



GHS *news*

94 Summer 2014

THE GARDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

news

Annual General Meeting 2014 Report

The Society's Annual General Meeting was held at the University of Cardiff Conference Centre on Friday 25 July 2014 and attended by 67 members.

The Chairman, Dominic Cole, welcomed all those present, referring to the occasion as a gathering which was about volunteers who feel passionate about historic parks and gardens. The role of the Society, he said, is always to move forwards to make sure that volunteer contributions are heard and used to best effect.

To emphasise that, he described the proposed merger between GHS and AGT as being all about action. The Historic Landscape Project Officers too, supported financially by GHS, means working locally to empower individuals to understand and speak. After all, the Society has a greater knowledge of its subject than anyone and 'Government needs the Society's help and support'. In recognition of that role, he thanked the GHS teams of professionals, the Gardens Trusts and the AGT with whom GHS is working very closely.

The Chairman thanked Richard Broyd, who stood down this year, for his support as Vice President. He also paid tribute to Robert Peel for his unstinting support for the Society over the previous eight years. During this time he had been a very able Vice-Chairman as well as Chair of Events responsible for arranging an impressive programme of events, study days, study tours and, importantly, the conference this year in Cardiff. The Chairman also bid farewell to Jeremy Rye who had to stand down from Council due to work pressures but who had made a valuable contribution to the work of Council.

The main item on the Agenda, the vote on the motion to proceed in principle with the merger with AGT, was carried by a majority of 74 votes to 5 with 5 abstentions, this including postal and proxy votes.

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copy deadlines

for **GHS micro-news 94a**: 10 November
for **GHS news 95**: 1 February 2015

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The Society gratefully acknowledges
the support of Alan Baxter and Associates

Our cover features pressed flowers collected by .
George Marr, of the Machine Gunners Corps,
which feature in the Garden Museum's exhibition
on *Gardens and War*, opening on 24 September.

The following members of Council were elected and duly welcomed: Dr Sally Jeffery and Kristina Taylor.

Thanks were recorded to all the Society's staff, particularly Louise Cooper, for her tireless work as our Administrator.

The Annual Accounts were duly approved and Hilden Park Accountants Limited was appointed as the Independent Examiner.

Reports were received from Dr Peter Burman, Chairman of GHSS, on its activities during the year; by Jonathan Lovie, Principal Conservation Officer, on the work of the Joint Conservation Committee (JCC); by Alison Allighan, GHSS Conservation Officer, on its recent conservation activities and by Linden Groves on the GHS Conservation Management Plan project. Linden also reported as one of the Officers, in Verena McCaig's absence, on progress made by the joint GHS/AGT Historic Landscape Project, an integral part of the Working Together initiative with English Heritage (see p.xx).

The full minutes of the Meeting will be included in the papers for next year's AGM.

Jeremy Garnett
Honorary Secretary, July 2014

Dominic Cole's welcome at the AGM

A warm welcome to all the friendly faces here today, at our AGM. This gathering is about you, the volunteers who feel passionate about historic parks and gardens. As always we are moving forwards to make sure that your volunteer contributions are heard and used to best effect.

We are not about chasing Government policy, we are about knowing more about our subject than anyone else. Government needs our help and support. You, each of you, know much more about the places you love but how do you transform that passion into action?

The proposed merger between GHS and AGT is all about **action**.

The Heritage Landscape Project Officer programme, supported financially by GHS, is all about working locally to empower individuals in Garden Trusts to understand and speak.

The idea of being a local Gardens Trust Conservation person or Officer may sound dry and an immense turn-off, but it is not difficult to get to grips with, and the technical bits are a set of rules. Thankfully rules are there to be questioned.

There is **no** point in thinking that the Government, English Heritage, or Local Planning Authorities are doing the job, they are under resourced and under informed.

As we have seen, there is no point in asking for

these bodies to do more, they can't and they won't.

On the plus side we **know** the individuals who respond to Government policy and who shape responses, in reality it is us who provide the data for them to do this.

So **my** huge thanks to the GHS teams, the professionals and amateurs, to the Gardens Trusts and the AGT with whom GHS is working very closely, and of course to you.

Dominic Cole,
Chairman, July 2014

4th Graduate Symposium, Cardiff

Report by Phil Christie

The GHS Graduate Symposium for 2014 took place on what must have been the warmest day of the year. With curtains firmly closed to keep out both the sun's light and heat, and doors wide open to maintain a through draught, Dr Patrick Eyres chaired the symposium. The agenda was sadly curtailed through the ill-health of one of the scheduled speakers, Nick Chibnall, who is a DPhil candidate in Garden History at the University of Buckingham. We hope that he has now fully recovered and that we might have an opportunity to hear his talk on another occasion.



Ann Benson, Dr Patrick Eyres, Claire de Carle, Amber Winick, and Spencer Gavin Smith at Cardiff

Spencer Gavin Smith: Rills and Romance: Gardens at the Castles of Edward I in Wales

Spencer is researching for a PhD at Manchester Metropolitan University and he had selected four of King Edward's Welsh castles for his analysis of the archaeological and historical evidence for the existence of gardens: Rhuddlan, Conwy, Caernarfon and Harlech. The castles were built to secure Edward's conquest of Gwynedd and while their main purpose was military, there is significant evidence for associated gardens, the history of which is the subject of Spencer's PhD thesis.

At **Rhuddlan**, evidence points to the existence of at least two gardens. The prevailing historical interpretation was made by Alan Taylor in the context of military triumphalism after the end of World War II, when it seemed important to assert the national military pedigree. Much infilled material was removed from ditches and moats, losing valuable archaeological evidence and context. An earth bank was built in 1948 on top of a herb garden that was first recorded in 1285, shortly after the present castle's completion in 1282. Queen Eleanor's private garden, with ponds, is also recorded in historical documents. A geophysical survey is planned to try and locate the bottom of the pond. The reduction of the castle by Parliamentarians in 1648 had also caused earlier damage to the site, leaving work to be done in matching the historical and archaeological records.



Spencer Gavin Smith

At **Conwy** castle (above), the garden remains and is still visible but development has arrived and the garden in the east barbican is obscured by the railway and Telford's road bridge. Telford made use of the castle by anchoring his bridge from its garden wall. Castle windows would have looked out onto the garden and access was probably made through the castle itself or by boat from the river. The top of a flight of steps from the river survives but no access is possible now. The garden was large and was still in use in 1561, based upon contemporary drawings. There were viewing platforms in barbican walls. A geophysical survey would again be useful and informative but no funding is presently available.

The interpretation of **Caernarfon** castle garden has probably been confused by Royal Commission surveyors. Taylor's 1950's interpretation placed the garden in The Green, a public space. However, Spencer asserts there is little historical evidence except for one dubious source. Clues for the garden's location may be found in an old drawing showing fishponds, formed by damming a stream.

The drawing shows three exit channels from the ponds, one an overflow, one for a mill; what about the third, perhaps to supply a garden? Extramural houses were removed in the 1940s. Eleanor of Castile most likely had a garden with a gate protected by a tower furnished with arrow slits. There may be a triangular section of extramural garden near to an area reserved for archery practice. An interpretation of the map of the pond and mill race might consider the central channel to be a rill, running through the garden, reflecting possible Islamic influence. The garden survived until the 1840's when it was destroyed by railway construction. Most of the area is now covered with housing but it would be a fine opportunity to get in behind the houses to augur for soil samples.

Spencer brought his talk to a close with a brief description of the evidence for a garden at **Harlech** castle. An enclosed area has overhanging *garderobes*, which may have served to provide a source of fertilisation for a garden. The enclosed area is actually quite private but is equipped with two viewing holes in the masonry; it was suggested that these may have enabled bodyguards or maidservants to observe the Queen's wellbeing without disturbance.

Spencer's fascinating research will be published as part of his PhD thesis entitled, 'Parks Gardens and Designed Landscapes of Medieval North Wales and North West Shropshire'.

Amber Winick: Landscape and national identity: the design of the Budapest Zoological Gardens

Amber Winick is a Fulbright Research Fellow at the Museum of Applied Arts in Budapest, Hungary. Amber opened her talk with an evocative photograph of school children in Budapest Zoo in summer 1913. Zoos were becoming national symbols and showcases for national identity; a veritable vernacular fantasy land. A map of the Austro-Hungarian dual monarchy, established in 1867, conveyed the motivation for reflecting the essence of Hungarian national identity. The Magyar language and cultural symbols were expressed to schoolchildren who were taught to read, write and count in Magyar. Characteristic grave posts, textiles, dress and symbols were revived and extolled. A national romantic style was developed in architecture, for example the Budapest opera house, which was started in 1875.

The 1910 Elephant House at Budapest Zoo, designed by Kornél Neuschloss-Knüsli and which still survives, has a roof based on the Ottoman style with domes and a minaret-like tower. This was to be

followed by other zoo buildings deriving from more vernacular architectural forms and landscapes in Transylvania. By 1911, Budapest was established as a sophisticated city.

Amber told us how, drawing on cultural roots from Kalotaszeg, a Hungarian 'motherland' region in Transylvania, two young architects (Károly Kós and Dezső Zrumecky) were given a commission to design many of the animal houses in Budapest Zoo. They adopted Carl Hagenbeck's concepts, from Tierpark at Stellingen near Hamburg, of using moated areas to separate animals from people.

A map from 1913 shows the zoo located on 24 acres of land with ponds, tree-planting and pathways. Cliffs were recreated by Kós and Zrumecky under guidance from geologists. Meandering paths were established and Castle Ruins built.



Amber Winick

The Deer House, 1913

The timber Deer House evokes Transylvania. The Poultry Run and Bird House were also designed by the young architects, the latter having a tall spire modelled after a folk church. Great rocks were used to form Polar Bear and Seal Enclosures, suggesting Arctic tundra. Other constructions included a Bison and Buffalo House. An appreciation of the Zoo's architecture was made by Dénes Geörgyi, a contemporary architect who worked with Kós on the Városmajor Street primary school in Budapest.

The Treaty of Trianon after WWI resulted in the loss of 72% of Hungarian territory, with Transylvania going to Rumania, impacting the Magyar sense of national identity. Much devastation was caused to the zoo during WWII, with only 15 animals, from a pre-war population of 2500, surviving in the Elephant House. The Zoo was largely rebuilt in the post-war years, with the Communist régime using zoo as means of presenting to children the benefits of soviet era policies. Today, Budapest Zoo continues

to be restored and developed, symbolising what the zoo and Hungary might achieve in the future. Many buildings are post-war reconstructions but not all; some are left over from the zoo's earlier grandeur. The zoo brings together the past and present.

Continuing Amber's underlying motif of the zoo's power to articulate symbolism, one might also interpret an allegory between keeping diverse animals as neighbours to each other in a zoo, and the geographical position of Hungary surrounded by neighbouring countries in the centre of Europe.

Claire de Carle:

The work of Maud Grieve FRHS during WWI

Claire enlightened her audience with the history of Maud Grieve, who was a celebrated herbalist operating in the early-20th century. Little has been written about her before, and the focus of Claire's presentation was, appropriately for the theme of the summer conference, on her work during WWI. Born Sophia Emma Magdalene Law in 1858, Maud was brought up in Lewisham and travelled to India, where she married William Somerville Grieve of Edinburgh in 1885. The Grieves returned to England after William retired early in the 1900's and, in 1905, took up residence at **The Whins** in Chalfont St Peter, Buckinghamshire. They brought back with them Indian artefacts and Claire showed a photograph from 1911 (*below*) in which some of them are embedded in a wall and covered in ivy to make it look old.



Claire de Carle

A keen gardener with an interest in medicinal herbs, once back in England Maud developed an extensive herb garden at The Whins. She must have had a strong personality as she became a leading member of the Daughters of Ceres, a small group dedicated to increasing opportunities for women in horticulture. Maud established her own horticultural training school at The Whins which became part of the war effort, specifically to meet the huge demand for medicines derived from herbs. Over a period of

25 years, Maud wrote a series of 300 illustrated pamphlets which became the core work for her later book, *A Modern Herbal*, edited by Hilda Lye and published in 1931.

Maud's work on her pamphlets brought together a great deal of research, including the history and the culture of each plant, and her publications were popular with chemists as well as horticulturalists. By October 1914 there was a lack of drugs following the closure of European markets after the outbreak of war in August. A number of medicines, previously imported from Germany, Austria and the Balkans, were no longer available. The cost of Belladonna had risen by 600% and the need for herbal anaesthetics and painkillers required expertise in growing and drying replacement plants. Maud went into production at The Whins, growing, washing, drying, grinding and weighing herbs, all of which addressed her other goal of providing employment opportunities for women.

Maud was supported by the chair of the Pharmaceutical Society and was critical of the government's previous dependence on low-priced imports. She was appointed a government adviser on herb production and received membership of the British Science Guild. Southern and central counties were well suited for growing herbs and the government issued guidelines for production drawn from Maud's advice on how to collect (wild) seed, how to grow, harvest and market. The activity became very successful and was adopted by the newspapers as a way for ordinary people to contribute to the war effort. Unfortunately it got out of control: schoolchildren were involved in gathering herbs from hedgerows but caused problems by mixing herbs with other plants. The press even suggested that money could be made by collecting dandelion roots. Maud encouraged children to limit their collecting to marigolds which were easily recognised, and paid 2/- a pound; they were used as ointment for wounds. Drying was the most important factor to avoid producing a mushy mess, and the drying sheds at The Whins were the best in the country with the good ventilation and warmth essential to success. By 1916 Maud had a number of students who trained for 13 weeks at a cost of 12 gns. It took three years for a student to become proficient but they could become effective in a shorter time by focusing on a few particular herbs. Her pamphlets provided all the information needed.

The Board of Agriculture were sniffy at the enterprise and gave no financial support, seeing 'little ladies' engaged in a hobby. Others were more appreciative, especially the pharmaceutical

companies. However, logistics and the lack of capital made things difficult and eventually the activity reduced. Members became war-weary and lost momentum, so Maud focused on training ex-military personnel from the Dominions. Production declined further, especially after the war when cheap imports and better distribution once again killed off the home market. In factory fields Burroughs-Welcome produced financially viable crops of dill, liquorice and belladonna. On the continent, the French and Germans experimented with nettles (to replace cotton) and bladderwrack for horse feed. Leadership in knowledge and technology was passing overseas and into the hands of fully commercial enterprises.

Maud's husband William died in 1929 and her training college closed shortly after. Her herbal book was published in 1931 by Hilda (Mrs CF) Lye. Maud Grieve died in 1941 at the age of 83.

Ann Benson:

Garden historian as polymath: discovering the lost gardens of the Dukes of Beaufort

Ann Benson has an MA in Garden History from the University of Bristol. As her talk unfolded, it became clear that she has acquired extensive skills to produce a multi-disciplinary study on the history of the gardens and designed landscape of **Troy House Estate**, near Monmouth in Wales.

Troy House is located 1 mile south of Monmouth and 5 miles east of Raglan. It has had a long history of ownership, first by the Herberts who also owned Raglan Castle, and then by the Somersets (later Dukes of Beaufort) who also owned Badminton on the other side of the Bristol Channel. Ann identified four periods of stability and wealth, during which times the estate and gardens were most developed: Tudor (1490–1540); Jacobean (1612–20); Carolean (1682–84), and the 20th century. In 1698, shortly after Henry, the first Duke of Beaufort, moved to Badminton, his son and heir Charles died in a coaching accident. Consequently, Troy House, which had been lavishly improved as a major county seat, was no longer lived in by the Beauforts and rarely visited except for hunting. The eighth Duke of Beaufort eventually divided and sold the property in 1902. It became a convent school run by the Sisters of the Good Shepherd, and in 1935 it became an approved school.

The main elements remaining comprise the north range, a home farm and 4-acre walled garden. The estate no longer reflects its former glory, with few extant features, and what little archival material remains is spread across several county archives.

