



# HISTORIC GARDENS



*F o u n d a t i o n*

## *Newsletter 42 – March 2016*

✿ Welcome to the new-look HGF Newsletter. We hope you like the new design by Jenny Giles – and that you will find the content as interesting as before. Feedback would be welcome.

✿ The HGF exists to disseminate news and views on historic parks and gardens from around the world. But, sadly, we're not Reuters or the BBC, with a correspondent in every spot from Tierra del Fuego to Timbuktu. We need our readers to keep us informed. Every time a newsletter is pending we send an email to all our subscribers asking for forthcoming events and we get a lot of useful replies. What we need, though, is for you to keep us informed not just twice a year but all the time. Has a historic garden near you been restored or are you working on one? Do you know a park threatened by a motorway or high-speed train or a wind farm? Have you done some interesting historical research or published a book? We can't absolutely guarantee it will go in the Review or the Newsletter but, if you don't tell us, then it definitely won't. So please send us an email!

✿ Several subscribers, particularly those living out of the UK, complained about the length of time HGR 33 took to reach them. We are trying to improve the mailing service, but it looks as though we have to choose between keeping prices down by using what is called 'consolidated mailing' (where the mailing house waits for more mail from other clients in order to negotiate a lower price for a bulk order) or we pay full price to Royal Mail, which can cost several pounds more for each copy. So, unfortunately, it's either slower delivery or increased subscriptions!

✿ Also on the subject of mailing out the magazine, if you move house, please let us know your new address soonest.

**This Newsletter has been compiled by Helen Langley and Gillian Mawrey  
with input from Jenny Giles, Richard Mawrey and Nick Ward.**

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# Congratulations!

🌸 To Caerhays Castle in Cornwall, the winner of the 2016 Garden of the Year Award, awarded by the Historic Houses Association and sponsored by Christie's. The Grade II\* listed 48.5ha (120 acre) garden has a long tradition of collecting rare plants. The owner's great grandfather, JC Williams, and two of the great plant hunters, Ernest Wilson and George Forrest, laid the foundations of the garden in the early 20th century, introducing many plants new to western Europe in the process. Caerhays is open until 19 June. Visit [www.caerhays.co.uk](http://www.caerhays.co.uk)



🌸 To Compton Acres in Poole in Dorset which has won the award for the best small tourist attraction in the UK South West Tourism Awards. The 'one of a kind' layout allows visitors to discover five gardens, covering a c.4ha [10 acre] site stretching from the Italian gardens to the Wooded valley. Other attractions include a Specialist Plant Centre and a café. More at [www.comptonacres.co.uk](http://www.comptonacres.co.uk)

🌸 Congratulations to two winners of European Awards: Catherine Vadon, author of *Mythos Orchideen* (Myth Orchids), won the 2016 European Garden Book Award. Vadon, a lecturer at the Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle in Paris, explores orchid history, plant-hunting expeditions, and collections world-wide. The book, translated into German by Claudia Arlinghaus, is published by Callway. The European Garden Photography Award was won by Claire Takacs (Victoria, Australia) for her study, 'Lavender Garden'. More information at [www.dennenlohe.de](http://www.dennenlohe.de)

🌸 The work of three friends to protect some rare camellias Chiswick House, which date back to the original planting in 1828, has been honoured with a special plaque, unveiled by Herb Short, one of the trio. Along with Marigold Assinder and Jane Callander, they 'adopted' the camellias in 1994 and defeated the mealy bug which threatened the plants and worked tirelessly to restore them and the conservatory at Chiswick House. For opening hours see <http://www.chgt.org.uk>

🌸 It's always cheering when historic gardens receive prestigious awards. For 2016 Hudson's Heritage Awards voted Newby Hall and Gardens (North Yorkshire) their top 'family day out' and the Crystal Grotto, one of the follies at Painshill (Surrey), their best 'hidden gem'. They gave a special judges' award to Woburn Abbey Gardens (Bedfordshire). Oh – and the loos at Alnwick Garden (Northumbria) got a 'highly commended'. Visit <http://www.hudsonsheritage.com/hudsons-heritage-awards/>

🌸 And for 'Congratulations' next time? The Custodian Awards organised by *Horticulture Week* "celebrate the best of parks, gardens and tree management, giving in-house gardens and green space managers ... the chance to showcase their achievements". Award categories include restoration projects and volunteer initiatives. Deadline for entries is 19 April 2016. For details of all the categories and how to enter, visit [www.hortweek.com/awards](http://www.hortweek.com/awards)

# Getting Out 1

✿ The National Gardens Scheme, which encourages gardens to open in aid of various good causes connected with health and gardening, has launched its famous *Yellow Book* with a new title – *Gardens to Visit 2016* (published by Constable at £12.99.) But it is still yellow, and this year contains 3,800 gardens, 611 of them new to the scheme. Spread across every county of England and Wales, they introduce visitors to some wonderful modern gardens, and many historic ones, too. To celebrate the Capability Brown tercentenary, there are 20 sites where he worked, some of which only open for the NGS, including Packington Hall in Warwickshire, Southill Park in Bedfordshire and Brown's own home, the Manor House, Fenstanton in Cambridgeshire.

Aficionados of the NGS often look for the group openings, where several gardens open in one street or village, offering a variety of sizes and styles (and home-made teas, of course, and often plants for sale). Bourneville, the village built by the Cadbury family for their chocolate factory's employees, is one unusual example, and Peterlee, the mining village in Co. Durham, is another.

✿ Last year the NGS raised a record £2.7m for various health and gardening charities. The volunteers who run it are hoping for good weather this summer to inspire even more visits and help beat that target. You can search for gardens by county or date on the NGS website (<http://www.ngs.org.uk>) and there is to be a new app as well.

✿ Scotland has its own scheme – Scotland's Gardens – for opening gardens to raise money for charity and its own book in a slightly different shade of yellow. ([www.scotlandsgardens.org](http://www.scotlandsgardens.org)). Here, too, visitors will find an incredible variety, from places that benefit from the warmth of the Gulf Stream to those on the islands of Shetland, which are about as far north as you can get in the British Isles.

