Update on the GHS and AGT merger

In the summer of 2014 the members of both the Garden History Society (GHS) and the Association of Gardens Trusts (AGT) voted to approve in principle a merger of the two organisations. It is hoped that the arrangements for the merger can be completed before the joint Annual Conference is held in Newcastle upon Tyne in July 2015, and draft documents defining the merger have been published on a temporary web site so that members of both organisations can consult them: www.agt-ghstogether.org

The website contains all the information about the merger; with pages devoted to the process, our proposed new name, our new constitution, the members of the transitional committee, a timeline, and a way to pass on your comments.

The merger process is being undertaken by a transitional committee with members being drawn from both the AGT and the GHS. Expert help is accessed where required from within the existing organisations or from third parties.

Submissions pour into unique record of historic garden research

Enthusiastic supporters have now provided 1,400 entries for a second edition of our list of Conservation Management Plans! CMPs don’t simply contain technical details on site management, but they also hold precious and often very detailed research into historic sites. This material can be difficult to access so in 2013 the GHS published a reference list of CMPs and related research for historic designed landscapes. This was made possible with sponsorship and support from English Heritage.

The list has enjoyed huge popularity and supporters including keen individuals, local authorities, national organisations, County Gardens Trusts and eminent landscape practices have continued to send in details of CMPs. In summer 2014 the GHS published the second edition of the list, now available at: www.parksandgardens.org

Submissions pour into unique record of historic garden research

The published list is not intended to be a definitive catalogue of all CMPs relating to historic designed landscapes but it is hoped entries will be added in future, growing into a comprehensive reference; it is only ever going to be as good as the willingness of people to send in material so we are extremely grateful for everyone’s support.

The Hestercombe Gardens Trust is setting up a Centre of Landscape Studies with a CMP archive and has advised on the GHS CMP project. For the moment the list simply offers an indication that the CMP exists; many are however available at publicly accessible archives or online.

The GHS continues to welcome submissions, or additional details to existing entries, to: cmp@gardenhistorysociety.org

Linden Groves, CMP project co-ordinator

Continuing the discussions, sharing the expertise

We never cease to be amazed at just how much knowledge and expertise is tucked away amongst County Gardens Trust and Garden History Society members, but it is dismayingly that there are so few opportunities to share this knowledge, resulting in us all losing far too much time and effort in reinventing the wheel.

So this autumn we have set up a new email group for CGT and GHS members, building on a previous discussion facility on the Historic Landscape Project web forum. A small but growing number of users have already initiated sparky discussions on asylum landscapes, water-filled ha-has, anaerobic digesters and even a Trust seeking help with a planning application. We look forward to raising topics such as research and record keeping in the next few weeks.

Similar volunteer networks to ours use the same set-up and tell us that it is simple, dynamic and convenient to use, with immense benefits in facilitating friendly and informative mutual support but clearly though, the discussions will only be as good as the people using the facility! So, please join the group by:

• visiting http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/leapthehaha/join
• sending an email to: leapthehaha-subscribe@yahooogroups.co.uk

Linden Groves, Verena McCaig, Historic Landscape Project Officers

Parks & Gardens UK War Memorial Parks & Gardens Gazetteer

Parks & Gardens UK has just begun an exciting project to compile a war memorial parks and gardens gazetteer and has invited the GHS to be a partner in the project; to help provide access any relevant resources, or information, for the gazetteer. Can you think of how you might be able to help?

The project involves compiling a gazetteer of war memorial parks and gardens across the UK. This will be as comprehensive as possible. It will include the name and location of each site as well as a brief description. An all-inclusive gazetteer like this does not yet exist, and Parks & Gardens UK is well positioned as a UK-focused website and information resource to host it. It is anticipated that once the first list is uploaded, more information and sites will filter in from members of County Gardens Trusts (CGTs), individual researchers, and friends groups.

The gazetteer will be updated at regular intervals online. Its compilation is timely at the start of the years when the First World War is commemorated, and will complement government-backed initiatives such as the drive to see war memorials brought into good repair, and far more of them listed. Not only is the project intrinsically worthwhile; it will mesh with and eventually feed into the database of designed landscapes across the UK, and place us in a strong position to play a part in the remembrance activities which will mark the centenary of the Armistice.

The gazetteer will include war memorial parks and gardens from all periods of time, although it is anticipated that the vast majority will have been created in the years after the First World War. The definition of a war memorial park or garden must include a specially designed landscape space. It does not include stand alone memorial objects within a non-memorial space such as statues, war memorials, tree avenues or other plantings or buildings. In addition to creating a gazetteer for the website, enough information will be collected about each site to create new basic records for any not already on the Parks & Gardens UK database.