Although access to Troy has hitherto been severely limited, by dint of much persuasion, Ann has been able to obtain access and has carried out a multi-modal investigation of the site using documentary research, map regressions, and overlays of aerial photography, ground investigations and geophysical reconnaissance.

Originally believed to have been a medieval Welsh longhouse, the house has undergone many alterations. Despite 20thC alterations by the nuns, Ann hypothesises that the current farmyard may have been an outer courtyard, leading to an inner court. She is guided by the idea that the key rooms inside the house would have looked out onto gardens and as the functions of parts of the house varied over the years, these might give clues as to the development of the gardens and landscape. The inner court adjoins the oldest remaining part of the Tudor house, incorporated into the north range around 1682, and this would have had an important function in accessing the house at the time from the old Chepstow Road. Furthermore, there is a fine plaster ceiling, dating from the early 17thC, in one of the rooms overlooking the courtyard area, and so it seems likely that the outer and inner courts would have been pleasure gardens. Ann's suggestion is supported by her correlation and analysis of estate maps by Gillmore (1712) and Aram (1765).



Aerial photo RCA-IMW; annotated Ann Benson

A 1994 aerial photograph of the nuns' garden shows a demi-lune exedra, which is no longer extant. Gillmore's map of 1712 shows semi-circular walling but co-registration of the photo and the map places them in different locations, which was confirmed by a resistivity survey revealing the footings of the nuns' wall. The analysis suggests that the two maps are consistent and that the vanished demi-lune wall engaged with an existing wall on the south edge of the garden.

Further examination of the ground elevation and interpretation of the estate maps suggests the existence of a water parterre alongside the river Trothy (from which the estate may derive its name).

The hypothesis is supported by the 1845 title map and the 1881 OS map. Perhaps these were originally fishponds that were converted to a garden feature?

Based upon archival and architectural analysis, Ann asserts that the walls of the walled garden are probably about a century earlier than the 17thC date suggested by Cadw. This is further supported by the style and occurrence of bee boles found in the walls. The date leads to the speculation that the garden may have been used as a cherry orchard, since cherries were much prized fruit in the 16thC.

A ruined building some 300 yds from the house was once suggested to have been a game larder but Ann's recent research suggests an alternative use, consistent with the labelling of two such buildings in Aram's 1765 map as "Conduit", and drawn on the 1881 OS map. The stonework on the building appears to be early 17thC, matching that of the entrance to the walled garden. Remains of a lead pipe were found in the ruined building and a metal detection survey supports the tracks of pipes heading from the building towards the house, suggesting that the building had more to do with water supply than game.

After her meticulous detective work, Ann left us with the clear impression that Troy was indeed a Tudor estate with Jacobean and Carolean aggrandisements. Its documentation was a matter of urgency, befitting its status as a historical building of the first importance.

10th Annual Essay Prize winner

The 2014 Annual GHS Essay Prize has been won by **Karen Fitzsimon** from Buckingham University. There was a strong field this year, with entries from as far afield as Cardiff and Kew, Bath and Sheffield, but Fitzsimon's essay, **Order In the Landscape:**

Rediscovering Preben Jakobsen was the unanimous winner. This important piece of scholarship reassesses the work of the well known but little understood Danish landscape architect. The judges were particularly impressed with the author's use of primary sources, her exploration of Jacobsen's influences and inspirations, and her analysis of existing sites and site plans (*see also events p.11*)

Suzanne Patman of RBG Kew was Highly Commended for *A New Direction in Garden History*, a lively exploration of guerrilla gardening. Nick Chibnall, a PhD student at Buckingham, was also Highly Commended for *The Palms of the Orient*, a detailed and scholarly examination of the hotel gardens of the late-nineteenth-century Riviera.

This year's entries encompassed a range of subjects, from Thomas Mawson's prospectus for a

news & events

landscape architecture course, through the attitudes of women writers to the C18 English Landscape movement, to the place of the Royal Parks in the national consciousness. The sheer range and vibrancy

of the writing demonstrates that Garden History is thriving, and we look forward to another crop of stimulating essays in next year's competition.

Katie Campbell

GHS events 2014 and 2015

Booking Forms for most of our events appear on our website

Edinburgh Gardens and Squares Conference

9am to 5.40pm, Friday 26 September



Moray Place, Edinburgh, from 'Modern Athens' 1829

The Scottish Enlightenment is manifested in the Gardens and Squares of Edinburgh's New Town. Edinburgh's historic gardens and squares are a result of the development of the city following late 18th century ideals of town planning, and form an important and integral part of the Edinburgh World Heritage Site.

The aim of the conference is to explain their significance, to celebrate them and to demonstrate how they can be maximised for the benefit of the social, economic and cultural life of the city in the 21st century. The Conference coincides with **Doors Open Day** weekend when many of the gardens will be open to visitors.

The first two sessions in the morning will set the scene, describing the history, philosophy and development of the spaces within the city. The afternoon sessions will discuss the practical aspects of managing these spaces.

The day starts with an opening address by **Kristina Taylor**, and gets under way with a session on the *Historical Significance of the Squares*, chaired by **Sue Hewer**. Speakers are **Dr John Lowrey** on *Enlightenment and post-enlightenment context for Edinburgh's New Town: how ideas of the landscape informed the urban design*; **Christopher**

Dingwall on *In search of free air and an agreeable prospect: the flight from Edinburgh's Old Town*; **Dr Anthony Lewis** on *The builders of the New Town: how the streets and squares were built in the 18th century*; and concludes with **Dr Desmond McCabe** on *The humours of power and space: changes in the European plaza and city square from the 1100s to the present*.

Following a break we continue with a session on *Social Aspects of the Squares* chaired by **Peter Ranson**. **Ian Gow** on *Who lived in the New town and how were the gardens used?*; **Peter Burman** on *Edinburgh's Arcadia: significance and future vision*; **Vanessa Stephens** on *Afterlife in the New Town: Edinburgh Western Cemetery a picturesque place of rest on the valley of the water of Leith*; **Dr Kirsten Carter McKee** on *The 'genius Loci' of the Athens of the North: the cultural significance of Edinburgh's Carlton Hill*.

After lunch we continue with two sessions on *The management of the Squares in the 21st century*, chaired by **Mark Turnbull**. **David Jamieson** on *Managing Edinburgh's historic parks in the 21st century: Princes Street Gardens, Calton Hill, and other city centre parks*; **Marion Williams** on *Is Edinburgh's planning governance good enough to protect its World Heritage status?*; **Peter McGowan** on *Period, planting and plants: aspects of planting design and management in Edinburgh's New Town gardens*; and **Prof. Brian Evans** on *St Andrews Square: history, use and identity in the 21st century*. The final session, chaired by **Euan Leitch** continues with **Todd Longstaff-Gowan** on *Reinstating John Nash's picturesque vision for the Regent's Park, London*; **Drew Bannellick** on *Re-thinking green spaces*; **Adam Wilkinson** on *International practice: what's everyone else doing?*; and the day concludes with a final Q&A.

Following a swift relocation for the drinks reception at **Dundas House**, St Andrews Square, the day includes a final presentation by **Simon Green** on *Dundas House the finest town house in the New Town of Edinburgh*.

Cost: £60 (student tickets: £20). At George Hotel, 19-21 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 2PB. Contact Peter Ranson: Peter.Ranson@scotland.gsi.gov.uk



Hagley Hall from the Prince's Pillar, by Mrs Phillips (c. 1830)

**Hagley Hall: Paradise Regained
Research and Recording Study Day
with the Association of Gardens Trusts and
Hereford and Worcester Gardens Trust
9.30am to 4.30pm, Wednesday 1 October**

Originally pre-dating the Palladian Hagley Hall itself, George Lyttelton's eighteenth-century park was in its day considered amongst the greatest of all English Landscape Gardens, its celebrated beauty drawing praise from some of the century's most enlightened minds. Today, after almost a century and a half of neglect, a major restoration, part funded by English Heritage, Natural England and the Hagley Hall Estate (now well underway), is intent on reinstating the Park's former glories, halting its decline and preventing the Park joining that long list of historic Estates whose former prestige, grandeur and cultural importance are now sadly lost forever.

Joe Hawkins Head of Landscape at Hagley Hall, who has been deeply involved in the restoration programme will guide us through Hagley's former grandeur, the present halt in decline and the promise of the return to former glories for us all to enjoy. We are one of the first groups to see the new look Landscape.

Following a welcome and talk by **Lord Cobham** on

The history of the family and Hagley Hall, there will be a tour of the state rooms, with their Views. This will be followed by a two part presentation by **Joe Hawkins** on *The contemporary restoration of Hagley Park*. We will have Lunch in the Long Gallery. The afternoon resumes with a two part tour of the Landscape.

Cost: £45, includes morning coffee/tea, lunch and guided tours of the garden. Early booking is advisable. To book a place on the Study Day please download the Booking Form from our website. If you wish to pay by BACS you will need to reserve a place first, please email Teresa the AGT Co-ordinator at: gardenstrusts@agt.org.uk or phone 020 7251 2610 to make a reservation. The Day is based at Hagley Hall, Worcestershire DY9 9LG.

For further reading you might want to (re-)read **Garden History 35: Supplement 1** (2007), our special issue on Hagley Park, Worcestershire, compiled by Michael Cousins. Cost: £18, post free in UK. To order, contact our printers: 01787 249 286 (credit card orders can be taken by phone) or mail: GHS Back Issues, 47 Water Street, Lavenham, Sudbury CO10 9RN. If you have further queries, phone: 01787 249 286 or email: ghsmembership@lavenhamgroup.co.uk



The Garden Museum

Painshill, the view from the Turkish Tent, oil on canvas, c.1780s, unknown artist. Acquired by the Garden Museum in 2014 with the support of the Art Fund, the V&A Purchase Grant Fund, the Beecroft Trust and private donations.

Autumn Study Tour Gardens of the Italian Lakes

Friday 3 to Thursday 9 October

Organised as a replacement to our intended visit to Crimea and Ukraine, our first days will be spent in and around **Biella** exploring cultural landscapes and a natural reserve as well as a vineyard *or*me. The gardens are more profuse beside **Lakes Orta and Maggiore** and include the impressive **Villa Taranto**, the **Borromean islands** and **Villa della Porta Bozzolo**.

The last day will be spent in and around **Varese** and includes **Villa Cicogna Mozzoni**, before the study tour ends at Milan Malpensa Airport.

Cost: £1030 per person sharing and includes all accommodation and breakfasts, most other meals, all site visits and the services of guides, and transport by coach: **it does not include** air transport to Turin and back from Milan, or whichever option is selected by the individual traveler.

It may be worth contacting the organisers, but we are now only able to offer stand-by places. Please contact Robert Peel at: rma.peel@btopenworld.com or Clare Marsh of Success Tours: 01225 715 952 or clare.marsh@successtours.com

Language and Landscape in the Eighteenth Century at the Garden Museum, London

5.30pm to 8pm, Tuesday 14 October

A special event to celebrate the acquisition by the Garden Museum of an eighteenth-century painting of the landscape garden at **Painshill**, showing the view across the park and lake from the site of the Turkish Tent. It is just possible to make out the house in the top left of the landscape, now regrettably hidden from view by tree growth.

The evening will be chaired by **Prof. Tim Mowl**, and five garden historians will discuss five key words that shaped the eighteenth-century garden:

Dr Laura Mayer on *Taste*, **Dr James Bartos** on *Wilderness*, **Prof. Tom Williamson** on *Park*, **Dr Kate Felus** on *Pleasure* and **Michael Liversidge** on *Picturesque*. The talks will be followed by a panel discussion, before a complimentary drinks reception.

Doors open at 5pm.

Cost: Garden Museum Friends and members of the Garden History Society: £30, otherwise £40. To book please use the link from our website or call the Museum on 020 7401 8865.

Autumn Study Day on Memorial Landscapes of the First World War

The Garden Museum, Lambeth

10.30am to 4.30pm, Saturday 8 November

Our Autumn Study Day will explore the effect that WWI had on our parks, gardens and open spaces, the lives of the people involved and the subsequent memorials created, and ties in with the exhibition on *Gardens and War*, starting on 24 September at the Museum.

Chaired by **Janifer White**, our speakers are:

Professor Paul Elliott on *What happened to our Urban Parks as a result of the War*; **David Lambert** on *Memorial Parks and Gardens of the First World War*; **Jonathan Lovie** on *The War Graves Commission and the role of individual landscape architects*; **Russell Clark** on *Gardens and Gardening in the Experience of the 1st World War*.

After lunch, which includes time for a private view of the Exhibition, we continue with **Herman van den Bossche** on *Destruction and resurrection of parks and gardens in the Ypres Salient during and after the First World War*; **Professor Keith Greaves** on *From Armistice Day to Arbour Day: trees and woodlands in the 'home' memorial landscape of the Great War*; **Dr Katie Campbell** on *20th Century memorials: the search for a new vocabulary*. The day concludes with tea at 4pm.

To book either call the Museum on 020 7401 8865, or fill in the enclosed Booking Form

All the organisations involved in Working Together; the GHS, the AGT, the Garden Museum and Parks & Gardens UK are producing events on the First World War during 2014.

Managing the Fountains Abbey & Studley Royal Estate

Joint Autumn Lecture with the Architectural Heritage Society of Scotland

6.30pm, Monday 10 November

Michael Ridsdale, Head of Landscape, Fountains Abbey & Studley Royal Estate, National Trust, will speak about the multi-disciplinary management of this World Heritage landscape.

At Riddle's Court, 322 Lawnmarket, Edinburgh, EH1 2PG.

GHS Winter Lecture series 2015

at The Gallery, Cowcross Street, London

6.30pm, Wednesdays: 28 January,

11 and 25 February, 11 and 25 March

Full details and the Booking Form will be sent out with the next *GHS micro-news*.

So far three speakers have been confirmed, **Andrew Harland** on 28 January speaking about Gorky Park in Moscow; **Karen Fitzsimon** (Essay Prize 2014 winner) on 11 March about the landscape architect Preben Jakobsen; and **Dr Jane Whitaker** (Essay Prize 2013 winner) on 25 March about some Elizabethan gardens.

GHS AGM, Graduate Symposium and Annual Summer Conference 2015 Newcastle upon Tyne

Friday 24 to Sunday 27 July

Combining forces for our Annual Summer Conference with the AGT, we will begin celebrating the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Society by merging our organisations, assuming that the vote goes through.

We will also continue to run our Graduate Symposium, at the start of the event. Full details will appear in the next and, possibly, final *GHS news 95*, Spring 2015.

Study Tour to USA Pacific Northwest

August 2015



Chihuly Garden and Glass

Chihuly Garden and Glass, Seattle

Continuing our exploration of C20/21 design on the west coast of the United States, this tour will focus on the cities of Seattle, Washington; Portland, Oregon; and possibly ending in Vancouver British Columbia. In an area of great natural beauty: the Pacific Ocean, Cascade Mountains, Columbia River; these cities paid much attention to open space planning, employing designers such as the Olmsted firm, Lord and Schryver; Lawrence Halprin, Richard Haag, Peter Walker, Seven Koch, Cornelia van Oberlander. We will also see private gardens created throughout the period into the C21. The 12-day tour is planned for mid-August 2015. More details and costs are forthcoming.

Please send expressions of interest to Liz Goodfellow: LIZGZ@aol.com

conservation

reports prepared for our recent AGM and other news...

AGM Conservation Report, July 2014: England

Jonathan Lovie, Principal Conservation Officer, and Policy Advice: England

The past year has been significant for consolidating changes initiated in 2013, and developing the ways in which the Society delivers its planning and conservation work.

Joint Conservation Committee

As reported to last year's AGM, the Society's Conservation Committee merged with the Association of Gardens Trusts's Conservation Committee to form the new Joint Conservation Committee. This group has proved its value over the past year, not only through dealing with planning and conservation issues affecting designed landscapes, but also providing generic advice and policy positions with regard to such varied issues as photovoltaic arrays and memorials in public parks and other public designed landscapes. The Committee has also been considering the assessment of significance for historic designed landscapes, and the formulation of statements of significance for such places. This is vital work which will help to underpin the implementation of the new national planning policy framework.