✿ A similar scheme, with proceeds distributed among 60 charities, is run in Belgium under the title Jardins Ouverts de Belgique/Open Tuinen van België. The difference is that, once you have bought the handsome book (which has a photograph and description of each garden with information as to when it can be visited) it acts as a ticket allowing two people to visit over 200 private gardens on the set days. See [www.jardinsouverts.be](http://www.jardinsouverts.be)

✿ France now has also a scheme which encourages private owners to open their gardens to the public with the proceeds going to support worthwhile causes. As with the Belgian scheme, visitors pay an annual subscription, in this case 10€.

Open Gardens/Jardins Ouverts was founded in 2013, with just four gardens opening that year on only one day. The raised 300€ for a children's cancer charity. The project grew rapidly. Last year 75 gardens opened in 14 départements on different days throughout the year, raising 11,000€, and this year La Boissière at Beyssenac in the Corrèze (right) is one of over 90 gardens opening in 16 départements. See [www.opengardens.eu](http://www.opengardens.eu) for details in English and French.



✿ This is in addition to the official French scheme under which gardens, some of them not otherwise open to the public, open on the first weekend in June (3,4 and 5), often with special events. This year's theme is 'Colours in the garden'. Details can, with luck, be found in local tourist offices, or via <http://rendezvousauxjardins.culturecommunication.gouv.fr/>

## Getting Out 2

🌸 Longwood gardens in Pennsylvania, US, have 500,000 geophytes expected to be in full bloom from March through the spring. Planted in October the geophytes, perennial plants storing food in their bulbs, corms or rhizomes, join the hundreds of thousands of early bulbs naturalized in the landscape, with late single tulips in the Conservatory continuing the theme. Details at [www.longwoodgardens.org](http://www.longwoodgardens.org) of this and future events including the Summer Spectacular, 4 June-5 September.



🌸 It's going to be a good summer to visit Chatsworth House in Derbyshire. The gardens have been enhanced by installing elements of Chatsworth's award-winning 2015 Chelsea garden and two of the many events stand out. The 'Grand Tour of the Devonshire Collection' (19 March to 23 October) includes rarely shown works by Old Masters acquired by generations of Dukes and Duchesses of Devonshire on their tours of Europe, while the Florabundance Festival (24-28 June) will showcase the best summer flowers grown on the estate. Details on <http://www.chatsworth.org/>

🌸 Johannes Vermeer's painting *Girl with a Pearl Earring* inspired both a novel and a film, and now will preside over the Keukenhof flower festival in The Netherlands which runs to 16 May. This year's theme is the 'Golden Age' of 17th-century exploration and plant hunting and will feature a Delft Blue garden and a mosaic made of a hundred thousand tulips, muscari and crocuses. See [www.keukenhof.nl](http://www.keukenhof.nl)

🌸 Enjoy a walk in one of the Seven Wonders of the Weald amongst the spectacular display of bluebells at Hole Park in Kent. You can also delight in the results of an ambitious planting last year of dark purple tulips 'Queen of the Night'. Open daily from 26 March-11 June. See [www.holepark.com](http://www.holepark.com)

🌸 At Easter the gardens at la Quinta das Mil Flores, in Sobreiro, Pedrogao Grande, in central Portugal, re-opened for tours. The gardens were described in *Jardins d'histoire et sans histoire de la Comtesse de La Panouse* which was reviewed in *HGR* 31. More information at [www.quintadasmilflores.com](http://www.quintadasmilflores.com)

🌸 You can support Belgium in these troubled times by attending the the spring flower exhibition in the park and the greenhouses at the castle of Groot-Bijgaarden near Brussels, which will be staging its 13th annual month-long flower display from 6 April to 6 May. The grounds, open specially for the event, were designed by the 19th-century garden architect Louis Fuchs, designer of numerous parks in Belgium. Over 500 varieties of spring flowers, including 400 different tulips will be on display, plus an indoor floral exhibition in the castle. See [www.floralia-brussels.be/en/floralia](http://www.floralia-brussels.be/en/floralia)

🌸 Doddington Hall in Lincoln will be celebrating the cherry blossom this year with its own Blossom Festival along their 80m long Cherry Walk. Dates are uncertain because the blossom depends on the weather, but 17-24 April are the most likely. Check on [www.doddingtonhall.com](http://www.doddingtonhall.com)

🌸 A must in Belgium this year – the 35th Floralties in Ghent from 22 April to 1 May. This major floral attraction, which only takes place every five years, is on four sites close to the city centre. Plant innovation, workshops, and explorations of the relationships between art, nature and ecology are just some of the aspects covered in a programme which has a strong international dimension. Details at [www.floralien.be](http://www.floralien.be)

🌸 To mark and complement the Floralties, the Caemersklooster, home to the Ghent Altarpiece, the extraordinary 15th-century masterpiece by the Van Eyck brothers which is currently undergoing a 7-year restoration, is holding a small exhibition about the flora in the painting. [www.caemersklooster.be/en](http://www.caemersklooster.be/en)

## Getting Out 3

❁ Pashley Manor Gardens in Tice, East Sussex are staging their annual Tulip Festival from 22 April until 7 May. On display between will be 30,000 tulips in over a hundred varieties, complemented by forget-me-nots, pansies, bellis daisies and newly-emerging perennials.



Another annual event in the Pashley Manor Gardens calendar is Special Rose Week, from 14 to 19 June. Roses grace the herbaceous and pool gardens and the front of the house, as well as the formal Rose Garden, and the Rose Walk. During the event the Head Gardener will lead rose-themed walks.

Looking further ahead, there is a new event at Pashley Manor celebrating dahlias. Between 6 and 11 September over 40 varieties will be on display throughout the garden. More information on all events at [pashleymanorgardens.com](http://pashleymanorgardens.com) or tel +44 (0)1580 200 888.

❁ Spring will be smelling even sweeter at the South London Botanical Institute in Tulse Hill, London, as it holds a Botanical Perfumery Workshop on 23 April. Visit [www.slbi.org.uk](http://www.slbi.org.uk) for details and the full programme of events at the SLBI in April, May and beyond.

❁ If you're venturing to Turkey this year, look out for Expo2016 in Antalya (Anatolia) which runs from 23 April to 30 October. The event's philosophy is 'A green life for future generations' and its theme is 'Flowers and Children'. Check out <http://www.expo2016.org.tr/Anasayfa> – in various languages.

