



NEWSLETTER

80 Years of Growing, Learning and Sharing



GCBB Hosts Annual Zone 1 Meeting, page 5 - 7



President's Message

A Wonderful Year in Review: 2009-2010

All the members of the Garden Club of Buzzards Bay joined together to make this busy year a truly successful and memorable one. We started with a visit to the gardens of Little Compton. In September Nan Sinton broadened our knowledge with a lecture on the influence of architecture in garden design. I now know the best "Garden Tool" for the job and "Mc's" honey tastes even sweeter now that we know all about Greer McBratney's bees.

Winter: with a Holiday celebration, learning about "Seeds", and too much snow for a February meeting. March brought us back to the garden with Rose culture and April flower arranging with Ruth Crocker. May as always, busy with the Woodland Walk and Plant Sale and June the Zone 1 Meeting. In between we worked in the RJD gardens, propagated new plants, sowed seeds, potted and repotted plants finished projects attended meetings and made ready to look our very best for June 14-15.

...Many Committees were hard at work: Awards were presented to special members for their contributions to the club, Conservation finished work on the Nathan and Polly Johnson House and published a plant identification booklet for the Buttonwood Zoo. The Greenhouse worked on becoming a "Green Greenhouse" healthier for the environment and ourselves. History and Archives completed more work on putting our history on the computer for easier access. Horticulture workshops gave instruction on hard wood cuttings for the plant exchange and bulb plantings. We have 3 new hard working provisional's who have shared garden and horticulture knowledge. The Plant Sale was another success with very healthy plants and the New Bedford 4th graders loved botany and the Woodland Walk.

The Zone 1 Meeting was a great opportunity to get lots done. New signs were made for the 3 gardens, new plexiglass installed in the cold frame, invasives and dead plant material were removed from the Woodland walk and the path resurfaced. Identification labels were added to the Boxwood and Woodland gardens. Broken bricks were replaced on the walks, the gardens were spruced up and trimmed.

What an honor for me to have such a terrific and accomplished group of women to work with. This year was a joy in every way thanks to the support from all of you.

I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Cheers, Tina

GCA Annual Meeting

The Garden Club of America’s 2010 Annual Meeting was held in East Brunswick, NJ, May 13-15th. GCBB delegates attending were Tina Read and Mary Schubert.

There were 500 delegates representing 199 clubs from all over the country.

In between business sessions we were treated to entertaining views of the state of New Jersey including a colorful address by the new Governor of New Jersey, garden tours of Princeton and an exciting fireworks display overlooking Manhattan as we dined at the newly established Liberty Park in Jersey City.

The meeting gave us both a greater understanding of the value of being a member of the GCA organization, and an appreciation of how the GCBB is viewed within that organization.



At left, Buttonwood Zoo’s Gail Janeczek, newly appointed **Honorary Member** of the GCBB. Here, she and Mina Otis bag collected “zoo doo” - a highly beneficial natural garden fertilizer.



Question: Do you know anything about the GCBB's President's Book? If your answer is "NO", be sure to attend the September meeting at Fran Levin's house where you will learn the inside story.



North Shore Garden Club member Arabella Dane’s “Water in the Designed Landscape” received the GCA’s Photography Committee Award the Zone 1 Annual Meeting.

ANNUAL MEETING

While June delivered roses on cue members of the Garden Club of Buzzards Bay glanced back at a year of accomplishments great and small.

Outgoing President Tina Read welcomed everyone and thanked Mary Cook for opening her home for the annual meeting. She also thanked Laura Campbell, Susan Mead, Linda Cornell and Carolyn Willard for preparing the celebratory luncheon.

She opened the meeting with a reading of "A Gardener's Prayer." A moment of silence was observed in memory of Joan Hicks, past President of the GCBB and Patty Morse, an Affiliate of GCBB and Master Gardener.

Tina thanked all the garden club members, especially Ellen and Ruth, co-chairs of the Zone 1 meeting, for making these past two years of her Presidency so rewarding.

The Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports was accepted and Gail Davidson reported on the **Plant Sale**, and announced a profit of \$8,371.40.

Ruth Furman and Ellen Christie announced that the **Zone I Meeting** was a huge success. They have received many praise-filled thank you letters from GCA officers and Zone 1 delegates who attended. Ruth and Ellen then distributed party favor crowns to all their chairwomen, who helped put the event over the top.

