# MORE THAN GOOD MANNERS

# The Quintessential English Garden Tour of Suffolk and Norfolk



## INTRODUCING THE TOUR...

An eight day tour suitable for these classic English gardens during the summer months, May, June and July, to see English horticulture at its very best.

This tour gives our guests the very best access to the grand houses and gardens of this region, gently contrasted with access to some of its most beautiful hidden gems- a quintessentially English garden tour.

Our escort will meet you on arrival at Heathrow, after your overnight flight, and accompany you to your choice of accommodation. More Than Good Manners offer a variety of accommodation from a classic iconic hotel, such as The Swan at Lavenham, dating back to the 15th century, to a traditional and quaint family home such as the Old Rectory in Oxborough, or even the "grand stay" in one of England's premier stately homes, such as Sennowe Park.

For the purposes of this example you will stay for the first 4 nights at The Angel in Bury St Edmunds and 5 nights at the Old Rectory, Oxborough.

Enroute from Heathrow, (presuming an early arrival after overnight flight) you will spend the day in historic Cambridge, including lunch and a tour of the city with a blue badge guide.

We will arrive at your accommodation in time to enjoy a traditional English afternoon tea. Dinner will be served later in the evening, once you have had a chance to unpack and rest. The remaining days are spent enjoying the gardens in a carefully organised tour schedule as follows:

First Day Somerlayton

> Henstead Upland Hall

Second Day

Wenhaston Grange Glemham Helmingham Hall

### Third Day

Ickworth Wyken Euston

Fourth Day

Bradenham West Acre Lexham Fifth Day Narborough Elmham Sennowe

### Sixth Day

Hoe Houghton Stody

### Seventh Day

Home Hale Hall Oxburgh Hall Gooderstone Watergardens

Eighth Day

Gayton Ryston Old Rectory Oxborough



## FIRST DAY OF THE TOUR

Somerleyton Hall
Henstead Old Rectory
Upland Hall

### SOMERLEYTON HALL

The Home of Lord Somerleyton

Somerleyton Hall was originally a Jacobean manor but was remodelled in 1844 transforming it into a fine example of an early Victorian Hall in Anglo-Italian style. The gardens are renowned for their wide variety of splendid specimen trees including giant redwood, monetary pine and Atlas cedar. With a multitude of shrubs and borders and plants, adding colour and contrast throughout the year. In spring a wealth of bulbs, blossoms and early flowering shrubs appear followed by rhododendrons, azaleas and wisteria.

One of the most spectacular features of the garden is the yew hedge maze designed by William Nesfield the celebrated landscaped gardener, planted in 1846. The entrance is through a yew arch and those who successfully fined their way to the centre will be rewarded by the sight of an enchanting pagoda perched on a grassy mound.

Somerleyton Hall is the home of the family of the Third Lord Somerleyton, his son The Hon. Hugh Crossley and his wife Lara.

Tea and coffee and cake will be served at the end of the tour.

## HENSTEAD OLD RECTORY

The home of Mrs A Kendall daughter of the clan chief Sir Fergus Matthewson

A classic Georgian house built at the end of the eighteenth century. Located in northeast Suffolk on reclaimed sandy heathland, the garden has been completely redesigned and replanted during the past 12 years. The great storm of 1987 devastated the garden and park allowing the opportunity to work with a blank canvas when the present owners bought the house in 1996. The climate in this part of the county is predominantly dry, with strong sea breezes, coupled with poor soil presented a strong challenge.

With help from leading international garden designers Tessa Hobbs and George Carter, the garden is designed with a strong architectural flavour, developing a series of rooms of different styles.

The garden contains a semi circular pleached lime walk, parterre, terrace, drunken garden and swimming pool garden – and there is further work in progress. A considerable amount of planting of hedges and trees has taken place including and recently a small orchard and wild flower garden has been created.

## UPLAND HALL

The home of Sir Laurance and Lady Jocelyn Magnus

Upland Hall was built in 1856 was built at a time of great experimentation in architectural styles and is quintessentially Italianate in inspiration.

