

# GHS *news*

95 Spring 2015



# THE GARDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

## news

### Proposed merger between the GHS and the AGT

The GHS AGM on 25 July 2014 in Cardiff agreed 'in principle' to merge with the Association of Gardens Trusts (AGT). The AGT agreed at its own AGM on 5 September 2014. At the AGMs it was agreed to establish a Transitional Committee to work out the detail of the proposed merger.

The Transitional Committee has eight members; Jeremy Garnett, Bill Billington, Jim Bartos and Charles Boot from the GHS, with Mike Dawson, Lisa Watson, Ian Varndell and Fiona Hope from the AGT. The Committee has set up a website to allow access to merger documents available for consultation and information about the merger process: [www.agt-ghstogether.org](http://www.agt-ghstogether.org)

The Transitional Committee has drafted Articles of Association for the new organisation, with the help of Russell-Cooke Solicitors. The GHS Council and the AGT Committee at their meetings in January 2015 agreed to submit the Charitable Objects of the new organisation for Charity Commission approval. The final draft Articles are available on the agt-ghstogether website and it is proposed they should be agreed by the GHS Council and the AGT Committee at their meetings in March and April.

The working title of the new organisation is: **The Gardens Trust**. Many suggestions for the name have been considered by the Committee, including use of the word 'historic'. The Committee's view is that we will be a new organisation, with a new direction, which not only encompasses the historic but also new parks, gardens and designed landscapes. In the Committee's view the proposed name **The Gardens Trust** is short, simple, easily communicated and emphasises the link with County Gardens Trusts (CGTs).

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## copy deadlines

for **GHS micro-news 95a**: 10 May  
for **GHS news 96**: 1 August 2015

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The Society gratefully acknowledges  
the support of Alan Baxter and Associates

Our cover features part of the Grand Cascade,  
the Alnwick Garden's extraordinary centrepiece,  
photo by Letitia Yetman.

The Transitional Committee has prepared a draft business plan for the new organisation. The GHS Council and AGT Committee agreed in January that the draft business plan should be made available for comment. The draft is available on the agt-gthstogether website. Continued publication of our journal **Garden History** is considered by the Committee to be a prime function of the new combined organisation.

It is proposed the final decision on the merger should be taken at the GHS and AGT AGMs which are due to be held separately on the afternoon of Friday 24 July 2015 at Newcastle University. If the merger is agreed, it is proposed to hold a short AGM of the new organisation to elect the first Board. It is further proposed there will be a short first Board meeting immediately after this AGM to formally elect Committee chairmen. The first substantive Board meeting would be in September/October 2015.

The AGMs will be part of the GHS/AGT joint conference, which has been organised with the help of Northumbria Gardens Trust. Details of the conference and booking arrangements are contained in this **GHS news** and on our website.

### **Eleventh Annual Garden History Society Essay Competition**

The eleventh Annual Garden History Society Essay Competition is open to any student registered in a *bona fide* university or institute of higher education, or any student who has graduated from such an institute in the past twelve months. The prize was established to encourage vibrant, scholarly research and writing. Submissions must be 5000 to 6000 words and the only restriction on subject matter is that it must be of relevance to garden history.

Last year's winner re-evaluated the work of the neglected modernist designer Preben Jakobsen (and will be giving her Lecture on that subject on 11 March, see Events); the previous winner discovered a forgotten Elizabethan garden beneath the more famous seventeenth century garden at

Wilton. Earlier winning essays include a new interpretation of the iconography of the Animal Grotto at Castello in Tuscany and a study of the role of gardens in the nineteenth century treatment of mental illness.

The prize offers an award of £250, free membership of the Society for a year and consideration for publication in our peer-reviewed journal **Garden History**. All previous winners have been accepted for publication and often the best of the non-winning entries are also invited to submit to the journal. Application forms can be downloaded from the GHS website and entries can be submitted up to and including 30 April 2015.

*Katie Campbell, Chair of Judges*

### **New Research in Garden History The 5th GHS Graduate Symposium**

We invite scholars to submit a 200 word proposal for a paper whose subject is unpublished. Symposium papers are 20 minutes only (approx. 2,000 to 2,500 words), with a short Q&A session afterwards. Scholars in all disciplines are encouraged to submit, and any subject relating to garden history will be considered.

Applicants should submit their 200 word abstract direct to: [graduatesymposium@gardenhistorysociety.org](mailto:graduatesymposium@gardenhistorysociety.org) by Monday 2 March 2015.

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

*Patrick Eyres, Chair of the Symposium*

### **AGMs & Annual Conference 2015 Newcastle University Friday 24 to Sunday 26 July**

Don't miss the **Early Bird Booking Rate** for the Conference which falls on **10 April 2015**, full details on the enclosed **Booking Form**.



## GHS events 2015

Booking Forms and more information for most of our events appear on our website

**Order in the Landscape:  
Rediscovering Preben Jakobsen**  
Lecture by **Karen Fitzsimon**  
at The Gallery, Cowcross Street, London  
6.30pm, Wednesday 11 March



Landscape Institute

Preben Jakobsen (1934–2012) was an important award winning landscape architect who practised in the UK from the 1960s to the mid 1990s. He inspired a generation through his modernist approach to landscape design, his exceptional use of plants and his belief that landscape design could be a true art form. Karen's research is the first posthumous evaluation of Jakobsen's work and benefits from unique access to his practice archives. This lecture will look at a number of his works, consider why he has not been better remembered, and what his design legacy may be.

**Cost: £8** for GHS members booking and paying in advance, £10 for all tickets purchased at the door, price includes a glass of wine.

**Petticoats and Plants: Scotland's  
Gardening Women, 1800–1930**  
Lecture by **Deborah Reid**  
Edinburgh, with Friends of RBG  
7.30 pm, Thursday 19 March 2015

At: the Lecture Theatre, Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, EH3 5LR. **Tickets: £5** members, £6 non-members, available on the door only.

**Gardens Fit for a Queen: the Elizabethan  
Gardens at Cowdray and Bisham**  
Lecture by **Dr Jane Whitaker**  
at The Gallery, Cowcross Street, London  
6.30pm, Wednesday 25 March

Focusing in detail on her recent research of two leading gardens at Cowdray in Sussex and Bisham in Berkshire, Jane Whitaker discusses some of the

principal elements, influences and purposes which informed the design of these important Elizabethan gardens. Surveying both gardens and the wider landscape as the setting for personal enjoyment, productive use, sport, entertainment and the display of status, she illustrates their importance for the Elizabethan élite.

**Cost: £8** for GHS members booking and paying in advance, £10 for all tickets purchased at the door, price includes a glass of wine.

**Spring Study Day on  
Imagery for Garden History**  
at the Linnean Society, London  
Thursday 30 April



*The gardens at Kew, Johan Jacob Schalkh (1723–89)*

Lectures by **Vanessa Remington** on *Painting Paradise*; **Sir Roy Strong** on *Shakespeare as a founding father of Garden History?*; **Anna Pavord** on *Planting An Impression*; **Professor David Ingram** on *Rosy Wealth of June: the flower paintings of Henri Fantin-Latour*; **Christine Lalumia** on *Eden or Gilded Cage: observations on the representations of women and gardens*; **Todd Longstaffe-Gowan** on *Ever tumbling towers, o'er topped with green: Dreams of Babylonian Gardens*; **Rosie Razzall** on *Sketching in the gardens at Arcueil: Jean-Baptiste Oudry, Francois Boucher and Charles-Joseph Natoire*.

Includes a walking tour of Green Park & St James's Park and a guided tour of **Paradise Preserved** with the Curator of the exhibition of the Queen's pictures of gardens at the Queens Gallery, Buckingham Palace.

**Cost: £89**, by mail or use Eventbrite (includes small booking fee). Members only, **very few places still available, but going fast**. See the **Booking Form** in our last mailing or on our website.

Royal Collection Trust  
© Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II 2014

**Study Day at St Giles, Wimborne, Dorset**  
with AGT and Dorset Gardens Trust  
9.45am for 10.30am, Wednesday 6 May



J Barton and Lord Ashley-Cooper

Since 1672 St Giles House has been the principal seat of the Earls of Shaftesbury. Several key historic features may be observed throughout the garden and park; many of these being illustrative of the cultural life and political ambitions of the Ashley Coopers, the remarkable Dorset family inhabiting this site since at least the 13th century. Among notable features are the early 17th century Riding House and Deere Court (now Kitchen Garden), the mid 17th-century Great Avenue, the early 18th-century Gazebo in the Deer Park, the mid 18th-century Pleasure Grounds (with Serpentine Lake, Shell Grotto, Castellated Arch and Towers and Rustic Cave), and the early 20th-century Sunk Garden.

Previously derelict, St Giles House and several extant park features have recently undergone extensive repairs and re-instatement. This programme of works has been guided by comprehensive research and archaeological investigation, carried out in collaboration with English Heritage and the Shaftesbury Estate.

The Study Day will combine talks and a walking tour with a focus on the historical development of the site as well as an opportunity to discuss the more recent restorative scheme.

Following an *Introduction* from **The Earl of Shaftesbury**, speakers are: **Michael Symes** on *The Rise of the Landscape Garden*; **Katherine Myers** on *'Inspir'd Creatress! The third Earl of Shaftesbury's Philosophy of Nature in Estate Gardening* and **Suzannah Fleming** on *The Historical Development of the Park and Garden at St Giles House*. After lunch there will be guided walks around the Pleasure Grounds, in small groups, followed by a final discussion in the Sunk Garden (see page 18).

**Cost: £65**, includes morning coffee, lectures, lunch in the house and tour of the grounds. Early booking is advisable. To book a place on the Study Day please complete the **Booking Form**, on our website, email Teresa: [gardenstrusts@agt.org.uk](mailto:gardenstrusts@agt.org.uk) or phone: 020 7251 2610.

**GHSS AGM & lecture by Bill Brogden**  
**Stephen Switzer:**  
**300 years, the Scottish connection**  
Saturday 16 May  
Lecture tickets: £8, students: £5

**GHS & LPGT Chelsea Fringe event**  
2pm, Saturday 16 May

Led by **Chris Sumner**, garden historian, and **Sally Williams**, Keeper of the Inventory, London Parks and Gardens Trust, the walk will begin at **York House**, Twickenham and continue via the riverside gardens of **York House** to the riverside walk to the **Orleans House Gallery** and James Gibbs **Octagon** then through woodland to Orleans Road and cross into **Marble Hill Park**. Look at 'Jam Yesterday, Jam Tomorrow' model allotments in north east of the park, then walk down past east side of house to look at the grotto and the black walnut.

Join towpath and follow to Richmond Bridge, passing site of former Ice Rink and of Cambridge Park. Cross the bridge and then turn right (upstream) and walk along through **Bridge House Gardens** with the memorial bust of Bernardo O'Higgins, past the plaque to the tallest plane tree in London, through part of **Bucleuch Gardens**, then through the grotto tunnel to **Terrace Gardens** and **Terrace Field** (for best view in London).

**Free**. Meet at 2pm in the forecourt of York House, York Street, Twickenham. Time 2.5 hours approximately.

**GHS Rewley House Conference**  
**Gardens and the Theatre**

Friday 5 to Sunday 7 June

For the long-running and popular series of weekends at Rewley House a different theme is chosen each year which explores in some depth angles and aspects of that theme. This year it will be on Gardens and the Theatre, in which the relationship is examined from both directions. Thus there will be a session with **Roderick Swanston** on gardens in opera (from setting to symbolism) and a Saturday evening entertainment including gardens in dance and in plays; **Cherill Sands** on designed open-air theatres; **David Lambert** on the garden as theatre; **Jenny Milledge** on Bridgeman's amphitheatres, for display or performance?; and **Steffie Shields** on Garrick, Shakespeare and Brown. The afternoon visit will be to Cliveden, where the amphitheatre saw the first performance of the masque *Alfred*, which featured 'Rule Britannia', composed by the Lloyd Webber of the 1740s, Thomas Arne (who also gave us the National Anthem).

**Cost: £142** (includes coffee/tea, coach & drinks reception), other booking options are available. Full details on our website, or phone: 01865 270 380.

## GHS events

### **GHSS visit to Tynninghame House**

**Saturday 20 June**

Garden visit and tea.

Details to be confirmed.

### **AGMs, Graduate Symposium and Annual Summer Conference Newcastle University**

**Friday 24 to Sunday 26 July**

Combining forces for our Annual Summer Conference with the AGT, the weekend now includes 3 AGMs (see p2–3) Extra visit on Thursday to **Seaton Delaval** and **Northumberlandia**, Charles Jenck's landform sculpture (see p3). Our **Graduate Symposium** is on the Friday morning, followed by the AGMs.

Garden visits on Saturday are to **Croxdale Hall**, **Hardwick Hall**, and small gardens in Durham. On Sunday we visit **Alnwick Gardens**, **Hulne Priory** and **Belsay Hall and Castle**.

Please see the enclosed **Booking Form** for costs and detailed itinerary.

### **Little Sparta 'Under Attack' fund raising Gala Opening at the Little Sparta Trust with the GHS/AGT**

**11am to 3pm, Saturday 8 August**

The Little Sparta Trust, with the new GHS/AGT organisation, are hosting a special fund raising Gala Opening of Ian Hamilton Finlay's garden in North Lanarkshire, Scotland, in aid of both the Little Sparta Trust and the new joint organisation (see page 28).

There will be a visual history of the making of the garden, a film extract featuring Ian Hamilton Finlay, poetry readings and music as well as tours with the head gardener **George Gilliland**. Refreshments will also be available alongside art and plant souvenirs to buy.

We urge all members to join us for this special event; its Festival time too in sunny Edinburgh.

A bus will be available to take visitors from Central Edinburgh to the venue. **Cost: £25** (£35 including bus there & back). Tickets can be booked directly: through our website or: [www.littlesparta.org.uk](http://www.littlesparta.org.uk). Contact Laura: 07826 495 677 for further details.