Fran Levin (membership) reported that Gail Janeczek, of the Buttonwood Zoo, had accepted our invitation to be an **Honorary Member** of the GCBB. Fran

noted that the club has 3 Provisional, 39 Active, 14 Associate and 20 Affiliate members this year.

Anne Almy spoke about the upcoming **Visiting Garden** meeting on July 20th at Tower Hill Gardens and a private garden in Grafton.

Debbie Tinay and Happy Webb spoke of the work that had been accomplished in the **Boxwood and Civic Gardens** in preparation for the zone meeting. Sue Fairfax showed the group garden plans that she has drawn up for visitors to the gardens. She also reported that the Cold Frame glass covers were repaired by Glazer Glass this spring. David Haskell was credited with removing invasive plants in the Woodland Walk garden and resurfacing the walk.

Ellie Smith exclaimed that the 4th grade **Woodland Walk** in May was most successful with hundreds of enthusiastic school children participating.

Judi Sterns talked about the storage of the **Archives** in the Research Library of the Whaling Museum, and that the committee is working with Mina Otis in developing a computer database for information storage.

Ann Webb reported for the **Conservation Committee** that the work on the Nathan and Polly Johnson House garden has been completed, and the plantings booklet for the Buttonwood Zoo has been published. The committee is now working on espaliered pear trees against the Nathan and Polly Johnson House and on the RJD property as part of the GCA Tree Project.

Mary Schubert described her experience at the **GCA Annual Meeting** in New Jersey. It was a worthwhile endeavor that demonstrated the value of the GCA organization, and how highly the GCBB is valued for its accomplishments.

The **Award's Committee** presented GCA Club Awards to Anne Almy, Horticulture; Debbie Tinay, Civic Improvement; and Nonnie Hood, Medal of Merit. A new club award, the "**Busy Bee Award**" was given to Sue Siegal in the form of a silver bumble bee. This award will be passed on each year to a selected recipient. Mary announced that a **Zone Historic Preservation Commendation** had been presented to Kate Corkum, Director of the RJD at the 2010 Zone 1 Meeting.

In presenting the President's Bowl, Tina reiterated her thanks to everyone in the club who worked together to make things happen, and she singled out Betsy McBratney as a member of the club who is representative of that characteristic.

New members were elected President, Mary Schubert; 1st Vice President, Gail Davidson; 2nd Vice President, Carolyn Willard; Treasurer, Tammy Beckman; Ass't. Treasurer, Susan Mead; Recording Secretary, Sally Truslow; Corresponding Secretary, Laura Campbell.

Tina presented Mary with the President's Bowl and gavel. The meeting ended with a standing applause for Tina outstanding leadership of the past two years.

---Mary Schubert, Recording Secretary

Annual Zone I Meeting



“Flawless!”



“The Meeting was such a joy.”



“Members of Buzzards Bay were at every stop on the tour smiling.”



“The meals were delicious!”



“The serious attention to detail allowed every aspect of the meeting to flow seamlessly.”



An Outstanding Zone I Annual Meeting

The two-day session began with a business meeting at the **Wamsutta Club** including the President's reports from all 19 clubs in Zone I. Highlights of the day included **photography and flowers shows** at the **Rotch-Jones-Duff Museum**, where visitors toured the museum and shopped in the gift shop. They were received by their hostesses - easily identifiable in turquoise scarves and warm smiles. Gifts of boxwoods were distributed amid the lush setting of the lawns and gardens, which many strolled. Capping off the day, guests were hosted at several members' homes for dinner. This personal touch extended the overall feeling of camaraderie between the hosts and visitors.



Up bright and early, the second day found the 100-plus attendees at the **Whaling Museum** listening to **Mark Rasmussen**, Executive Director of the Coalition for Buzzards Bay, speak about the challenges facing Buzzards Bay, referring to the recent oil spills' local and global effects. His highly informative talk held the room of listeners in stunned silence.

Bill Cullina, Plant and Garden Curator at Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens as well as the author of several award-winning horticultural books, talked about "Verdure in a Time of Dryness," preceding lunch in the Jacob's Gallery, beneath the mammoth whale skeleton.

