

Events

Haines Hill garden

We are delighted to offer supporters of the Trust an exclusive opportunity to visit the beautiful family gardens of Haines Hill, Hurst RG10 0NA, by kind invitation of Lucy Zeal DL, who is one of our Trustees.

Haines Hill dates from around 1630, when Sir Francis Windebank, one of Charles I's Secretaries of State, built a substantial country house of brick on an H-plan, with two courtyards, the west-facing courtyard forming the entrance. There is a long gallery typical of the period. Sir Francis was a friend of Archbishop Laud, who frequently visited him here. In 1640 Sir Francis was arrested on the orders

of Parliament, but escaped and fled to France; his estates were sequestered, and Haines Hill passed to Richard Bigg. At the Restoration, Charles II issued a pardon allowing the Bigg family to retain their properties. In 1760 the eastern courtyard of the H was filled in, with a new brick two-storey range of nine bays. The house is listed grade II*.

There are 12 acres of formal gardens which include herbaceous and mixed borders, parkland trees and a wide range of deciduous and evergreen shrubs as well as a walled garden, ornamental pond and a kitchen garden. Of particular note are the rhododendrons, camellias and azaleas as well as an unusual monkey puzzle tree and wollemi pine.



Thursday 19 June 2025 at 2 pm Tickets £15

Book online at www.TicketSource.co.uk/Berkshire-Churches-Trust by 12 June
or phone John Pritchard (01865 859973) to reserve your place

In August there will be a private viewing for Trust supporters of the exhibition **'Our River Thames'** at the Royal Berkshire Archives, introduced by the curator.

The **Annual Meeting and Church Tour** will be in late September.

In October there will be an exclusive visit to the **Dean & Chapter Archives at Windsor** and a guided tour of **St George's Chapel**.