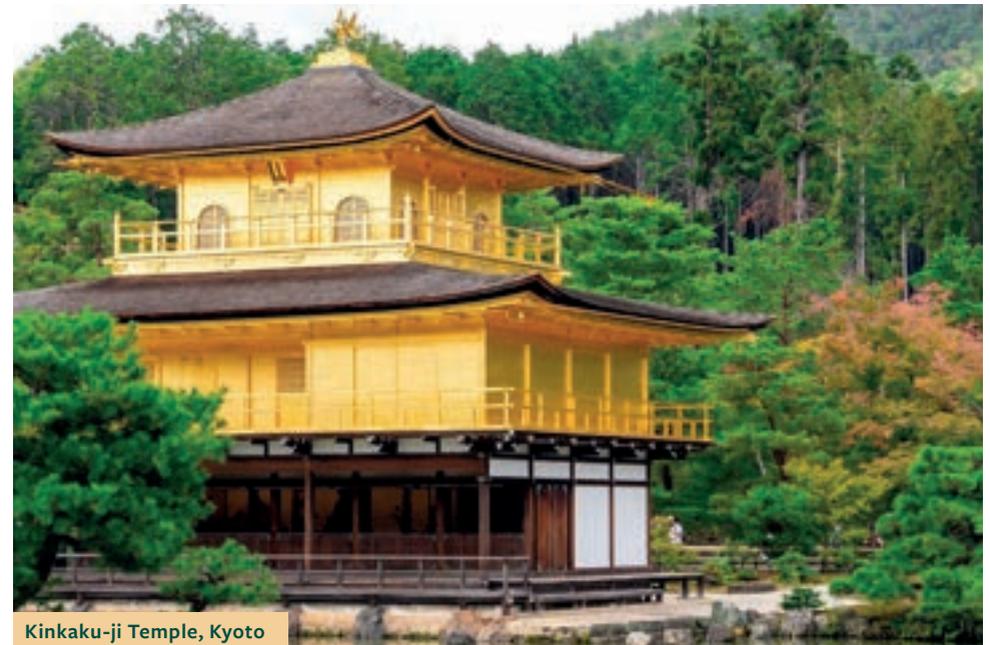
Friday 1 - Wednesday 13 November
Pre-booked event

This extended visit to Japan covers an impressive number of gardens, temples and cultural destinations across the country. Highlights in Tokyo include visits to Koishikawa Korakuen and Rikugien Gardens, two famed Edo period gardens known for their splendid autumn colour, The Imperial Palace East Gardens and the shinzan-yukoku (deep mountains and mysterious valleys) style garden at the Nezu Museum. In Takamatsu Fellows visit the renowned Ritsurin Garden and the Isamu Noguchi Garden Museum, former home

of sculptor and landscape designer, Isamu Noguchi. The nearby Korakuen Garden, with its view of Okayama Castle and its groves of *Acer palmatum*, is regarded as one of the 'three great gardens' of Japan.

Next the tour takes Fellows to Kyoto where they visit the Kinkaku-ji and Ginkakuji Temples and their beautiful garden settings. The Kyoto Botanical Gardens and Isuien Garden provide more vibrant autumn colour.

Fellows will also travel to Naoshima Island, famed for its art installations, visit the architecturally extraordinary Enoura Observatory and enjoy a traditional tea ceremony at Omotesenke. This promises to be a memorable trip.



Kinkaku-ji Temple, Kyoto

Heritage Talk with Sandra Lawrence

Cavalry and Guards Club, London

Monday 25 November
6pm – 8.30pm
Free Fellows event

Miss Ellen Willmott is one of horticulture's most enigmatic figures. World famous in her lifetime and almost forgotten after her death, she created three renowned gardens, pioneered thousands of new plants and fought for her place alongside men in society. She was also an RHS 'Fellow' for nearly forty years, a regular prize winner, member of several committees and, in 1897, one of only two women included in the inaugural list awarded the society's highest distinction,

the Victoria Medal of Honour. Willmott has endured a chequered reputation in the past, but recent new discoveries have forced a re-evaluation of her life.

Journalist and historian Sandra Lawrence, MRes, has spent the past eight years recovering Miss Willmott's lost archive from the basement of a stately home in Worcestershire. Thousands of letters, diaries, receipts, bills and photographs, mostly in poor condition, have enabled her to reconsider the life, work and legacy of Ellen Willmott, resulting in a new biography, *Miss Willmott's Ghosts*, published in 2022. The recovery work on Willmott's papers is ongoing.



Sandra Lawrence



Miss Ellen Willmott



Glow illuminations at RHS Garden Wisley

RHS Glow Fellows' evening

RHS Garden Wisley

RHS Garden Bridgewater

Friday 6 December
4pm – 8pm
Free Fellows event

Friday 13 December
4pm – 8pm
Free Fellows event

Fellows and their friends and families are invited to visit the dazzling display of illuminations at RHS Glow at both Wisley and Bridgewater where enchanting trails highlight the landmarks of each of the gardens. We will be providing a private room where Fellows can enjoy light refreshments throughout the evening.