❁ In the West of Ireland, County Clare's Annual Garden Festival takes place on 24 April at the Ennis Showgrounds. The programme includes expert garden speakers, demonstrations, and vegetable growing for beginners. Visit [www.claregardenfestival.com](http://www.claregardenfestival.com)

❁ The grounds of the former Cistercian abbey of Aywiers in Belgium, not far south of Brussels, hold two plant fairs a year (*right*) which are well worth visiting, with hundreds of stands and activities such as book signings. Dates for 2016 are 29 April-1 May and 30 September to 1 October. See [www.aywiers.be/](http://www.aywiers.be/)



❁ In Normandy the annual Fête des Hydrangéas takes place over the weekend of 30 April-1 May at the Shamrock Garden in Varengeville. As well as the hydrangeas in which the garden specializes, there will be the chance to buy other plants, particularly bee-loving ones. Details on [www.hortensias-hydrangea.com](http://www.hortensias-hydrangea.com)

❁ The route for the Bluebell Walks at Rode Hall & Gardens, Cheshire, from 30 April-8 May includes the recently discovered and restored path through the Old Wood, previously used by villagers walking to the house in the 1800s. Rode's bluebells are mostly the endangered and protected native variety, strongly perfumed, with either white or pinkish flowers. The Grade II listed park and gardens, designed by Humphry Repton, also include rare early rhododendrons and azaleas. Details on [www.rodehall.co.uk](http://www.rodehall.co.uk)

❁ Avignon's Biennale Rose Festival takes place from 5-8 May. This year the Alterarosa Festival's programme includes a pop-up rose garden and new rose introductions by leading French rose breeders. You can cast your vote to award the 'Prix du Public' prize to your favourite rose and also attend talks, classes and workshops on many subjects to do with roses. Full details at [www.alterarosa.com](http://www.alterarosa.com)

# Getting Out 4

✿ The 2016 theme for the Garden Days at Beervelde, Lochristi, Belgium, is 'La Vie en Rose' and they take place on 6-8 May. The 19th-century park will be filled with over 200 nurserymen, designers and artisans. Whatever plant or garden gizmo you need, or are simply tempted to buy, you can find it here and usually cheaper than in England, France or Germany. Details on [www.parkvanbeervelde.be](http://www.parkvanbeervelde.be)

✿ Only have a small breakfast before going along to the Journées des Plantes de Chantilly (Chantilly Flower Show), near Paris, as this year's theme is 'The Gourmet Garden'. You can taste an incredible array of edible plants and shrubs and learn which bulbs can be consumed raw or cooked. This is the much-loved Courson Flower Show which moved last year to Chantilly's Le Nôtre-designed landscape. 13-16 May. [www.domainedechantilly.com](http://www.domainedechantilly.com)

✿ In London, registration is now open if you want to submit an idea for a project for Chelsea Fringe, the alternative Garden Festival, which has its fifth anniversary this year. The festival will be held from 21 May to 12 June and you can e-mail your ideas to [info@chelseafringe.com](mailto:info@chelseafringe.com)

✿ More than 20 gardens in North Wales will play host to a variety of organised events and activities from May 28 to June 5 at the Festival of Gardens North Wales. Set in beautiful mountain and coastal scenery, the gardens involved include Bodnant, Portmeirion and Plas Cadnant, and on offer are behind-the-scenes guided tours, gardening workshops, children's trails, and opportunities to meet a head gardener. Visit [www.gardenstovisit.net/festival-of-gardens-north-wales/](http://www.gardenstovisit.net/festival-of-gardens-north-wales/) for more information.

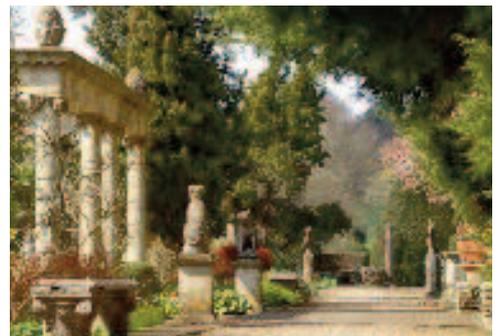
✿ The book, *L'Italie des Jardins* (2015) by Pierre de Filippis, with photography by César Garçon, has inspired four garden itineraries in Italy: Tuscany in May; Sicily in June; Lazio in September, and Naples in October. More information at [www.european-garden-tour.com](http://www.european-garden-tour.com)

✿ There are few more beautiful landscape parks in southern England than Painshill, and this may be the summer to visit. The Storey Pocket theatre will feature the Arabian Nights and 'a Pocketful of Grimm' for the children on 1 and 2 June, a botanical illustration workshop on 6 June for the adults and a summer sunrise walk for early risers on 9 June. Details on [www.painshill.co.uk](http://www.painshill.co.uk)

✿ Chichester Cathedral in Sussex will host a Festival of Flowers from 2-4 June, with over 80 beautiful flower arrangements inside and plants for sale outside. Details [www.chichestercathedral.org.uk/whats-on](http://www.chichestercathedral.org.uk/whats-on)

✿ From 3 to 5 June the Royal Highland Centre in Edinburgh is home to Gardening Scotland, the national garden and outdoor living event. Highlights include the biggest plant fair in Scotland, show gardens, and the Living Garden exhibition. More information at [www.gardeningscotland.com](http://www.gardeningscotland.com)

✿ Henry Purcell's opera *A Fairy Queen*, based on Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, is just one of the offerings at the Iford Arts Festival which starts on 4th June at Iford Manor near Bath. Other events this summer in the Italianate gardens (*right*), designed by Harold Peto in the early 20th century, include Verdi's *Macbeth* and Mozart's *The Magic Flute*, along with the popular Picnic Proms. Advance booking is recommended. Visit [www.ifordarts.co.uk](http://www.ifordarts.co.uk) for the full programme.



✿ Offering a Spanish view of England, for June 9-15 Gardens from Spain have organized a tour of renowned English gardens. Highlights include Stourhead, Hidcote, Hestercombe, and, marking Brown's tercentenary, Blenheim's landscape park. More information at [www.gardensfromspain.com](http://www.gardensfromspain.com)

# Getting Out 5

✿ The delightful gardens of Kasteel Hex, Heers, Belgium will be hosting their Spring Show on 10, 11 and 12 June and their Autumn Show on 10 and 11 September. The themes this year are the UN International Year of Pulses, the flora of the Far East, and nectar plants. The shows will be enhanced with exhibitions, demonstrations and book launches. Visit [www.hex.be](http://www.hex.be) for further details.