Do come to our special gala event in aid of both the Little Sparta Trust and the new joint Garden History Society and Association of Gardens Trusts organisation



s,jon80 for the Wikimedia Commons

*Part of the formal water gardens at the magnificent Château du Champ-de-Bataille, created by Jacques Garcia*

**GHSS visit to Dumfries House  
with the Arboricultural Association  
Saturday 5 September**

Details to be confirmed.

**Study Tour to gardens of Normandy  
Thursday 10 to Wednesday 16 September**

This Study Tour to Normandy is designed to highlight the range of gardens to be admired just on the other side of the Channel. In terms of history we will see a garden dating from as early as the 17th century, recreations of both a 17th century and 18th century garden, a 19th century garden and those of early 20th century design, as well as many designed quite recently, such as the celebrated Jardin Plume, or those with contemporary additions to an older structure.

At many of the gardens we shall be accompanied by the owners, almost all of whom speak good English. Most gardens we see complement houses of grace and interest, such as **Brécý, Canon, Vendevre, Fontaine-la-Soret, Champ de Bataille, Bois des Moutiers** and **Galleville**.

They vary in size and form from, for example, the densely planted and intensively themed garden of **Castillon-Plantbessin** or **Jardins d'Angélique** to The wide perspectives of **Chateau du Champ de Bataille**. Designs by famous landscape architects like Achille Duchêne, Lutyens and Jekyll, Russell Page and Louis Benech will be viewed along with the masterpieces of self-taught horticulturalists.

Everywhere the level of horticultural skill will impress, culminating perhaps in the perfection achieved at **Le Vasterival**.

To get there we shall travel by coach from central London via Portsmouth, where passengers can join the charabanc, take the overnight ferry to Ouistreham, the port of Caen, and stay two nights in the centre of Caen at Hotel Kyriad, and then three nights just outside Rouen at St Martin du Vivier at Hotel La Bertelière. Unfortunately the quotes for staying in a hotel in the centre of Rouen adjacent to the cathedral were excessive. The coach will drop those of you who wish to visit the historic centre at the end of one of our days of garden visiting and you will be able to catch a taxi back to the hotel. We return to England via Calais and Dover.

The price per person sharing will be **£950**, with a single room supplement of £135 for hotel accommodation, and £32 for single use of a double berth on board the overnight ferry. This includes all coach travel from and back to London, both ferry crossings, bed and breakfast, all lunches, and one dinner on the first night in the hotel near Rouen, all site visits and the use of any guides, but does not include tips or items of personal expenditure or taxi rides to and from Rouen city centre.

Bookings are being taken by **Success Tours**, all details are on the Booking Form, on our website.

Contact **Robert Peel**: [rma.peel@btopenworld.com](mailto:rma.peel@btopenworld.com)

## GHS events

### **Study Day at Kings Weston, Bristol** **Lancelot ‘Capability’ Brown at** **Kings Weston: Exploring his Legacy** **of Comfort and Elegance** with the Avon Gardens Trust Tuesday 22 September



As part of the celebration of the Tercentenary of the birth of Lancelot ‘Capability’ Brown, we shall be exploring the influence of Brown on a country estate situated on the outskirts of Bristol. Kings Weston has a long and complex history and the grounds have been variously associated with John Evelyn, Robert Mylne, Thomas Wright and Lancelot Brown, but lack of funding meant the estate had been neglected for too many years. This situation changed in 2011 when the Kings Weston Action Group was founded to protect the estate, to fight for its future and protect its past.

The house we see today was designed in 1712 by Sir John Vanbrugh for Edward Southwell. Vanbrugh

also designed other buildings on the estate that still exist. His massive terrace overlooking the River Severn was removed later in the eighteenth century when the formal gardens were swept away and replaced with a more naturalistic style of landscape design associated with Brown.

Our speakers will help us discover more about the Southwell family and the Kings Weston estate, the importance of Brown in the British landscape movement and a possible reassessment of the influence of Brown at Kings Weston in the light of current research.

This is an all-day event and includes coffee, lectures, lunch and a guided garden tour.

Full details and booking form to follow. Contact Peter Hills: [events@avongardenstrust.org.uk](mailto:events@avongardenstrust.org.uk) or phone: 01275 858 809

### **Autumn Study Day on** **Masonic Symbolism in Gardens** at the Freemasons’ Hall, London WC2 Saturday 31 Oct

Researchers from both UK and Europe will examine this complex subject.

Full details in our summer mailing, or contact: [rma.peel@btopenworld.com](mailto:rma.peel@btopenworld.com)

### **The Picturesque and Sublime Landscape** **Lecture by Professor Brian Evans** at St Andrew’s & St George’s West Church, 13 George Street, Edinburgh, EH2 2PA Monday 2 November

Details to be confirmed.

### **The proceedings of our recent** **Edinburgh Gardens and Squares** **Conference are now available ‘on-line’**

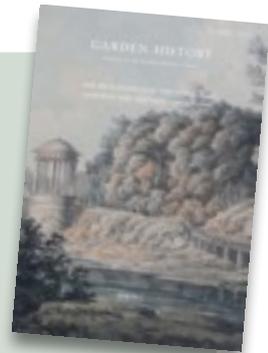
Papers from our our very successful and well received Edinburgh Conference, held on Friday 26 September 2014, are now available as a free download on our website. Edited as usual by Barbara Simms and Cris Ratti, they are presented as a ‘virtual’ issue of *Garden History* 43: supplement 1.

Nearly all the papers presented at the Conference are included, and are listed below:

Kristina Taylor’s *Opening Address*;  
Christopher Dingwall on *In Search of Free Air and an Agreeable Prospect: the Flight from Edinburgh’s Old Town*; Anthony Lewis on *The Builders Of Edinburgh’s New Town, 1767–69*; Desmond McCabe on *The Humours Of Space And Power: The Development of the Urban Square in Europe, 1100–2000*; Ian Gow on *Who lived in the New Town and how were the Gardens used?*; Peter Burman on *Edinburgh’s Arcadia: Past, Present and Future*; Vanessa Stephen

on *Afterlife in the New Town: Edinburgh Western Cemetery, a Picturesque place of rest in the Valley of the Water of Leith*; Kirsten Carter McKee on *The Genius Loci of the Athens of the North: the cultural significance of Edinburgh’s Calton Hill*; Peter McGowan on *Aspects of planting design and management in Edinburgh’s New Town gardens*; Brian M. Evans on *St Andrew Square: shaping a place*; Todd Longstaffe-Gowan on *Reinstating John Nash’s picturesque vision at Regent’s Park, London*; Drew Bannellick on *Rethinking Green Spaces: what’s happening to our Public Parks?*; Krzysztof Jan Chuchra on *International Practice: what’s everyone else doing?*

To obtain copies, in the usual paper format, at £15+p&p, contact our printers: 01787 249 286 or email: [ghsmembership@lavenhamgroup.co.uk](mailto:ghsmembership@lavenhamgroup.co.uk)



## conservation

reports from our officers and other news...

### We present to you the new all-singing, all-dancing Resource Hub!

*Verena McCaig and Linden Groves, Historic Landscape Project Officers*

We are all abuzz at the Historic Landscape Project this spring, because big changes are here!

After months of hard grind, we have launched a new Resource Hub for County Gardens Trusts, Garden History Society members, and interested others, containing a hoard of free downloads to support your work conserving historic designed landscapes.

The Hub contains all the support materials that have been, and continue to be, amassed by the Historic Landscape Project since its beginnings in 2010. So you will find anything from a presentation on Significance, to the full set of planning training handouts, to a quick glance collection of particularly relevant English Heritage guidance documents. There are more goodies than we can possibly list, so do please take a look.

The Resource Hub replaces the popular but clunky

HLP Web Forum previously used by CGTs, and is housed on PGUK but can be accessed at

[www.gardenstrusts.org.uk/hlp.html](http://www.gardenstrusts.org.uk/hlp.html) Go! Look! Quick!

The move away from the old Web Forum has also necessitated a new email discussion group, and we are pleased to report that this is now going great guns! Again, this group is open to all CGT and GHS members, or others with an appropriate interest, and is a great way to raise questions and discuss issues with likeminded folk, all via very easy to handle emails straight into your Inbox! User-initiated topics recently have ranged from Victorian bathing pools to where online to access the National Monuments Records Red Boxes so there really is plenty to keep you gripped to your screens. To join the email group please go to:

<https://uk.groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/leapthehaha/info>

### Conservation Log news

*Alison Allighan, Conservation Casework Manager*

The Society's list of all the conservation consultations that the GHS logs each week continues to be collated and sent out to the County Gardens Trusts throughout the country.

When assessing the list to see which cases CGTs may wish to engage with, it should be remembered that the GHS will only be looking at a very small minority, focussing its resources instead on those which are of major national importance or that set

an important precedent. If there are cases you feel the GHS should look at, please email:

[conservation@gardenhistorysociety.org](mailto:conservation@gardenhistorysociety.org)

The CGT-GHS Working Guidance Note can be downloaded from the CGT Web Forum at [www.gardenstrusts.org.uk/hlp.html](http://www.gardenstrusts.org.uk/hlp.html)

Lastly please note there is currently no Conservation Officer or Casework Manager coverage for Scotland.

### Recording Projects, Scotland

*Sue Hewer*

After an unavoidable delay of 10 months, you will be as pleased as we are to hear that work has at last started on the Recording Projects funded by Historic Scotland and the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Based in the areas covered by the Clyde and Avon Valley Landscape Partnership and Falkirk Council, the plan is to record at least 20 non-Inventory sites in each area between now and 31 March 2017 with the help of well trained volunteers. The resulting information will be lodged on the website of the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS) and publicly available.

These are by way of being pilot projects for a much more ambitious, large scale programme eventually covering all the regions of Scotland and, as such, will be carefully monitored and evaluated throughout.

Following a rigorous selection process, the contract for the work in both areas was awarded to Northlight-Heritage of Glasgow. They have extensive and successful experience in working with volunteers in a wide range of settings and also have expertise in surveying historic designed landscapes and gardens.

Any fears that there might have been about losing a significant proportion of the first year's grant due to the late start came to nothing thanks to the perseverance of the Trustees of the Garden History Society Conservation Trust (GHSSCT) and the members of the GHSS Committee, the flexibility of Northlight and the patience of Historic Scotland.

As a GHSS member, I will be the link person between Northlight and the GHSSCT, the GHSS

## conservation

Committee and, subsequently, the new SCIO once it has been approved by the Office for Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR). If you are interested in volunteering in the CAVLP or Falkirk areas, or know

someone there who might be, or want more details about the projects, please get in touch with me: [suehewer1@btopenworld.com](mailto:suehewer1@btopenworld.com). I look forward to hearing from you.

## Removal of a Significant Post War Landscape from the English Heritage Register

*Dominic Cole, GHS chairman*

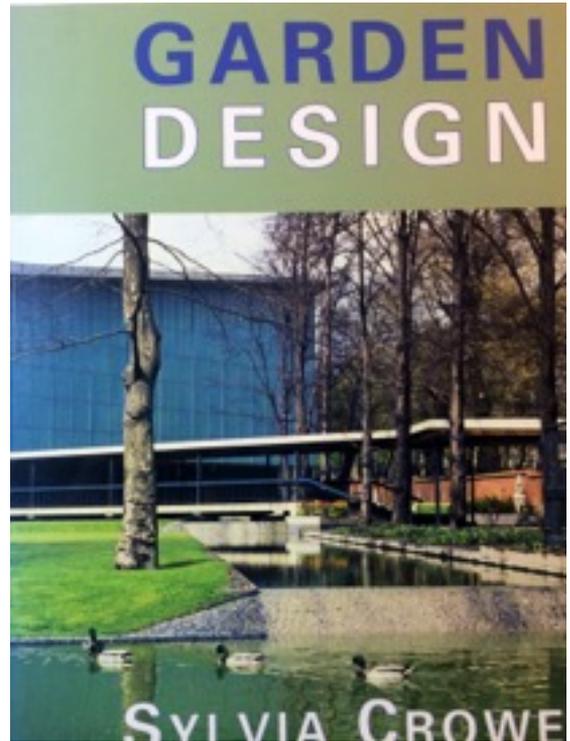
The Commonwealth Institute building in Holland Park, off Kensington High Street, London, is considered by English Heritage to be the second most important modern building in London after the Festival Hall. It is being refurbished to house the Design Museum, so that the creation in 1962 by architects Johnson-Marshall and partners is saved. In contrast the modernist landscape designed by the renowned Landscape Architect, Sylvia Crowe (one of the founding members of the Landscape Institute) has already completely disappeared.

It is shocking that one of only a handful of post war designed landscapes that have been recently added to the English Heritage *Register of Parks and Gardens* has gone.

Modernist landscape design did not take off in Britain and exponents such as Christopher Tunnard would leave England to work in America where his designs were valued. This makes examples such as Sylvia Crowe's design for the entrance to The Commonwealth Institute so special and rare. She used some of the language found at the Festival of Britain, broad simple plains of surface material, structures appearing to float, elegantly thin railings, water to reflect sky and provide the subtlest of sounds, along with the spectacular array of flags advertising the coming together of the Commonwealth Nations that could be seen from way along Kensington High Street. This was a destination that enchanted children, perhaps with the kind of pull that now draws them to Disney. Along with Battersea Park and its tree walkway this was a 'must see' site in London; after exhausting The Tower, Madame Tussauds and Hampton Court. The approach, directly from the high street, was delineated by slight stepped changes in level so that it was clearly part of the Institute site but was open and welcoming, and thrilling to walk across water to reach the entrance.

The refurbishment of the building is being overseen by architects Allies and Morrison, who oversaw the refurbishment of the Festival Hall and its outdoor terraces. The new landscape will be designed by Dutch landscape architects West 8.