A further important, though perhaps less glamorous aspect of the Committee's work has been to draft various template letters for the use of County Gardens Trusts (CGTs) in dealing with planning consultations. This has not been a straightforward task, complicated by the thorny issue of this Society's role as a statutory consultee in the planning process; and while there have been frustrations at the time this process has taken and the level of support and advice we have been able to give CGTs, we continue to review the material and update it where possible to meet CGTs' needs. This work should not be seen in isolation, however, but has taken place very much in tandem with the work of the Historic Landscape Project Officers.

The Joint Committee was guided into existence by **Dr Marion Harney**, and she continued to chair the group until May 2014 when, in accordance with its constitution, the chair passed from the GHS to **Mike Dawson**, AGT Chair of Conservation. This has been an entirely smooth transition and once again demonstrates that our common interests and goals, the conservation of historic designed landscapes, ensures that we work together effectively. For clarification, Dr Harney remains responsible for oversight of the GHS's conservation activities in her

role as GHS Trustee.

Other personnel changes

The year has seen other changes in personnel. In September **Linden Groves** left her role as GHS Conservation Casework Manager to become a Historic Landscape Project Officer. Linden had developed this originally rather mechanical and ill-defined role into one of the key components of the Society's conservation operation, ensuring that the Casework Log became the only authoritative measure of threats and trends facing designed landscapes. Her stewardship ensured that it was, and remains, a robust record which has over the years provided data for many significant studies including early work on **Landscapes at Risk**, the annual **Heritage Counts** report, and work on cemeteries and public parks at risk. Without Linden's hard work and thoughtful improvements to the Log, the Society would have been seriously compromised in its effort to fulfil its statutory role. In Linden's place we have been fortunate to be able to appoint **Alison Allighan**, already working as the Conservation Officer in Scotland. Being familiar with the Log and casework system, all be it from a distance, has meant that Alison has moved seamlessly into Linden's place, and is already taking the Log and Casework management from strength to strength. The role is increasingly important, not only in terms of handling vast quantities of data; but also providing a vital channel of communication between the Society and CGTs which is crucial to our new way of delivering conservation casework. We are very fortunate to have Alison on board.

And finally, but by no means least, we were able to appoint our long-awaited Assistant Conservation Officer, Margie Hoffnung, in December 2013. As many members who are also members of CGTs will know by now, a key element of Margie's role is to develop links with those in CGTs who are involved in planning and conservation casework. This has already been a huge success, and we can report that in seven months the number of planning responses made by CGTs has increased by some 40%. This is a great tribute both to Margie's powers of persuasion, and to the hard graft and effort put in by the CGTs concerned. This is grass roots conservation in action, and precisely what we are aiming to achieve through our new way of working.

Casework

While CGTs have been our main focus of attention during the past year, the Society has been involved in some direct casework. A worrying trend has been the impact of photovoltaic arrays (solar farms) on historic designed landscapes, with one of the most worrying examples being a recent scheme for a large array affecting designed views and the setting of Grade I **Stacombe Park**, Gloucestershire; even this week those receiving our weekly casework list will have noticed a scheme affecting Grade II **Sudbury Hall**, Derbyshire.

We asked, unsuccessfully as it turned out, for the Secretary of State to call in for determination a proposal for a woodland adventure playground within the designed landscape at **Tatton Park**, Cheshire.

And while we are not very often in a position to comment with authority on applications for designation of designed landscapes, we were able to write a strong letter of support for the designation of the Italian Garden at **Great Ambrook**, Devon. This remarkable and ambitious, though somewhat overgrown example of an Italianate Arts and Crafts Garden had been under consideration for addition to the *Register of Parks and Gardens* for some time; the situation became more urgent as the site was placed on the open market, and we are led to believe that our unequivocal intervention helped to galvanise opinion within English Heritage.

AGM Conservation Report, July 2014: Scotland

Alison Allighan, Conservation Officer: Scotland

In 2013 the GHSS core conservation activities were funded by GHS and money received from the Imlay Trust donation. Funding allowed conservation officer input of around 5 hours per week, with some additional hours where needed.

Around 500 planning applications were identified as having a potential impact on designed landscapes, largely through monitoring the local authorities' weekly planning lists, not all were negative but proposals for wind turbines and large-scale housing developments appeared with their usual regularity. Approximately forty cases were followed up and assessed, with written representations submitted to planning authorities for fifteen. We maintained our objection to proposals for the redevelopment of Napier University's **Craighouse Campus** for housing, and supported the call-in by Scottish Ministers following the granting of planning permission for the expansion of Hyndford Quarry into the **Bonnington**

Training and work with the Historic Landscape Project

Another important aspect of our work this year has been collaboration with the Historic Landscape Project Officers, both to deliver training for CGT members on the planning system, responding to planning applications affecting historic designed landscapes, understanding the setting of designed landscapes and assessing their significance; and to help to develop links and build bridges within the sector.

Linden will say more about the work of the HLP in a moment; but I would like to conclude by saying quite clearly and unequivocally that I believe the work of the HLP to be vital to our collective mission to conserve and increase awareness and understanding of historic designed landscapes. This is a truly joint undertaking, and one which must be seen as a key element of the way in which any new organisation will deliver conservation work in the future.

The GHS believes its role as a statutory consultee is a huge accolade. It must also be frankly acknowledged that it is a huge responsibility and to a degree a burden. It is certainly one which its staff cannot deliver alone even under present funding arrangements. The able help and support of our friends in CGTs is vital for the future, and it has been a pleasure and privilege to see how confidence has enabled existing ability in the sector to increase exponentially over the past year.



The walled garden Dumfries House

designed landscape and **New Lanark** World Heritage Site Buffer Zone.

On a more positive note a further eight planning applications were received for **Dumfries House**, where restoration of the designed landscape is

conservation

continuing, including the walled garden which was reopened to the public earlier this month.

Our well established relationship with the Forestry Commission continued and over the year we assisted them with advice on fifteen cases. These ranged from felling 75 coniferous trees in **Kelvingrove Park**, Glasgow to reopen the expansive westward views from the one of the elevated view points, to the long-term woodland management of the vast **Drumlanrig Castle** designed landscape in Dumfries and Galloway.

Sadly, in September funding from Historic Scotland for the volunteer surveys of non-*Inventory* landscapes came to an end. Over the course of the survey work was started on nearly 90 sites and we are still working with the five groups to complete and upload as many sites as possible to both the *RCAHMS Canmore*, and *Parks and Gardens UK*. I should like to take this opportunity to thank all the group leaders and volunteers who were involved in the project.

Information collected by the volunteers has been invaluable in helping to prepare valid objections to

several large-scale planning applications for housing developments, particularly in East Lothian. In East Renfrewshire research undertaken by the volunteer group has been very successful in raising awareness about the history of a somewhat neglected, overgrown but very popular 'wild' green space, as a designed landscape. The local council has now commissioned landscape consultants to investigate the potential for partially restoring access and ornamental walks and the group is assisting in the future interpretation and community use of the site, none of which would have happened without their great work.

Although this work on the regional and locally significant sites in Scotland is still very much in its infancy compared with England and Wales its value has already been proven and we can only hope that some means of support can be found for the groups to help them continue into the future. It was a small beginning but it would be nice to think that for the longer term we have the basis of a project which could be extended across Scotland to record the country's non-*Inventory* designed landscapes.

Historic Landscape Project report, July 2014

Verena McCaig and Linden Groves, Historic Landscape Project Officers

At the 2013 AGM, we talked about the HLP being a shared project between the Association of Gardens Trusts and the Garden History Society, coming together for the common goal of conserving historic designed landscapes, most specifically of course by helping County Gardens Trusts (CGTs) in their excellent conservation work, which they do in close liaison with the conservation team of the GHS.

The months have gone on to form a year of partnerships, one in which working relationships have been nurtured, supportive networks formed, and friendships made. We find ourselves very much in the thick of the National Heritage Protection Plan, which is an uber-strategy for the heritage sector originally led by English Heritage but now the blueprint for many heritage organisations' workplans. It's turning out to be a really productive way of making sure that we all focus our efforts in a concerted drive for maximum effect; so important in these times of limited resources!

At the HLP, we have been working to cement, or in some areas start up, a habit of County Gardens Trusts Regional Forums. Here, CGTs come together to discuss issues, or to hear from external speakers, and make sure that we are all working in communication with each other rather than in



Linden Groves and Verena McCaig

separate bubbles. The Regional Forums have attracted a high calibre of speakers from diverse but highly-regarded organisations, including Natural

England, English Heritage, local authority Historic Environment Records (HERs), other National Amenity Societies, and the AGT/GHS Joint Conservation Committee (JCC). Their enthusiasm for getting involved demonstrates the sector's understanding that working together is essential.

Much of what the HLP does is through the training events that it offers, as well as the materials and online resources that we make available on the HLP Web Forum; currently found on the AGT website but probably soon to move.

As you will know, over recent years the GHS has very consciously been making fewer comments on planning applications itself, whilst investing great effort in supporting the CGTs to get involved in the planning system. This initiative has really been at the heart of the HLP for this phase. In the early years of the HLP, Phase I, Verena worked with Jonathan Lovie to put together a highly-regarded 1 day Planning Training course, and it has been brilliant that the GHS's conservation team, Jonathan with Margie Hoffnung, have been able to provide their invaluable support and expertise at these sessions. Planning training has now been run for CGTs in the South East, South West, East, Midlands and North, and we intend to run one more day, open to all, in November, as well as a bite-sized session focussing simply on writing planning comment letters. As a result of these efforts and others by the GHS team, approximately 50% of CGTs are now regularly commenting on planning applications, which is such a fantastic boon to us all.

One of the most important things the HLP has been doing is to make sure that all our conservation efforts are targeted in the most effective and appropriate way possible, and currently one of the key ways of achieving this is through the use of 'Significance' as a conservation concept. This term crops up again and again in things like the National Planning Policy Framework (the government policy which guides local authority planning decisions), and insists that we cannot refuse change to a heritage asset simply because it is change, but rather we really have to consider and understand what is truly important, or significant, about a place and then concentrate our efforts on protecting that. Coming at this from a CGT or GHS perspective, we can use Significance in two ways:

- to guide and argue our opinion on development proposals,
- to apply our skills to ensure that it is easy for non-experts to recognise the significance of a place (most usefully by writing brief Statements of Significance for individual historic landscapes,

which can then be added to local authorities' Historic Environment Records, for use by other researchers and, most importantly, by planners).

So, the HLP has been offering Significance training, so far to South East, South West and Northern Gardens Trusts, in Cuckfield Park (Sussex), Stourhead (Wiltshire) and Temple Newsam (Yorkshire). These have been very well-received, and an added bonus was that we recently took the step of inviting local authority staff to join us, resulting in some great networking.

But the year hasn't just been about direct conservation work. We've been supporting partners at the Capability Brown Tercentenary Festival (CB300) and *Parks and Gardens UK*, helping organise and speaking at a workshop over winter on how volunteers can get involved in research commemorating the First World War as well as CB300, feeding their research into *PGUK* and the Designation system, whilst also using the projects as a catalyst for a dynamic move forward within their CGTs. Obviously, these kind of communal projects in which we all get involved and take a pleasure, as well as adding to our common knowledge, are a really useful way of strengthening us as a 'conservation army'.

And don't forget, the Historic Landscape Project's training events, and indeed Web Forum, are open to GHS members as well as those of the CGTs (although surely by now most of us are members of both), so do please keep looking at the various newsletters and websites for details on how to sign up. Our plan for the forthcoming year is to put our existing initiatives on a more secure footing, create a more user-friendly home for all our web-based resources and also support inroads into Designation, *Heritage at Risk* work and Natural England's *New Environmental Land Management schemes* (NELMs), replacing the Higher Level Stewardship that we have all come to love (*see below*).

All this before our current HLP funding comes to an end in Spring 2015!

Keep in touch with: verenamccaig@agt.org.uk and lindengroves@agt.org.uk. Find out more at: www.gardenstrusts.org.uk/hlp.html and 'Follow us' on Twitter: @leapthehaha, or 'Like us' on Facebook: www.facebook.com/historiclandscapeproject

Next Round...

Verena McCaig, HLP Officer

Another scheme, another acronym for us to enjoy! Meet NELMS, the New Environmental Land Management Scheme, which is apparently just that.

conservation

It's soon to be launched by Natural England as the successor to the hugely useful Higher Level Stewardship agri-environment scheme (HLS), and will run from 2015 through to 2020.

HLS has, in previous years, brought so much funding into restoration and conservation management of historic designed landscapes, particularly parkland. Criteria for landscapes to be eligible for funding under NELMS look to be more limited but still relevant. We currently know that prioritisation will be based on two main criteria: biodiversity and the Water Framework Directive. So, if a landscape has areas that support high priority species and has ponds, lakes, streams etc, then it could well be eligible to receive funding. The historic environment is one of a number of secondary objectives, but is certainly in there!

This summer, Natural England have been in the process of, quite literally, mapping out priority areas to target for this funding through a series of regional stakeholder workshops run largely through existing Local Nature Partnership groups (LNPs). These workshops are designed to review the baseline data they've used so far (eg mapped *Registered* parks and gardens, Sites of Special Scientific Interest, etc) and

gather ideas for other datasets which might be relevant. We have been encouraging County Gardens Trust representatives to attend where possible to make sure locally important landscapes, not just *Registered* ones, are recognised and to make themselves known to the LNPs as they will be important players when NELMS gets going. CGTs usually hold the only set of data on these undesignated landscapes and we need to make sure NE takes these into account. We're making this point on a national basis too.

Ideally, NE staff would consult locally on schemes affecting historic designed landscapes in drawing up agreements and before implementing such things as woodland creation or water management schemes; these can have such a detrimental impact if not carried out with a full understanding of design intentions. This partnership was a key driver in the genesis of the Historic Landscape Project and can deliver major gains for our historic landscapes.

For more information on working with NE on NELMS, you can contact the Historic Landscape Project Officers, mentioned in the previous article. For more general information, see www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/farming

Gardens & Landscapes in Historic Building Conservation the essential guide, now out...

Gardens & Landscapes in Historic Building Conservation is an essential guide for everyone with an interest in the conservation of historic gardens and designed landscapes worldwide. This comprehensive guide on historic garden and landscape conservation is vital reading and will help landscape professionals and interested others to familiarise themselves with what the conservation of historic gardens, garden structures and designed landscapes encompasses.

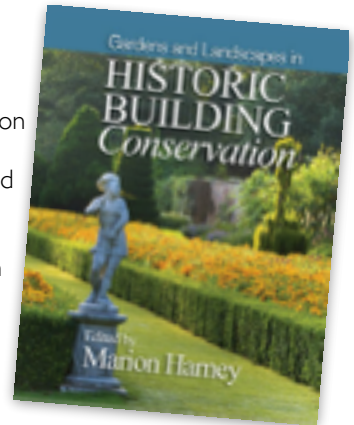
The aim of the book is to introduce aspects of conservation and to provide concise, basic and up-to-date knowledge within one volume, sufficient to appreciate the subject better and to know where to seek further help.

Covering history and theory, survey and assessment, conservation and management and the legislative framework the book considers all aspects of garden and landscape conservation and related issues. It explores the challenge of conserving these important sites and surviving physical remains and a conservation movement which must understand, protect and interpret those remains.

This book demonstrates how the discipline of the

history and conservation of gardens and landscapes has matured in recent decades, recognising the increased participation in the management of these sites and in conserving and interpreting landscapes.

