

Small Group Tour of British Gardens including Chatsworth RHS show

Reading List

Medieval Woman: Village Life in the Middle Ages

by Ann Bauer

A history of peasants in the Middle Ages, the story takes the reader into the life of Marion, the carpenter's wife, and her extended family as they struggle to survive through hardship, featuring a year in their lives at the mercy of the weather and the Lord of the Manor. Existing without soap, paper or glass and only with the most basic of tools, we learn how they survive starvation, sickness, fire and natural disaster in their home on the edge of the Weald.

Bread for all

by Chris Renwick

Today, everybody seems to agree that something has gone badly wrong with the British welfare state. In the midst of economic crisis, politicians and commentators talk about benefits as a lifestyle choice, and of 'skivers' living off hard-working 'strivers' as they debate what a welfare state fit for the twenty-first century might look like. This major new history tells the story of one the greatest transformations in British intellectual, social and political life: the creation of the welfare state, from the Victorian workhouse, where you had to be destitute to receive help, to a moment just after the Second World War, when government embraced responsibilities for people's housing, education, health and family life, a commitment that was unimaginable just a century earlier. Though these changes were driven by developments in different and sometimes unexpected currents in British life, they were linked by one over-arching idea: that through rational and purposeful intervention, government can remake society. It was an idea that, during the early twentieth century, came to inspire people across the political spectrum. In exploring this extraordinary transformation, *Bread for All* explores and challenges our assumptions about what the welfare state was originally for, and the kinds of people who were

involved in creating it. In doing so, it asks what the idea continues to mean for us today.

Gardens of the National Trust

by Stephen Lacey

The National Trust has the finest collection of gardens in the United Kingdom. In this book Stephen Lacey paints a vivid historical and horticultural picture of the individual gardens, placing them firmly within the context of gardening history in Britain. All the major periods and styles of garden design are represented, ranging from the formality of early gardens such as Hanbury Hall and Ham House, magnificent 18th-century landscapes like Stowe and Croome Park and the heady Victorian creations of Biddulph Grange and Waddesdon Manor to the famous plantsmen's gardens of the last century, such as Nymans, Hidcote Manor and Sissinghurst Castle. Much has happened in the gardens of the National Trust since the last revision of this book. New entries featured include Dyffryn Gardens, a magnificent example of Edwardian garden design, Tredegar House, situated in its 90 acres of beautiful gardens and parkland, and the Arts and Crafts charm of Stoneywell. The book serves as a practical guide as well as a source of inspiration. Each entry gives details of soil type and climate and an appendix includes many other gardens to visit. In addition, there are practical features on different aspects of gardening, written by National Trust head gardeners.

The English Country House Garden: Traditional Retreats to Contemporary Masterpieces

by George Plumptre

There is something special about the English country house garden: from its quiet verdant lawns to its high yew hedges, this is a style much-desired and copied around the world. The English country house is most often conceived as a private, intimate place, a getaway from working life. A pergola, a sundial, a croquet lawn, a herbaceous border of soft planting; here is a space to wander and relax, to share secrets, and above all to enjoy afternoon tea. But even the most peaceful of gardens also take passion and hard work to create. This new book takes a fresh look at the English country house garden, starting with the owners and the stories behind the making

of the gardens. Glorious photographs capture the gardens at their finest moments through the seasons, and a sparkling and erudite text presents twenty-five gardens - some grand, some personal, some celebrated, some never-before-photographed - to explore why this garden style has been so very enduring and influential. From the Victorian grandeur of Tyntesfield and Cragside, to the Arts & Crafts simplicity of Rodmarton Manor and Charleston; from Scampston, in the same family since the 17th century, to new gardens by Dan Pearson and Tom Stuart-Smith; and with favourites such as Hidcote and Great Dixter alongside new discoveries, this book will be a delicious treat for garden-lovers.

The English Garden

by Ursula Buchan

Gardening writer Ursula Buchan has combined forces with garden photographer Andrew Lawson to explore the English garden and capture its richness and diversity. Focusing on gardens that are open to visitors, she explains the historical trends and the work of garden makers of the past that have shaped the English gardens we see today. With a wealth of outstanding examples, illustrated with 350 photographs, she describes many garden styles – formality, the landscape tradition, the Arts and Crafts style, the cottage garden and recent phenomena such as New Naturalism. Color, water, ornament and foreign influences are among the themes she considers, as well as such defining characteristics as the very English urge to grow flowers and the nation's love of roses.

One Hundred English Gardens: The Best of the English Heritage Parks and Gardens

by Patrick Taylor

This elegant book presents one hundred of the most beautiful historic gardens in England. The gardens range from the neoclassical paradise of Stourhead to the subtropical splendour of Tresco Abbey and the soothing calm of the White Garden at Sissinghurst, all photographed in stunning color by leading British garden photographers. Each garden is presented at its most glorious moment-- whether at twilight or midday, in autumn, or at the height of summer. English

Heritage has spent over ten years identifying and grading the fabulous wealth of parks and gardens throughout England on the basis of their historical significance, state of preservation and level of general interest. This information is compiled in the English Heritage Parks and Gardens Register, from which the respected horticultural author Patrick Taylor has selected one hundred favorites. In his lively and informative style, he reveals the historic background to each garden and discusses the modern-day plantings. A comprehensive index, county map, and opening times for each garden offer information for the traveler. Lush, full-color photographs capture the essence of each garden for an inspiring tour of the best of a grand gardening tradition.

Gardens of the National Trust

by Stephen Lacey

A substantially revised edition to showcase superb new photography and to introduce newly acquired properties, along with fascinating practical gardening guides from the Trust's expert head gardeners Britain's National Trust has the finest collection of gardens ever assembled under one ownership—the greatest in number, diversity, historic importance, and quality. Together, they form the world's most important collection of cultivated plants, distinguished by their beauty, rarity, historical interest, and scientific value. Historically and horticulturally, a vivid picture of the gardens is painted, with all the major periods represented—from a knot garden from a 1640 design to Victorian Gardens and the famous plantsmen's gardens of the last century. Both a practical guide and a rich source of inspiration, the book includes horticultural details, a complete plant list, and a section on the many other Trust gardens to visit. Throughout, splendid color images by the country's leading photographers bring to life the beauty of each garden.

Secret Gardens of the Cotswolds

by Victoria Summerley

Secret Gardens of the Cotswolds is a captivating photographic portrait of the greatest British

gardens and the lords, ladies and gardeners who own and manage them, with a focus on Gloucestershire and Oxfordshire. It features 20 gardens designed by some of the leading contemporary garden designers from across the world. Accompanying the photographs are be essays on the design and planting that explain the designers' inspiration and passion alongside historical and factual information. This is a very personal view by photographer Hugo Rittson Thomas and journalist Victoria Summerley, both residents of a corner of England with more than its fair share of beautiful and interesting gardens. Some of the gardens are strictly private, while others are regularly open to visitors, but all can now be savored and enjoyed along with those who know them best.

British Gardens in Time: The Greatest Gardens and the People Who Shaped Them

by Katie Campbell

British Gardens in Time covers the creation of the most exciting British gardens today and the work of iconic garden makers over the last 300 hundreds. From Lancelot 'Capability' Brown at Stowe to Christopher Lloyd at Great Dixter, author Katie Campbell leaves no stone unturned as she digs through the foundation of this gardening nation. Starting with a romp through history from the Romans at Fishbourne to the start of the English Landscape Movement, this book details the main trends, influences and needs that gardeners have placed on ornamental horticulture across the British Isles.