The Garden History Society was not consulted about the removal of the Registered Landscape by local planning authority, Kensington and Chelsea so



*Cover of Garden Design, 2003*



*The new forecourt design by West 8*

we must assume that English Heritage failed to flag up just how important this design was.

Could it be put back? Technically, yes: by analysing the surviving pictures, plans, etc. it would be possible to 're-create' the Crowe design, but to what end? It has lost its context and the open front, to the High



The Design Museum

*The model of the new development being shown to George Osborne on his recent visit to the site by Deyan Sudjic, Director of the Design Museum, showing how the new flats effectively obliterate Sylvia Crowe's design*

Street has been given over to a new block of flats as part of the refurbishment. Even if put back it would not be with the original materials and we are likely to impose some values from today's perspective that would mean it would not be Sylvia Crowe's garden. I feel similarly towards the Frederic Gibberd garden at Harlow New Town, also now removed from the *Register*. The developer of this prime site in central Harlow paid to move the garden out of the way. It survives as an embarrassed, truncated remnant, dislocated from its intended carefully designed site.

Thankfully, so far, one of the other stars from this period, Geoffrey Jellicoe's Water Garden at Hemel Hempstead survives intact and is now the subject of a very sensitive refurbishment, part funded by the HLF; however a watchful eye is needed here to protect the setting of the Water Garden from encroachment by proposed new buildings that threaten to leave the garden in a canyon.

At the Commonwealth Institute site the refurbished building, Design Museum, new flats and design by West 8 will result in a very vibrant and enjoyable place which I am sure I will visit and

admire, but I cannot forgive the loss of a unique and bold piece of twentieth century landscape design and regret the lack of respect and understanding demonstrated by the limp Local Planning Authority and English Heritage.

English Heritage have recently consulted the Garden History Society on the likely deletion of Sylvia Crowe's Commonwealth Institute Garden from the EH *Register* of (important) designed landscapes in England and Wales, what a pity they waited until it had already gone!

#### **note from the editor**

This article was triggered not so much by the destruction of the garden, which had been on the cards at least since EH's correspondence with the planners at the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea in 2009, but more by EH's recent letter to the GHS asking for our opinion on the decision to remove it from the *Register* some years after its destruction.

The article first appeared in *London Landscapes*, the newsletter of the London Parks and Gardens Trust.

The correspondence has been posted on our website, for your interest.

## Historic Landscape Project Update

*Verena McCaig and Linden Groves, Historic Landscape Project Officers*

We have been thrilled to meet so many members of County Gardens Trusts recently at the Regional Forums for the South West, East and Midlands, in October 2014, the North in January and the South-East coming up on 12 March, 2015. These days have been notably friendly and dynamic, with an inspiring level of involvement and discussions ranging from Historic Environment Records to solar arrays; thank you as ever for your enthusiasm! These events are open to all, so do please let your local Gardens Trust committee know if you would be interested in attending one in future.

As previously reported, following feedback from CGTs, the Historic Landscape Project web forum is changing. Support materials will shortly be moved to a new HLP section at: [www.parksandgardens.org](http://www.parksandgardens.org) (details to follow when we are ready to launch!) and a new email discussion facility has already been set up using a yahoo group. The group is already proving to be popular and lively, with discussions so far

including planning issues and archive tips, so please sign up (see page 9).

After five years working on the HLP, Verena will be leaving the project at the end of March 2015. She will be expanding the time she spends as 'Heritage at Risk Project Officer' for English Heritage (soon to be split, so she'll then be in Historic England) in the London Region. Verena is sad to be going but will be fully involved in the project until then and will be at the March AGT Business Meeting. However, we are delighted that Historic England have confirmed their funding to the AGT and GHS for at least a further year of the project and so we are recruiting immediately for a new HLPO to join Linden on the project, interviewing as we go to press.

It is intended to shuffle the split of regions so that Linden will move to the East, East Midlands and North with the new HLPO taking the remainder and we will be in touch with individual CGTs later with further details.

## Looking After or Seeking Funding For a Heritage or Registered Garden Project?

*Claire Masset suggests the best places to look for help*

The burden of restoring, maintaining or simply promoting an historic garden can sometimes outweigh the pleasure of owning it, but help is at hand for anyone who knows where to look. These are exciting times for heritage gardens. In the past few years, a significant sum of money has been spent on important restorations. In 2012, for instance, we saw the completion of a four-year £8 million conservation project at Great Dixter in East Sussex, and there are many more recent and current examples, such as Wrest Park, Chiswick House, Lowther Castle and Ashridge. These are all large scale and fairly high profile, but don't let this stop you from getting help, even if the garden you look after is relatively small.

Dominic Cole, chairman of the Garden History Society, has described this new focus on garden conservation as a 'seismic' shift in funding. We have the Heritage Lottery Fund ([www.hlf.org.uk](http://www.hlf.org.uk)) and other organisations to thank for this.

### Need help with research and funding?

Your first port of call should be English Heritage. It manages the *Register of Historic Parks and Gardens of special historic interest in England*, whose purpose is to 'celebrate designed landscapes of note and encourage appropriate protection'. Grant aid is available for restoration projects of registered sites. To join the

Register, a garden is assessed to see if it has enough historic interest to merit further investigation.

Smaller, more focused charities assist and play a vital role in protecting historic gardens from development. The GHS and the Association of Gardens Trusts ([www.gardenstrusts.org](http://www.gardenstrusts.org)) work tirelessly to ensure historic parks and gardens are conserved. Linden Groves, historic landscape officer working for both organisations, explains: 'The Garden History Society is a statutory consultee in the planning system, and so receives thousands of planning applications that may have a detrimental effect on historic parks and gardens. In ensuring that these applications receive the attention they need, the GHS works closely with the AGT [indeed they will be merging this summer], whose dedicated volunteers keep an eye on threats coming through the planning system, advise on a range of related issues and carry out invaluable research into historic landscapes. The AGT is the umbrella organisation for more than 30 individual County Gardens Trusts, some of which also offer funding.'

If you're based in Wales, you should consult CADW ([www.cadw.wales.gov.uk](http://www.cadw.wales.gov.uk)); its inspector of historic parks and gardens will offer advice on which bodies can offer grants. The Welsh Historic Gardens Trust ([www.whgt.org.uk](http://www.whgt.org.uk)) also runs a small grants scheme, up to £500, for garden projects.

For Londoners, help, particularly research and promotion, is available from the London Parks & Gardens Trust ([www.londongardenstrust.org](http://www.londongardenstrust.org)). Its aim is to 'preserve, enhance and recreate for the education and enjoyment of the public whatever historic garden land may exist or have existed in and around London'. Its London Inventory of Historic Green Spaces ([www.londongardensonline.org.uk](http://www.londongardensonline.org.uk)), launched in 2003, continues to grow.

With a broader reach, the Historic Gardens Foundation ([www.historicgardens.org](http://www.historicgardens.org)) campaigns for the protection and conservation of historic parks and gardens across the world. Its founder, Gillian Mawrey, works internationally to draw attention to parks and gardens threatened by development or

neglect. For instance, the foundation supported the campaign for the historic botanic gardens in Auteuil, Paris, where there are plans to demolish the elegant glasshouses and dispose of their collections of rare plants in order to extend a stadium. 'It's shocking that it's still possible to concrete over a beautiful, historic and irreplaceable garden,' she says.

If you'd like a thorough grounding in garden conservation, to support your current situation or develop a career in this field, why not apply for the masters degree course in Conservation of Historic Gardens and Cultural Landscape at Bath University ([www.bath.ac.uk](http://www.bath.ac.uk))? It's the country's only vocational training in garden conservation, so apply early.

From: *The English Garden* November 2014

## agenda

please send in your contributions...

### A Pre-Raphaelite Dreamworld Rediscovered; the missing part of James Bateman's great garden at Biddulph Grange

*Nigel Daly*



Robert Bateman, *Reading of Love, He Being By*, 1874, set against the background of Biddulph Old Hall

## agenda

Whilst researching the life and work of the almost forgotten painter Robert Bateman for my book *The Lost Pre-Raphaelite*, my partner Brian Vowles and I stumbled upon a concealed work of art in the woodland adjoining Bateman's home, Biddulph Old Hall. We found that the swift little millstream in the steep wooded valley below the house had been manipulated by the building of two dams to hold the water back into ponds or small lakes, and the rock had been blasted to create a continuous series of waterfalls, rapids and flat rock plains.

During the century since Bateman's death almost all trace of this dynamic water garden has been lost through neglect, mutilation and vandalism. Both the dams have been destroyed, one by being breached by a concrete pipe, the other by being blown up in the 1980s. Trailer loads of debris have been tipped from the top of the valley, turning the pools into fetid swamps; rubbish dumps of half submerged corrugated iron, tractor tyres and rusting supermarket trolleys. Despite all the dereliction, when we first saw it the valley retained an uncanny, hypnotic appeal, an intense aura of secrecy or privacy. As I put it in the book, it was: 'The mournful ghost of a beautiful place, disfigured but still faintly discernible.'

When we looked into it, we discovered maps and written sources from the 19th century that confirmed our intuitive fascination with this numinous place.

Biddulph Old Hall is a mere  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile due north from Biddulph Grange, the Victorian mansion built by Robert Bateman's father, the famous horticulturalist James Bateman in 1842.

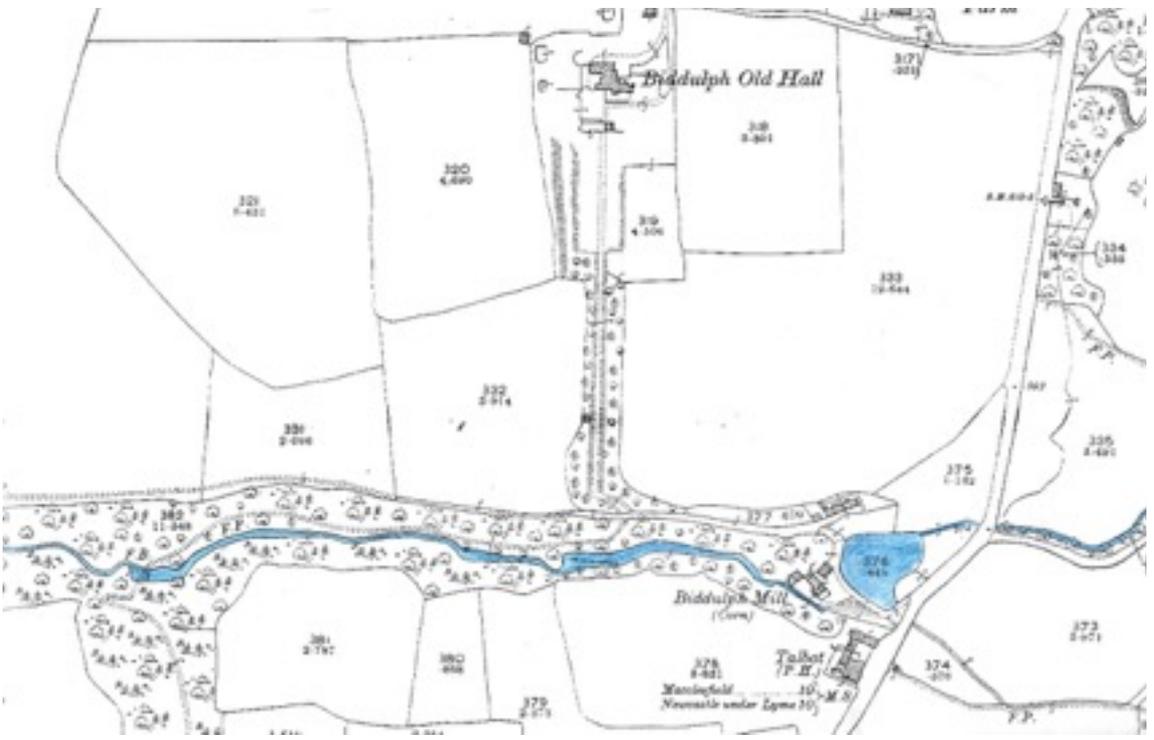
The gardens he created at The Grange are arguably the most botanically important and artistically flamboyant example of mid Victorian taste anywhere in the country. In the 1980s they were acquired by the National Trust and fully restored. Records show that in 1861 James Bateman bought Biddulph Old Hall, the ruins of an Elizabethan mansion, as the ultimate garden folly, and connected it to the Grange garden by a walk beside the Clough stream in the wood.

It was an ambitious project involving building several bridges, two dams, tunnelling under a road and the construction of many flights of steps.

Since James Bateman left for London in 1868, and sold the whole Biddulph Grange estate in 1871, the water garden represents the final creative flourish



*Above: the original line of the Clough stream in 1862  
Below: the 1899 OS map showing the two dams and the line of the walk from Biddulph Old Hall southwards, along the Clough, towards Biddulph Grange*



before he was forced to abandon his horticultural wonderland through shortage of money. Although Biddulph Old Hall and the Clough stream were sold with the estate, James arranged for a lifetime tenancy for his third son Robert, who retained the right to them both until his death in 1922.

Robert was a leading member of the so-called 'Dudley Group' of artists, second generation Pre-Raphaelites and followers of Burne-Jones. The group were vividly summed up by Walter Crane, a friend of Roberts as being preoccupied with: 'a magic world of romance and pictured poetry, peopled with ghosts of ladies and lovely knights — a twilight world of dark mysterious woodlands, haunted streams, meads of deep green starred with burning flowers, veiled in a dim and mystic light.'