Drawing on a wide range of sources, combining academic and professional perspectives, the book provides information and advice relevant to all involved in trying to preserve one of England's greatest cultural contributions and legacy for future generations to enjoy. With chapters by all the leading players in the field including many GHS contributors: Chairman Dominic Cole, Vice Presidents John Sales and Hazel Conway, Principal Conservation Officer, Jonathan Lovie, David Lambert, Richard Wheeler, Sarah Couch, Jenifer White, Philip White, and the Editor Marion Harney, past Chair of the JCC, who wrote the Introduction and 2 further chapters. The



volume is illustrated by copious examples and it gives essential guidance to the management and conservation of historic gardens and designed landscapes.

Cost: £65 for the hardback and £52 for the e-book. Published by Wiley-Blackwell, **ISBN-10:** 1118508149, **ISBN-13:** 978-1118508145

State of UK Parks Parks 2014: Renaissance to Risk?

Accompanied by a detailed research report and data sets, this is a study of the current state and future trends in the condition of the UK's public parks.

Three new surveys were commissioned:

- A survey of local authority park managers
- A survey of park friends and user groups
- A public opinion survey from Ipsos MORI

The research shows that maintenance budgets are being reduced, capital will be less available for improvements, facilities are becoming more costly to use and some parks may simply be sold or transferred to the care of others. However park usage is increasing and communities are also taking on a greater role.

The study ends with a call to action and five key challenges for the future. HLF will commission and publish a second State of the UK Public Parks report in 2016 to monitor changes in the condition, quality and resourcing of the UK's public parks.

Hazel Conway comments

It was two decades ago that the Heritage Lottery Fund set up its urban parks programme, and I was privileged to be a member of the team involved. We travelled across the UK visiting parks and meeting the people responsible for their upkeep. These included Council members and many park keepers. Lottery funding sparked a parks renaissance and park use soared.

That renaissance is now at risk. Unless future funding is generated in new ways parks are at serious risk of rapid decline and even of being sold off and lost to the public forever. Dame Jenny Abramsky, HLF Chair, says that the recently published Report makes sobering reading.

We are living in financially tough times: local authorities budgets have been cut, while their responsibilities have expanded. That is why we need collaborative action and a fresh approach to halt this threat of decline and stop this cycle of boom and bust. Our parks are far too important and we need to act now.

Key Findings

86% of parks managers report cuts to revenue budgets since 2010 and this is expected to continue for the next three years. This could mean the loss of some parks, parts of parks and other green spaces; parks management being divided between different

organisations; community groups being asked to take on larger parks, and needing input to do so.

81% of council parks departments have lost skilled management staff since 2010 and 77% of council run parks have lost front line staff.

Parks and the Public

Parks are one of the most highly used public assets.

34m people are estimated to visit a park regularly and parks are one of the UK's most heavily used public services.

68% of park users consider time in their local park important and/or essential to their quality of life. In urban areas this figure rises to 71% and as high as 81% for those with children under 10.

70% of park managers have recorded increased visitor numbers to their principle parks over the last year.

Greater community involvement in the past 3 years including over 30% increase in friends and park user groups.

47% of park friends groups say new members have increased over the past 3 years.

Community groups are playing an increasing role in championing and supporting parks. £30m (est) annually is raised by these friends groups.

Funding Parks

The traditional model for funding public parks is breaking down and bold new ideas are needed.

Protecting £700m Lottery Investment

Parks have enjoyed a 20 year renaissance, **but** local authorities still have no Statutory requirement to fund and maintain them. Are we really prepared to see all that progress lost, for very short-term and destructive savings?

There is no national body to champion the importance of parks, their value to the community and protect them for future generations to enjoy [perhaps this is **the** role of the new GHS/AGT, ed].

Their significance in mitigating climate change has not been evaluated.

You can download a copy of the report at: www.hlf.org.uk/StateOfUKParks



agenda

please send in your contributions...

Heritage and the State, and the State of Heritage: an extract from a lecture to the London Parks and Gardens Trust at the Garden Museum, 1 July 2014

Simon Thurley, Chairman of English Heritage

In the fields of urban planning and landscape design, there are few areas in which Britain has made so significant an international contribution than urban parks and public open spaces. As the world's first industrialised nation, England experienced rapid urbanisation and its attendant consequences of air pollution, public health crises and psychological detachment from the natural world. As urbanisation redefined the character of Britain, the design and designation of public urban greenspace emerged as important compensation for the privatisation of landscape and the build up of townscapes. As access to common land decreased and agricultural hinterlands eroded further from town centres, urban parks and gardens became nature's urban representative. Today, 80 per cent of Britons live in urban areas and across the country public parks provide an essential and inclusive resource, available to everybody, their influence upon our quality of life is incontrovertible.

This is, of course, why pressure started to create a formal national register of the most significant parks, gardens and designated landscapes. It was, in fact, Peter Goodchild who first proposed the idea of a national survey and inventory of historic parks and gardens in 1973. A working group led by the Garden History Society's Honorary Secretary Mavis Batey listed some 300 sites of special historic interest in each county in England and Wales.

At about the same time, the ICOMOS UK Historic Gardens Committee organised a similar initiative, co-ordinated by Peter Goodchild. The results were published in 1977 as a preliminary and interim list of gardens and parks of outstanding historic interest.

Up to this point the lists were built and owned by independent organisations. It was in the mid-1970s when Mavis Batey approached the Department of the Environment with the idea of compiling a national inventory. There was no money available, but the Department agreed to a voluntary pilot project by the GHS in partnership with the Historic Buildings Council (HBC). So Jennifer Jenkins, Chairman of the HBC, set up an unofficial Gardens Sub-Committee in 1977 to advise on matters relating to historic parks and gardens in England and Wales. Its work included the preparation of county

lists of places of special interest in a national context. The committee did not have any official resources to assist its work, but received considerable voluntary help from Derek Sherborn, chief lister at the HBC.

This work continued over the next six years, involving many dedicated GHS volunteers, independent experts and some local authorities. Avon, Buckinghamshire and East Sussex were among the first areas to produce information on historic gardens locally. By 1983, initial lists had been prepared for 21 counties.

Of course 1983 also brought The National Heritage Act that brought into being the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission (HBMC), English Heritage, which first opened its doors in April 1984. The Act enabled English Heritage to set up a Register of historic gardens of national importance, which was initiated in 1983 by Jennifer Jenkins, based on the work done by volunteers under the guidance of the HBC Gardens Sub-Committee. *The English Heritage Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England* was published between 1984 and 1988, initially featuring 1085 gardens.

This was all very good news but within a decade cuts and reorganisation left many of England's parks close to ruin. The crisis triggered the 1999 Parliamentary Town and Country Parks Select Committee and in turn a change in English Heritage's own approach to recording, designating and protecting public parks. Evidence presented to the Committee estimated that there were in the order of 30,000 parks in the UK and as many as 5,000 were of national or local heritage merit. Twenty five per cent of parks were in poor condition and many park buildings were derelict. There was an obvious need to quantify the extent of urban parks and green spaces and facilities, and to develop a better understanding of their significance to ensure better protection and conservation.

So English Heritage embarked on a major review of its Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England to include many more urban parks and cemeteries. Over the next ten years English Heritage worked closely with the

Heritage Lottery Fund and its Parks for People Programme, the newly formed government funded lead agency CABE Space, to champion our public parks heritage.

If you remember CABE Space had been set up in 2003 as part of the Commission for Architecture and Built Environment (CABE) to promote public space management and maintenance and to develop the evidence base for public policy and delivery but as a result of the £83bn spending cuts in the 2010 Government's Comprehensive Spending Review, CABE and CABE Space were closed. In addition GreenSpace, the charity representing parks staff, parks and friends groups and promoting the revitalisation and resurgence of parks and green spaces since 2000 eventually caved in to funding pressures and was forced to wind up in April 2013.

The loss of CABE Space and GreenSpace inevitably affected English Heritage's own role in championing historic public parks. But the first National Heritage Protection Plan 2011–15 for prioritising action provided an opportunity for us to review research priorities for public parks. Dr Katy Layton-Jones, in partnership with Professor Robert Lee and Park Roots, was commissioned to undertake a review which we have just published: 'National review of research priorities for urban parks designed landscapes and open spaces'.

At the same time as our report The Heritage Lottery Fund's State of UK's Public Parks research project is published. This follows on from a joint HLF & Big Lottery 'Rethinking public parks' project which is looking at new business models for parks. Nesta, the innovation charity, has been commissioned to run some pilot models and they are in the process of appraising applications. I'll come on to say more about this in a moment.

This flurry of activity is very timely as the economic crisis of 2007 marked a change in mood and expectation among many greenspace professionals. Although the impact was not felt on the ground immediately, in the 2010/11 financial year, local authorities were forced to implement significant savings. Local authority budget cuts (average of 28 per cent over a three year period) brought an abrupt halt to many ambitions for significant capital investment in public greenspaces.

Although the Heritage Lottery Fund has sought to maintain momentum in the greenspace 'renaissance', announcing in October 2012 a new parks fund totalling £100,000,000, the need to demonstrate financial sustainability does not relieve local authorities from financial responsibility. As park provision is not a statutory obligation, many local

authorities are forced to cut investment in parks and public greenspaces in order to subsidise other mandatory expenditure. As local authorities and schools sell off assets to keep afloat, parks and recreation grounds are under increasing threat of development or meaningful changes to their accessibility. An example of this is Wandsworth Council which, in 2011, initiated a scheme to charge £2.50 per child for access to the Battersea Park adventure playground (*below*).



Davies white landscape Architects

I helped build an earlier version of this in the 1960/70s and one at Holland Park too, ed!

Everyone knows that funding represents the greatest challenge to the ongoing quality and protection of the nation's historical public greenspaces. There is general appreciation that the question of funding is related implicitly to the choice of management regime. Today, alternative funding and management regimes are the subject of much discussion and 'trusts', 'philanthropy' and 'volunteerism' are often being investigated as a route to long term financial sustainability. These models are not new.

Many public parks on the Register today, as well as others that still await recognition, were initially semi-commercial concerns, run by trusts comprising wealthy local patrons, and funded by philanthropic donations and/or private development schemes. This was often not deemed the most desirable form of management strategy by park founders. Rather, it was the consequence of a lack of legal power on the part of local authorities to raise funds for park management. For the first park creators, funding by subscription or donation was a pragmatic response and usually required that a degree of privilege be afforded to supporters, such as private gardens within the park or control over the activities of those who could not afford to subscribe. This changed finally with the Improvement Acts of the

agenda

1860s and towards the end of the nineteenth century, more municipal parks were created. Nevertheless, early sites, such as Princes Park in Liverpool, survived for around half a century in the control of private trusts, essentially open to the public, managed by a committee, and independent of local authority control.



Dudley Miles

Princes Park playground, Barnet

Many of the first generation of trusts and philanthropic ventures failed to be long term financial sustainable. By the early twentieth century, many trusts managing parks such as Princes Park, Barnet, were in financial trouble as the initial capital investment was depleted and sub-urbanisation saw wealthy residents relocate away from urban parks. By 1920, local authorities across the country had to step in to save them. Parks in urban areas that had become temporarily unfashionable had to be subsidised as local residents wanted a free resource and could not afford to spend money in parks' revenue raising facilities.

So it is timely to read the HLF report 'Rethinking Parks' which looks at alternative management, funding and governance models for parks. Everyone here will be familiar with what English Heritage and the London Borough of Hounslow did at Chiswick. Here there was a financial problem, one of under investment, one of a lack of priority given to an internationally important garden. But there was also a problem of split management. The Trust we created in April 2005 with Hounslow was intended to reunite the building and the gardens and bring in external financial help from philanthropists. It also tied Hounslow into a long term funding commitment and gave EH the role of underwriting the whole enterprise should anything go wrong. In short, it was a mix of public and private financial and governance streams to secure the park and garden.

The HLF report will help people consider

alternative models for other parks and gardens and in doing so provides quite a few London examples. Whilst there are many excellent parks friends groups, as yet there are few new trusts like Chiswick for the wholesale management of public parks. But the best local authority park teams everywhere are looking to diversify their income streams. The web page for Danson Park's facilities is a good example of the range of commercial activities currently undertaken. But I suggest the crux to all these models is a skilled core team that can deliver quality parks and gardens, secure and sustain community support, and pull in income from a range of sources while always looking ahead. Like all organisations, and LPGT know this well, it is fairly easy to raise funds for new projects but ongoing staff and running costs is far more difficult.

Having said all this, we feel that a lack of understanding of the longer history of funding and management strategies for public greenspace hampers our ability to be able to make decisions about the future. A high profile study is needed to improve awareness of the history of park funding models prior to 1970, and to examine objectively the economic, social, conservation, and cultural effects of different funding and management regimes. So EH is finalising a NHPP project to provide insights to past public park funding models and how these shaped the significance of the today's parks. This will report next year.

It is exactly this sort of thing that EH is best placed to do. We are the key national body with the expertise, remit and public trust to champion and protect the nation's historic greenspace. While it would be unrealistic and improper for us to steer the entire greenspace agenda, we have been working very hard to ensure that historical significance is properly factored into changes in the sector and in individual sites. The National Heritage Protection Plan and its urban activity opens up a much needed research programme on historic public parks and urban greenspaces.

I believe that over the last 30 years EH have made some of the most important contributions to improving the knowledge, appreciation, conservation and use of historic greenspace across England. Responding directly to research needs, publications such as *Change and Creation* (2005), *The Park Keeper* (2005), *The Management and Maintenance of Historic Parks, Gardens and Landscapes: the English Heritage Handbook* (2007) and *Golf in Historic Parks and Landscapes* (2007) have all been important, as well as our expertise and resources to specific research projects, such as the Liverpool Parks and Open

Space Project, which have resulted in contributions to the Informed Conservation series.

But there are four things in particular that we are in a key position to do.

Heritage at Risk

English Heritage's *Heritage at Risk* programme, launched in 2008, is of particular relevance to historical parks and designed landscapes. The programme identifies sites most at risk of 'neglect, decay or inappropriate development'. As many urban greenspaces are now at significant risk from each of these factors, HAR has the potential to play a significant role in the battle to protect them for future generations.

We have already identified 'proposals for development' as a particular risk to registered parks and gardens. However, there is some positive news. The additional statutory controls provided by the National Planning Policy Framework promise a means of improving the protection afforded to designed landscapes. Under the new NPPF registered parks and gardens are accompanied by the same level of protections as listed buildings, meaning that 'substantial harm or loss can only be justified in exceptional cases'. This is promising news, but only if the *Register* itself is fit for purpose. Essential work needs to be done to ensure that this is the case. We have HAR teams in all EH offices focusing on this work and reporting each year on improvements.

National Heritage Protection Plan

Alongside the Heritage at Risk programme, the National Heritage Protection Plan aims to 'identify those parts of England's heritage that matter to people most and are at greatest risk; and then to concentrate efforts on saving them'. English Heritage's *National Survey of Suburbs* has already identified the need for a better understanding of the permeable boundary between the park periphery and the streets that intersect with it. At present, the relationship between urban greenspaces and the developments that surround them is currently approached almost exclusively from the position of the residential architecture and planning. Similarly, as a result of the large number of substantial detached villas located on the periphery of registered parks and their integral role in the design and social and economic history of parks, the survey of Detached Suburban Housing may well confront issues of significance to the protection of urban parks.

The Register of Historic Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England

The *Register* is, of course, a powerful tool in terms of protecting designed landscapes. There are currently

approximately 220 municipal parks on English Heritage's 1,626 strong *Register*. Most were created between the 1840s and 1860s, the great period of municipal park foundation, and generally retain good original landscaping, planting and park structures.

Many of us now believe that the coverage of the *Register* is too limited in terms of both geographical and chronological coverage. Currently it is dominated by private gardens, estate parks and pre-twentieth century landscapes. Post-war designed landscapes and public parks are comparatively poorly represented.