The original garden extended over a large area. The remains of woodland walks are still discernable with evergreens; yews, rhododendrons, conifers and Ilex that the Victorians were so fond of, marking forgotten paths. There was a Victorian kitchen garden, replaced in the 1960's and 70's by lawns and a swimming pool and a delightful rose garden. Until the 1980's, for most of the population, conservation was not considered necessary or desirable and so the garden at Upland Hall has evolved to reflect the fashions and needs of each generation. Tree planting had also been much neglected since the house was built and over the last 20 years Sir Laurance and Lady Magnus have planted thousands of trees over the 40 acres of land that surround the house.

The vision for the garden in the first decades of the 21st century reflect the contemporary desire for ecological gardening while keeping the garden 'family friendly' with a wide, flat lawn for games. With a recently planted a "crinkly-crankly" yew hedge to act as the demarcation between the 'wild' and the more formal aspects of the garden and to provide a backdrop to the shrubs and flowers planted in the west border. In the summer, the grass is left to grow long in the 'wild' part of the garden and winding paths are mown through the grass.

Afternoon tea will be served at the end of the tour.



## SECOND DAY OF THE TOUR

See Wenhaston Grange

Semham Hall

𝖘 Helmingham Hall

### WENHASTON GRANGE

The Home of Mr James and the Hon, Selina Hopkins

This charming Suffolk Grange has been transformed over the years by James Hopkins, a renowned property developer of high class homes. The garden is a charming mixture of pretty vistas, and walled gardens, very much in the country farmhouse style of the area. This garden will offer great contrast to Selina's mother's garden at Helmingham Hall later in the day.

Tea and cake will be served.

## GLEMHAM HALL

### The home of Major Philip and Mrs Hope-Cobbold

Glemham Hall is an elegant red brick Elizabethan mansion, purchased in 1923 by Captain Ivan and Lady Blanche Cobbold, the daughter of the Duke of Devonshire. She commented to my grandmother Lily Levett-Scrivener that she found the house a trifle small. Glemham hall is now the home of their grandson Philip Hope-Cobbold, an amusing cousin and your host who will add zest and enthusiasm to your tour of the house and garden.

The garden is on the south side of the house, where features of the original Elizabethan house can be seen. Explore the beautifully renovated rose garden, enclosed within sheltering walls, which offers a summer house, lily pond, classical urns as well as traditional English symmetry. The wide lawns and garden are framed by yew hedges, a topiary and an avenue of Irish yews, whilst spreading cedars and beeches complete a very quaint English setting, within a 300 acre park of veteran oak trees (some of them more than 600 years old) and many other ancient species.

A light lunch will be served during your visit to the Hall.

## HELMINGHAM HALL

### The home of Lord and Lady Tollemache

History resonates from this Tudor hall, John Tollemache started work on Helmingham in 1480 and completed the work nearly 30 years later. The family have lived here for 18 generations. The two drawbridges are still pulled up every night and lowered each morning.

It's hard to exaggerate the effects this beautiful 400 park with its red deer, spectacular moated hall with patterned red brick with its famous gardens will have on its' visitors. The whole combines to give an extraordinary impression of beauty and tranquillity. A classic parterre flanked by hybrid musk rose lies before a stunning walled kitchen garden with exquisite herbaceous borders and beds of vegetables interspersed by tunnels of sweet peas, runner beans and gourds.

On the other side lies a herb and knot garden behind which there is a rose garden of unsurpassable beauty. Lady Tollemache is a renowned garden designer, she redesigned the parterre in 1981 and the new rose garden to the east of the coach house in 1982, together with the knot and herb garden. Lady Tollemache or her head gardener will accompany you on your tour.

#### Afternoon tea can be found in the quaint tea rooms.



## THIRD DAY OF THE TOUR

Ickworth House
Wyken Hall
Euston Hall

### **ICKWORTH HOUSE**

National Trust

Ickworth house is now National Trust but was once the home of the Marquess of Bristol. The family mainly lived in the East wing, and thus the rooms in the Rotunda are still in excellent condition. The house with much of its collections of family portraits; Huguenot silver, Regency furniture and china passed to the National trust in 1956. The house is surrounded by the extensive 1800 acres of wooded parkland, created in part by "Capability" Brown, and is a living landscape rich in plant, animal and bird life.