Although this gives no indication of the range and skill of Robert Bateman's work, it does give a clue to his continuing fascination with, and development of, a Pre-Raphaelite landscape around his ruined castle. Between 1873 and 1890 he had left London and abandoned the Dudley Gallery. During these years he lived reclusively at Biddulph and did his most acclaimed work. He seems to have continued to develop the water garden in the Clough, as by 1887 a local writer and historian was sufficiently beguiled by it to describe it as: '... a very paradise of woodland scenery. Known as the Clough, a gentle ravine circles the lower grounds of the old Castle. Here artistic effect has aided nature in creating one of the prettiest retreats it is possible to conceive. Trickling down from fragments of shelving rock and forming miniature cascades and shadowy basins the whole length of the Clough is a little stream which gradually widens in its fall. Overhanging trees lap their branches in one almost continuous arbour; lichens and mosses grow in luxuriant profusion; and in summer the whole wealth of Fern-land puts forth its beauty to complete a picture worthy of the

Dargle itself. Strangers usually visit the ruins, and, oblivious of its existence, pass on without a glimpse of the Clough; but of late years artists have discovered its hidden retreat, and now brush and canvas and photographic art combine to make its romantic beauty more famous and widely known...''



*Robert Bateman with his wife and a friend on one of the bridges in the Clough in the mid 1880s*

### Our response to the Clough landscape

The rescue and restoration of the valley and the water garden are vitally important for two reasons:

- They form an integral component of James Bateman's iconic garden at Biddulph Grange, which is now acknowledged as one of the most informative, well preserved and complete examples of the mid Victorian craze for horticulture and plant collecting. The inclusion of the water gardens leading to the ruined hall would add new academic insight and visual excitement to the overall experience of the Biddulph Grange gardens.
- Robert Bateman's continued development of the woodland in accordance with the aesthetic preoccupations of his artistic contemporaries presents a unique opportunity to preserve a fully realised Pre-Raphaelite dream world centred round a gifted artist for the enjoyment of himself and his companions.

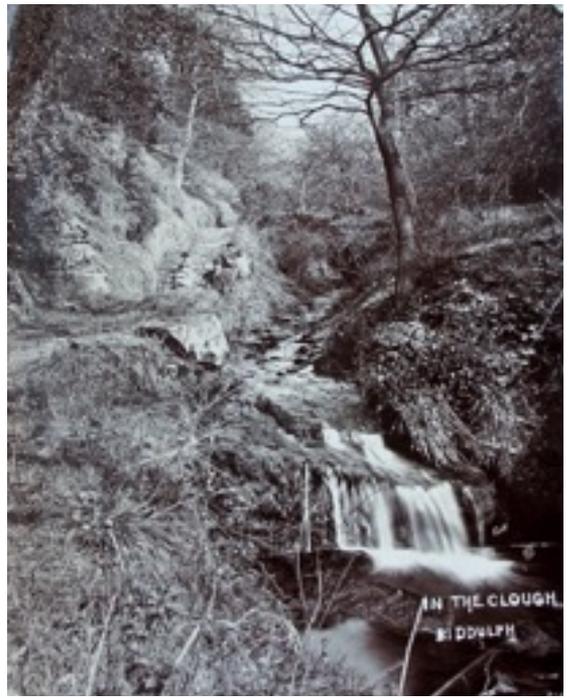
In order to make this possible, Brian Vowles and I have set in hand a first phase of initiatives to halt the progressive dereliction of the site. These are:

- Continuing to research the surviving maps and

## agenda

documentation available to inform the process of restoration.

- We published references to the Clough in my book *The Lost Pre-Raphaelite* in the hope of increasing interest in Robert Bateman, the ruined hall in which he lived and the Pre-Raphaelite landscape he created around it.
- We initiated enquiries and opened negotiations with the owner of the Clough stream and surrounding landscape, who was principally interested in the flat fields above the valley. Eventually we succeeded in purchasing about seven acres, which constitute about 85% of the site of the walk and the water gardens.
- We have cleared the worst of the tipped rubbish, and a few fallen trees (although there are still a lot of trees and vegetation to be tackled).
- We have employed an experienced company to have a first serious assault on the infestation of Himalayan Balsam in the top lake site.
- And cleared the builders' rubble dumped into the first waterfall to block it in the 1980s.

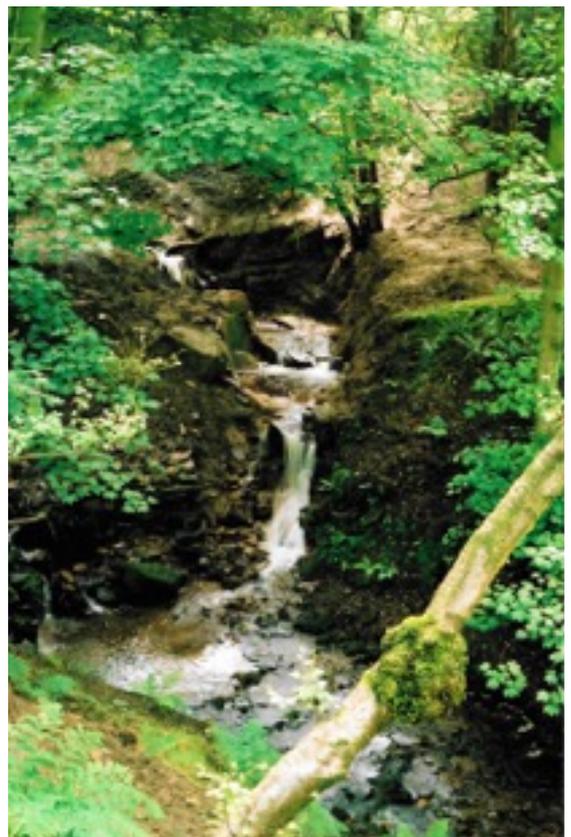


*The Clough stream with steps and visitors in the 1890s*



- We have experimentally re-flooded the upper lake (*above*) and rerun the waterfall (*right*) from it for a short time to gain information on how it looked and worked (this has now been drained again).
- We have rediscovered and excavated two flights of stone steps, both shown in late 19th century photographs and which confirm the route of the stream-side walk.
- And finally we have commissioned an arboricultural survey of the remaining specimen trees planted by the Batemans throughout the Clough.

The aim of this article is to launch a further phase of work with the aim of restoring some of the original components of the walk connecting The Grange to the Old Hall, described in the sale particulars of July 1871 as, 'A private walk of about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile passing through a highly picturesque ravine with a romantic waterfall and pretty stream



... ascending steps cut in the sides of the cliff, across rustic bridges and through shady clumps of wood to approach the very interesting ruins of Biddulph Hall seated on a lofty eminence from

which grand views are obtained of the surrounding hilly country, including the Troughstone Hill, the Mow Cop range and many miles into Cheshire. They are a prominent landmark in the country and afford a pleasant and refreshing summer retreat.'

Phase 2 of our restoration work will include:

- Re-enforcing the upper dam, and rebuilding the original overflow and sluice to enable the lake to be permanently re-flooded.
- A major clearance programme to remove fallen trees, overgrown holly and self-seeded elders and ash trees that have blocked the stream.
- Continued excavation of the path towards the lower dam.
- Detailed research to establish the shape and form of the bridge over the lower lake. At present this is only discernible from a single stone foundation.
- Establishing the exact route of the 'steps down the cliff' described in the 1871 sale particulars.
- Beginning negotiations to re-open the tunnel under Fold Lane. Assuming these are fruitful we hope to unblock the north end of the tunnel and clear the rise up to ground level within the 'plantation' area created by the Batemans.
- Carrying out a detailed structural assessment of the remains of the lower dam and collating all the information still available locally about its scale and appearance before its destruction in the 1980s. This will be used to prepare an application for permission to rebuild the dam and reform the lower lake.
- Beginning to plan a third phase of work, to include replanting of lost specimen trees and evocative ferns and the wide variety of woodland plants that gave the original water gardens their magical atmosphere.

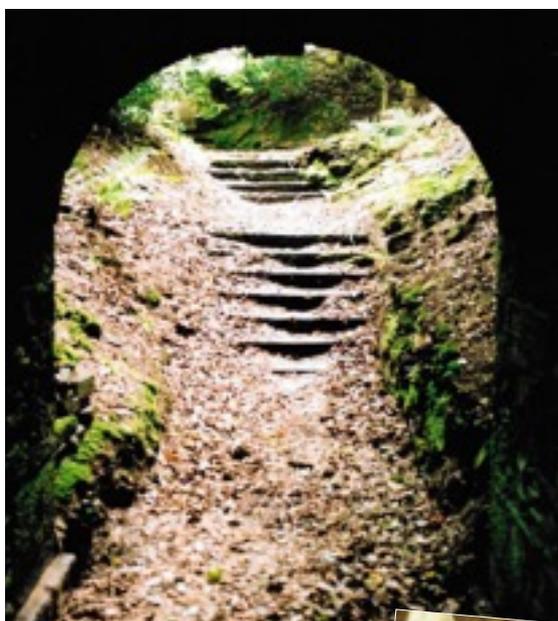
In order to get the next phases underway, we will need to attract interest and support for the project, from qualified professionals with specialist knowledge in this type of restoration, from local conservation volunteer groups, and from the media to help raise awareness of the scheme and publicise the need for help in funding it.

To this end a series of talks and open days at the Old Hall are planned to explain the project to interested groups and individuals. Several prominent figures in the art and garden history worlds have already indicated that they would be willing to lend their support as they consider the scheme's synthesis of artistic and horticultural interest makes its survival of almost unique importance.

There will be Open Days on Saturday 6 and 20 June, with a visit by Staffordshire Gardens and Parks Trust on Saturday 13 June.

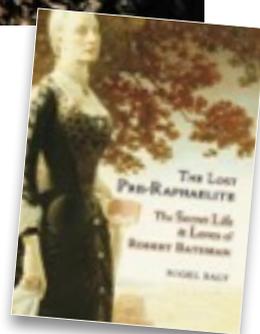


*One of the stream-side flights of steps, partly uncovered*



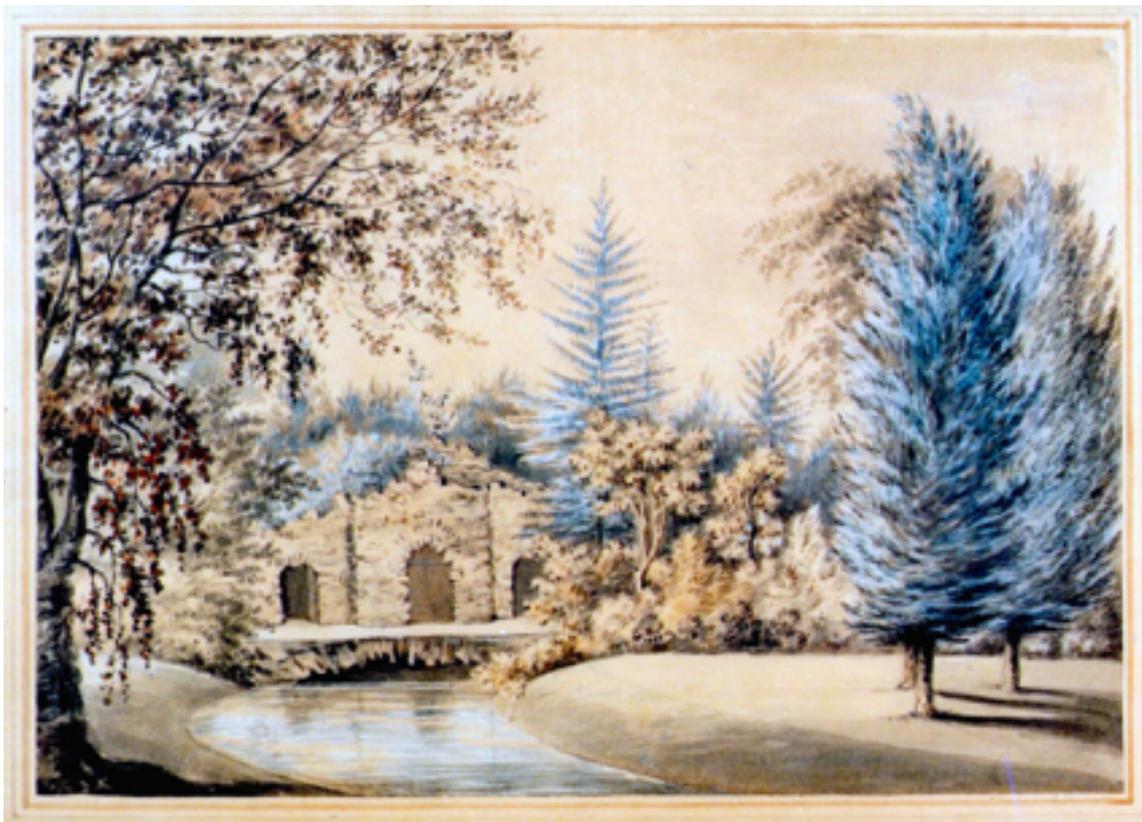
*More half-buried sets of steps at the entrance to a tunnel*

*The Lost Pre-Raphaelite* by Nigel Daly was published in summer 2014, by Wilmington Square Books at £25



## A New Conservation Triumph: The Shell Grotto at St Giles House, Wimborne St Giles in Dorset

Suzannah Fleming



Previously derelict and largely uninhabited for almost fifty years, the newly restored St Giles House in Dorset will host an upcoming Association of Gardens Trust Study Day on May 6 (see [page 5](#)). The house has been rehabilitated for the purpose of receiving the present Earl of Shaftesbury and his family, and to serve as an events venue, and several extraordinary park features have benefited with extensive conservation repairs and re-instatement.

The focus of the Study Day will be on the historical development of the garden and the wider landscape. A programme of talks, exhibition, and tour has been scheduled. A principal highlight of the afternoon tour will be a visit to the spectacular mid-18th century Shell Grotto, returned to life following a fascinating state-of-the-art scheme of repairs.