So, under the National Heritage Protection Plan, thirty municipal parks, registered at Grade II have just been identified for upgrading. Twenty-eight of these have been upgraded to Grade II* (making a total of 42 at this grade), and two, Royal Victoria Park (Bath) and Sefton Park (Liverpool), to Grade I. Only one municipal park has been registered at the uppermost grade, and these two parks are of comparable quality, fully deserving this mark of exceptional interest.



The inspiration for The Beatles Sergeant Peppers album?

But here we have to realise a very important point. Although we at EH might acknowledge that the *Register* could and should be strengthened and developed further; it is often not, in fact, the best way to protect these landscapes. In reality a more tactical deployment of designation works better. The setting of a listed building is a better protection of landscape than registration and has much stronger force in law and so the designation of buildings in and around important parks, gardens and green spaces is really important, more important in reality than the spaces themselves.

The Skills Crisis

In 2012, English Heritage published a report produced by Lantra (the Sector Skills Council for the Environmental and Land based industries). This report, titled *Cultivating Skills in Historic and Botanic*

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Gardens: careers, occupations and skills required for the management and maintenance of historic and botanic gardens, contained three significant findings, the most important of which was that many large and medium gardens that are open to the public are now significant tourist attractions. In order to meet the demands of visitors and increased wear and tear requires staff to have new skills to care for these important historic sites. There is an increasing need for staff to be multi-skilled and also for head gardeners and garden managers to not only have technical skills but to have a higher level of business management to assist in running and developing a garden or park.

- There is a general uplift in salaries at the lower end of the salary scale when compared with the 2005 survey. 43 per cent of individuals in this bracket are now earning £15,000 to £20,000 compared with 24 per cent in 2005. Salaries throughout the industry can range now from £14,000 to £73,000, this is competitive with many other industries.
 - Volunteers are playing an increasingly important role in parks and gardens which often is seen as a route into employment as well as important social role within local communities.
- By both funding and publishing research into new

skills gaps, such as leadership, marketing and business planning, we have been one of the few organisations to take action against the current skills crisis. However, the findings of such research have not yet translated into meaningful change, either in terms of management strategies or on the ground maintenance. The active application of research findings must be encouraged more forcefully among park owners, managers and training colleges.

So EH has a vital ongoing role to play in the country's parks and gardens, in terms of designation, promoting new management, governance and financing models, in designation, in monitoring risk, funding research and promoting new skills.

But, of course, EH itself is itself undergoing some major changes. Last year the Government announced that the present English Heritage will be divided into two parts: one, 'English Heritage', becoming a charity whose purpose will be the conservation and public enjoyment of the National Heritage Collection of properties; the other, 'Historic England', continuing to work to preserve our wider historic environment, and looking at ways of improving how its services are managed and delivered.

Sadly this is where Simon's text runs out, but I hope we can say more about the intended EH reorganisation in the next issue, ed.

The Landscape of the Churchill Gardens Estate, Pimlico, London

Dominic Cole

The Site Before the Second World War

The land on which Churchill Gardens sits was once low lying boggy ground where the River Westbourne meets the Thames. In the late eighteenth Century it was part of the site of Ranelagh Tea Gardens, which appear to be separate to the nearby Ranelagh Pleasure Gardens. Soon after that it became built up and by the late nineteenth century was a mix of terrace housing, commerce and industry (distillery, lead works, saw mills etc.) including two docks and riverside wharves.

By the 1930s the whole area was run down and the thirty-acre site was earmarked for possible redevelopment by Westminster City Council. The area was severely damaged by wartime bombing and, in a spirit of post war optimism, Westminster City Council announced an open competition to design a new housing scheme.

Housing Design Competition 1946

The Competition was overseen by Westminster City Council's Town Clerk, Parker Morris, and encouraged new thinking, adventure and caution. Later Parker Morris established the Parker Morris Committee

which prepared a report recommending space standards for public housing: 'Homes for Today and Tomorrow' which led to the adoption of a national policy for space provision in public housing via the Ministry of Housing Bulletin No.6: 'Space in the Home'. The revolutionary thinking by Westminster City Council was immediately influential, being adopted by London County Council in 1951 and spreading across the country and abroad: architects, councils and students all came to see the eventual winning scheme.

The Architects of the Estate

The team who won the competition, Philip Powell and Hidalgo 'Jacko' Moya had only been in practice for a couple of years having recently graduated from the Architectural Association. They concentrated on social housing using the modernist style of simple, functional and practical buildings that would be economic to build and pleasant to live in.

Before transferring to the AA Powell studied architecture at Cambridge and in the late nineteen thirties travelled on the continent to see the latest in new architecture. What he saw hugely impressed

him and caused him to move architecture schools to pursue his interest in modernism and social housing. A major inspiration was a housing scheme for working families in Rotterdam: The Kiefhoek Estate (right), designed by J.J.P. Oud between 1925–30, when he was municipal architect for the city. Oud is considered to be one of the four greatest modernist architects alongside Mies van der Rohe, Walter Gropius and Le Corbusier. He was an early member of the artistic movement called Der Stijl (Dutch for 'the style') with other members including the painter Piet Mondrian. They were interested in reducing form and colour to their simplest, most honest form and at the Kiefhoek Estate Oud used slabs of primary colours, clearly a motif that influenced Powell in the designs for Churchill Gardens.

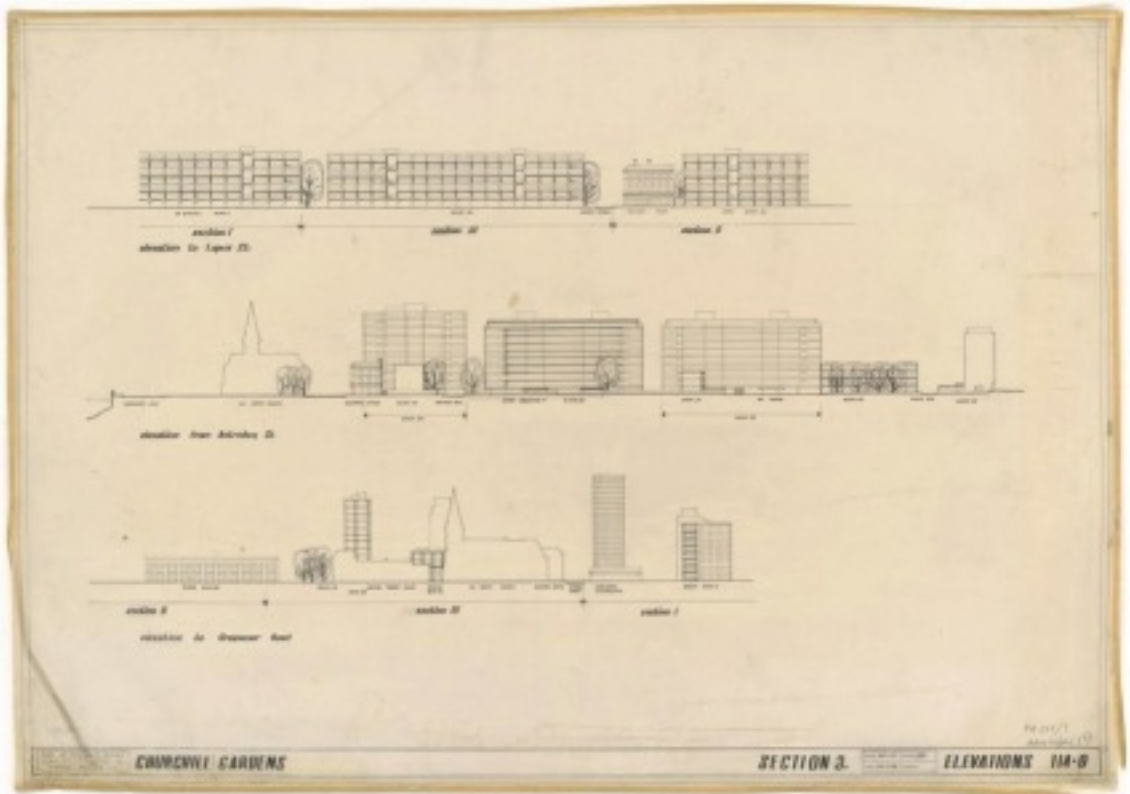
The Winning Scheme

The two young architects were still in their twenties when they won the competition, originally called 'The Pimlico Housing Scheme'. Their design for tall blocks (nine stories was the maximum permitted height at the time) arranged at right angles to the river and with generous amounts of open space drew on similar arrangements in Germany where the Bauhaus School of architecture advocated parallel rows (zeilenbau) of building masses to ensure maximum sunlight would reach the housing

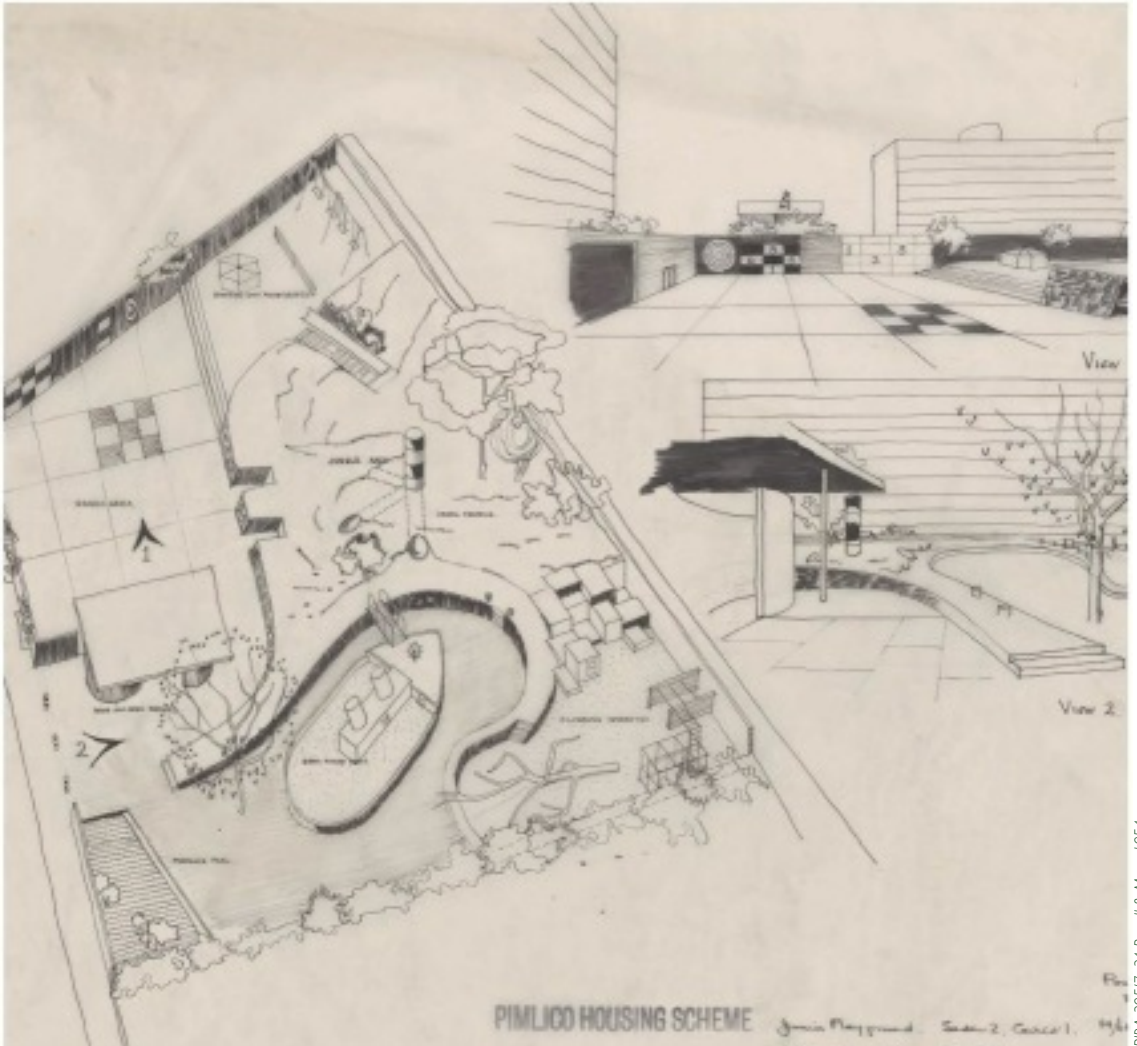


in an attempt to alleviate Tuberculosis, the disease prevalent among working people.

The first section of four blocks was complete by 1950 and won the Festival of Britain Merit Award. The estate would not be complete until 1962, some fifteen years later but Powell made sure that the design language was consistent throughout. The arrangements evolved and details vary, but the overall feel is clearly the idea that won the competition. The estate was designated a conservation area in 1990 and awarded the Civic Trust 40th Anniversary Award in 2000.



RIBA_39517_28 Powell & Moya 1954



RIBA 39517_34 Powell & Moya 1954

The Landscape

There is no record of involvement by Landscape Architects in the design and drawings in the RIBA collection show that Powell & Moya were designing the exterior spaces, including two play areas. There do not appear to have been planting plans and the trees shown on Powell & Moya's drawings are stylised and disarmingly simple. Powell recalls they worked with a former head gardener at Kew 'who was sufficiently diffident not to put a herbaceous border everywhere'. Elaine Harwood describes 'small quadrangles with neat hedges or foot-high railings ... careful patterns of paving and grass, which felt natural to the clients and themselves'. The General Arrangement plan by Powell & Moya, overlaid on to the present day plan shows that only a few trees correspond to what was actually planted.

The location of shrub beds closely corresponds to the detailed drawings, some of which survive in Westminster City Council Planning Archives. None of the drawings specifies individual trees or shrubs.

Powell & Moya would probably have been influenced by contemporary landscape thinking.

- Christopher Tunnard (architect and landscape architect] wrote in *Gardens in Modern Landscape*, 1948) '... planting would necessarily be of the simplest character for economy of upkeep, probably consisting of ornamental and shade trees with a few occasional plantations of flowering shrubs in massed arrangements to make easy cultivation.'
- Nan Fairbrother, landscape architect & founder member of the Landscape Institute, wrote in *New Lives, New Landscapes*, 1970 (but collected from

earlier articles), 'small scale effects and intimate details should be provided by hard landscape, such as patterns of cobbles and setts'.

The scheme is not a spectacular landscape design but it included some very up to the minute designs for pieces in the landscape. The 'Accumulator Tower', 1948 (*below*), is straight out of a boys comic book and only slightly less outrageous than their spectacular 'Skylon' which won them another competition at the Festival of Britain in 1950.



They also created the 'Flying Saucer' (*right*) for one of the playgrounds in 1955. Neither this nor any of their other playgrounds survive, probably victims of health and safety concerns, being largely made in brick and concrete and using sharp edges and changes in level.

The Powell & Moya practice went on to design for institutions, including hospitals, universities, The Museum of London and the Queen Elizabeth conference Centre beside Westminster Abbey.

Alan Powers of the Twentieth Century Society considered their work to, 'strike a middle way between the simplifications of high modernism and the reactionaries opposed to it ... they made buildings you did not notice.' Reyner Banham, the architectural critic, observed in 1974 that: 'they have



BB71806 © Courtauld Institute of Art

an uncanny and seemingly uncontrived ability to sense the mood of place and time and client...'

Years after its completion Philip Powell reflected that Churchill Gardens 'had too much road.'

Parks and gardens of North Bohemia, Silesia and Saxony

GHS Study Tour, September 2013

Report by Dick Knight

The 2012 GHS Study Tour to Moravia and South Bohemia had clearly whetted the appetite of many group members for a second 'go' at Central Europe, and the 2013 venture was eagerly awaited. Harriet Landseer was once again our organiser and guide, and the sense of continuity was immediately confirmed on the very first visit, to the landscape park at **Krásný Dvůr** in western Bohemia, where Inka Truxová (whom the 2012 group had met at tour-end in Prague) led our walk. GHS members may have heard Inka's presentation in London in 2010 on the restoration and management of historic gardens and parks in the Czech Republic. Working for what might be termed the Czech version of English Heritage, she sees Krásný Dvůr as an often overlooked site of particular merit. Dating from the 1780s, it was praised by famous visitors such as Goethe and is starting now to receive the attention it deserves.