✿ Amsterdam's Open Garden Days celebrate their 30th birthday this year, with the event, organised by the Museum Van Loon, opening up lots of exciting new private gardens open for one weekend only, 17-19 June. A pass allowing access to all the gardens is €20. Visit [www.museumvanloon.nl](http://www.museumvanloon.nl) to book.

✿ The English Country Garden Festival at the Bishop's Palace, Wells, in Somerset, takes place on 10-12 June, the weekend of Queen Elizabeth's 90th birthday celebrations. Plantsman and author, Roy Lancaster will open the event and there will be talks, stalls, demonstrations, and new ideas on how to use and love gardens. For details of this, and the full 2016 programme, see [www.bishopspalace.org.uk](http://www.bishopspalace.org.uk)

✿ Tickets for London's annual Open Garden Squares event on 18 and 19 June have gone on sale. They cost £12 in advance or £14 on the day and allow access to 211 gardens, many of which are not normally open to the public. Visit [www.opensquares.org](http://www.opensquares.org) for full details.

✿ A brand new garden festival comes to Chichester this 20-22 June. Among those speaking will be experts from the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Tom Hart Dyke (who will reveal how being held hostage in the Panamanian jungle inspired his World Garden at Lullingstone Castle), and garden designer and broadcaster Chris Beardshaw discussing the traditional English Garden. Visit [www.chichestergardenfest.uk](http://www.chichestergardenfest.uk) for more information.

✿ Do you fancy yourself as a guerilla gardener or would you prefer a garden made entirely of flowers? Either way GROW London – 'the capital's first and only contemporary gardening show' – is for you. Flowers, designs, workshops, inspiration and fun can be found on Hampstead Heath from 24-26 June, all in aid of Maggie's cancer charity. Visit [www.growlondon.com](http://www.growlondon.com) and [www.maggiescentres.org](http://www.maggiescentres.org)

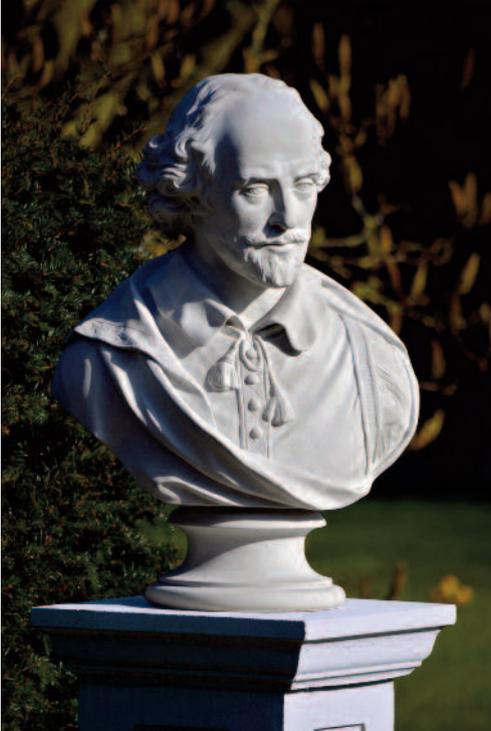
✿ This year's Arley Garden Festival in Cheshire on 25 and 26 June features spectacular floral displays, tours of the gardens by the owner, Lord Ashbrook, and head gardener, Gordon Baillie, plus the Schools Flowerbed Challenge. More on [www.arleyhallandgardens.com](http://www.arleyhallandgardens.com)

✿ Summer visitors to Northamptonshire's Boughton Estate can enjoy its park and gardens by sunlight and by starlight when they provide the setting to open-air theatre performances of *The Hound of the Baskervilles* in June and *Peter Pan* in August, as well as cinema screenings in August. August also sees the Grade I 17th-century landscape open in conjunction with Boughton's annual summer opening of the house. [www.boughtonhouse.co.uk](http://www.boughtonhouse.co.uk)

✿ Celebrate American Independence Day, experience Jazz in Babylon and join a gardening club – just some of the events at Kensington Roof Gardens in London this summer. And on selected Wednesdays in May and August classical music lovers can enjoy a treat for the eyes and ears with music as beautiful as the setting. The full programme is on [www.roofgardens.virgin.com](http://www.roofgardens.virgin.com)



## Getting Out 6



✿ It is 400 years since William Shakespeare died in 2016 and the Home and Garden Show in his home town Stratford-upon-Avon is celebrating this 15-17 July with a range of attractions, including specialist plant nurseries and a 'Garden in a Wheelbarrow' competition. For the full programme of events on the beautiful site beside the River Avon and overlooked by the famous theatre visit [www.stratfordhomeandgardenshow.co.uk](http://www.stratfordhomeandgardenshow.co.uk)

✿ And just in case you have been living on the Moon or in an enclosed religious order, and haven't realised that 2016 is the quatercentenary of Shakespeare's death, what better way to commemorate him than a very handsome bust (*left*) of the great playwright from Haddonstone, copied from the famous Thomas Sheemaker bust in London's Soane Museum? Order from [www.haddonstone.com](http://www.haddonstone.com)

✿ Herb Day at Falkland Palace & Garden in Scotland is 17 July, which is also Scotland's Gardens Open Day. Enjoy cookery demonstrations and plant stalls, learn how herbs have been used through the ages and take a guided tour of the

palace's Physic Garden to see herbs grown in Mary, Queen of Scots' time and their medicinal uses. [www.nts.org.uk/Events/Falkland-Palace-and-Garden](http://www.nts.org.uk/Events/Falkland-Palace-and-Garden)

✿ Brooklyn Botanical Garden in New York hosts Shayne Darke as its artist-in-residence this summer. Darke will create organic artworks from materials he finds around the garden and the works will remain on display for a year. Visit [www.bbg.org](http://www.bbg.org) for the full schedule of events.

✿ Still in the United States, advance notice of Wisconsin's Heirloom Garden Weekend which takes place on 20-21 August in Eagle Wisconsin, at the Wisconsin Historical Society's living history museum, Old World Wisconsin. Among the highlights are learning about the gardens of early immigrants, tips on growing heirloom plants, walking tours, workshops, and family activities. More information at [www.oldworldwisconsin.org](http://www.oldworldwisconsin.org).