Visitors then enjoyed a two-hour tour of the coastal areas between **New Bedford and Padanaram Harbors**, aboard the Cuttyhunk ferry and accompanied by beautiful weather. Their guide-- Whaling Museum's **Arthur Motta** -- shared his vast knowledge of history and local culture. Members returned to the **Fairfield Inn and Suites**, where a plant exchanged was held overseen by **Carrie Waterman of Zone I Horticulture chair** and helped by **Anne Almy**. Along with plants, ladies received samples of local "zoo doo", elephant waste used to make a manure tea for the garden.

They came back to a transformed **Jacob's Gallery**, where the floral arrangements (entries at the flower show) provided feast for the eyes. Festivities continued with an outdoor cocktail party at the Whaling Museum, hosted by the former presidents of GCBB (16 ladies). This was punctuated by perfect weather. An **Awards Dinner** followed, with **Helen Goddard** giving the invocation, reading a selection from "The Gardener's Prayer." **RJD's Kate Corkum** received the "GCA Zone Historic Preservation Commendation."

Members of the GCBB spent months planning and executing the event, with **Ellen Christie** and **Ruth Furman** leading as **co-chairmen**. Their diligent efforts and painstaking attention to detail were rewarded with many enthusiastic comments of appreciation from those in attendance.





“The speakers’ talks were compelling.”



“Outstanding!”



“The meeting ran with precision, everything had been thought of.”



“I adored our boat trip!”



“A-plus!”



“The members of the Buzzards Bay Club were so welcoming, helpful and friendly.”

England's Lush Landscapes

by Laura McLean



There is only one thing better than an English spring, and that is summer in England — when they have a summer.

England doesn't top the list of destinations for sunshine. Experience teaches you that moisture is a constant, so I duly packed plenty of warm clothing and extra rain gear for my vacation. I figured my tan was a goner when we landed in gray, overcast Heathrow. But what followed exceeded my wildest expectations: two remarkable weeks of dry, sunny, 80-ish temperatures — summer as it as good as it gets — anywhere!

My husband, myself, and our two youngest children, Olivia and Ian, went to England to attend a wedding and visit relatives and friends up north, as well as to spend a few days in London. Naturally, part of my personal agenda would be looking at gardens and hoping to learn something new. All of these objectives were fulfilled. Moreover, there was one overwhelming realization that I kept verbalizing: England is one big, well-tended garden!

I knew this time of year would hold an explosion of growth of the classic flowers that define English gardens — delphinium, roses, hardy geraniums, foxglove, poppies, hollyhock and lupines. I also envisioned the flush of leaf growth on the trees that canopy meadows and roads and parks. Whereas many of our previous

visits had been in spring, when the daffodils rule, here was a completely different picture — the very height of summer. In the north country, where we spent most of our trip, as well as in London's lovely parks, this was peak floral season.

Early in our vacation, we stopped to visit a friend in Harpole, Northhamptonshire, and as we walked along the main road to his house, I was intrigued by the approach to gardening. It's very personal here. People do it themselves, and no two gardens are alike. While in the States you see work crews creating and maintaining home gardens, in England it seems much more individual.

This personal attention was something I witnessed throughout our forays and eventual lodging in the village of Great Ayton, Yorkshire. Homeowners seem to tend their close-cropped lawns, install their own plantings and do their own maintenance. Maybe they are a country of gardeners or perhaps it's simply an English habit, unique as tea and Yorkshire pudding. It gives me a cozy feeling, one that affirms my sense of belonging here.

The general tidiness isn't exclusive to home gardens, but extends to the country as a whole. Traveling the M-1 north, it's noteworthy that the stretch of highway is meticulously kept; whether it be fields, hedgerows, or forests, it's as though the gardener had just left. One



Gardens stud every village. The classic close-cropped lawn and hedge enclosure lend a private, formal feeling to every yard. Flora is a mainstay in multiple forms — windowboxes and planters, both stationary or hanging — at pubs, tea rooms and enclosing beer gardens (hence the word). It seems a part of the hospitality and the pride of a country — at the time of our stay, it was matched by the ubiquitous St. George flag flown in support of England's World Cup soccer team.

In cities such as York and Whitby, as well as Kevin's birthplace of Middlesbrough, "allotments" were brimming with crops. These are vegetable gardens for city dwellers, located on the outskirts of the town and enclosed by fences. When he was young, Kevin helped his father with their "victory garden" and kept chickens there as well.