The question of how to conserve this Grotto had been a concern for several generations of the Ashley Cooper family, not just the present one. Only twenty years after it was finished in 1751 it consistently required annual repairs just to maintain the status quo. By the late 1930s the 9th Earl of Shaftesbury (1886–1961) wrote of his frustration, 'it has always seemed to

stand outside ordinary repair work ... to do anything of a serious nature always seemed to me to invite disaster'. In 1951 the architectural writer & illustrator Barbara Jones published a detailed description of the building in her first edition of *Follies & Grottoes*. At that stage at least some repairs were needed, but it hadn't yet reached an advanced state of dereliction. According to an article in 1959 by Bea Howe for *Country Life* the grotto was then in the midst of being 'most carefully and delicately restored' by a 'Mrs. Jebb and her partner Miss Sant'. When Barbara Jones re-visited in 1971 she was disappointed to see the grotto was 'dilapidated again, and repairs abandoned', though she believed 'it could still be restored'.

It is fortunate that the much anticipated restoration of this rustic shell grotto, along with several other garden features, has fallen to the present generation of the family. Fortunate too overall that historic building conservation has advanced tremendously since the era of the 9th Earl of Shaftesbury, who we can imagine might have attempted the task if only anyone in those days knew how to accomplish it. Over the last few years his great grandson Nicholas

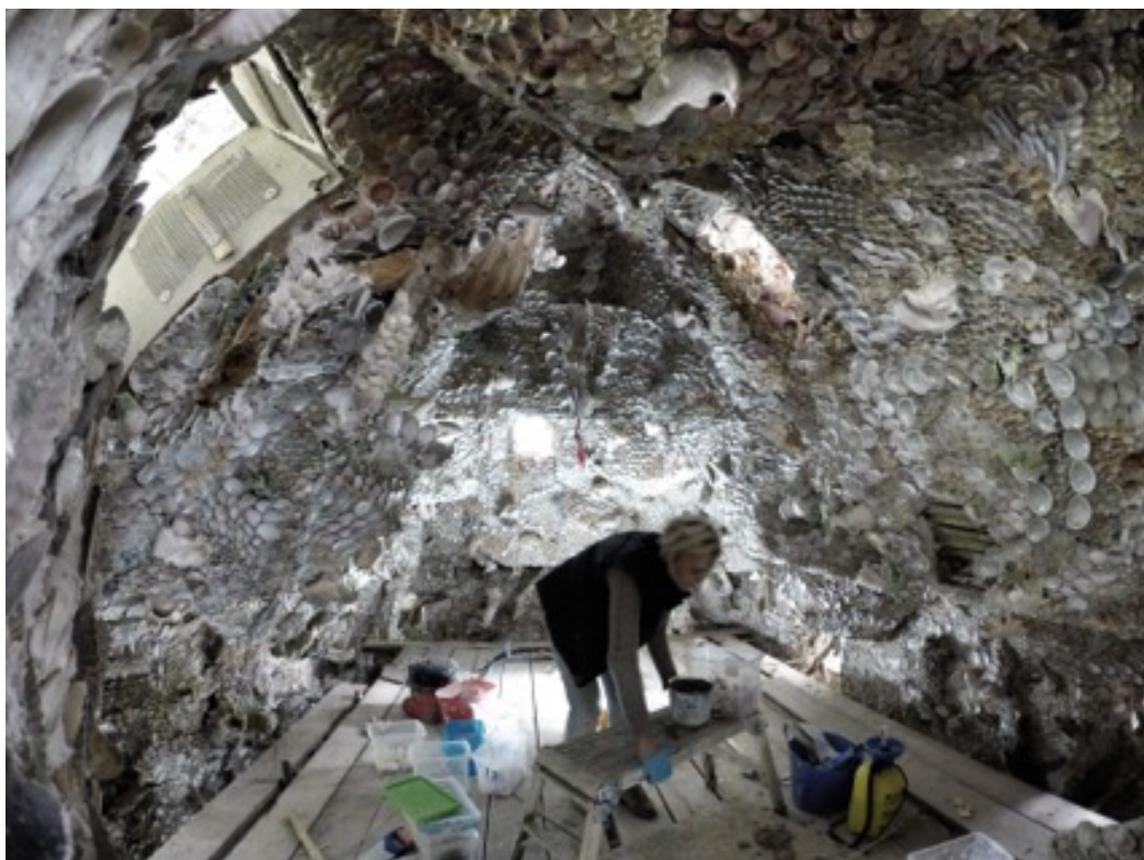
Ashley Cooper, 12th Earl, has taken up the challenge with reassuring gusto, greatly assisted by his excellent surveyor Philip Hughes of Philip Hughes Associates; the work being underpinned by extensive scholarly research by historians working for English Heritage.

Much consolidation was required to the highly fragile structural and decorative elements of the grotto. Accurate re-instatement of some major missing decoration was accomplished by adopting a carefully conceived 'archaeological' approach, assisted further by high-quality archival photographs. This brilliant grotto conservation project was carried out by Sally Strachey Historic Conservation and has been funded by a Higher Level Stewardship Scheme grant from Natural England. Future works, when further funding is available, will include repairs to the vault beneath the central grotto chamber (which houses a natural spring), drainage and landscape improvements, and some additional re-instatement of missing decoration.

We can see that the grotto at St Giles House displays remarkable composite similarities in its external appearance to several of Thomas Wright of Durham's much later designs in the second book on

'Grottoes' for his *Universal Architecture* (1758). From the aspect of the front elevation it is very close to the playful Shell Grotto at Hampton Court House, a building plausibly attributed to 'The Wizard of Durham'. However, it is important to keep in mind that the St Giles example is much earlier than any of Wright's known grotto designs. Henry Flitcroft *may* have provided designs, he was working here in the period. The estate accounts do show that it was built in the years between 1746 and 1751 for the 4th Earl of Shaftesbury (1711–71) and his first wife Susannah (nee Noel, 1711–58), during which time numerous casks of shells arrived from various ports, including many from Alderman William Beckford while in Spa Town, Jamaica, and from other sources both near and far.

Lady Shaftesbury can be seen presiding over the creation of the Pleasure Grounds in her role as 'Fair Patroness'. She was a daughter of Baptiste Noel, 3rd Earl of Gainsborough, and a cousin of Lord Burlington, and was later dubbed in Ashley Cooper family traditions as 'The Great Decorator of the Place'. It was noted that the gardens were generally conceived on her 'Plan', although a payment was made in 1734



James Preston

Conservation well underway on the Shell Grotto in July 2014



Suzannah Fleming

*The Shell Grotto restored, showing the extraordinary shell decorated branches. 'It is an attempt at an underwater room rather than just a shell room.' Shell Guide to Dorset, Michael Pitt-Rivers, 1966*

to 'Mr. Dodington's gardener' at nearby Eastbury 'for Making a Plan of the New Garden'. In 1752 her inspiration for the garden embellishments was acknowledged by a visitor; Robert Andrew, who wrote that a large Salvator Rosa landscape in the house had served as Lady Shaftesbury's 'Model' for the garden building known as the 'Castellated Arch and Towers' (also very recently restored). Andrew described the grotto in the following terms: 'a large Grotto adorn'd with an immense profusion of y<sup>e</sup> Richeſt & moſt Beautiful Shells diſpoſed in the wildeſt & moſt Groteſque Manner poſſible. We enter'd into it by an Anti-Room design'd to be enrich'd with ſeveral Kinds of Ores, Minerals, & Fossilſ'. Richard Pococke described it ſimilarly in 1754 and ſuggeſted it had been 'finiſhed by Mr. Caſtles of Marylebone'. The 7th Earl of Shaftesbury recalled hearing that the man who decorated the interior 'would never allow anyone to ſee him at work'. Unfortunately there is no record in the accounts for payments relating to the ſhell decoration. The 7th Earl was of the opinion that his grandfather had built the grotto ſimply to 'pleaſe his firſt wife' and 'at great expenſe' (entirely mythical

contemporary figures range from £3,000 to £10,000).

Lady Shaftesbury was celebrated elsewhere as a major influence in encouraging the British arts in London. The Shaftesburys also played a pivotal role in the life and career of Handel, notably directing the composer's dramatic shift in taste from Italian opera to English oratorio in the late 1730s; especially important in gaining patronage in the 'Whig Patriot' oppositional court centred on Frederick Prince of Wales. The Pleasure Grounds (begun 1732 and completed in 1751) featured a remarkably early Serpentine River and an array of modestly scaled rustic and embattled buildings, with a large 'Chinese Bridge' to add an exotic touch. These structures were positioned along a delightful circuit walk in the thirty-three acres to the south of the house. Robert Andrew thought 'a Stranger cannot but obſerve y<sup>e</sup> admirable diſpoſition of theſe Gardens, w<sup>ch</sup> by a pleaſing variety affords different Views of y<sup>e</sup> Country & a Farm near adjoining'. Indeed, the diverſified circuit walk was decorated with flowering ſhrubs and evergreens and led its way around (and in between) ſeveral arable fields and was protected by

a Ha-ha as it passed along one side of a broad open pasture; hints of a fashionable *ferme ornee*. One visitor in 1755 noted 'The Elegant temples Light & Easy, not expensive'. The grotto, on the other hand, was generally perceived as extraordinarily expensive to construct and was always described by visitors as the final destination in the circuit walk, the lavish and 'wild' decoration was apparently regarded as

something of a novelty at the time. Today, there is little else around to compare its interior with. In particular, what sets it apart from some few contemporary examples of the 'rustic' type is the extensive use of large twisted branches encrusted with shells. We shall hear at the Study Day how this aspect has proven the most challenging part of Lord Shaftesbury's new conservation triumph.

## Images of Painshill

Michael Symes



The Garden Museum

*The newly cleaned Painshill painting, now owned by the Garden Museum*

One waits ages for a newly-discovered painting of Painshill, then two come along at once. During 2014 two eighteenth-century oils of views of Painshill emerged for sale that were unknown to scholars. It has long been acknowledged that a number of such paintings existed at the time, but details were lacking as to exactly what they depicted, and it was not known how many, or which, had survived. Even among the known paintings, dates and attributions as to artist are mostly uncertain, and in the case of the new pair, one is definite and one is debatable.

The first of the paintings, a view from the Turkish Tent, or near it, has been purchased by the Garden Museum and will be given a significant display. It was bought with the assistance of the Art Fund, the Arts Council England/Victoria and Albert Museum Purchase Grant Fund, the Beecroft Trust and an anonymous donor. Cleaning and conservation presented real problems as it had been crudely re-touched. It can be compared with the so-called 'Abercorn' painting c1770, though from a lower vantage point and including the five-arch bridge,

## agenda

which replaced an earlier 'Chinese' bridge shown in the background in the familiar William Woollett print of 1760. The artist is unknown, George Arnald has been put forward, but with no great confidence. The date is likely to be in the 1780s; certainly post-1778 since Benjamin Bond Hopkins' new house is shown. The bridge is perhaps the most significant feature for today's purposes, since it has recently been recreated on the visual evidence of a print of 1828 by GF Prosser. The question arose, was that the bridge as originally constructed? Thankfully the answer is now confirmed as 'Yes' (broadly), and this is the only known contemporary painting of it. William Gilpin sketched it in 1772, but only vaguely and in the distance. The grotto stands out much more clearly in the 'Abercorn' painting.

The figures in the painting are too large for the features they stand on or near, so may have been added later. The reverse is true of the other painting, which was on sale at the Derek Johns Gallery but

has now passed into private hands. It shows the interior of the grotto, and is the only such oil painting known to survive; other contemporary depictions of the interior are sketches by FM Piper in 1779 and Elias Martin (pen and wash, c1777).

This time there is no doubt as to authorship, the painting is signed and dated, William Tomkins 1773. If that is the date of completion of the work, it might have been painted the previous year and therefore commissioned by Charles Hamilton, but if it is the date of painting it would have been commissioned by Bond Hopkins, the succeeding owner of Painshill, since Hamilton sold up to him in early 1773.

Tomkins had painted two previous views of Painshill, exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1772, probably those which Hamilton subsequently purchased and paid Tomkins for early in 1774. Hamilton took a collection of at least twelve paintings of Painshill with him when he retired to Bath as remembrances of his *elysium*, including two of the grotto (details not known).



Closely resembling the restored Painshill Grotto, the figures in this newly discovered painting must be about two foot tall

The figures in the painting have been tentatively identified, but there is no reason to believe that they represented actual persons. The scale of the painting argues against it, the figures are so puny in comparison to the inflated size of the grotto chamber that it would be disparaging if they were real. Tomkins painted more than fifty garden or estate views, and when figures do appear, as in the

view of the flower garden at Audley End, they are of little consequence and unlikely to be identifiable. The depiction of the grotto itself tends to confirm the evidence of the sketches, on which the astonishing restoration was based, though the contentious busts as depicted ambiguously in one of the Martin views are missing. If there ever was a pair of busts, they must have been a Bond Hopkins addition.