✿ September sees the inaugural London Flower Show. Held in the grounds of Osterley House and Park, in west London, it will include show gardens, flower and produce displays, growing competitions, and family entertainment. The show runs from 8-11 September and will open daily from 10am-7pm. Advance tickets on sale now. More information [www.londonflowershow.co.uk](http://www.londonflowershow.co.uk)

# Learning

✿ In 2016 the tercentenary of the birth of Lancelot 'Capability' Brown (1716-1783) will be as unavoidable as the Olympic Games. Of the many events worth noting, the first is a talk in Caversham by Ben Viljoen 13 April on 'Brown's legacy in Berkshire'. E-mail [friends@fcc.org.uk](mailto:friends@fcc.org.uk) for more details.

✿ The celebrations continue with a study day on 22 April at Wentworth Castle, near Barnsley, South Yorkshire, entitled 'Capability Brown in Yorkshire'. Speakers are Karen Lynch (see also Exhibitions), Patrick Eyres and John Phibbs and the day includes a tour of Wentworth's Brownian Park. Visit [www.wentworthcastle.org/events/capability-brown-in-yorkshire/](http://www.wentworthcastle.org/events/capability-brown-in-yorkshire/) or phone (+44)(0)1226 776 040.

✿ And there is another Brown event on 26 April in London with a World Monuments Fund lecture at the Royal Geographical Society in Kensington. In 'Clumps and Concrete' Oliver Cox will explain how 18th-century landscape design inspired post-war reconstruction. Author Tim Richardson will then chair a Q&A session. Booking on [www.wmf.org.uk/activities](http://www.wmf.org.uk/activities)

✿ In September Brown is again centre stage when ICOMOS-UK, in collaboration with the University of Bath, and supported by the Gardens Trust, the National Trust and Historic England, is holding a three day conference at the University of Bath. 'Capability Brown: Perception and Response in a Global Context' will present Brown's work, and explore its interpretation over 250 years. The programme includes a reception at Prior Park, and a visit to Croome Park. [www.icomos-uk.org](http://www.icomos-uk.org)

✿ Another Brown event, at Robinson College, Cambridge, is an ambitious four-day conference (1-4 September) on organised by the Cambridgeshire Gardens Trust in collaboration with the Gardens Trust. Speakers include Patrick Eyres (again), Twigs Way and Steffie Shields. There are lectures, several garden visits and a symposium. Accommodation is included, if desired. Visit: <http://cambsgardens.org.uk>

✿ This year Brown and his transformation of great estates occupy a session in the Interdisciplinary International Summer School held at Cambridge University's Institute of Continuing Education from 3 July-13 August, and the Institute also offers a conference on Brown on 5-7 August. Entitled 'Moving heaven and earth', this is led by Caroline Holmes, with Steffie Shields (again), Head Gardener Richard Gant, and three guest speakers. Details on [www.ice.cam.ac.uk](http://www.ice.cam.ac.uk)

✿ But non-Brown events are also happening! For instance, a weekend course on the Renaissance garden in Britain on 8-10 July led by Caroline Holmes at Cambridge's ICE. Details as above.

✿ In May Painshill is offering three non-Brown events. Their first-ever Star Gazing evening is on 7 May. On 14 May there's a spring photography course and on 19 May the 17th-century traveller, Celia Fiennes, will be the subject of a lecture by Marie-Elaine Houghton. More information and booking details at [www.painshill.co.uk](http://www.painshill.co.uk)

✿ Learn flower arranging, stone carving and how to weave willow to make your very own sculpture at Easton Walled Gardens in Lincolnshire in April and May. Details on [www.visiteaston.co.uk/whats-on](http://www.visiteaston.co.uk/whats-on)

✿ To mark the centenary of the formation of the Rhododendron Society, the society will be holding a lecture and garden tour on 8 April at Caerhays in Cornwall looking at some of the 365 species which had arrived in the gardens there from China by 1916 and are still surviving in maturity today. And there is another Rhododendron Society centenary event at Burncoose Woodland Gardens in Redruth, also in Cornwall, on 13 May, when a talk will consider the most popular rhododendrons in 1916, 1956 and 2016, followed by a slideshow of rhododendrons in the wild in China, and a garden tour. Book via [www.caerhays.com](http://www.caerhays.com) and/or [www.burncoose.co.uk](http://www.burncoose.co.uk)

# Conference Report 1

## What Does the Future Hold for Boxwood?

A report from a French conference on the challenges facing historic box plants.

Box parterres are one of the hallmarks of historic French gardens. So the box pests and diseases which have emerged in the last decade pose a great threat to the character of the country's garden heritage. Le Nôtre's garden at Vaux-le-Vicomte is just one of many where the box is suffering and solutions are hard to find. In response, Vaux last year organised an international conference aimed at garden owners, scientists, plant growers and others. It aimed to share information about the current spread of box pests and disease; the progress of research to control the problems; and options for replacing boxwood.

Box has long been affected by various pests and diseases, but two new arrivals have caused a crisis – in France and northern Europe in particular. They are the box tree moth (*Cydalima perspectalis*), which arrived in Europe around 2007 and whose caterpillars cause severe defoliation, and boxwood blight (*Calonectria*), a fungus which has resulted in dieback in gardens and native boxwood forests since 2006.

The conference heard from three speakers whose gardens were affected. Muriel de Curel, owner of St Jean-de-Beauregard, a garden south-west of Paris famous for its potager and flower shows, has 2,000m of box edging plus box shrubs in the woodland. The poor health of some of the plants in 2013 led to a diagnosis of blight. But only a proportion of the plants were affected: some remained perfectly healthy. Sadly, the conference heard that no solution has yet been found; fungicide and manure-based treatments have not helped.



The second case study came from Lucie Le Chaudelec, Head of the Plant Study Division in the City of Paris, whose parks and gardens have 10km of boxwood edging, 8km of boxwood hedges and 1800 boxwood topiaries. They have had infestations of box tree moth since 2010.

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*Left:* Box edging at the Parc de Bercy in Paris before the current infestations.

# Conference Report cont

The City of Paris does not use pesticides, so options were limited. As a trial, 110m<sup>3</sup> of infected box were removed and replaced with other plants, including veronicas, germanders and cotoneasters for edging, and hornbeams and osmanthus for hedges. The trial was not judged a success aesthetically. Now, the City is working with the national research programme SaveBuxus to find control mechanisms. But progress is hampered by poor management of the moth by gardeners elsewhere.