We have invited the CGTs to participate by sending submissions from their areas for the gazetteer. We are aware that there are also multiple sources online to search which will add sites to the list. A member of our project team will assist me with researching sites online for inclusion in the gazetteer. The initial gazetteer with accompanying article will be available on the website in January 2015. Submissions for further updates to the list will be accepted over the next four years. The information will be added to the database records and creation of new records will be ongoing.

If you have any questions about the project, please don’t hesitate to contact me. And please let me know what resources you might have which can help us to add to the list, photographs for the records perhaps? I look forward to hearing from you.

Rachael Stamper
parksandgardensUK@parksandgardens.org

GHS Events 2015 more will be added during the year, for full details please see www.gardenhistorysociety.org/events

GHS London Winter Lecture Series
at The Gallery, Cowcross Street, London
6.30pm, Wednesdays: 28 January, 11 and 25 February, 11 and 25 March
For details see the enclosed Booking Form.

Petticoats and Plants: Scotland’s Gardenings Women, 1800–1930
Lecture by Deborah Reid
7.30 pm, 19 March 2015
At: The Lecture Theatre, Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, EH3 5LR. Tickets on the door £5 members, £6 non-members

Spring Study Day on Imagery for Garden History
at the Linnean Society, London
Thursday 30 April
Includes a tour of Green Park & St James’s Park and an evening Guided Tour of Paradise Preserved by the Curator of the exhibition of the Queen’s pictures of gardens at the Queen’s Gallery, Buckingham Palace. For details see the enclosed Booking Form.

GHSS AGM
& lecture by Bill Brogden
Ichnographia Rustica: Stephen Switzer and the Designed Landscape
date to be confirmed, mid May
Lecture tickets: £8, students: £5

GHS & LPGT Chelsea Fringe event
Saturday 16 May
Full details on the websites, and in news 95.

GHS & LPGT Chelsea Fringe event
Saturday 20 June
Garden visit and tea.

Joint visit with LPGT first week in July
Full details on the websites, and in news 95.

AGMs, Graduate Symposium and Annual Summer Conference
Newcastle University
Friday 24 to Sunday 26 July
Thursday: extra visit to Seaton Delaval and Northumberlandia, Charles Jenck’s landform sculpture. Friday: Graduate Symposium, the AGMs & conference dinner Saturday: Crowdsale Hall Hardwick Hall Sedgefield and small gardens in Durham. Sunday: Alnwick Gardens, Hulne Priory and Belsay Hall and Castle. Please see the enclosed Booking Form for costs and detailed itinerary.

Study Tour to gardens of USA: Pacific Northwest
Sunday 9 to Friday 21 August
100 years of design in Seattle, Portland, Victoria, Vancouver. Itinerary on the website.
Contact Liz Goodfellow: LIZGZ2@aol.com

GHSS visit to Tynghame House
Saturday 20 June
Garden visit and tea.

Study Tour to gardens of Normandy
Saturday 10 to Friday 16 September
Contact: maelpeel@btopenworld.com

Autumn Study Day: Masonic Symbolism in Gardens
in the Freemasons’ Hall, London WC2
Saturday 31 October
Researchers from both UK and Europe will examine this complex subject. Contact: maelpeel@btopenworld.com

Please note details of some events may change.

GHS Annual Essay Competition
The competition is open to any student, worldwide, registered in a bona-fide university or institute of higher education, or any student who has graduated from such an institute in the past twelve months. Submissions must be 5,000 to 6,000 words and the only restriction on subject matter is that it must be of relevance to garden history. The prize includes an award of £250, free membership of the Society for a year and consideration for publication in our peer-reviewed, scholarly journal Garden History. All previous winners have been accepted for publication, and often the best of the non-winning entries are invited to submit to the journal as well.

Application forms can be downloaded from our website and entries can be submitted up to and including Thursday 30 April 2015.

Our 5th Graduate Symposium to be held at Newcastle University
Friday morning, 24 July 2015
We invite scholars worldwide to submit a 200 word proposal for a paper whose subject is unpublished. Symposium papers are 20 minutes only (approx. 2,000 to 2,500 words), with a short Q&A session afterwards. Scholars in all disciplines are encouraged to submit, and any subject relating to garden history will be considered. Full details on our website.

Applicants should submit their 200 word abstract via our website or direct to: graduatesymposium@gardenhistorysociety.org by Monday 2 March 2015.

This year’s Symposium will be held as part of the activities at our Summer Conference in Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Attendance at the Symposium does not require attendance for the whole Conference, separate ticketing is available, see the Conference Booking Form for details.