The gardens surrounding the house were created in the first half of the 19th century by the first Marquess of Bristol. Those in the formal Italian style to the south of the house feature "gold and silver" gardens, a Victorian stumpery and and the Temple Rose Garden. A raised terrace walk separates the south garden from the park.

Beyond the church are the remnants of an 18th century garden created by the First Earl. His summerhouse (circa.1703) and ornamental canal still survive. The kitchen garden, protected by high brick walls, is now a vineyard producing Ickworth wines (available in the National Trust shop at Ickworth). Ickworth House has its own cafe and tea rooms.

### WYKEN HALL

The home of Sir Kenneth Carlisle and Lady Carla Carlisle

Source occupied by Romans and recorded in Domesday, the ancient estate of Wyken is quintessential Suffolk: country lanes, hedgerows, patchwork fields and woodlands.

The Wyken estate is a 1200-acre farm which includes a flock of Shetland sheep, a small herd of Red Poll cattle and a 7-acre vineyard producing award-winning wines, including the English Wine of the Year. In 2009 our 'Wyken Bacchus' won the East Anglian Wine of the Year.

The vineyard restaurant, The Leaping Hare, is located in our 400-year-old barn. A *Bib Gourmand* in the Michelin Guide and now in its 15th year in The Good Food Guide, the restaurant serves meat and game. Lady Carla writes for the Spectator and Country Life.

#### You will enjoy a wonderful lunch at the restaurant of Wyken Hall.

## EUSTON HALL

#### The home of The Duke and Duchess of Grafton

Euston first appears in the Domesday Book in 1087 as a manor belonging to the Abbey at Bury St Edmunds. There was a manor house here throughout the Middle Ages and in 1578 Elizabeth I stayed here with the Rookwood family on her way to Norwich. The Estate, in near ruin, was purchased in 1666 by Henry Bennet, Earl of Arlington and Secretary of State to the newly-restored King, Charles II who paid the first of several visits to Euston in 1671. John Evelyn, the diarist, was amongst the large court that accompanied the King, and he described the new Euston Hall as "magnificent and commodious . . . splendidly furnished".

The property was inherited in 1685 by his daughter and son-in-law, the first Duke and Duchess of Grafton. In 1750 their son, the Second Duke, re-modeled the house. It remained mostly unchanged until a fire in 1902 which destroyed the south and west wings. The house was rebuilt on the same plan, but became unmanageable, and the south and west wings, were pulled down by the Tenth Duke in 1952. Now the home of the 11th Duke of Grafton and his Duchess the Queen's Lady of the Bedchamber.

The garden terrace to the south shows how large the original house was - the lead cisterns bear Lord Arlington's cipher, dated 1671. The formal garden to the east was designed by the present Duke around the William Kent summer-house. The Pleasure Grounds were laid out by the diarist John Evelyn, a noted landscape gardener and expert on trees. His designs for Euston included the walk through the pleasure grounds which can still be enjoyed today. The park and river layout was designed by William Kent and the project was completed by Capability Brown.

#### Afternoon tea will be served.



## FOURTH DAY OF THE TOUR

Bradenham HallWest AcreLexham Hall

### BRADENHAM HALL

### The home of Mr and Mrs C Allhusen

For long periods of time, the house has been tenanted rather than lived in by the owners and reputedly amongst these tenants was Lady Hamilton, who is said to have entertained Lord Nelson as a guest. Since the house was built in about 1740, it had been owned principally by the Smyth, Haggard and Penrose families until 1951 when Dick & Jane Allhusen bought it, together with 1500 acres of surrounding land and woods. The house and gardens had been badly damaged during the war, and now lovingly restored.