## The Old Psychiatric Hospital in Trieste Becomes a Rose Garden

Lucia Barbo

*What was once a place of pain and detention is now a place of freedom and flowers. Roses, to be precise, 3000 different varieties of roses.*

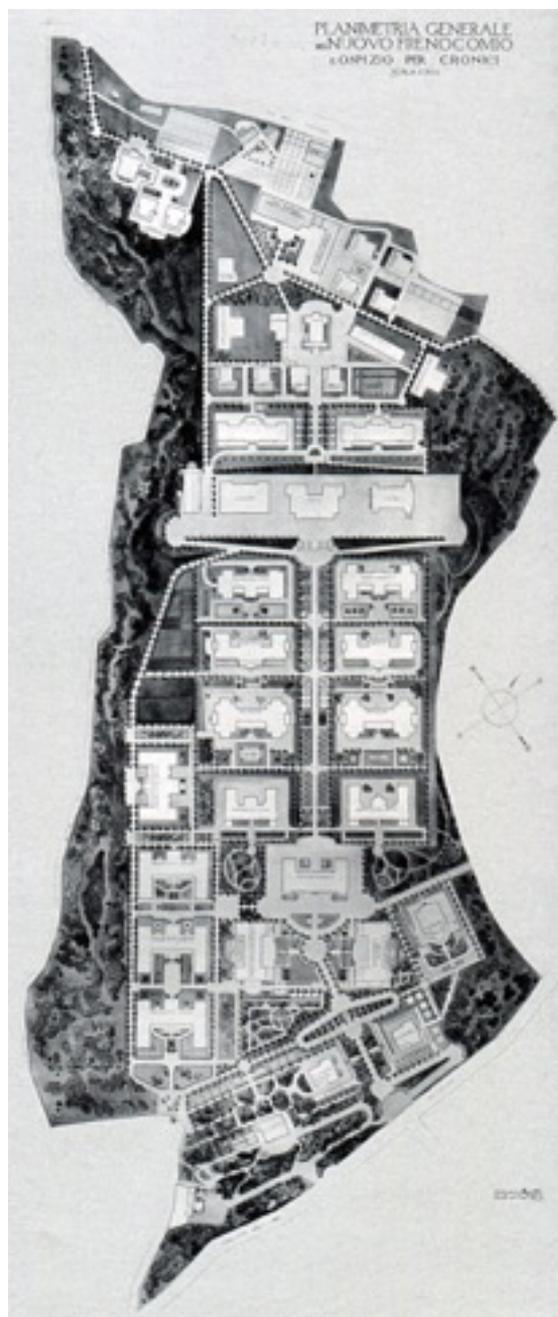
In 1902 an innovative psychiatric hospital was built in the district of San Giovanni, in Trieste. The site was historically home to gardens belonging to an ancient villa, as well as more recent creations, and the modern day layout echoes those earlier gardens.

The most beautiful was named Villa Bottacin, whose owner was the founder of the Horticultural Society in Trieste. Archduke Ferdinand Maximilian of Hapsburg often visited this house and garden to discover new ideas and new species of plants for the Park of Miramare that he was planning in the middle of the nineteenth century. It was a landscape garden, with a stream, a glass house, fountains and a medieval style building that served as the villa itself.

A part of this park, along with others nearby, became a part of the site of the new hospital. The hospital had the form of a village (*right*), full of trees and flowerbeds that the patients had to care for as a part of their therapy. This is the reason why the garden's role in this place is not merely decorative. The architect was Lodovico Braidotti, whose project consisted of a kind of garden city, with magnificent tree-lined avenues that still exist today and are still the focal point of the park.

In the lower part of the park, a landscape garden, similar to that which existed before, introduced the visitor to the upper more formal garden, closest to the houses and other buildings. Other important characteristics of the project, such as the wide formal flowerbeds, have disappeared during a long period of neglect of the whole park.

A key point in the development of the hospital, its buildings and gardens, was the arrival of Doctor Franco Basaglia, a doctor whose innovative method started to open up psychiatric hospitals and free their inhabitants. For this reason, since 1971, the role of the hospital itself, along with the park, gradually changed. One hundred years since its creation, the whole area has now been completely transformed. A few buildings are still used as a place to treat



## agenda

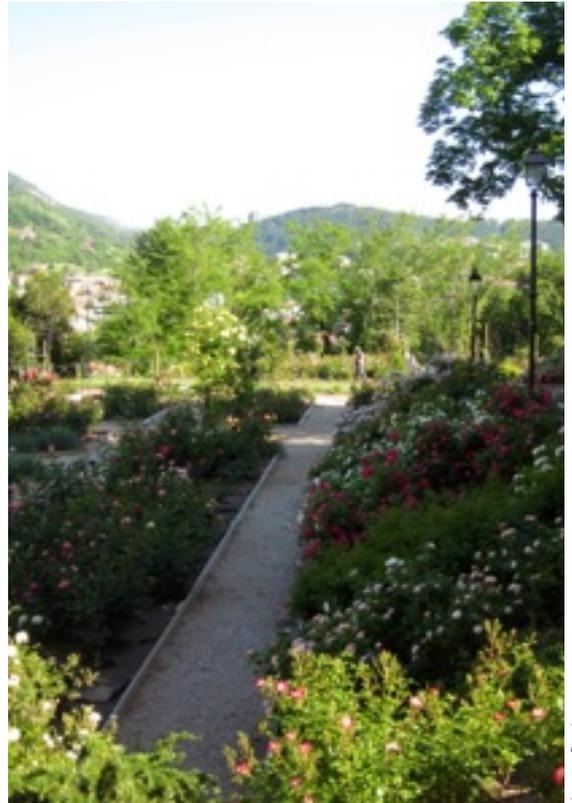
mental illness, the others, however, are now museums, a café, and a branch of the University.

The new garden was planned by Vladimir Vramec, who chose the rose as a key element, chiefly because this flower had always been present in the original park since its inception. In particular there is a collection of roses from the 'Liberty period', the era in which the hospital was built. In the park a huge formal rose garden has been planted, and today you can see over 3,000 different varieties of roses, both ancient and contemporary. The rose garden is growing every year, with new varieties from all over the world, in collaboration with the Cooperativa Agricola San Pantaleone.

The University is heavily involved in this transformation, and has also developed an app, called **cercarose** (A. Moro, S. Moro, S. Martellos, R. Riccamboni & P.L. Nimis. Il CercaRose: [www.siiit.eu/cercarose](http://www.siiit.eu/cercarose)), that helps people recognize the flowers they are looking at in San Giovanni's garden, Hybrid Teas, Floribundas, Old and Wild roses, Climbers and Ramblers, Ground Covers and Shrubs.

Each spring a new festival, know as Horti Tergestini, celebrates the new life of this incredible place. There is also a flower market, a series of conferences and events all of which confirm that today, finally, we have a beautiful new garden that belongs to the whole city.

Lucia has an English language blog looking at aspects of garden history: [www.gardenhistoryblog.com](http://www.gardenhistoryblog.com)



Lucia Barbo

A view of part of the gardens and their setting today

## The Earliest Recorded Tomato in Britain, in Wales

*Elisabeth Whittle*

The search for the earliest recorded tomato grown in Britain widens, to Wales. There is incontrovertible evidence that it was grown by Sir Edward Stradling in his garden at **St Donat's Castle**, in the Vale of Glamorgan, before 1590.

The tomato (*Solanum lycopersicum*) is a member of the nightshade family (*Solanaceae*) and related to the potato. It was introduced to Europe from Mexico by the Spanish, following their conquest of that country, which was complete by 1523. The plant, called *tomatotl* (there are various spellings) in the native Aztec Nahuatl language, had long been cultivated and eaten in Mexico but originated in the coastal regions of Peru and Ecuador.

Archival evidence shows that the tomato was first referred to and probably first grown in Italy. It is first referred to in print in Europe in 1544 by Pietro Andrea Mattioli (or Matthiolus, 1501–77), an Italian doctor and naturalist born in Siena. The first edition of his *Di Pedacio Dioscoride ...* (Venice, 1544) is nominally a commentary on the work of the Roman botanist and

physician Dioscorides, but is amplified by contemporary observations, some his own, some from correspondents, including Luca Ghini, founder of the botanic garden at Pisa (but the tomato is not included in the 1548 catalogue of 620 plants in the garden). Mattioli describes the tomato as a species of mandrake (*Mandragora*): 'Another species [of mandrake] has been brought into Italy *in our time* [my italics], flattened like the melerose [a kind of apple] and segmented, green at first and when ripe a golden colour'. This is clearly the tomato and interestingly is described as 'golden', implying that the first tomatoes to reach Europe were of a yellow variety. He says that they are eaten in the same manner as aubergines. The description is amplified in the Latin edition of 1554, where it is first called 'Pomi d'oro', or golden apple, in print, a name that quickly gained general currency and remains in use in Italy to this day. The red-fruited form is first mentioned in this edition. The 1586 posthumous edition, edited by Ioachim Camerarius, has a woodcut of the tomato, leaving no doubt about its identification.

Italian herbarium specimens of the tomato dating from the 1550s are known, including that in the oldest extant herbarium in the world (now in the Botanic garden, Bologna), collected by Ulisse Aldrovandi in 1551–70. It is specimen no. 368 in the first volume, labelled '*Pomum amoris. Mali insani species*'.

In the 1540s and 50s the tomato was grown mainly as an exotic curiosity and only by a few people. Possibly the earliest record of a tomato in a specific garden comes from Italy. In 1548 Cosimo de Medici's house steward wrote to the Medici private secretary saying that the basket of tomatoes sent from the family's Florentine estate at Torre del Gallo had arrived safely. It was also grown early on in Germany. Georg Oelinger of Nürnberg (Germany), a famous botanist, published his *Herbarium des Georg Oelinger* in 1553 and in it is an illustration (plate 44) of a tomato, called, among other names, 'Goldapfel'. Another author, Gesner, in his *Horti Germaniae* (1561) lists the 'German' gardeners who grow it: Oelinger (Ollingerus) of Nürnberg, Vuoysselus of Breslau, Petrus Coudenbergius of Antwerp and Joachimus Kreichius of Torgau. By the 1590s it was recorded as common in German gardens (Iacobus Theodorus Tabernaemontanus, *Neuw Kreuterbuch*, 1591).

There seemed to be confusion as to whether the tomato was edible or not. This may have arisen in part from the fact that the leaves are poisonous. Even though it was recorded by Mattioli as eaten in Italy, further afield there were doubts. In the 1600 English translation of the *Maison Rustique, or The Countrie Farme* by Charles Stevens and John Liebault the section on 'Golden Apples' states, 'This plant is more pleasant to the sight than either to the taste or smell, because the fruit being eaten provoketh loathing and vomiting'. Also in France Olivier de Serres, in *Le theatre d'Agriculture* (1619) states that the fruits are not good to eat and the plant was used there for covering garden houses and arbours, which is interesting.

The plant was not named as 'tomato' in Europe until 1572, when Melchior Guilandinus of Padua in his *Papyrus, hoc est commentaries in tria, C. Plini Maioris* ... stated that Galen's *Lycopersion* might be the 'tumatle of the Americans'. This name did not gain more general currency until the seventeenth century.

But what then of the tomato in Britain? As far as is known up to now there is quite a wide gap in years between its first mention in print and its first recorded cultivation. The first published reference to the tomato is by Henry Lyte (1529?–1607) of Lytes Cary Manor in Somerset. A keen botanist, with 'a pretty good collection of plants for that age' (John

Aubrey, *Natural History of Wiltshire* (1685), p.92), he published *A nieuwe Herball* in 1578. This was a translation, without alteration, of Rembert Dodoens's *Cruydeboeck* (Antwerp, 1564), via the 1577 French translation by Charles de l'Ecluse and it included a chapter headed 'Of Amourous apples or Golden apples'. There is no evidence, however, that Lyte actually knew, or grew tomatoes. An inventory of his plants compiled by his son after his death listed only trees.



Until now the understanding has been that the first recorded tomato grown in Britain was in the botanist John Gerard's garden in Holborn, London. Gerard describes the tomato in his *The Herball a General Historie of Plantes* (1597, p.275). In it he says that he received seed from Spain, Italy and other 'hot countries'. He describes the fruit as of a 'bright shining redde colour' and mentions growing a yellow variety as well. Gerard lists various names: 'called in Latine *Pomum Aureum*, *Poma Amoris*, and *Lycopertium* ... in English apples of Love, and golden apples'. He says that they are eaten in Spain and other 'hot regions', with salt, pepper and oil, but 'they yeelde very little nourishment to the bodie'. A 1599 catalogue of plants growing in Gerard's garden lists two varieties, red and yellow. The tomato was therefore recorded as growing in Gerard's garden in 1597 and 1599, making it likely that it was grown there, unrecorded, at some point during the 1590s, or even earlier. Gerard was William Cecil, Lord Burghley's, gardener from 1577 and it is entirely plausible, but unrecorded, that the tomato was grown in one of his gardens after that date.

The intriguing possibility arises that the earliest recorded cultivation of the tomato in Britain is in

## agenda

the garden at St Donat's Castle. This is one of the grandest, best preserved and most important sixteenth-century gardens in Britain [GHS members visited during our Cardiff Conference last year]. It was created by Sir Edward Stradling (1529–1609), a wealthy Renaissance man of great breadth of learning who moved in court and scholarly circles and was well travelled (Whittle, *Garden History* 27:1, 1999). Archival evidence indicates that the gardens were exceptional and greatly admired in Sir Edward's day. Descriptions show that not only were they the equal in style and layout of contemporary gardens on the continent but that Sir Edward was growing some of the latest plant introductions from Europe and America.

Of great value in analysing the history and importance of the gardens are two surviving contemporary descriptions. Both of these mention specific plants. The first of the two principal sources is a poem in Latin written by Sir John Stradling (1563–1637) before Sir Edward's death in 1609. The specific plants mentioned in the poem as growing in the gardens are vines, violets and lilies.

The second, and for the purpose of this article, crucial source is a poem by Dr Thomas Leyshon of Neath, written in praise of the castle and its gardens. Importantly, this poem must date to 1590 or earlier. The reason for this is that Sion Dafydd Rhys refers to it in his great Welsh grammar, *Cambrobrytannicae Cymraecaeve linguae institutiones*, written in 1590 and published in 1592. The book was printed by Sir Edward Stradling, at his own expense. In a letter to Sir Edward, printed at the beginning of the book, Rhys noted this poem, which he saw at the castle. He translated it from Latin into Welsh; the original is lost but part of the Welsh version survives (National Library of Wales, Peniarth MS 118).

All sections of the poem relating to the gardens are discussed in my *Garden History* article. As well as vines, roses and lilies three unusual plants are specifically mentioned, no doubt because of their great rarity, half-hardy nature and exotic origins: 'nards' (spike lavender; *Lavandula latifolia*, from southern Europe), 'amomum' (Winter cherry, *Solanum pseudocapsicum*, from America) and 'golden apples' (tomatoes). The line (116) of Leyshon's



Liz Whittle

*The terraced garden, St Donat's Castle, Vale of Glamorgan*

poem relating to tomatoes is as follows: *Abhalev ereid a dybhant yn yr ardh, a' ch[r]eigyev ereid lhyna bethev hardh I bhyrw golwg armvnt* (Golden apples grow in the garden, ...)\*

The exciting conclusion is that the tomato, or golden apple as it was then called, was growing in Sir Edward's garden at St Donat's Castle, before 1590. As far as I know, this is the earliest mention of tomatoes actually growing in Britain. Sir Edward Stradling was no doubt bursting with pride to have this rarity growing in his garden. Perhaps this pride can now be transferred to Wales, which can possibly boast the first recorded tomato grown in Britain.