Levens Hall in England was the third case study presented by Chris Crowder, the head gardener. The gardens have 100 topiary shrubs plus 2km of boxwood edging and have suffered from blight since 2009. Various controls have been trialled but they proved onerous and unsatisfactory. The boxwood edging has now been replaced with a variety of other plants, the most successful being germander (*Teucrium x lucidrys*) and *Ilex crenata*. Visitors did not seem to notice the changes. In 2014 no box blight was reported at Levens Hall, although it is not clear what caused it to disappear.

Then three researchers reported. Kurt Heungens from the Belgian Institute for Agriculture and Fisheries Research (ILVO) said that research in Belgium was looking at varietal tolerance to blight, as well as the impact of different cultivation methods and the use of soil disinfectants and fungicides. Marc Kenis from the non-profit Centre For Agriculture and Biosciences International in Delémont, Switzerland (CABI), said research there has shown that box tree moth only attacks box, but every species is vulnerable. Cultivated plants die after 2 or 3 generations of moth infestation. Jean-Claude Martin from the National Institute for Agricultural Research in Avignon (INRA) said that research is focusing on disturbing the life-cycle of the moth, including mating disruption and egg parasitisation. Mass pheromone traps have had some success, and one called Buxatrap was due for commercial release in 2016. Long-term control probably includes introducing natural predators.

The conference concluded that there was no miracle solution to the problems facing box, and no single obvious replacement plant. On a positive note, there was a sense that, while box contributed to the historical significance of France's gardens, no plant was irreplaceable. Dutch elm disease had seemed a similar threat to the country's heritage but France's great gardens had survived.



More information about the French research programme SaveBuxus can be found at <http://www.plante-et-cite.fr>

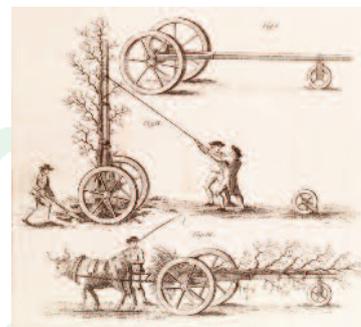
**Jill Sinclair**

*Left:* The box parterres at Vaux-le-Vicomte before they were attacked.

✿ Lancelot ‘Capability’ Brown’s tercentenary is ubiquitous (see [www.capabilitybrown.org](http://www.capabilitybrown.org)). The National Trust is playing its part with the planting of hundreds of his favourite trees, all according to his original designs. The biggest planting so far has been at Croome, Worcestershire, where the NT’s Director-General Dame Helen Ghosh planted a Cedar of Lebanon. See [www.nationaltrust.org.uk](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk) for other NT events.

✿ And in Winchester a 1:2 scale replica of Brown’s tree-planting machine can be seen in the ‘Making the Landscape’ exhibition in the Winchester Discovery Centre City Space 2016.

Details on [www.hampshireculturaltrust.org.uk](http://www.hampshireculturaltrust.org.uk)



✿ A special day for tree professionals to learn about all aspects of tree management, from safety management to tackling pests and diseases, has been organised at RHS Wisley on 11 April. Advance booking is essential; please telephone +44 (0)20 3176 5830 quoting reference 13573.

✿ Growing inequality isn’t only a problem in human society: the inequality in tree sizes also greatly affects the structure and ecology of forests, according to the doctoral thesis of Rubén Valbuena, who applied the Lorenz Curve, an economic model normally used to study the extent of equal distribution of wealth in society, to the inequality in tree size. Dr Valbuena discovered that forests can be evaluated for their structural complexity, and maps using new Lidar Scanning technology can also be created to easily evaluate different types of forest management. These maps can lead to more efficient management of the forests, taking all factors, including species inequality, into account. For further information, contact [rubenval@uef.fi](mailto:rubenval@uef.fi)

✿ We are all much more appreciative of historic and remarkable trees than we used to be and we would like to draw our readers’ attention to ARBRES (Arbres Remarquables: Bilan, Recherche, Études et Sauvegarde), the Paris-based organisation concerned with the scheme set up in 2000 to award the label Arbre Remarquable de France to France’s Champion Trees. The website <http://www.arbres.org/> contains an interactive map of where they are all to be found.

✿ A.B.R.E.S (above) doesn’t simply concern itself with individual trees, it awards its ‘Remarquable’ label to ensembles of trees and one such award, known as a Label ‘Arboré Remarquable’ will be given to a collection of cedars of Lebanon at St Germain-en-Laye, just west of Paris, at a formal civil ceremony presided over by the Mayor on 3 April 2016. <http://www.arbres.org/actualite>

✿ Bad news and (possibly) good news on the ash die-back front. 23 March 2016 saw the publication of a report in the Journal of Ecology by Dr Peter Thomas of Keele University which predicted that most of Europe’s ash trees would fall victim either to ash dieback aka *Chalara* (caused by the fungus *Hymenoscyphus fraxineus*) or to the emerald ash borer, a sinister bright green beetle spreading west from Russia at an alarming rate. Furthermore, Dr Thomas points out that over 100 species of lichens, fungi and insects are dependent on the ash tree and would go down with it.

✿ But perhaps all is not lost. The Bartlett Tree Research Laboratory, the leader in tree science in the USA and the UK, has developed an enriched biochar, a natural soil treatment sold as ‘Carbon Gold Tree Soil Improver’. Bartlett claims that, in tests conducted in Essex, trees treated with the biochar developed a significantly increased resistance to *Chalara*, as well as to honey fungus and *Phytophthora*. This may give some hope where *Chalara* is concerned but the beetle is on its way.

🌸 **Water Lilies and Bory Latour-Marliac** by Caroline Holmes  
Garden Art Press. 207 pages. £30.00. ISBN 978-1870-673-839.

Caroline Holmes's book opens with a description of the role the water lily, or lotus, played in ancient times, particularly in Egypt and the Far East, and the medicinal and spiritual qualities of the plant. Then, the only hardy water lilies were white, and the general public would not see hardy coloured water-lilies until the late 19th century. Holmes has already written on Monet's garden at Giverny and it was while researching that book that she found herself investigating an extraordinary archive in south-west France. She realised that, while Monet's paintings of water lilies are famous, the man who bred the plants he painted, and sold them to him, had been almost forgotten.