Having no experience whatsoever of gardening, the Allhusens were nonetheless determined to create a setting for their family's home which would provide year round interest. Perhaps riskily, they deliberately avoided garden designers. The lay-out is therefore entirely their own creation. They received expert advice in the early days from plantsmen such as Frank Knight, George Taylor of Wisbech and Geoffrey Chadbund.

The arboretum was started in 1955 and then expanded Westwards from the front drive in three stages until, in 1970, it occupied the whole of the Top Park. Naturalised Narcissi, in single variety clumps were planted in the grass flanking both sides of the curving front drive. The trees and most shrubs are labelled, on either path or North side, and bear the date of their planting. **Tea and cake will be served after your tour.** 

### WEST ACRE

### The home of Garlinda Birkbeck

The house is set within the ruins of the Augustinian Priory founded in the 12th century, during the reign of Henry 1. The Priory was dissolved in 1536 by Henry V111 and only fragments remain, and the house and gardens nestle amongst the ruins with gentle views down to the River Nar.

Garlinda is an internationally renowned photographer.

A light lunch will be served.

## LEXHAM HALL

#### Home of Mr and Mrs N Foster

A fine 17th and 18th century Hall with extensive views over listed parkland, which surround the house and is grazed by sheep. The river Nar flows through the woodland garden creating lakes and riverside walks. A formal garden with terraces, yew hedges, and rose borders was re-planted in 1997 by Beales Roses.

The traditional kitchen garden includes an orchard and cutting borders with a crinkle crankle wall of circa 1680. Extensive collection of scented, winter flowering shrubs and woods, carpeted with snowdrops and aconites. 3 acre woodland garden of fine trees with azaleas, rhododendrons, camellias and magnolias, has been recently extended to include cornus and other interesting shrubs.

New borders in the last decade have concentrated on late summer/early autumn interest with an emphasis on winter form. A major new planting scheme in the walled garden was undertaken in spring 2010 and continues to evolve, pushing the boundaries with experimental planting and ideas.

After a wonderful tour of the garden, our hosts Neil and Anthea Foster will offer afternoon tea on the terrace, which offers beautiful views, you really won't want to leave. Anthea is also head of the National Garden scheme.



## FIFTH DAY OF THE TOUR

Solution Narborough Hall

Selmham House

Sennowe Park

## NARBOROUGH HALL

### The home of Mr and Mrs P Broadley

Set in the valley of the River Nar it is surrounded by ancient parkland, lakes and woods. The gently evolving classic English garden has been created and designed by Joanne Merrison who won a gold medal and best in show for her "country house kitchen garden" at the 2008 Sandringham Flower Show. Ancient wisterias cover the sixteenth century façade of the house and herbaceous borders overflow with old roses, sumptuous planting taking their themes from subtle colours and poetry.

The gardens are divided into seven areas, the Kitchen garden, the Blue Garden, the Plum and chocolate Border, the Pastel Garden, the Bridal Garden and the Walled garden.

The restored walled kitchen garden is a great joy to all who visit. It is enjoyed by school children who come to sow seeds and harvest produce, by horticultural students and garden groups who come to learn how a vegetable garden worked historically, and how it is used today. It provides fruit, vegetables and cut flowers for the cafe, and is managed organically. Our head gardener, Bob Lever, is a rare source of gardening wisdom and experience. He works in sympathy with the natural world making places for birds, butterflies, bees and beetles in the vegetable beds and the fruit cage. We frequently have tasting sessions in the garden when visitors can try varieties of apples, strawberries and pumpkins. **Narborough Hall prides itself on its wonderful afternoon tea.** 

## ELMHAM HOUSE

### The home of Mr and Mrs T Fitzalan-Howard

The gardens of Elmham House were originally laid down in the Eighteenth Century, when a large walled kitchen garden was built in 1765 for the old Elmham Hall, which was replaced by the present Elmham House in 1928. Vegetables and fruit are still grown in the kitchen garden. Elmham House has an attractive terrace and gardens, with views across the park to the lake.

Between the kitchen garden and the parkland, there is a wild garden and shrubbery, with specimen trees, English oaks, rare shrubs, Azaleas and Rhododendrons.

You will enjoy a splendid lunch at the end of the tour.