\* Kindly translated from the Welsh for my 1999 article by Dr Nesta Lloyd.

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G.A. McCue, 'The history of the use of the tomato: an annotated bibliography', *Annals of the Missouri Botanical Garden* 39, no. 4 (Nov 1952), pp.289–348.  
Elisabeth Whittle, 'The Tudor gardens of St Donat's Castle, Glamorgan, South Wales', *Garden History* 27:1 (1999), pp.109–26.

This was first published in the booklet *The Welsh Historic Gardens Trust 1989 – 2014* (2014). It is reprinted here by kind permission of the Welsh Historic Gardens Trust.

## A Tale of Two Wentworths

*Patrick Eyres*

The Wentworths have been in the news again. First, the launch of the **Wentworth Woodhouse Preservation Trust** to secure the mansion's future. Then, a royal visit to the splendidly restored Great Victorian Conservatory at Wentworth Castle.

As a result of the long-running and now legendary Wentworth family rivalry, South Yorkshire is bejewelled with spectacular Georgian architecture. These two mansions and their stables, farms, temples, monuments and follies remain embowered

within sylvan estates still resonant of 18th century landscape gardening. Yet their futures were uncertain at the end of the 20th century.

Then in 1999 Wentworth Woodhouse was bought by Mr Clifford Newbold; that is, the 83 acres comprising the 'back-to-back' Palladian and Baroque wings, gardens and ancillary buildings. The epic Palladian front views across the park, lakes, woods and monuments, remain in the care of the Fitzwilliam Wentworth Amenity Trust. It is undoubtedly the case, that were it not for the ministrations of the Newbold family the mansion would be in a semi-derelict state today. In 2012 they opened the mansion and gardens to the public.

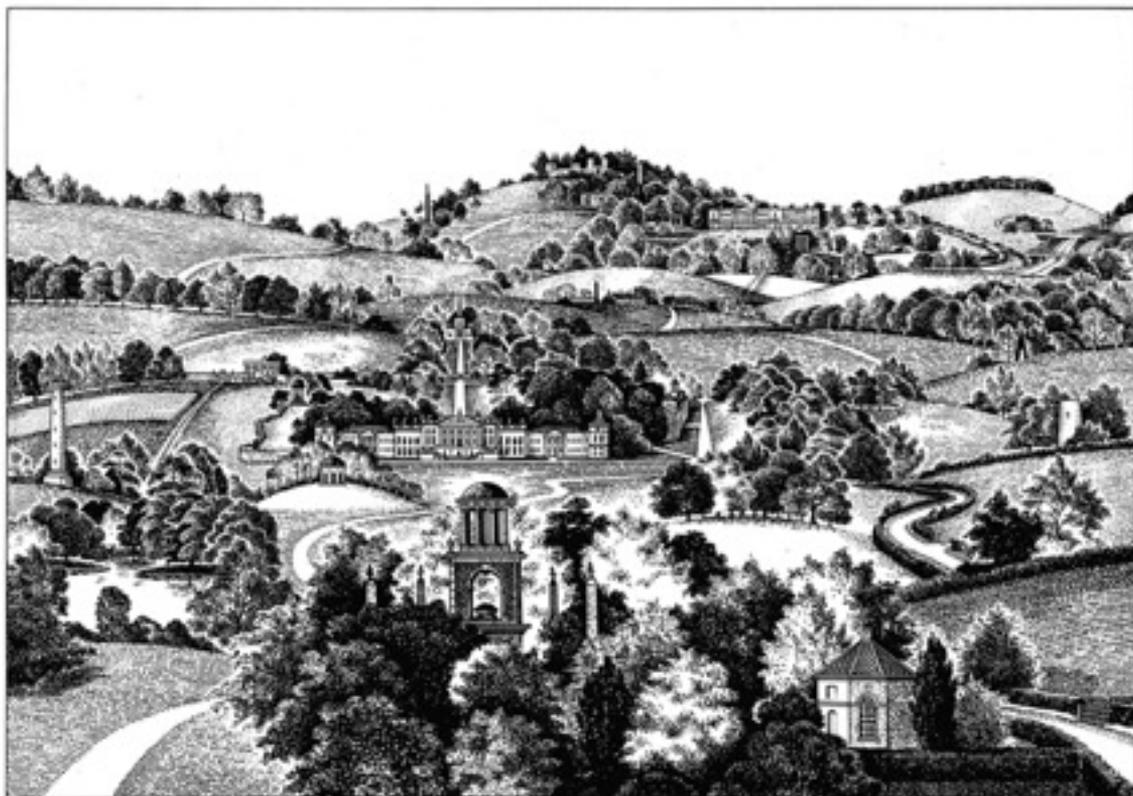
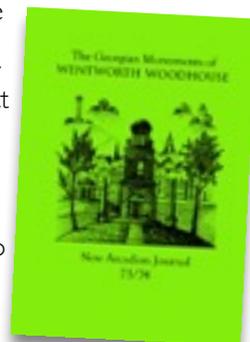
However the Newbolds appear to have become dismayed by the protracted legal struggle with the Coal Authority. For several years they have sought compensation for the subsidence caused by post-war coal-mining that is de-stabilising the mansion. Now, they are about to put the mansion on the market for £7m.

Hence the launch of the Wentworth Woodhouse Preservation Trust. According to the press release of 30 October 2014, this body proposes to buy the mansion and to raise the £42m required to resolve the subsidence and complete restoration of the buildings. Their plans are ambitious, the National Trust

is to manage the opening of mansion and gardens, and the Stables are to be converted into small business units. Of the Palladian wings, the southern will become apartments for residential holiday lets; the northern will provide catering for events.

By a serendipitous coincidence the Georgian Wentworth Woodhouse edition of the *New Arcadian Journal* was published at the same time as the WWPT press release. This 2nd edition is updated with new research as well as new illustrations that include artists' drawings and also historical maps and prints. The Georgian monuments can be seen embellishing the landscape surrounding the monumental, east-facing Palladian wing in Chris Broughton's modern bird's-eye view (*below*). Only six miles away, the double fronted (Baroque and Palladian) Wentworth Castle can also be seen amidst its own constellation of Georgian monuments.

The Wentworth Castle Heritage Trust (WHTC) was launched in 2001 to implement the restoration of the Grade I listed mansion and landscape, as well as the plethora of farm buildings, temples and



Wentworth Woodhouse and distant Wentworth Castle. Drawing, Chris Broughton, *New Arcadian Journal* 73/74

## agenda

and monuments within the 500 acres of gardens and park (the estate was opened to the public a decade ago). The ambitious programme of continuous restoration has largely been funded by the HLF, but also by EH, the ERDF and the HHA among others.

On 4 November 2014 the Duke of Gloucester visited to mark the first anniversary of the opening to the public of the restored Great Victorian Conservatory. This project had been launched by Prince Charles in January 2012. The Duke can be seen discussing with trustees Jane Furse and Patrick

Eyres the specially restored and apparently controversial *Blackamoor* sundial-statue (a.k.a. *The Kneeling Slave*) by John Nost II, c. 1725. By another remarkable coincidence, a recent edition of the *New Arcadian Journal* was devoted to the presence of this lead statue in Georgian gardens, and contains an inventory of known sites.



*The Duke of Gloucester with Jane Furse, Patrick Eyres and The Blackamoor statue*

The Wentworth Castle restoration programme never rests. The WCHT is now limbering up to raise funds for the next project, the extensive Walled Garden. As for Wentworth Woodhouse, it has the suspense of wait-and-see.

For details of how to obtain the *New Arcadian Journal*, see: [www.newarcadianpress.co.uk](http://www.newarcadianpress.co.uk)

## Little Sparta Delights Scottish Government

### Patrick Eyres

Little Sparta enjoyed a flurry of publicity following the visit of the Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Fiona Hyslop, in August 2014. It was the first time the garden had been seen by a member of the Scottish government, and the occasion marked the formation of a partnership between the Little Sparta Trust, Edinburgh University and Edinburgh College of Art.

Thanks to a grant from the university, half of Ian Hamilton Finlay's house has been converted into a study centre. This will allow post-graduate students to use the garden and its artworks as part of a range of courses, including art, literature and landscape architecture. It will also enable garden visitors to learn more about Finlay and his ideas.

As if for the occasion, the weather behaved impeccably. While the sun beamed bounteously on the garden, Fiona Hyslop was shown round by the head gardener, George Gilliland and the Trust's chairman, Magnus Linklater. Afterwards she professed her delight in a speech that paid tribute to Finlay's importance to Scottish art, acknowledged the garden as one of Scotland's most cherished cultural treasures, and thanked the Trust for maintaining the place to such a high standard.

In high summer Little Sparta is gorgeously lush and bosky, even in the youngest nooks and corners (right), and therein lies a teaser, because the garden is evolving into woodland, and in a matter of years the

place will become a forested oasis on the very edge of open moorland. So, stimulated by the Conservation Management Plan drawn up by John Pibbs and the Debois Landscape Survey Group, a long-term plan for the trees is being formulated.

Far from the bounty of sunshine, mid-November found the garden buffeted by icy winds fresh from Siberia. Such was the day that the head gardener and Debois arboriculturalist, Nick Owen, met with trustees Ann Uppington and Patrick Eyres to discuss the garden's sylvan future. To the relief of all, the conclusion was that no intrusive felling is required. Rather, a gradual transformation over a period of five years will ensure that the spirit of the place is sustained for the pleasure of visitors.



## A Timely Look Back: Editorial, *Garden History* 8:3 Winter 1980

John Anthony, Acting Editor of *Garden History* 1980

In 1981 *Garden History* will appear in a much improved form twice a year. The editor will be Dr W.A. Brogden ... to whom all enquiries about editorial matters and books for review should be sent.

Along with the new-style journal a *Newsletter* will be issued three times a year and will contain notices of future meetings, reports of past meetings, queries, notes and news of the Society in particular and of garden history in general. The editor of the *Newsletter* will be Mr Richard Bisgrove. He will be grateful for any suitable material ... sent to him ...

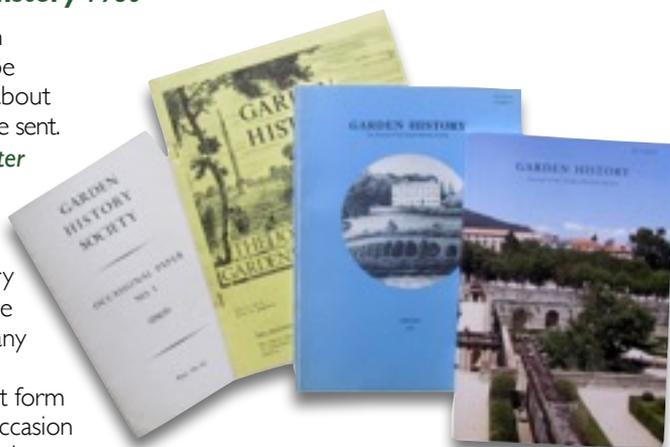
This last issue of *Garden History* in its present form and under its temporary editor provides an occasion for considering the progress made by the Society since it was founded fifteen years ago. On almost all sides the situation has changed very greatly.

Then few books were published about the history of gardens. The flow of books gradually increased until, during the last two or three years, there has been an almost embarrassing flood of books. Then there were few articles and papers published on the subject, virtually the only periodical concerning itself with the history of gardens being *Country Life*.

*Garden History* under the devoted editorship of Christopher Thacker, can claim a creditable role in changing this situation and the availability of a journal known to be catering for the subject has been an important stimulus to the writing and research of papers. The situation has changed to such an extent that there are even rumours that a commercial organisation is proposing to start another journal.

Before the Society was founded there were few opportunities for those interested to meet and exchange views and in so doing to establish those personal relationships which serve to illumine any field of study. Then there were few opportunities to join groups of like-minded people in visiting historic gardens. Now there is a planned programme of activities each year where numbers taking part have to be carefully limited, such is the enthusiasm of members. The Annual Conference has become an essential diary date for many, a conference which must hold the record for the brevity of its formal sessions, almost all the time being very properly spent actually visiting gardens.

From this interest and enthusiasm in the study of garden history it has been a natural transition to develop a concern for the state of such gardens in our own day. Only gradually, and sometimes not without misgivings, has the Society developed as a body concerned in the conservation of gardens.



Pressures of many kinds have inevitably resulted in efforts having to be made to ensure that due regard is had to the value of historic gardens and landscapes when the vital decisions are made between competing claims for development.

But new developments are not the greatest threat to the preservation of historic gardens and landscapes. Increasingly owners are finding the financial burden too onerous and the Society has worked hard to seek equitable and sensible taxation arrangements. A good deal has been achieved but more needs to be done.

What must we aim to achieve in the future? The flow of books and research must continue and increase in quality as well, perhaps, in quantity. There are aspects of our studies as yet much neglected, the history of plants being a notable one. That *Garden History* must go from strength to strength goes without saying. Garden historians must continue to meet and exchange views.

In the field of conservation a system of statutory listing of historic gardens and landscapes is essential if we are to ensure that adequate attention is paid to them when new developments are under consideration. It seems essential that public authorities play an increasingly important part in restoring and maintaining historic gardens. The Society must encourage and stimulate them to take enlightened action and provide advice and historical knowledge.

Garden history is a many-faceted study and each facet will have its enthusiasts. There must always be a danger that sections will form and tend to break away. This would surely be a disaster. Research and publication of the results of that research are essential as a foundation for conservation. The study of the history of the design of gardens is incomplete unless the history of the plants is given its due place.