Looking back through pictures, I was reminded that walking was a daily experience of our vacation. It's best to see this world on foot — and in Great Britain all you need do is follow the well-marked walks. Often they cross farms, traverse pastures — with sheep demurely nibbling — and the conveniently situated stiles provide easy access. I enjoyed the diversity: One moment you're in a sheltered wood, then an open field, then cutting through a private estate or past a railway station or river. A short hike from our rented chalet was the link to numerous paths, an escape within an escape. Losing track of time was another side benefit of our journey, and one evening I was astounded to realize the sun was setting at 10 o'clock.

We went to the Roman road on Wheeldale Moor, where barely anything grows save heather and bracken, and barely anything exists, with the exception of numerous sheep and the occasional moorcocks and grouse. Olivia described the moors as "an ocean of landscape." I'd been here in times past but wanted to see it again, for the simple sensation of connecting to antiquity and to stand again on the same road built by Caesar's troops. It is a vast and telling place, a contrast to the dales below, underscoring the abrupt change from wild to civilized, and perhaps emphasizing all that

goes into retaining these entities. Questions arose as to whether this was built sometime in the first or second century. Considering that Roman roads were straight, how did they chop the trees and dig out the stumps? The army backed up by emperors didn't avoid minor obstacles.

"A Roman road typically had two side ditches, between which was a raised embankment with a surface metalled with gravel, stone or ironworks slag. Roads had bridges, paved fords and in difficult terrain, causeways and cuttings," writes Oliver Rackham in "The Illustrated History of the Countryside," a book I later purchased in London. Another emblem of ancient times are the stone markers you see along the moors, used to guide monks making the trek from York to Whitby before Henry VIII devastated the abbeys in the mid-1500s.

We continued our trailblazing along the Cleveland Walk in Loftus, where our friends Vin and Pat Garbutt joined us. Vin, a world-traveling folk singer whose songs often celebrate his homeland, is an expert plantsman and birder, skills we rely on as we try to identify these surroundings. Their home at Hummersea is on Boulby Cliff, the highest in all of Great Britain at 666 feet above sea level. Here the cliffs etch a strong presence over the North Sea, and the walk, which we've taken numerous times, contains dramatic, incredibly beautiful landscape. Gorse, heather and rosa rugosa hug the jagged cliffsides which at the top transform into soft rolling farmland.



One of the distinctive features of England (and all of the United Kingdom) are the hedgerows. Vin told us that there has been a push here to protect the wildlife that live in the hedgerows. Farmers are encouraged to leave 3 meters (roughly 10 feet) along the hedges uncultivated.

Since walking seemed the best way to see and experience England, we decided to climb a mountain, Roseberry Topping, that stands out on the road to our lodgings in Great Ayton. The reward of reaching the 1,049-foot summit of this "mini Matterhorn" far outweighed the feeling of unfitness and the regrets of ingesting too many English meals. The view from above was a patchwork of green fields punctuated by wooded areas and hedgerows, recalling the poet William Blake's verse about "**England's green and pleasant land.**" For this brief duration of summer, I joined the long line of peoples who came to these shores who can claim some momentary ownership of this unforgettable, vast garden.



G PBB Plant Sale listed among
Yankee Magazine's Best of New
England

May 15: South Dartmouth: Garden Club of Buzzards Bay "Sharing" Plant Sale. Members offer their own garden-grown annuals, perennials, heirloom tomatoes, herbs, dahlias, boxwood cultivars, ground covers, succulents, and geraniums at St. Mary's Church Parish Center. Club members not only share their horticultural know-how but also the proceeds with selected area nonprofit community organizations.



PLANT SALE 2010



NEW GARDEN CLUB MEMBERS - PROVISIONAL PROFILE



Katharine (Kissy) Russell

I was born in New Bedford at St Luke's in 1948. I remember New Bedford being the big, busy city we went to for shoes at the Star Store and new school clothes. Dancing classes on Friday at the top of the New Bedford Hotel at the time was painful but looking back it was really quite wonderful!