## SENNOWE PARK

### The home of Mr and Mrs Charles Temple-Richards

Sennowe Park is a wonderfully flamboyant example of Edwardian architectural self-confidence, designed by George Skipper leading architect of the day, and was built just after 1900 for T A Cook who was the grandson of Thomas Cook the founder of the world famous travel agency. The house stands high on a knoll overlooking parkland which stretches down to the lake, where a magical boat house sits at the waters edge.

George Skipper, was also responsible for the layout of the gardens and terraces in an Italianate style creating a formal design incorporating stone balustrades, bridges and steps. A particular feature is the garden urns carved by Italian stonemasons brought over especially for the job. Notable items include pairs of bears and lions guarding steps and two art nouveau maidens names 'Morning' and 'Evening' in the colonnade. You will be warmly welcomed by your host and hostess and will enjoy a tour of the house as well as afternoon tea in the "Winter Garden" an enormous Edwardian conservatory.



## SIXTH DAY OF THE TOUR

∽ Hoe∽ Houghton Hall∽ Stody

### HOE

#### The home of Mr and Mrs James Keith

Set Hoe Hall was built in the 17th century with the main block added in 1845. It nestles next to the charming parish church and stands in a handsome park. Mrs Keith has created a stunning garden in the old walled kitchen garden, with hidden walkways and delightful views. Hoe offers you a very gentle way to start the day before the grandeur of Houghton Hall. Morning tea, coffee and cake will be served.

## HOUGHTON HALL

### The home of the Marquess of Cholmondeley

S-Houghton Hall, the residence of Great Britain's first Prime Minister, Sir Robert Walpole, with magnificent interiors designed by William Kent in the early 18th century. the Hall is surrounded by a park designed by Sir Robert in the 1730's and is now home to over 1000 head of white Houghton deer.

The Houghton Hall gardens received the "Garden of the Year Award" from Christies and the Historic Houses Association in recognition of the renovation of the 5-acre walled garden which began in 1991. The former kitchen garden had fallen into a state of disrepair and Lord Cholmondeley was keen to restore it as a memorial to his grandmother. An area for productive kitchen garden has been retained, the large part of the garden has been laid out as a series of 'ornamental gardens' in various styles. A further award was received from The Worshipful Company of Fruiterers – one of the historic City Livery Companies – who presented a mulberry tree (originating from a tree planted by King James I at Charleston House in London in 1606), which is now a centrepiece of the vegetable garden.

The Italian Garden, which is divided into 4 sections, planted with plum trees, spring bulbs and surrounded by pleached limes. Whilst the Rose Garden is planted with over 150 varieties of both new and older roses. The central box edge parterre is based on the William Kent design for the white drawing room.

There is too much to see in just a few hours, with the house, gardens, park, museum and church, perhaps you will want to return another time. There will be time to enjoy lunch in the cafe.

### STODY

#### The home of Mrs Adel Mac Nicol

Stody Lodge Garden is one of the largest and most dramatic Rhododendron and Azalea gardens in East Anglia or, indeed, the country. The Main Garden, which was originally laid out in the 1930s, has an extensive area of walks and pathways lined with a wide variety of rhododendrons and azaleas, a sight, which at the right time of year, can only be called spectacular.

The dramatic effect is enhanced by a backdrop of mature trees the most striking of which are the three types of Lawson Cyprus, blue cedars, acers, flowering cherries and some striking camellias both in the borders and on the flint walls.

In more recent years some of the older trees have been felled to create better light and space for the addition of more ornamental varieties and open up different vistas of the rhododendrons. To mark the new Millenium, an avenue has been cut into the wood on the southwest side of the garden and planted with Platanus acerifolia, or plane trees.

#### The Water Garden

The Japanese Water Gardens are set in the woodland area on the other side of the main Holt Road. A drive, flanked with the rich pink Rhododendron cynthia, leads to the Water Gardens where there is thought to be in excess of 2,000 Azalea mollis. More afternoon tea and cake will be served, as you have gathered you will be drinking a lot of tea.