Dick Knight

The 'lost' cascade at Krásný Dvůr

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Both Krásný Dvůr and the second destination that day, the better-known **Veltrusy**, remain state properties. The question of ownership and management was one which loomed large in all three countries we visited; the seven-day trip took the group to over twenty properties, of which fewer than half were privately owned, but (as will be explained) one needs to distinguish between restitution, re-acquisition and straightforward purchase. A brief historical background is needed.

After WWII communist governments compulsorily acquired aristocratic (and other) properties. This gave way only in the 1990s to a time when some form of restitution or re-acquisition became available. In the Czech Republic some former owners living abroad were encouraged to return, regain their houses, and renovate them. A prime example of this was at **Častolovice**, where President Havel himself encouraged the return of the Sternbergs. A more modest instance was at **Nové Město**, returned to the Bartoň family. The socialist era generated an attitude still prevalent today, which is that parks and many gardens are a common good, a public amenity to which the public should have unpaid access. This is indeed the legal position, irrespective of whether a country house has now returned to private hands, with obvious implications for investment in park restoration.

In Bohemia there has been great progress in such restoration over the past two decades, with evidence of considerable public and private funds well spent, but no lack of possible future projects. It is sometimes a matter of two steps forward and one back; 2013 was a year of devastatingly high waters in places which had barely recovered from their previous inundation. Veltrusy, sited on an island in the Vltava and so prone to flooding that its owner Count Chotek decamped to a vast new house at **Kačina** around 1800, was getting to grips with the results of its second great flood in eleven years.

It is hardly fair to single out particular properties for praise, but the present writer would leap at the chance to return to **Opočno** and Třebešice. At the first of these, there is an atmospheric descent down wooded slopes into a picturesque curving valley with abundant water; a place strangely disconnected somehow from the house it graces, although the latter enjoys a fine view over it.

Třebešice is small chateau brought back from total collapse and turned (by Italians!) into a 'restaurant with rooms' within an inspirational, joyous garden full of avant-garde artworks.

And so to Silesia, where there is a legacy of grand German houses stranded in what became the



Dick Knight

Veltrusy: temple, putti with garden tools



Dick Knight

Opočno the wooded river landscape

territory of others, Poland. Although German entrepreneurs are now acquiring properties they are not necessarily the original owners; this is not restitution. Polish business-people are following suit, and the first steps have been taken to develop historic house hotels and to restore lost landscapes in what was the *Hirschberger Tal*, the almost sub-alpine Hirschberg valley, where the Prussian

aristocracy built country retreats. A couple of the restored properties we saw (William Burges meets King Ludwig in Disneyland) shouted 'Over the top — moi?', and it has to be said that funding for landscape restoration, whether EU or private, had sometimes been used in a doubtless well-meant but very ill-advised way. There will no doubt have to be some future 'corrections'. That said, private investment has turned the chateau complex at **Łomnica** into an outstanding park hotel, and at **Bukowiec** (formerly Buchwald) sterling work is being done through the local Valley of Palaces and Gardens Foundation not just to restore but to interpret the historical landscape, created in the late 18th century for Count von Reden after he had visited Britain. John Quincy Adams came in 1800 and said 'It is what in England is commonly called an ornamental farm; and the grounds are laid out altogether in the English taste'.

Poland and Germany, Silesia and Lusatia, to be exact, share the outstanding landscape park created by Prince Pückler at **Bad Muskau**, once again a single entity with a circular route one can follow now that two bridges span the Neisse/Nysa River on the international border. Treated by the park's director, Cord Panning, to a talk and then a tour in horse-drawn coaches, we must rate this one of the highlights of the entire trip.

Pückler's other park in the former East Germany, at **Branitz**, is run by a foundation which nowadays

includes the present Count von Pückler (whom we met all too briefly, pressed for time), and one can only marvel at the way in which its creator, forced to sell his first large park, somehow distilled his experience and skills into something even closer to perfection. The lie of the land offered no favours, but Pückler produced subtle new contours as well as rather extravagant earth pyramids, planting trees judiciously to offer vistas while shaping the open spaces in a masterful way.

In Saxony the sentimental **Seifersdorfer Tal**, unfortunately viewed in pouring rain, stunning Baroque **Gross-Sedlitz**, and *chinoise* **Pillnitz** (another victim of inundation) were memorable destinations, the last of these reached in the proper way by water up the Elbe from Dresden, albeit on a vintage paddle-steamer rather than a royal barge. The Elbe was a grand climax to our trip, and our last evening was spent in and around the historic **Proschwitz** estate and winery, a final memory of re-acquisition because it has been gradually re-purchased since 1990, and much developed, by the present Prince zur Lippe, from whose family it was confiscated in 1945.

In sum, we experienced landscapes that merit a second visit, saw how different countries are coping with the challenge of heritage conservation, and learned about various aspects of European history, some of which had previously passed most of us by, such as the Potato War of the 1770s, commemorated in a garden temple at Veltrusy. A real study tour indeed.



Dick Knight

Branitz, Prince Pückler's subtle contours

Caring for the land: places, practices, experiences

Conference held at the Benetton Foundation, Treviso, Italy, 20 & 21 February 2014

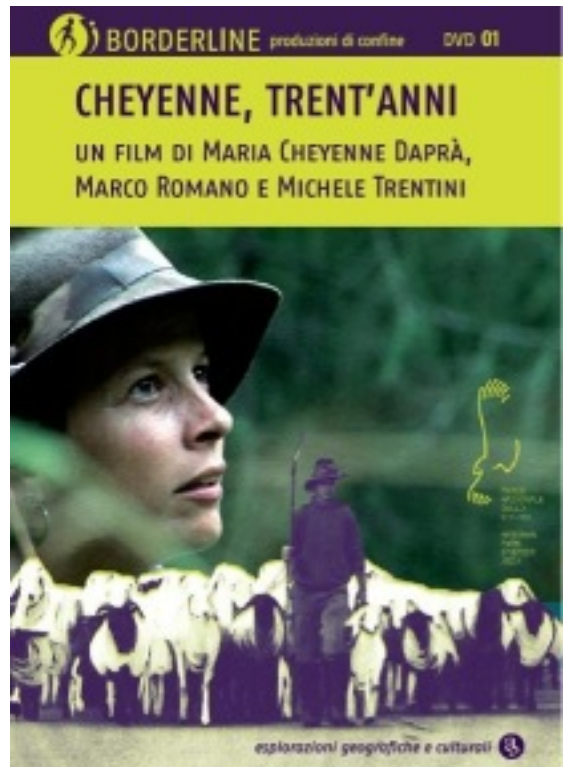
Report by Jan Woudstra

When the Benetton Foundation dedicated its 2014 conference 'Curare la terra: Luoghi, pratiche, esperienze', translated as 'Caring for the land: Places, practices and experiences', to the memory of the Dutch artist and 'ecotect' **Louis Guillaume le Roy** (1924–2012) they clearly had a wider perspective in mind than might be suggested by the title, which might be more narrowly defined as 'caring for the earth/Earth'. This duality in meaning was exploited by various speakers of this international conference and workshop, which as a result touched on a wide range of issues, but provided a basis for and opened the topic in what is intended to be the first of a series of conferences.

In the late 1960s Le Roy had started the first of his experimental projects in Heerenveen, The Netherlands, which recycled demolition materials and created these into intricate ecological networks. This involved the local residents and this pioneering in public engagement provided an interesting perspective as it was involvement in caring for the wider environment that was his main objective. He envisaged this through creative engagement, in which he foresaw a fusion of culture and nature that was to continue indefinitely in time and space. In his projects Le Roy exposed the political flaws that hindered this engagement, writing about them in an entertaining and highly critical way. Fifty years later however the environmental issues about which he was concerned are just as urgent; large scale monocultural practices and policies have further diminished small scale farming, and marginal farmland has been left unviable and untended as younger generations have moved to the cities.

With Flower Power and other similar protests in the late 1960s there were the first signs of dissatisfaction with the changes that were forced upon the citizens. **Jean Nogué**, a professor in human geography at the University of Gerona, Spain, has studied the different generations that have moved back to the land and their reasons in a talk focussing on 'New Ruralism'. Those who moved to the country in the 1960s & early 1970s did so primarily from ideological perspectives, often in communes and they generally have not lasted, with over 95% having disappeared. However from 1975 a new wave of young people moved to the countryside, particularly in areas of Central Spain and Massif Central in France that followed examples in North America. These were less radical, did not have any

utopian ideals, and generally continue to practice there today, promoting a 'slow attitude' and 'slow food', while enjoying the same commodities that are available in urban environments, now simplified by internet connections. Nogué's observations suggest that New Ruralism has been strengthened through communication networks by elevating them out of isolation, and making them part of a wider social and cultural movement that demands a new way of caring for the earth.



The reasons for moving to the countryside were most evocatively explored by the ethnographer and documentary maker **Marco Romano** who selected clips from two of his films *Cheyenne, trent'anni* (2008) and *Piccola terra* (2012). One demonstrated a young shepherdess grazing her sheep in a valley of the Trentino region to uncover the old roads and preserve the hillsides in the Alps by grazing of a landscape she loved. A second set of clips showed a middle-aged couple in Val d'Ossola (Piedmont) who had adopted an area of abandoned agricultural terraces that had become overgrown with trees, showing the hard work of grubbing up the roots.

The concept of adoption was used here to demonstrate the association of love and care and that of custodianship, the fact that we would only be able to care for a limited period. This was reinforced with clips from a 1963 film in which a similar couple toiled to construct terraces anew under what were very different socio-economic circumstances. A modern clip showing a French family repairing terraces in Italian countryside further highlighted the blurring of boundaries in this issue.

These cases provided good examples that in order to make an impact globally, it is important to act locally, whereas **Benno Albrecht**, professor in architecture and urban design at University of Venice, provided examples in which there was a necessity of acting globally. He concentrated on twentieth and twenty first century tree planting schemes of walls of trees that had featured and dominated policies in the dustbowl of the USA, the USSR, China and sub-Saharan Africa. These schemes serve for propaganda purposes but can also make a significant impact in recovering land for cultivation. However it is also clear that without engagement of the population in order to maintain and care for them, such large-scale schemes can be rather unwieldy, as they are prone to fail through lack long-term political commitment.

Politics and landscape are closely associated and the instance of a UNESCO project at Battir, Palestina by the architect and landscape architect **Giovanni Fontana Antonelli** illustrated some of the issues there. The area near Jerusalem, occupied by Israel since 1967, consists of a rich cultural landscape with ancient and classical archaeology overlaid by agricultural terraces. This continues to be lived in by some 22,000 Palestinians, whereas encroaching developments house some 50,000 Israelis. The threat of the proposed West Bank barrier would

greatly affect movement and trade of produce and also damage the landscape by inevitable further urbanization. The project engaged locals to survey the cultural assets of the area and with help provide guidelines for the management and conservation of the landscape. These in turn have become a tool not only in defence of livelihood, but was also recognized to provide a strategic tool in the defence of human rights that in 2011 was awarded the Melina Mercouri International Prize for protection and management of cultural landscapes.

Another example of how small interventions can make a difference and encourage a rootedness was illustrated in a report by **Anna Magrin** in Bangladesh. This is one of the most threatened countries by climate change with over fifty per cent projected to disappear under water within the next half century. Rising water has already brought a surge in demographics with cities growing exponentially, with extensive slums. These consist of standard stilt houses constructed of bamboo standing over rubbish filled fluctuating waters. One of the projects by landscape architect **Ashar Masha** was to encourage appropriation of the higher ground around the buildings for purposes of cultivation of vegetables and fruit, and to provide a bamboo platform that could be used as a common space, for play and recreation aimed at children. He also provided a small library, encouraging learning and changing behaviour and attitudes towards the environment generally.

Whereas this example was initially met with limited opportunities, it is clear that who we are is determined by our environments, and urban landscapes are often determined by a multiplicity of spaces. **Anna Lambertini**, landscape architect and author of *Urban Beauty: Aesthetics of resistance* (2013) took up the issue through Italo Calvino's lens of so-called 'common-place landscapes', exploring issues like common spaces for daily life, public and private, real and imagined nature, etc. Her concern was how to interrogate the ordinary and how to make this visible, and encourage engagement. She illustrated this with a series of projects by avant-garde landscape architects, which ranged from left over spaces, car parks, and roundabouts, which all had as a central theme restoring a sense of connectedness and belonging.

The ensuing discussions to the conference highlighted the belief that it was not ethical to leave the agricultural landscape unattended, that there is a responsibility to care and maintain it, and that it cannot be left in an overgrown state. This differs remarkably from attitudes in northern European



Federico Bugonero

Closed terraces in the Wadi Makhour Valley

agenda

countries where the return of nature is generally accepted and actually encouraged, with 'new nature' and 'wilding' being well accepted concepts. It appears that this has much to do with the belief expressed in the 1950s that 'Italy will remain beautiful as long as it is poor.' Another concern was that the landscape is now dominated by fences everywhere, in contrast to Scandinavia for example. It was hoped that the Year of Family Farming 2014 would draw attention to the issue and highlight the need for caring for the land.

The conference was well organised by Simonetta Zanon and Luigi Latini of the Fondazione Benetton Studi Ricerche, who also chaired various sessions.

Others who explored themes on caring for the land were Laurence Baudalet, an ethnographer in charge of communal gardening in the Paris region;

David Haney on Leberecht Migge's contribution to the self sufficiency movement; Paulo Bürgi on his project decorating reclaimed agricultural land at Mechtenberg near Gelsenkirchen, Germany; Dominico Luciano who spoke on care of places in the Nordic countries; and Miguel Vitale, who demonstrated that the concept of place in Argentina continues to be dominated by complicated philosophy rather than the nature of the site. The conference was properly underbuilt by philosopher Massimo Venturi Ferriolo and art historian Hervé Brunon, who provided appropriate references combined with some interesting observations. Jan Woudstra provided the keynote on Louis le Roy.

The conference was conducted in the native languages, supported by competent simultaneous translators.

Governor's House and Garden, a correction

Sarah Joiner

Colleen Morris, a garden historian and heritage consultant in Sydney and an Australian member of the Garden History Society spotted my short note in **GHS news 93**, Spring 2014, p36, and has been very helpful in clarifying a mistake I made. Colleen is the author of *Lost gardens of Sydney* (2008).

Both paintings shown are depictions of First Government House at Sydney Cove, not Parramatta. Governor Phillip also had a further Government House, now known as Old Government House, at Parramatta, which was some distance away. He would travel between the houses on a regular basis.

Colleen emailed to say that research has shown that indeed the bush around Sydney Cove was dense to begin with; less so at Parramatta where the trees were large and wide apart like an English park at the time. However, early colonial painters found Australian vegetation difficult to paint and inevitably their results looked European. The George Raper painting is generally considered to be on the earlier side, more 1789 than 1790 when the 'garden' was for crops and the Watling more like 1792. The two trees in circular beds appear in no other paintings of First Government House.

The references to the planting in the original article, of course, all refer to the Government House at Parramatta, not Sydney Cove.



View of the east side of Sydney Cove, George Raper



Governor Phillip's house, Sydney Cove, Thomas Watling

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other events

our round-up of exhibitions, lectures, seminars and study days by other organisations

Groves Lost, Found & Made:

The History of Groves

Department of Landscape, Sheffield
Annual Landscape History Conference

Friday 19 & Saturday 20 September

Introduction to the Conference by Dr Jan Woudstra on *The grove from Classical period to the present day*; Tom Williamson on *Groves in context: a long-term history of woodland aesthetics*; David Jacques on *Seventeenth century sacred groves*; Jim Bartos on *The seventeenth and early eighteenth century literature on wildernesses and groves*; Alison Hardie on *The Chinese garden grove*. After lunch, Haejoon Jung on *The Korean village grove*; Gert Groening on *Nature mystification and the heroes' groves in early-twentieth-century Germany*; Brent Elliott on *Colourful groves; the origins of the woodland garden*. Questions followed by Marc Treib on *Dan Kiley: Space, Lines, & Groves*.