I grew up at Barney's Joy Farm with my two brothers, Peter & Lloyd Macdonald and two sisters, Dedee Russell Shattuck and Vickie Russell Cunningham. We were practically self

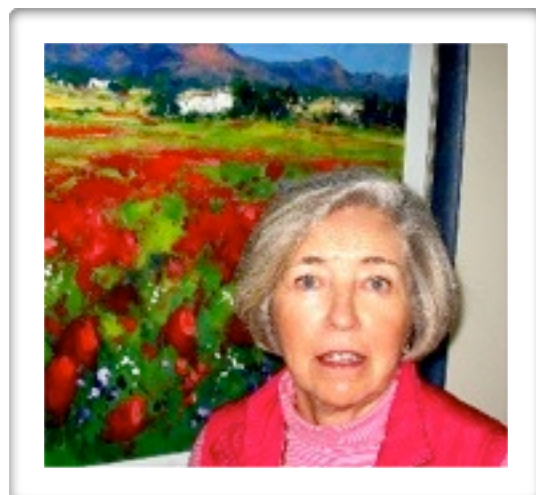
sufficient with growing most of our own food and selling eggs and meat at Davoll's. Mummy had a big garden and I fondly remember picking vegetables with her in the morning hours. Oh the sweet raspberries were to die for! She also had a beautiful cutting flower garden which provided our home with riotous colors of big arrangements in all the rooms.

Mum was an active member of the Buzzard Bay Garden Club for as long as I can remember. She loved being part of a high-spirited group of "ladies" that truly were shakers and movers in greater New Bedford and Dartmouth.

I have recently moved from CO and back to my roots of farming and gardening. Although my experience of flowers and shrubs is very limited I enjoy working with plant materials. I became a member of GCBB to carry on the torch of my mother, Angelica Lloyd Russell and also to glean knowledge of the plant world (and then some!) from the fabulous women who are also movers and shakers within their communities. The Green House is just a fun place to be! It's green and warm during the long, gray winter New England Winter.

Jane Moreton

I left my native England in 1978 with three young children to accompany my husband Paul on what I expected to be a short stay in Belgium. Since then we have made homes in Kenya, Greece, Singapore Germany and in the USA in Michigan, Southern California and for the last two years in Padanaram.



NEW GARDEN CLUB MEMBERS - PROVISIONAL PROFILE

My early years were spent on the outskirts of London where I attended school and college. Gardening was an early interest and I remember having a small patch of my own in my parents garden. In every new location I have tried to create an English style garden in a great range of climates and conditions. My other great interest is in quilt making. During the cold winter months when the garden is dormant I can satisfy my passion for design and color with wonderful fabrics.

Our daughter, two sons and extended families all live in England so we make frequent trips to the UK to spend time with them and especially our granddaughter Hannah.

I am delighted to have become a member of GCB, and to have the chance to meet so many interesting and knowledgeable gardeners.

Susan McLaren



For as long as I can remember, I've had a passion for plants and flowers and growing things. When I was growing up in a small town in Indiana, I always had a little garden of my own and spent countless hours roaming the woods behind our house, identifying trees and wildflowers and learning all their common and Latin names. Over the years, I've read a lot about plants, haunted nurseries and botanical gardens, and grown plants indoors and out wherever possible.

Gardening is my hobby, but I made a living for most of my career by working in sales and marketing management for managed care companies. I had previously also worked as a biology teacher and physical therapist. After 17 years in charge of sales at Tufts Health Plan, I retired in May 2004 and became a certified Master Gardener the following year.

My husband, Phil and I lived in Hopkinton for 20 years before moving to our present home in South Dartmouth. Hopkinton was great while commuting to work in the Boston area, but after retirement, we wanted to live near the ocean. The first time we drove around Westport and South Dartmouth, we knew the south coast was right for us. We loved the ocean and beaches, scenic vistas, family farms, country roads and natural beauty of the area..... as well as the milder climate and longer growing season.

Phil and I bought an old house in Padanaram, moved down full-time in 2005, and spent several years renovating the house and improving the grounds which were overrun with bittersweet and needed lots of landscaping and TLC. I've had fun planting trees, shrubs and perennials and tending a vegetable garden every year. Thanks to an invitation from Joan Underwood, I joined the GCB last spring and am very happy to be part of this vibrant organization full of talented and knowledgeable women.

In Memory Of...