## SEVENTH DAY OF THE TOUR

So Holme Hale

- ᆇ Oxborough Hall
- So The Water Gardens of Gooderstone

## HOLME HALE

### The home of Simon and Delia Broke

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### OXBOROUGH HALL

### The home of Henry and Mary Paston- Bedingfeld

Set Henry is an officer of the College of Arms in London, he serves at Norroy and Ulster King of Arms, one of the 2 principal officers of the College. Thus Henry's knowledge of British history and royalty is unlimited. He is the heir of Sir Edmund Paston-Bedingfeld the 9th Baronet of Oxburgh.

No one ever forgets their first sight of Oxburgh. A romantic, moated manor house, it was built by the Bedingfeld family in the 15th century and they have lived here ever since. Inside, the family's Catholic history is revealed, complete with a secret priest's hole which you can crawl inside. See the astonishing needlework by Mary, Queen of Scots, and the private chapel, built with reclaimed materials. Outside, you can enjoy panoramic views from the gatehouse roof and follow the woodcarving trails in the gardens and woodlands.(The late winter drifts of snowdrops are not to be missed if you come in January and February) Mary will serve a wonderful lunch in the private wing of the Hall.

## THE WATER GARDENS OF GOODERSTONE

A unique attraction for all garden lovers, naturalists, artists and photographers - or those who simply want a restful break. What could be nicer than to stroll through an enchanting garden, explore the nature trail, perhaps spot a kingfisher and enjoy delicious homemade cakes.

The gardens, just 2 miles from Oxburgh Hall, set over 6 acres include;

A natural trout stream, Four ponds, Waterways, Thirteen bridges, Mature trees & shrubs, Colourful borders, Nature trail, Kingfisher hide, Grass paths, Tea room & Plant Sales

Billy Knights, a retired farmer began designing and creating the Water Gardens in 1970 in his 70th year. The site was a damp meadow which became too wet for cattle to graze. Mr Knights' son jokingly suggested he should have a water garden, which prompted him to draw out plans (on the back of a piece of wallpaper) and he soon had machines digging out the ponds and water-ways. He worked on his garden with love and enthusiasm until he died aged 93. For over 20 years the gardens had been open to the public. **Tea and cake will be available in the tea rooms**.



## THE LAST DAY OF THE TOUR

Gayton
Ryston Hall
Old Rectory, Oxborough

### GAYTON

The home of The Earl and Countess of Romney

Second Hall is a fine Georgian house which was bought by the 4th Earl of Romney in 1880 as part of a sporting estate and since then has been lived in by the Marsham family, the 8th Earl and Countess being the current owners. The gardens are a pleasure to walk around at any time of the year. Renowned for its beautiful gardens, Gayton Hall is set in farmed parkland and has 20 acres of outstanding woodland water gardens, lawns, woodland, lakes, streams and bridges. Many unusual trees and shrubs. Spring bulbs and autumn colour. Traditional and waterside borders. Primulas, Astilbes, Hostas, Lysichitums, Gunneras and many more.

More afternoon tea and cake will be served, as you have gathered you will be drinking a lot of tea.

## **RYSTON HALL**

The home of Mr and Mrs Piers Pratt

SThe home of Mr and Mrs Piers Pratt was built by Sir Roger Pratt in 1670. Unfortunately there are no records or plans of the earlier house which stood on the site.

The original gardens were laid out when the house was built. They were comprised of the formal gardens on the North front and the south front, with a walled kitchen garden to the east, all of which were swept away in the 18th century when fashion was parkland and scattered trees.

The boundaries of the formal gardens had been fixed by the end of the 19th century when the garden comprised of densely wooded areas to the east and west, intricate formal flower beds on the south front, the Orangery and Rock Garden.

You will enjoy a delicious lunch with your hostess.

## OLD RECTORY OXBOROUGH

And so to the last garden of the tour, your host Veronica Joly de Lotbiniere is happy to show you her "simple" garden with the most wonderful views of the rolling countryside and of course Oxburgh Hall.

A very gentle way to end 8 busy days, with cake and tea on the terrace.