

THE FABULOUS GARDENS OF ENGLAND

by Nancy Talley, Winchester-Clarke Garden Club

The Garden Club of Virginia's first garden study tour, "The Fabulous Gardens of England," has been well-received, but a few places are expected to be available through the fall. Two groups of approximately 35, one originating in the Cotswolds northwest of London, and one in Tunbridge Wells southeast of London, will pursue generally similar itineraries before meeting at the Washington Hotel in London. Each group will enjoy the picturesque Spa Hotel in Tunbridge Wells and the ancient (1545) but up-to-date (indoor pool, sauna and spa) Manor House in Moreton-in-Marsh.

Notable gardens they will share are those at Wisley, Hever Castle, Sissinghurst Castle, Great Dixter, Barnsley House, and Sir Winston Churchill's Chartwell. Gardens of Andrew Lawson, the eminent garden photographer, of Lord Carrington, the former British Foreign Secretary, and of the late Nancy Lancaster, are among private places on the tour.

A noted landscape architect will accompany the coach that begins the tour in Moreton-in-Marsh, giving the scheduled lectures. Jane Krumbhaar MacLeish founded the Washington, D.C. firm that bears her name in 1977, and has worked since with many major Washington architects. Her work includes the gardens for the Vice President of the United States, the garden of the United States Embassy in Beijing, and the Chevy Chase Club, as well as private residences in the District, Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, New York and Connecticut. She has been a lecturer at Catholic University and acted as a consultant to Time-Life Garden Books. A native of Great Britain, she is enthusiastic and knowledgeable about English gardens.

Mrs. MacLeish's gardens have been published in such magazines as *Garden Design*, *House and Garden*, *Southern Accents*, *Washingtonian*, *Museum & Arts*, and the *Washington Post Magazine*, and she is being featured in a book, *The Woman's Place*, about 50 extraordinary American women. Her own garden has been featured on tours for The National Arboretum and The Garden Conservancy.

The lecturer for the coach originating in Tunbridge Wells will be Dr. Aileen Laing, professor of art history at Sweet Briar College, as announced earlier.

A dinner in a private home, another with Rosemary Verey in an acclaimed Cotswold restaurant, and another cruising the Thames, are among eight dinners included on the ten-day tour. Included during the London stay are a performance of a musical show and a choice of the major sights or, for those who have seen these, an excursion to Hatfield House and its Tradescant garden.

In addition to airfare from Washington-Dulles International Airport, the tour fee of \$3,089 per person, double occupancy, includes a \$100 donation to The Garden Club of Virginia. The Board of Directors has designated this donation for The Common Wealth Award, to help match a recent \$10,000 gift to that endowment. The tour is open to GCV members, their families and friends. A \$200 deposit reserves a place, with an additional \$500 due November 15.

For an itinerary and information about available spaces, call Pat Mackenzie at Ambassador Travel and Tours, 1-800-899-6702 or, in the Richmond area, 804-672-6702. Nancy Talley, 540-837-1379, can answer other questions about the garden study program and "Fabulous Gardens of England."