Saturday begins with an introduction to the Conservation projects: Brian Dix on *The archaeology of groves and wildernesses at Wrest and Boughton*; Michael Klemperer on *A critical review of the design and management of the wilderness at Wentworth Wilderness*; John Glenn on *History and reflections of a scheme to restore the wilderness at Ayscoughfee Hall*. After Lunch there is a field trip to Bramham Park, Wetherby; tour of the wildernesses and groves.

Cost: £65. To Book: onlineshop.shef.ac.uk/

Botany of Desire: the Role of Nurseries in the Irish Garden & Beyond

at the National Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin
Friday 10 to Sunday 12 October 2014

On Friday, following registration, a talk by Terence Reeves-Smyth on *Three centuries of the Nursery Trade in Ireland*.

On Saturday, talks by Roy Lancaster on *Hilliers of Winchester. 150 years of Plant Introductions*; Mary Forrest on *Mount Usher and the Walpoles 1890–1980; their Nursery Suppliers*; John Joe Costin on *The Irish Nursery Trade: Past, Present and Future*.

A visit to Glasnevin, to see The Library, Nursery Catalogue Display, & tour of the Botanic Gardens, followed by Dinner at the Botanic Gardens, Glasnevin, with Seamus O'Brien on *The Himalayan Collector's Historic Role in Irish Gardens and Nurseries*.

Sunday has talks by Charles Nelson on *Nature and Nurture: Wild and Cultivated Sources of Plants for Irish Gardens*; Reg Maxwell on *The Irish Rose: 130 Years of Rose Breeding in Ireland*; Brian Duncan on *The World Wide Influence of Irish Daffodils*. We conclude with a

RHS Lindley Libraries Talks at Lindley Library, London

British Gardens in Time

Katie Campbell

6.30pm, Tuesday 16 September

Inspiring Allotments: their past & future

Lia Leendertz

6.30pm, Tuesday 7 October

Maximum Flavour, Minimum Labour

James Wong

6.30pm, Tuesday 18 November

Cost: £7 RHS members; £10 non-members.
Tickets: 0845 612 1253. Doors open 6pm for pre-talk drinks.

visit to **The Casino at Marino** to see the Exhibition 'Paradise Lost: Lord Charlemont's Garden at Marino'. Cost: £145 or €175. Cheques or BACs payable to: Northern Ireland Heritage Gardens Committee. Send to: NIHGC 52 Temple Rise Templepatrick Co. Antrim BT39 0AG. Payment can also be made via our website: www.nihgc.org or contact: reg.maxwell@nihgc.org

Modern War Gardens: Paradise Lost lecture by Lalage Snow

at the Garden Museum

6.30pm, Wednesday 15 October

Join photojournalist Lalage Snow as she takes a look at the unrelenting conflict in the modern world and how the inhabitants of modern war zones in the Middle East and parts of Europe have succeeded in not only surviving but flourishing in these hostile environments.

Cost: £15, Friends of the Museum: £10

The Utopian Universities

IHR Conference at Senate House, London

Friday 23 & Saturday 24 October

A conference devoted to the new universities of the 1960s. Rather than duplicate the various individual jubilees which have been and are taking place in the seven universities (Essex, Lancaster, Sussex, UEA, UKC, Warwick and York) themselves, our aim is to look back at this moment in the history of higher education.

other events

The conference will examine comparatively the aspirations and achievements around curricular development, campus design, philanthropy, the student experience, and local participation. Additionally, the conference will look back to the pioneers, such as Keele; to the successors, such as Stirling and Ulster; and also consider the legacy of the utopian universities in the modern world today.

Cost: £85, Friends/Fellows: £75, Student/Retired: £65.

The Tradescant's Orchard lecture by Barrie Juniper at the Garden Museum

6.30pm, Tuesday 28 October

Join plant scientist and author Barrie Juniper as he reveals the mystery behind a vibrant set of watercolours of orchard fruits which was found among the manuscripts of Elias Ashmole, whose collection formed the basis of the Ashmolean Museum, and is now held in the Bodleian Library.

Although traditionally associated with the John Tradescants, the renowned seventeenth century gardeners and plant hunters, very little was known about this mysterious treasure. Juniper set out to discover the unique story behind the manuscript, who painted it and why.

Cost: £15, Friends of the Museum: £10

Defiant Gardens: Making Gardens in Wartime lecture by Kenneth Helpand at the Garden Museum

6.30pm, Thursday 13 November

Why is it that in the midst of a war, one can still find gardens? Wartime gardens are dramatic examples of what landscape architect Kenneth Helpand calls defiant gardens, gardens created in extreme social, political, economic, or cultural conditions.

Cost: £15, Friends of the Museum: £10

The Historic Buildings, Parks & Gardens Event

**at The Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre
9am to 5pm, Tuesday 18 November**

Members of the GHS are offered **free entry** to the annual Event, where over 70 exhibitors will be displaying a broad selection of products and services used in the care, repair, conservation and restoration of historic buildings, their contents and surrounding landscapes. In 2013 the Event attracted over 1,300 visitors which reflects the ever growing interest in the heritage market place.

The Garden and Science History of Gardens and Landscapes at the Institute of Historical Research Seminars at the Senate House, London

Curiosity, Commerce and Conversation: Nursery Gardens in 18th Century London

Dr Richard Coulton

6pm, Thursday 2 October

Crafty, Moral, Killer Plants: the Reception and Influence of Darwinism in 19th Century Botanical Circles?

Dr Jim Endersby

6pm, Thursday 16 October

The Garden as a Scientific Space in the 18th Century

Clare Hickman

6pm, Thursday 30 October

The Scientific Gardens at Woburn Abbey, 1800–40

Dr Paul Smith

6pm, Thursday 27 November

A Hotbed of Genius?

Botany and the Commercial Plant Trade in 18th Century London and Paris

Dr. Sarah Easterby-Smith

6pm, Thursday 11 December

Seminars take place in Room 206, North Block of Senate House, Malet Street, London WC1E 7HU.
Contact: ihrghardenhistory@gmail.com

This year's speakers are **Richard Compton**, President HHA on *Preserving and promoting Britain's private heritage since 1973*; HHA Guest Speaker is **Sir Simon Jenkins**, Chairman of the National Trust; and the HHA/Smiths Gore Lecture will be by **Jean-Charles & Alexandre Vogüé** of Vaux le Vicomte.

To attend the Event **free of charge** please register on our website: www.hall-mccartney.co.uk, **selecting source code PR**, email: events@hall-mccartney.co.uk or phone: 01462 896 688, or write to us at: The Historic Buildings Parks & Gardens Event, Hall-McCartney Ltd, PO Box 21, Baldock Herts SG7 5SH.

other news & views

for news, letters, comments



Institute for Historical Research

MA in Garden and Landscape History at the Institute for Historical Research

Students will learn how to acquire knowledge from a range of sources including history, horticulture, architecture, garden archaeology and other subjects, to develop an appreciation of the study of garden history as a cultural discipline.

Students will learn about the differences in garden-making over time and in different countries, from the 16th century to the present day in Britain, Europe and America. Emphasis will be on design and management, ownership, and the cultures from which these examples have evolved.

This degree will provide an academically rigorous environment in which students will learn a range of academic research and writing skills. Teaching will be based at the IHR, London, with a strong emphasis on tutor/student interaction in class. There will be practical sessions at museums and libraries, as well as visits to gardens in London. There will also be an optional field trip to Italy in the spring.

The course will run on a full-time basis over **one year**, on Thursdays from 10am to 5pm and will be divided between two terms. The third term will be dedicated to dissertation preparation and writing. Details at: www.history.ac.uk/study/ma-garden-history

Students must complete core module 1, core module 2 (selecting three options from the six provided), and core module 3: a 15,000 word dissertation in order to be awarded the full MA. However, there are a range of options available for flexible study. Those wishing to pursue this course on a **part-time** basis can complete Modules 1 and 2 (the taught elements of the course) in their first year and Module 3, the dissertation, in their second year. Module 1 can be undertaken as a standalone unit leading to a PGCert, the credit for which can be banked, to complete the MA at a later date.

Please contact: stephanie.de-ryckman@sas.ac.uk

The Boboli gardens, Florence

Conservation of the Historic Environment at Birmingham City University

A new flexible course, allowing you to study and develop your continual professional development (CPD) while working. The CPD element to this course is delivered in lectures and seminars as well as practical workshops, enabling you to develop and enhance your practical knowledge and skills of conservation practice as well as building materials and conservation. These courses are also offered as part of the course at MA level. You can undertake the full MA over two years on a part-time basis, or as alternative you can study to Postgraduate Diploma or Certificate level.

The course structure consists of two core modules that offer background knowledge in Historic Environments and Conservation Practice. This inevitably includes the built environment but takes into account wider issues such as conservation areas, historic landscape characterisation, local identity, the rural environment, and collections management. It also covers key skills such as the legislative background, presentation and advocacy, and financing conservation.

All the courses are delivered over two days on a Friday and Saturday. The Lecture courses will take place in the New Birmingham City University Parkside Building and include how to write a Conservation Plan and Conservation ethics and Philosophy. The practical workshops are take place on sites throughout the West Midlands and Key subjects include: training in lime; stone; timber; ferrous and non-ferrous metals; ceramic building materials; twentieth century building materials; building recording; and the management of traditional estates, parks and gardens.

other news & views

The course will be run by **Harriet Devlin MBE** who has joined the Birmingham School of Architecture. Harriet was recently conferred with MBE for services to heritage and the environment in the Queen's Birthday Honours List and brings many years' experience of conservation practice and teaching to the centre of Birmingham

For any information about any of the courses, please contact Course Administrator Shajdha Anwar: 0121 331 7880 or email: Shajdha.Anwar@bcu.ac.uk. For more information on the MA programme visit the University's website: www.bcu.ac.uk/conservation-ma

John Gardener's plants: a reinterpretation

John Edmondson writes

A manuscript poem on gardening attributed to 'Ion Gardener' (John Gardener), thought to date from the late-15th century, has been preserved in the library of Trinity College, Cambridge. In 1894 the Hon. Alicia, Lady Amherst published a communication to the Society of Antiquaries in which she identified most of the plants mentioned in the poem, citing their modern English and scientific names, and John Harvey contributed a more modern appraisal in *Garden History* 13:2, 1985, pp83–101, correcting some of her earlier suppositions.

As these early references to garden plants are of particular interest to botanists, I have now published an article in the newsletter of the Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland, *BSBI News* (September 2014) reinterpreting some of the names of these plants and commenting on their status as archaeophytes; plants now well established in unmanaged habitats which are thought to be of ancient garden origin.

GHS members can obtain a copy of the article by writing to the author at a.books@mac.com

A Capability Puzzle

Tom Worboys believes a family heirloom may be Capability Brown's desk. The desk (*right*), featuring skilled craftsmanship, brass work and an ebony inlay, originally belonged to Tom's grandfather, Sir Walter Worboys, a key figure in the design world. The desk has been passed down through the family, and now resides with Tom.

'I've had it since 2003. I wanted to get the story, I need to dot the i's and cross the t's. And if it is Capability Brown's desk, then more people need to enjoy it. It's a piece of history, potentially, and it's a very important piece of history if we can prove it,' he said.

'All my siblings remember my grandfather and my father mentioning the desk's association with Capability. We haven't got any proper paperwork but I've been speaking to all the right people. It's piecing the jigsaw puzzle together,' he said.

Many avenues have been explored to date. Tom has appeared on Antiques Roadshow, spoken to experts and has been in touch with the Royal Palaces Curators at Hampton Court.

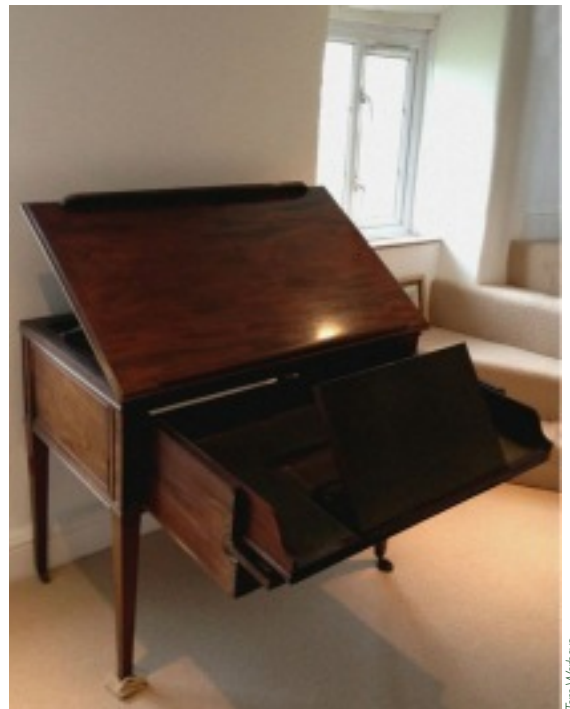
Steffie Shields, chairman AGT, believes there is a chance the desk could have been Capability Brown's.

'It is quite a rare, unusual and elegant piece, unfortunately unsigned by any maker. Brown was very inventive, he may have designed it himself and then had it made,' she said.

'However, with no real background provenance it is hard to prove after all this time. The desk does not feature in Brown's will. His beloved surveying instruments he left to his eldest son Lancelot Junior and all his furniture and effects were left to his wife Bridget Brown (buried at Fenstanton with Brown). If her will can be traced then that is a possible lead.'

Tom hopes to share the desk with the public if its original owner can be proven.

Tom continues to search for any information that might solve this Capability Brown mystery. Please contact the Capability Brown Festival team with any information, on info@capabilitybrown.org. You can find all sorts of CapabilityBrown related items on the CB300 site at: www.capabilitybrown.org/news



Tom Worboys

GHS goes hello!

Last September GHS Council member Daniel Glass took a sabbatical (or long honeymoon) after his wedding to Gemma and they toured the world. To prove how gardens reconnect, by pure chance they walked into Robert Peel, then GHS Vice Chairman, in the Japanese Garden in Argentina's capital, Buenos Aires, in February. This surprise meeting was followed by lunch in a cloistered restaurant in the city.

£34.5m Lottery investment in UK's public parks

In July the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and Big Lottery Fund announced £34.5million of investment in 13 parks across the UK. This new funding follows the publication of the HLF's recent report (see p.17) which revealed the UK's public parks are at serious risk of decline unless innovative new ways of funding and maintaining them are found.

Alongside restoration of important historic features including bandstands and gatehouses, and the installation of new community facilities including a skateboard park and children's play areas, this funding will also deliver a range of activities designed to help these parks to be more sustainable. Projects receiving funding today include new cafes and skills training for volunteers and friends groups.

Minister for Communities Stephen Williams said, 'It's great to see the Heritage Lottery Fund and Big Lottery Fund supporting local communities in this way and injecting £34.5m into 13 parks to help transform them. Parks bring people together and help breathe life into communities, providing opportunities and space for both reflection and physical activity. They are particularly important to people in town and city centres where many residents don't have their own gardens for relaxation and for their children to play.'

Avenue House, Finchley

Run by the Avenue House Trust, a grant of £2.1million will restore this Grade II listed landscape which was originally created for the ink magnate Henry Stephens by leading 'gardenesque' landscape designer, Robert Marnock. The gardens have suffered from under-investment for decades and this project will restore all of the principal features of the Marnock design including the terrace, pond, rockery and wet garden, Bothy Garden and the Water Tower.



Robert Peel

In addition, the Grade II listed stable block will be developed into a new café, profits from which will go back into maintaining the newly refurbished park.