Your other benefits

RHS Fellows enjoy a very special relationship with the world's leading gardening charity. As well as a programme of excellent events, there are a range of other benefits to explore.

The right to buy two tickets to RHS Chelsea Flower Show Charity Gala

Tickets for this popular evening event are sold to the public via a ballot, but RHS Fellows are guaranteed the right to purchase two tickets.

The ability to purchase sold-out RHS Chelsea Flower Show tickets

Day tickets for the world's most famous flower show sell out quickly. We reserve a number of tickets which are available for Fellows to purchase, even when the show has sold out. Tickets are subject to availability and limited to four tickets per Fellow.

Support with Gardener recruitment and development

Each year Fellows are welcome to promote vacant gardening roles to our graduating cohort of Apprentices and learners from the RHS School of Horticulture. Fellows who are professional gardeners, or who employ a gardener can request places on our Gardeners' Networking Days. These days are an opportunity for professional gardeners to exchange knowledge and ideas with RHS experts and peers from RHS Partner Gardens. Each networking day has a different area of focus, and they are held throughout the year across the RHS Gardens. Places are subject to availability.

RHS Apprentices at RHS Garden Bridgewater



Expert advice from the RHS

Garden consultations and expert advice

Fellows are entitled to an annual private horticultural consultation with an RHS expert. They can advise on a specific issue or give general advice on design and planting. We will aim for our expert to come to your garden in person, but if distance does not permit this, we will set up a virtual consultation. Fellows also have guaranteed access to senior members of the Advisory Team for their routine plant enquiries.

Garden access

Your Fellows membership entitles you to free access to all RHS Gardens. You also enjoy free access at selected times to over 220 Partner Gardens, both in the UK and abroad. You can search for Partner Gardens in your area on the RHS website.

Publications

The Garden is a monthly magazine aimed at gardeners of all levels and includes the latest developments in horticulture, fascinating gardens to visit and RHS news on shows, trials and the way our charitable work is helping to improve lives. Fellows also have a subscription to our quarterly publication *The Plant Review*. Written by people who know and grow plants, this is a vital publication for plant enthusiasts who value a more in-depth, expert look at astonishing and beautiful plants.

2024 Year Planner

Join us for an exciting programme of events in 2024

January

18 January

Winter Walk & Talk
RHS Garden Hyde Hall

February

15 February

Fellows' London Lunch
The Chesterfield, Mayfair

March

14 March

Spring conversation:
Clare Austin
Virtual Event

April

23 April

Spring Walk & Talk
RHS Garden Wisley

28 April – 3 May

The Gardens of Sicily

May

8 May

Form Plants
Surrey

20 May

RHS Chelsea Flower
Show Preview Day
Fellows' Breakfast
Fellows' Lunch

30 May

Munstead Wood
Surrey

June

5 June

Fellows' Garden Party
Lambeth Palace

6 June

Friar Park and
Culham Court
Oxfordshire

13 June

RHS Botanical Art and
Photography Show
Preview
Saatchi Gallery, London

20 June

Old Bladbean Stud and
Goodnestone Park
Kent

July

1 July

RHS Hampton Court
Palace Garden Festival
Fellows' Breakfast and Tour
Afternoon Tea

9 July

Summer Walk
and Talk
RHS Garden Wisley

16 July

Manley Knoll
Cheshire

16 July

RHS Flower Show
Tatton Park VIP Preview

17 July

Summer Walk
and Talk
RHS Garden Bridgewater

17 July

Garden Party
RHS Garden Bridgewater

28 July

Weekend Walk
RHS Garden Wisley

September

5 September

Fellows' evening
at the RHS Wisley
Flower Show

15 - 19 September

The Gardens of
North Yorkshire

17 September

Autumn Walk
and Talk
RHS Harlow Carr

24 September

Learning session:
Edible horticulture
RHS Garden Wisley

October

15 October

Fellows' Annual Dinner
Trinity House

22 October

Autumn Walk
and Talk
RHS Garden Wisley

November

1 – 13 November

The Gardens
of Japan

25 November

Heritage Talk with
Sandra Lawrence
Cavalry and Guards Club

December

6 December

Glow - Fellows'
evening
RHS Garden Wisley

13 December

Glow - Fellows'
evening
RHS Garden Bridgewater

RHS Show Dates

18 – 21 April

RHS Urban Show

9 – 12 May

RHS Malvern
Spring Festival

21 – 25 May

RHS Chelsea
Flower Show

14 June – 7 July

RHS Botanical Art and
Photography Show

2 – 7 July

RHS Hampton Court
Palace Garden Festival

17 – 21 July

RHS Flower
Show Tatton Park

31 July - 1 August

RHS Hyde Hall
Flower Show

16 - 18 August

RHS Rosemoor
Flower Show

3 - 8 September

RHS Wisley
Flower Show

27 – 29 September

Malvern Autumn Show

RHS Gardens contact information

Please refer to rhs.org.uk/gardens for the latest information and opening times.

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The Patrons Team

Jane and Constance are always happy to help with your enquiries.

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