

# **Kells Bay House & Gardens – Southern Symposium**

## **Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2016**

**Billy and Penn Alexander** are please to advise that the programme for this year's Southern Symposium at Kells Bay House & Gardens is almost complete.

Our speakers have confirmed their attendance and look forward to meeting you at Kells in September.

The year we are honoured by the presence of Richard Baines, curator of Logan Botanical Gardens in southern Scotland, Neil Porteous, the Head of Gardens at Mount Stewart in County Down and Neil Armstrong, owner and creator of Tremenhoe Sculpture Gardens in Penzance, Cornwall.

The gardens at Kells are really seeing the benefits of two mild winters and the great work of the team here.

The full programme will be released shortly. However as we expect that this line-up will quickly fill the available places, you may wish to reserve your places now. All day Symposium tickets are available at a price of €70 to include the talks, a guided walk through the gardens with our speakers, teas and coffees, Thai buffet lunch served with a glass of wine.

Please contact me at your convenience to reserve your place on 087 777 6666 or [billy@kellsgardens.ie](mailto:billy@kellsgardens.ie)

### **Richard Baines**

As Curator of Logan Botanic Garden in South West Scotland Richard has travelled extensively on plant exploration trips to Chile, Turkey, China, The Canaries, USA, Spain and Vietnam.

Logan has recently featured on Gardener's World and Radio 4's GQT.

**Title of talk: Logan Botanic Garden, Scotland's Most Exotic Garden.**

### **Neil Porteous**

Neil is Head of Gardens at Mount Stewart, Co. Down and Regional Gardens & Parks Advisor, NI for the National Trust. A Scot, Neil moved to Ireland in 2007 to Ballynatray in Co. Waterford. Prior to that, he was Head Gardener at Clumber Park, Nottinghamshire. He trained at the Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh and has a BSc. Hons from Greenwich in Horticulture and an MA in Garden History from Bristol.

**Title of talk: "Travels in N.E. India for Mount Stewart' also will discuss Edith and Frank Kingdon-Ward relating the plants to our coastal Irish conditions.**

## **Neil Armstrong**

Born Enniskillen, studied medicine in Trinity College Dublin, moved to Cornwall in 1987.

For the past 20 years he has created from scratch a 22 acre sub-tropical garden, Tremenheere Sculpture Garden in Penzance, which is now established in the great gardens of Cornwall group.

He's been on botanical field trips to Mexico, South Africa, Northern Vietnam, Northern Thailand, California, Greece, La Palma, La Gomera and Tenerife, Spain, France and Portugal.

**Title of talk: Tremenheere, the Ideas, Artwork and Plants.**