Hemel Water Gardens, Hemel Hempstead

To be delivered in partnership by Dacorum Borough Council and the Friends of Jellicoe Water Gardens, a £2.4m grant will see the transformation of The Water Gardens in Hemel Hempstead which is a Grade II registered landscape designed by Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe in 1957 (below).

The vision is to return the Water Gardens to an outstanding green space and source of pride to local residents, removing it from English Heritage's 'At Risk' register and dramatically improving biodiversity.

A new programme of events and activities will ensure the garden remains popular with residents and tourists. The grant will fund skills training for Friends groups, volunteers, students and trainees so they can contribute



other news & views

to on-going maintenance and other tasks. The park will also continue to work with local businesses.

Moor Park, Preston

Moor Park is a Victorian park located to the north of the centre of Preston. Covering 40 hectares, it is Grade II* on the Register of Historic Parks and Gardens. This £1.7m grant will restore important heritage features including the grotto, bowling pavilions, changing pavilion and observatory. The original planting schemes will also be reinstated. New facilities will include a new skate park and new snack bar. This grant will also enable the park to develop new volunteering opportunities and skills training.

The 13 parks and cemeteries receiving Lottery funding are:

HLF/Big Lottery Fund joint grants in England

Victoria Park, Ilkeston £740,800

Hemel Water Gardens, Hemel Hempstead
£2,467,700

Ampthill Park, Bedfordshire £606,800

Cassiobury Park, Watford £4,534,900

Avenue House, Finchley £2,154,700

Gunnersbury Park, Ealing and Hounslow £4,671,000

Moor Park, Preston £1,725,000

Beckenham Place Park, Lewisham £4,908,400

Beddington Park and Grange, Sutton £3,203,900

Northwood Cemetery Heritage Project, Isle of Wight £1,064,000

Kearsney Abbey and Russell Gardens, Dover
£3,389,400

Pearson Park, Hull £2,343,600

HLF only funded grants

Levenshoe Park, Dumbarton £2,660,800

The Swiss Garden in Bedfordshire re-opened on 31 July after £3.6million restoration

from the HLF:

The little-known Swiss Garden created in the heart of Bedfordshire in the early 1800s has been saved from decay thanks to a grant of £2.8m from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), which has helped fund a vital £3.6m restoration project to its crumbling fairytale-style landscape and buildings.

Looking as though it has stepped off the pages of a European children's storybook, its quirky buildings, bridges and ornamental structures, act as focal points on a magical journey along woodland paths, through grassy glades and past tumbling water. Its makeover has transported the nine-acre garden back to its Regency appearance, when its creator, Lord Robert Henley Ongley dropped this 'alpine' landscape into its unlikely Bedfordshire setting close to Biggleswade.



The restored Swiss Cottage and planting

Previously hidden behind the hangars of The Shuttleworth Collection aviation museum, the Swiss Garden is now set to take equal billing and prominence as a visitor attraction after its extensive makeover. The garden's 13 listed buildings and structures, including six listed at Grade II*, have undergone careful conservation using traditional materials and techniques where possible. The Swiss Cottage, has been re-thatched using water reed from Norfolk, its finials re-gilded with 23-carat gold leaf and missing or broken rustic decoration replaced using slices of Monterey Pine cones and hazel and willow twigs. Almost 4,300 panes of glass in the Grotto and Fernery have been replaced with hand-cut handmade cylinder glass, and rosette detailing replaced on the Pond Cascade Bridge.

Over 25,600 shrubs and 8,400 bulbs have been planted in 53 beds and 340 metres of path laid using 300 tonnes of gravel. Lost vistas have been reinstated recreating the scenic windows which opened onto very deliberate stage-set views of buildings, bridges, urns, arches and other garden features as originally intended by Lord Ongley.

With the original layout of the Swiss Garden so intact, it is a unique example of the 'Swiss Picturesque' style. Located close to Lord Ongley's mansion within the park that was a fraction of his 2000 or so acre Old Warden Estate, it took eight years to create and was completed in the 1820s.

It is not known if he created it after visiting Switzerland as part of a 'Grand Tour', or if he was influenced by the fashion for rustic, Swiss-style architecture popularised by the Prince Regent.

With his fortunes waning, Lord Ongley sold the estate to industrialist Joseph Shuttleworth in 1872, who set about improving the garden, which was by

then in decline. He reworked some of its features, introduced new plants and created a formal terrace and broadwalk to host elaborate garden parties and pageants. These Victorian features have also been restored, including some of the artificial Pulhamite rockwork he introduced, although he retained the essence of the original Regency garden, including its layout and buildings.

His grandson Richard Shuttleworth inherited the Old Warden Estate on his 23rd birthday but was killed in a flying accident in 1940 at the age of 31. Four years later his mother Dorothy Shuttleworth founded the Richard Ormonde Shuttleworth Remembrance Trust as a permanent memorial to him.

After the Second World War, the garden gradually fell into a perilous state of disrepair. In 1976 a partnership was formed between the Shuttleworth Trust and Bedfordshire County Council, who took over the lease and undertook some repair and restoration work, although the Shuttleworth Trust is responsible for the garden's day-to-day management. The garden and its buildings, along with the surrounding registered landscape of Old Warden Park, were placed on the English Heritage Heritage At Risk Register. The restoration works now mean that the Trust can request English Heritage to take the garden off the At Risk Register.

The Swiss Garden is open from 9.30am to 5pm daily, and admission is £8 for adults and £7 for seniors, with children under 16 free.
www.theswissgarden.org/restoration/

Tradescants' Treasures: River Thames Sponsored Swim 2014 125 Miles, 8 hours a day for 12 days, 70,000 calories and 180,000 strokes of crawl...

In September the Garden Museum's Director, Christopher Woodward, **will swim** the length of the River Thames from Oxford to London in an epic journey that mirrors the journey of the Tradescant Collection when it left Lambeth for Oxford over 350 years ago. If successful, Christopher will become only the fourth person to swim this distance.

The Museum has now received an award of £3.4 million from the Heritage Lottery Fund to restore its ancient site next to Lambeth Palace on the banks of the Thames, and to build new galleries to tell the story of gardens in Britain, plus extra space for a cafe, education and community activities. By 2016 we must raise £3.4million towards this, and every pound donated will be matched by the HLF.

Part of this development project will be to recreate an element of Tradescants' Ark; a collection of objects assembled from their travels by the

Tradescant family, the gardener-scholars whose legacy lies at the heart of the Garden Museum. This cabinet of curiosities, known as 'The Ark', was a wonder of 17th century London. After the younger Tradescant's death the collection was bequeathed to Elias Ashmole, a neighbour in Lambeth, who took it, by boat, to Oxford where it became the founding collection of the Ashmolean Museum; 'Tredeskin's Rarities are come downe from London by water'. With exceptional generosity, the Ashmolean will place on long-term loan around 30 items from the collection to enable us to install a section of the Ark in the Museum, the wonder that drew visitors to Lambeth 350 years ago.

This story inspired Christopher to retrace the journey of the collection that first left Lambeth by water for Oxford in 1683. His earlier sponsored swims of the Hellespont and the Strait of Gibraltar raised over £35,000 for the Museum's collection and setting up the archive of garden design.

Donations towards this swim will go towards the recreation of the Ark as a permanent installation at the Museum, which will also count towards our target of matching the HLF award for the entire development project. So far, donations have reached £14,000 of our target of £40,000.

If you donate £500 or more, you can 'adopt' a loan for the Ark and your support will be recognised in the relevant displays in our new galleries. Please contact us for more information.

To donate online:
www.justgiving.com/ChristopherWoodward

Walking the Thames Path

Liz Ware writes:

I'm walking 100km along the Thames Path in mid September to raise funds for **Gardening Leave** and the **Garden Museum**.

Gardening Leave uses horticulture to tend 'the invisible wounds of conflict'. I had a chance encounter with a young war veteran earlier this year and it made me realise how desperate these young men are for help. Gardening Leave is carrying out essential work.

I'm involved in a small way with the Garden Museum's development project. In short, with funding it will be able to build an archive of modern garden design and expand its already excellent Schools and Education Programme. Its director, Christopher Woodward, is swimming the Thames to raise funds for part of the project. My walk needs rather less effort and will be less testing on my digestion system. Nevertheless, I'd love your support.

www.justgiving.com/LizWareThamesWalk/

The British Legion's Fields in Trust Centenary Fields programme

Paul Stamper writes:

The Duke of Cambridge recently visited War Memorial Park in Coventry, the first green space in the country to be dedicated as part of the British Legion's 'Fields in Trust Centenary Fields' programme. The Duke called on councils to secure the long-term future of memorial parks honouring Britain's war dead.

So, with EH's work on memorial parks we are in the van. I have flagged it to Rachael [Stamper] at PGUK, and hope to learn more soon about its plans for a gazetteer, and how EH might help. In the short term I will be in touch with the Legion, as clearly there is an overlap with the 'gazetteer to designation' route we are suggesting.

Duke of Cambridge plans to protect War Memorial Fields

from the *Bristol Post*, 19 July 2014

The Duke of Cambridge writes:

As President of the charity Fields in Trust, I had the privilege of being in Coventry's War Memorial Park [earlier in July] to launch their Centenary Fields Programme, the charity's initiative to safeguard war memorial parks up and down the country from ever being lost to residential or commercial development in the future. Our aim is to protect one memorial field in each local authority district in the country as a way of creating a living legacy of the Great War centenary commemorations. The plan is not terribly complicated, there will be a memorial field that already exists near you, nor is it particularly costly, but it does require support.

The unprecedented horrors of the Great War touched neighbourhoods in this country in a way that we can barely imagine these days, even for those of us who have served in the Armed Forces. War memorials for the first time became part of our national landscape: crosses, statues, plaques, you will know where your nearest is. But some communities were even more ambitious, setting aside fields for recreation in memory of those who had fallen.

No response could ever be adequate to the scale of death, but these spaces could, in a very modest way, give expression to the freedom for which men had fought, or at the very least to a sense in which men had died so that the world of the living would become a better, more peaceful, place. The spaces were living memorials, spaces for reflection and enjoyment, stillness and activity.

As someone who has always enjoyed sport, and now as a new father, I appreciate the importance of allowing our children the freedom to experience outdoor space. And not just children, adults benefit

just as much, for a stroll, to walk the dog, to exercise or just to get some fresh air. Outdoor space is more than a nice-to-have for every community, it is an inalienable part of living well.

Over the past one hundred years, further conflicts have renewed each generation's relationship with these spaces of reflection. 'The war to end all wars' was sadly not the end of the story. Yet pressures are mounting on these spaces if they are to continue to serve their purpose. They may not survive another century without help. Residential and commercial pressures mean many have been already lost, and more will be lost without the kind of safeguarding that Fields in Trust offers.

I am delighted that Fields in Trust is working with the Royal British Legion, the national custodian of remembrance, to protect these Centenary Fields. But their work cannot be achieved without the support of the local community. I sincerely hope that other local authorities and landowners will follow Coventry City Council's lead and work with Fields in Trust and the Royal British Legion to dedicate at least one recreational space near you.

I believe it is our duty to preserve these important outdoor spaces, not only given the vital role they play at the heart of local communities, but also to help our children, and their children, understand the importance of remembrance. I am aware of the unique and highly trusted relationship that local newspapers have with the community they serve and so I am grateful to this paper for helping support what I believe is a very important local issue.

The anniversary of the Great War will be commemorated in many ways over the next four years. Through this significant contribution, Fields in Trust and the Royal British Legion are providing a fitting way for communities to both remember the past and protect the future.

Yorkshire Sculpture Park wins top museum prize

Javier Pes writes:

The Art Fund Prize often throws up a surprise winner and this year was no exception. Peter Murray, the founder and executive director of the Yorkshire Sculpture Park (YSP), near Leeds in the north of England, confessed that he was still finishing his main course when the theatre and film director Sam Mendes declared the YSP the winner of the 2014 award last night, 9 July, at a ceremony and dinner hosted by London's National Gallery.

The YSP impressed the judges of the award, which comes with a £100,000 prize, with the excellence of its programming, featuring exhibitions and installations by Ai Weiwei, Yinka Shonibare, and the



Jonny Wilde

Art Fund Prize judges were impressed with the exhibition of Yinka Shonibare's works, among others

relocation of Roger Hiorns's *Seizure*, 2008/2013, a move made possible by the Art Fund. Originally commissioned by Artangel and the Jerwood Charitable Foundation, the artist transformed an empty flat in south London into a strange, blue copper sulphate crystal grotto. Hiorns and Shonibare were among the audience to share Murraray's delight and surprise.

This year's finalists were the much fancied Mary Rose Museum, Portsmouth and the Ditchling Museum of Art and Crafts, both in the south of England, as well as London's Hayward Gallery and Tate Britain, and in the east of England, the Sainsbury Centre for the Visual Arts, Norwich.

Brilliant blogging

David Marsh writes:

Parks and Gardens UK 'Britain's leading on-line resource for historic parks and gardens providing freely accessible, accurate and inspiring information on UK parks, gardens and designed landscapes' now has an interesting blog covering anything and everything to do with historic parks and gardens. It tries to be a mix of both serious and whimsical and as someone commented recently it's 'a wonderful opportunity to follow all those leads that one normally has to put aside as 'not relevant' to the task in hand! Recent posts have included Gardeners on Desert Island Discs; Mechanical Elephants; Royal Menageries; Cemetery design; the first TV gardener; Derry and Toms roof gardens; Humphry Repton and several surprises in Southend!

It comes out about once a week, and if you go to www.parksandgardensuk.wordpress.com scroll to the bottom of the page and enter your address and press follow these words of wisdom [I can say that because, of course, I write them] will arrive painlessly in your email without any further effort on your part; apart from reading them!

Why not give it a go!

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The GHS is a Registered Charity No: 1053446 and a Company Limited by Guarantee, Registered in England and Wales No: 3163187

GHS events diary

- Friday 26 September GHSS Edinburgh *Public Gardens and Squares Conference*
- Wednesday 1 October Hagley Hall: *Paradise Regained* Research and Recording Study Day with AGT and Hereford & Worcester Gardens Trust
- 3 to 9 October Autumn Study Tour: Gardens of the Italian Lakes
- Tuesday 14 October Evening Seminar at the Garden Museum:
Language and Landscape in the Eighteenth Century
- Saturday 8 November GHS Autumn Study Day at the Garden Museum:
on Memorial Landscapes of WWI
- Monday 10 November GHSS Edinburgh Lecture: Michael Ridsdale on
Managing the Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal Estate

Dates for 2015

- Wednesday 28 January GHS Winter Lecture Series, Cowcross Street, London
- Wednesday 11 & 25 February
- Wednesday 11 & 25 March
- Thursday 30 April Seminar on *Imagery for Garden History*
at the Linnean Society, Burlington House (see box below)
- Friday 24 July 5th GHS Graduate Symposium, Newcastle
- 24 to 26 July GHS and AGT Annual AGMs and Summer Conference, Newcastle
- August Study Tour: to Gardens and Landscapes of the Pacific Northwest

Details and booking information for all GHS events can be found inside, on pages 8 to 11, or look at our website: www.gardenhistorysociety.org/events

30 April 2015

Our seminar on *Imagery for Garden History* at the Linnean Society, Burlington House, will be followed by an evening Guided Tour of *Paradise Preserved* by the Curator of the exhibition of the Queen's pictures of Gardens at the Queens Gallery, Buckingham Palace. Application forms and details available in the next mailing.

GHS news correspondence and items to the GHS head office
or email the editor: news@gardenhistorysociety.org

GHS news deadlines: 1 February & 1 August, distribution 1 March & 1 September

GHS micro-news deadlines: 10 May & 10 November, distribution 1 June & 1 December with our journal

GHS news ISSN 1475-8377

Design and layout by Charles Boot

Printed by Lavenham Press, 47 Water Street, Lavenham, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 9RN