Joseph Bory Latour-Marliac was born in 1830 and intended to be a lawyer, but he became so interested in hybridizing plants that he devoted his life to the subject, and creating the first hardy waterlilies in red, pink, yellow and even orange. It was remarkable that Latour-Marliac did this with no training in botany, and equally impressive was the network of contacts he created without modern means of communication.

Using just 'snail mail' to correspond with customers and other breeders, he set up a "horticultural network that spanned the globe". Monet was just one of the customers of the nursery he founded at Le Temple-sur-Lot. We hear of Chatsworth, the Rothschilds and William Robinson, and of places all over Europe and the US. Monet placed his first order after seeing Latour-Marliac's display at the 1889 Paris Universal Exhibition, a display that almost didn't happen as the plants Latour-Marliac despatched were left uncollected at the railway station. He was surprised that they flourished after being ignored for so long, but it led to his realisation that they could happily stand up to such neglect, and so could be posted all over the world. Selling plants by mail order was born! After his death in 1911, the nursery was maintained by his descendants and survives to the present day – now run by an American.

Caroline Holmes's absorbing text is enhanced by archive photographs and beautiful modern ones by Peter Evans. And the book is published to coincide with the exhibition of Monet's paintings of gardens at London's Royal Academy (see below).

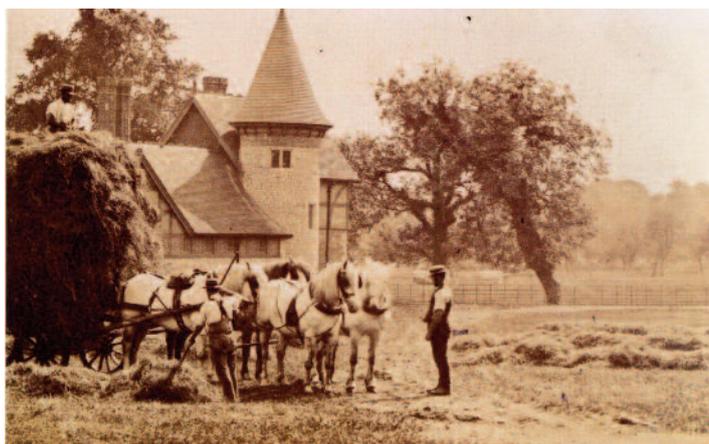
🌸 **Paradise and Plenty** by Mary Keen  
Pimpernel Press. 304 pages. £50.00. ISBN 978-1-9102-5812-5.

Subtitled 'A Rothschild Family Garden', this book describes Lord Rothschild's garden at Eythrope, in Buckinghamshire. Eythrope is just three miles from the great Rothschild house at Waddesdon and was intended as a place to escape the somewhat overpowering grandeur there.

If this concept has a certain Marie-Antoinette quality (and indeed one of the archive photographs showing the outbuildings, is definitely reminiscent of that unfortunate queen's Hameau), the reality has always been far from frivolous, as the ethos of hard work explicit in this book shows.

Four women have been associated with the garden at Eythrope: Miss Alice de Rothschild, who started it in 1875; Mrs James de Rothschild, whose husband inherited it; Mary Keen, who designed the modern garden and wrote this book; and Sue Dickinson, who has been head gardener there for over 25 years.

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## Books cont

This is a place with a lot of history, which the author duly covers, but her main concern is not what it was like in the past, nor what it looks like now, but what is grown there and, most importantly *how* it is



grown. After the preliminary descriptions, Keen explains that in Miss Alice's time the 4-acre (1.8ha) walled garden was called Paradise and devoted entirely to growing fruit, vegetables and flowers for the main house. The rest of her book is devoted to the amazing range of gardening undertaken there, with sections on vegetables, fruit, glasshouses, borders, the special collections, pots and topiary, and flowers for the house.

If you want to know how the best of Victorian practice can be mixed with modern techniques to produce excellence in so many categories, the answer lies in these chapters and is quite simple: attention to detail, hard work, endless vigilance and careful record-keeping. Money helps but we could all follow the basic precepts.

This is a book to inspire perfection, not to incite envy. It even made me want to grow nerines, which I hate. And I particularly liked the appendix about the gardeners who do the work. One has links to the past as he worked for Mrs James de Rothschild, one was a shepherd before came to garden, and one left to become a poet.

Gillian Mawrey

## Did You Know?

🌿 A useful library of Garden History exists within the Hartley Library at the University of Southampton's Highfield Campus. Managed by the Hampshire Gardens Trust, it was set up library in 1983 to assist research into Hampshire gardens.

Since then the collection has grown through regular acquisitions funded by the HGT and many generous donations. It now contains a wide-ranging collection of books, no longer Hampshire-specific, and several useful series of scholarly journals. The collection is held on open shelves within the Special Collections section of the Hartley and is open to all – though if you do not hold a University or Hampshire Gardens Trust ID card then you will need to show a photo ID card at Reception.

For further help contact Jenny Ruthven ([j.c.ruthven@soton.ac.uk](mailto:j.c.ruthven@soton.ac.uk)) who is in charge of Special Collections, or the collection can be accessed online at [https://www-lib.soton.ac.uk/uhtbin/cgiirsi/x/0/0/57/5?&library=ALL&location=H.G.T.&match\\_on=KEYWORD&shadow=NO&sort\\_by=TI&user\\_id=WEBSEVER](https://www-lib.soton.ac.uk/uhtbin/cgiirsi/x/0/0/57/5?&library=ALL&location=H.G.T.&match_on=KEYWORD&shadow=NO&sort_by=TI&user_id=WEBSEVER)

## 🌸 Painting the Modern Garden: Monet to Matisse at the Royal Academy, London W1.

Although only a quarter of the paintings in this stunning exhibition are by Claude Monet, he is very much the dominant figure as his work bookends that of the other artists, and the sequence ends with his death in 1926. But the word 'Modern' in the title is misleading: although the artists include Kandinsky, Klee and Munch, and although the gardens range from the old and formal (Santiago Rusiñol's 'Glorieta, Aranjuez') to the new and wild (Pierre Bonnard's 'Le Jardin Sauvage'), with even a hint of the medieval (Maurice Denis's 'Virginal Spring'), there is no element of anything Modern in the architectural or design sense. That said, visitors can rejoice in the sight of works of art which, for the first time, celebrate gardens as – works of art. Not adjuncts to buildings or expressions of wealth, but beautiful in their own right.