Joan Hicks

Joan Hicks was my sponsor to the GCBB. She was a person who was happiest being part of an organization, participating in communal affairs, she was the Secretary for the Whaling Museum, as well as being a very social animal. She was always upbeat despite many personal setbacks and will be remembered by me for many virtues, but her gorgeous red hair was certainly one of them - her friends always called her "red". Parenthetically, she was a working gal when that wasn't usual, being a Spanish translator and working in New York. ---Fran Levin

Patty Morse

Patty Morse was a dear, dear friend. She was a summer resident at Salter's Point and an Affiliate Member of the Garden Club of Buzzards Bay. She attended meetings in June, July and August while in the area. As we were neighbors during the summer, we were able to co-host an Annual Meeting of the garden club one year. Patty was a member of the Lenox Garden Club during the winter season. A Master Gardener, she enjoyed gardening in both homes. In recent years while wintering in Vero Beach she was active in the restoration of the McKee Botanical Gardens and served on its board of directors. --Ann Davis



"Fortunately, gardening is a continuous learning process.

Every day spent gardening, every visit to a garden, every book read, and every plant planted, for oneself or as part of a scheme for others, add to experience. These different bits of knowledge shape the way one plans, plants and dreams."



A Gardener's Prayer

Let us give thanks for a bounty of people.

For children who are our second planting, and though they grow like weeds and the wind too soon blows them away, may they forgive us our cultivation and remember fondly where their roots are.

Let us give thanks for generous friends...with hearts as big as hubbards and smiles as bright as their blossoms.

For feisty friends as tart as apples.

For continuous friends, who, like scallions and cucumbers keep reminding us that we've had them.

For crotchety friends, as sour as rhubarb and as indestructible.

For handsome friends, who are as gorgeous as eggplants and as elegant as a row of corn; and the others, as plain as potatoes and so good for you.

For funny friends, who are as silly as Brussels sprouts and as amusing as Jerusalem artichokes; and serious friends, as complex as cauliflowers and as intricate as onions.

For friends as unpretentious as cabbages, as subtle as summer squash, as persistent as parsley, as delightful as dill, as endless as zucchini, and who, like parsnips, can be counted on to see you through the winter.

For old friends, nodding like sunflowers in the evening time and young friends coming on as fast as radishes.

For loving friends, who wind around us like tendrils and hold us, despite our blights, wilts and witherings.

And, finally, for those friends now gone, like gardens past that have been harvested, but who fed us in their times that we might have life thereafter.

For all these, we give thanks.

Dear Fellow GCBB Members,

This issue of our summer/fall newsletter's main thrust has been to take a satisfied look back on all the wonderful activities and projects we have enjoyed since our last letter in December. When we sat down to put it together our modest theme was to keep it simple...but how is this possible when we are such an extraordinary group? Somehow simple is not in our modus operandi. Thus, it did take a bit longer to get it right, but I hope it has been worth the wait, and that you will take time to review the memories of how we spent the first part of 2010.

Another purpose of a club newsletter should be to incite you to look forward with enthusiasm to the activities and projects in the future, and so we will not leave you without a look ahead.

This being our 80th Anniversary year as an organization we will be taking a hard look at our By-laws to be sure they are current. We will also take on the job that was started by our 75th Anniversary members and work to bring our History up to date to cover our accomplishments through 2010. And what is an anniversary without a celebration? We will end the year at our December 8th meeting at the RJD with a toast to all those who have brought us to where we are today as a vibrant garden club.



The Program Committee has put together an exciting program this fall. September brings us to Fran Levin's house and gardens with a lecture on, "Green Space in Landscape Architecture", given by Doug Reed, a landscape architect, who happens to be a friend of Ellen Christie. October is our joint meeting with the Little Compton Garden Club. Barnaby Evans will give us an insider's look at Providence's, "Waterfire", – an event not to be missed. November will find us back in our familiar Coach House to hear a most inspiring talk, "Project Native" by Raina Weber, a speaker who was well received at the Zone 1 meeting in the Berkshires. Please check the Yearbook for dates and times, as some are different than the usual third Thursday.

The Greenhouse will open "for our plants and cultivations" on Tuesday, October 12th. Our knowledgeable Co-chairs will be guiding us every Tuesday from then on, and I have overheard some exciting plans for side bar programs during the year which will expand all our horizons.

See you soon!
Mary



GARDEN VISITS
July 2010 found members touring the splendid gardens of Tower Hill and the private gardens of Shirley Williams at Brigham Hill Farm in Grafton.