It is a privilege to see the long-separated parts of Monet's great waterlily tritych together in one room, the grand finale of the exhibition, but I found equally moving the previous room with other paintings from his later years.



One eye-opener was the number of paintings by people whose work I had not previously been conscious of: the Catalan, Joaquin Mir y Trinxet, for instance, and the Dane, Lauritz Tuxen; and Joaquin Sorolla, who painted his own Moorish-inspired garden in Madrid and, when in the United States, the stained glass designer, Louis Comfort Tiffany, resting at an easel while painting *his* own garden.

Which leads me to a generalisation: that few of these painters show people working, let alone gardening. Where people are included they are the middle classes enjoying their moments of leisure, taking tea or reading.

Although many of these paintings show the artists' own gardens, only two, Monet himself and Gustave Caillebotte, were seriously interested in the practical side of gardening. Caillebotte's 'Wall of the vegetable garden, Yerres' (*above*) shows carefully espaliered fruit.

The picture captions are unusually informative, offering serious information about horticulture at that period as well as about the artists. For instance, in connection with 'The Nasturtium Path' by the pioneer Impressionist, Armand Guillaumin, we learn that nasturtiums were very popular and that some scientists thought they emitted light when in shadow. Archive films and photographs also add background to this extraordinarily rich exhibition. Opening times etc can be found at [www.royalacademy.org/events](http://www.royalacademy.org/events)

🌸 And if you can't get to London to see the RA exhibition before it closes on 20th April, a film has been made which will be shown in cinemas all over the UK from 12th April. Paintings from the exhibition are interspersed with stunning film of gardens, not just those depicted, but gardens contemporary with the Impressionists. such as Gravetye (Sussex). Thoughts on the paintings and the gardens are voiced by artists of today and by garden experts such as the current English head gardener at Giverny. Details on [www.exhibitiononscreen.com](http://www.exhibitiononscreen.com)

🌸 Among the artists missing from the RA exhibition is the Norwegian Nikolai Astrup, who would have been well-qualified as he lived at the right period (1880-1928) and was a keen gardener, which included growing ten different varieties of rhubarb, from which he made wine. He painted the garden of the parsonage at Ålhus, his childhood home, and his own garden across the lake at Sandalstrand, seeing it as "a portfolio of motifs" for his art and a place where he could save plants threatened by development. He often repeated his paintings as prints, and it is fascinating to see the reversed views and changed colours – and he took photographs, too, some of which are on display until 15th May at an interesting exhibition of Astrup's work at the Dulwich Picture Gallery. Details on [www.dulwichpicturegallery.org.uk](http://www.dulwichpicturegallery.org.uk)

## Exhibitions cont

✿ Until 30 May the gallery at the château of Villandry in the Loire Valley will be showing a series of atmospheric gouaches of the châteaux, gardens and landscapes of the area by Alan Halliday, an English artist who has lived in France for many years. Details of this and following exhibitions at [www.chateauvillandry.fr](http://www.chateauvillandry.fr)

✿ If you don't associate installation artists with flowers and gardens, think again, because the first exhibition at the new City Centre at Guildhall in the City of London is featuring 'the City Garden', a site-specific installation of natural materials inspired by gardens within the City by artist Rebecca Louise Law. 23 April to 25 September. Visit [www.thecitycentre.london/exhibitions-events](http://www.thecitycentre.london/exhibitions-events)

✿ We all like to photograph the gardens we visit. See how the experts do it with the exhibition of the winners of the International Garden Photographer of the Year competition, which can be seen at various venues in the UK during 2016 and later in Sweden and Holland. For full programme visit [www.igpoty.com](http://www.igpoty.com)

✿ For admirers of intrepid women, Maria Sibylla Merian certainly fits the bill. Born in Germany in 1647, she became a renowned naturalist and scientific illustrator. In 1699, at the age of 52, she was given a grant by the Dutch government to visit Suriname, its South American colony, and she spent two years travelling round with her daughter. The cream of her fascinating and beautiful botanical and entomological paintings and drawings can be seen at The Queen's Gallery, Buckingham Palace, from 15 April to 9 October in an exhibition entitled 'Maria Merian's Butterflies'. Details on [www.royalcollection.org.uk/exhibitions](http://www.royalcollection.org.uk/exhibitions)

✿ From 22 June to 11 September the Mercer Art Gallery, Harrogate, North Yorkshire is host to a free exhibition entitled 'Noble Prospects: Capability Brown and the Yorkshire Landscape' 2016. The exhibition is organised by the Yorkshire Gardens Trust and curated by Karen Lynch (see also Learning). Opening times etc on <http://www.harrogate.gov.uk/musm/Pages/nextatthemercerartgallery.aspx>

✿ Refurbishment of the Garden Museum in London has meant that its exhibitions have had to find alternative venues. Hall Place, in Bexley, south London, a Tudor house with stunning gardens, is hosting two garden-inspired exhibitions from 19 March to 4 September 2016. 'How Does Your Garden Grow?' celebrates gardeners and, through some 400 objects, tells their story throughout the 20th century, while 'Bud to Bloom' celebrates contemporary craft works from the Crafts Council Collection which are inspired by the natural world and the life-cycle of plants. Details on [www.hallplace.org.uk](http://www.hallplace.org.uk)

✿ Hever Castle in Kent is justifiably proud of its gardens, and their history will be explained in a new exhibition to be opened by Rachel de Thame on 7 June. See <http://www.hevercastle.co.uk>

✿ The RHS Lindley Library in London has several new displays for 2016 starting with 'Exporting Beauty – the art of Japanese nurseries', which runs until 15 April; followed by 'A Garden Behind Barbed Wire – the Ruhleben Internment Camp', from 7 July-12 August, and from 5 September-28 October 'A Capable Businessman' when Capability Brown's account book will be on display for the first time. More information at [www.rhs.org.uk](http://www.rhs.org.uk)

✿ 'Terrain: Land into Art' is the theme of the Hestercombe gallery exhibition which runs to 3 July and focuses on the relationship between artists and landscapes. Visit [www.hestercombe.com](http://www.hestercombe.com) for details.

✿ Plants and flowers, landscapes and fantasies, all can be found from 9 April to 31 May at the annual exhibition of the Society of Wood Engravers at the Kevis House Gallery in Petworth, Sussex, just three minutes walk from the National Trust's Petworth House and Park. See [www.kevishouse.co](http://www.kevishouse.co)