## agenda & other events

A Society which limited its activities to organising visits to gardens would be a mere social gathering yet such activities can be a valuable stimulus to research and conservation.

From our progress over the past fifteen years there can surely be no doubt that the Society will go on to still higher levels of achievement and usefulness.

### From the current Editor, *GHS news*

Reading through this editorial written by the late John Anthony, for many years our Honorary Secretary, it is clear that we have achieved many of the goals of the then teenaged Society. Our journal *Garden History* continues on from 'strength to strength', publishing research, by new as well as established authors; indeed the Society actively encourages new research with its Annual Essay Prize and Graduate Symposium. Through JSTOR we reach an ever expanding academic readership.

We continue to produce a newsletter, *GHS news*, though currently only twice yearly, with our *micro-news* filling the gaps; and will do so increasingly

through our web activities.

We continue to run visits and lectures as well as study days and tours, and our *Annual Conference* is still notable for 'the brevity of its formal sessions', though this year's three AGMs may be a test!

In the field of conservation we were very active in researching what became the English Heritage *Register of Historic Parks and Gardens*, achieved the status of Statutory Consultee and continue our work in responding to planning matters with our weekly Conservation Log and co-ordinating responses with our colleagues in the County Gardens Trusts, who we hope will flourish alongside us in the intended new joint organisation, The Gardens Trust, perhaps finally putting to rest the fears expressed in the penultimate paragraph.

Let our aim remain that we continue to flourish, as we enter our 50th year, producing 'still higher levels of achievement and usefulness.'

Back issues of *Garden History* remain available at: **£15+p&p**, contact our printers: 01787 249 286 or email: [ghsmembership@lavenhamgroup.co.uk](mailto:ghsmembership@lavenhamgroup.co.uk)

## other events

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



### **The Chiswick House Camellia Show** 10am to 4pm, continues until 29 March

The magnificent blooms in the historic indoor collection are at their best during February and March. Tuesdays to Sundays (closed Mondays). Free.

### **Sir Hans Sloane and Exotica** Victoria Pickering & Alice Marples IHR Spring Seminar Series

6pm, Thursday 5 March  
Free. At IHR, Gordon Room, G34, Senate House, London. Contact: [ihrghardenhistory@gmail.com](mailto:ihrghardenhistory@gmail.com)

See: [www.history.ac.uk/events/seminars](http://www.history.ac.uk/events/seminars) (History of Gardens and Landscapes) for future dates.

### **Green Architecture in 16th & early 17th century gardens** George Carter

Essex Gardens Trust Lecture  
2.30pm, Saturday 7 March

Award winning designer and writer George Carter will look at the way planting has often been used in a very architectural way across Europe with illustrations from contemporary engravings and views as well as modern photographs.

At Writtle College, Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 3RR. Free parking & refreshments. **Cost: £5** members, £7.50 non-members. Contact Michele Freeman: 01206 560 557.

### **All around is Fairy ground:** **Pleasure and the Regency garden** Tim Mowl

MERL'S Spring Seminars  
1pm, Tuesday 10 March

Free event at Museum of English Rural Life (MERL), University of Reading, Redlands Road, RG1 5EX. Contact: [merlevents@reading.ac.uk](mailto:merlevents@reading.ac.uk) or: 0118 378 8660.

**'A Promenade of Curiosities': A new look for Vauxhall**

**Neil Davidson and Susanne Tutsch**  
LPGT Lecture at 70 Cowcross Street, London  
7pm, Monday 9 March

Neil and Susanne will talk about their prize-winning plan for the redesign of the public realm on the South Bank at Vauxhall, running from Lambeth Palace to Nine Elms. It focuses on the creation of pedestrian and cycle-friendly promenades along Vauxhall Walk and improvements to open spaces, railway arches and the creation of rain gardens.

Cost: £8 LPGT members, £9 non-members.

**The Regency Era**  
**Cambridgeshire Gardens Trust Study Day**  
10.30am to 4 pm, Saturday 14 March

Speakers are: **Kate Harwood** on *An overview of the Regency Style as an eclectic mix of the exotic and the elegant*; **Allison Napier** on *Peckover House, a Regency house set in Victorian Gardens*; **James Bowman** on *The story of Prince Hermann von Puckler-Muskau*; **Twigs Way** on *'Slipping into the ha-ha and avoiding the hermitage': use of designed landscape in the novels of Jane Austen*.

At Hemingford Abbots Village Hall PE28 9AH.

Cost: £22.50, guests £27.50 to include coffee and light lunch. Contact Alan Brown: 01480 811 947 or email: [admin@cambsgardens.org.uk](mailto:admin@cambsgardens.org.uk)

**Canaletto: Celebrating Britain**  
Exhibition at Compton Verney, Warwickshire  
Saturday 14 March to Sunday 7 June



The Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation

*Old Horse Guards from St. James's Park, London, c. 1749*

This exhibition spotlights the paintings and drawings which Canaletto created between 1746 and 1755, when he chose to celebrate the latest achievements of British architecture and engineering.

This is the first time these painting have been gathered together; collectively they illustrate Canaletto's nine-year stay in Britain which saw him document a series of new building works and projects, commissions which reflected the new-

found wealth and assurance of the British nation. The houses, bridges, churches and castles he recorded marked out Britain as the new Venice and conveyed a sense of self-confidence, as Britons sought cultural inspiration not just from the Mediterranean but also from their own history.

[www.comptonverney.org.uk](http://www.comptonverney.org.uk)

**History of Cottage Gardens & Allotments**  
**Kate Harwood**

**Bedfordshire Gardens Trust Spring Lecture**  
7.45pm, Monday 16 March

Although garden history covers all periods and all sizes of gardens it often tends to concentrate on gardens of larger properties. This talk will provide the equally fascinating, but lesser known, historical background of small gardens, cottage gardens and allotments.

Cost: £5 for members, £6 for non-members (including tea/coffee). At St Andrew's Chapter House, Amptill, Bedfordshire, MK45 2EL.

**Order in the Landscape:**  
**Rediscovering Preben Jakobsen**  
**Karen Fitzsimon**

**MERL'S Spring Seminars**  
1pm, Tuesday 17 March

Karen Jakobsen, on behalf of her father, Danish born plantsman, Preben Jakobsen, donated his collection to the LI in early 2013. Karen Fitzsimon has been researching this collection.

Free event at Museum of English Rural Life (MERL), University of Reading, Redlands Road, RG1 5EX.

**A Taste for the Exotic: Pineapple**  
**Cultivation in Britain**

**Joanna Lausen-Higgins**  
**IHR Spring Seminar Series**  
6pm, Thursday 19 March

Free. At IHR, Gordon Room, G34, Senate House, London. Contact: [ihr.gardenhistory@gmail.com](mailto:ihr.gardenhistory@gmail.com)

See: [www.history.ac.uk/events/seminars](http://www.history.ac.uk/events/seminars) (History of Gardens and Landscapes) for future dates.

**Painting Paradise: The Art of the Garden**  
**At The Queen's Gallery, Buckingham Palace**  
Friday 20 March to Sunday 11 October

Whether a sacred sanctuary, a place for scientific study, a haven for the solitary thinker or a space for pure enjoyment and delight, gardens are where mankind and nature meet. A new exhibition at The Queen's Gallery, Buckingham Palace will explore the many ways in which the garden has been celebrated in art through over 150 paintings, drawings, books,

## other events

manuscripts and decorative arts from the Royal Collection, including some of the earliest and rarest surviving records of gardens and plants.

Cost: £10. Includes readmission for a year, if bought direct: <http://tickets.royalcollection.org.uk/> The accompanying publication, *Painting Paradise: The Art of the Garden* by Vanessa Remington is published by Royal Collection Trust, price £45 or £29.95 from Royal Collection Trust shops.

### **Brenda Colvin Study Day following FOLAR AGM**

**10.30am, Saturday 21 March**

#### **AGM at 11am, Study Day lectures from 2pm**

Talks about the achievements and legacy of Brenda Colvin will be the highlight at the first AGM of FOLAR (Friends of the Landscape Library and Archive, at Reading), following its move to MERL (the Museum of English Rural Life) which is part of the University of Reading. The Brenda Colvin archives will be on display, and in the afternoon, after the AGM, **Hal Moggridge** will talk about Brenda Colvin and about the Colvin & Moggridge practice, and the archivist at MERL will talk about the Colvin archive. Hal Moggridge donated the archive to Merl in February 2014.

Cost : £10, does not include lunch. Contact: [folar1234@gmail.com](mailto:folar1234@gmail.com) to indicate attendance.

### **Devon Garden History Forum Inaugural Conference**

**11am to 4pm, Saturday 21 March**

After the Introduction, **Tim Richardson** will give a talk based on his recent book *The New English Garden* which covers 25 gardens made or remade within the last 10 years. Tim will concentrate on trends and themes in naturalistic planting design, including work by Piet Oudolf, Tom Stuart-Smith, Dan Pearson and the Sheffield School, bringing the story right up to date. **Linden Groves** will talk about the work of the Gardens Trusts.

Lunch will be followed by current garden history research in Devon, a series of brief presentations by groups and individuals on work in progress. This will be followed by a discussion on plans for the future, how we would like to see the Devon Garden History Forum develop.

At Rowe Hall, The Mint Methodist Church, Exeter EX4 3AT. Cost: £18, contact: Dr Clare Greener: [claregreener@talktalk.net](mailto:claregreener@talktalk.net) or 01626 867 700.

### **Blue Cities**

**6.30pm to 8pm, Thursday 26 March**

Join the Garden Museum for an evening exploring the role of water in the city. The King's Cross Central

Ltd Partnership will introduce 'Of Soil and Water; the King's Cross Pond Club', a naturally purified bathing pond located within a working construction site, and will discuss how developers such as Argent are approaching water in an urban environment. We will explore the trend for swimming in the city, the use of water in design, and the wider benefits of 'blue infrastructure' on health and well-being.

Garden Museum Director **Christopher Woodward** will chair the evening and will be joined by **Ian Freshwater** of the King's Cross Central Ltd Partnership and the Director of Studio Octopi **Chris Romer-Lee** on behalf of the Thames Baths. The event will also feature a film of environmental psychologist **Mat White**. *Of Soil and Water: King's Cross Pond Club* is a new art installation in the form of a natural bathing pond in the middle of the King's Cross redevelopment. The Thames Baths proposes the reintroduction of swimming in the River Thames.

Tickets: £10. Contact: [www.gardenmuseum.org.uk](http://www.gardenmuseum.org.uk)

### **The Education of a Gardener: The life & work of Russell Page 1906–85**

**Exhibition at the Garden Museum, London**

**Wednesday 25 March to Sunday 21 June**



*Russell Page's plan, sketches, plant list and images for a garden at Sotogrande in Spain, created for Ortiz Patino, 1978*

For thirty years Russell Page was the undisputed master of modern garden design. He created gardens for some of the twentieth century's most fashionable figures, from the Duke and Duchess of Windsor to 'Lady Bird' Johnson (wife of President Johnson) and from Gianni and Marella Agnelli to Oscar de la Renta. His designs have provided inspiration to a host of modern designers, including Christopher Bradley-Hole and Madison Cox. In addition to his list of private clients, Page's projects included parks and social housing, new towns in Australia and oil refineries in the desert.

This exhibition celebrates and responds to the deposit of Russell Page's extensive archive with the Garden Museum from Belgium thanks to the generosity of the de Belder family who have cared for Page's legacy in the 30 years since his death. The exhibition features material from the archive, items from the collection of the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS), and loans from public and private collections in the USA and Europe that give us glimpses of the extraordinary career and early family life of this enigmatic man.

Cost: £7.50, Concessions £6.50.

### Repton Revived

At the Garden Museum, London

6.30pm to 8pm, Monday 13 April

The Garden Museum is pleased to announce the arrival Humphry Repton's 'Red Book' on Sundridge Park on long term loan to its collection. The Red Book was generously donated to the Museum by heritage developer City & Country.

A group of expert speakers will explore the history of the Red Book and demonstrate the far-reaching impact of Repton's work on contemporary designers.

Professor Stephen Daniels will begin the evening by introducing us to Repton and the story of this Red Book. Following this, Todd Longstaffe Gowan and George Carter will each take a passage from the Sundridge 'Red Book' and share how Repton and his innovative ideas have influenced their own practices.

Cost; £20, £15 Friends. Contact as opposite.

### Allotments at Luton Hoo

Felicity Brimblecombe

Bedfordshire Gardens Trust Spring Lecture

7.45pm, Monday 13 April

The story behind the nine separate allotment areas provided by the Luton Hoo Estate for the residents of Luton and the estate workers. When, where, do they still exist? Why was the Luton chimney sweep so pleased with his allotment? What happened when the farmer's cows ate the produce?

Cost: £5 for members, £6 for non-members (including tea/coffee). At St Andrew's Chapter House, Ampthill, Bedfordshire, MK45 2EL.

### Profit and Pleasure: Humphry Repton and the East India College Landscape'

A Study Day to re-evaluate the unique landscape at Haileybury

Hertfordshire Gardens Trust

10am to 5pm, Saturday 18 April

Ray Desmond's 1978 article in *Garden History* admitted little was known about this commission,

even hinting that it was almost a back of an envelope idea done as a favour for a friend. Toby Parker has uncovered much new information and the tantalising possibility of a 'Red Book', about Repton's quite extensive involvement, and also the American and other influences on Rev Samuel Henley, the first Principal, and on his flower garden at Haileybury. The study day aims to add to the information and understanding on Repton and his designs, and put this rare collegiate commission into context of Repton and the era.

Speakers are: Toby Parker on *The Commission: Haileybury*; Amy Thomas on *Wilkins and the East India Company*; Mick Thompson on *Repton and the Flower Garden*; Tom Williamson on *Repton and the Landscape at Haileybury*. The talks will be followed by lunch and a tour of the College including buildings, garden and landscape.

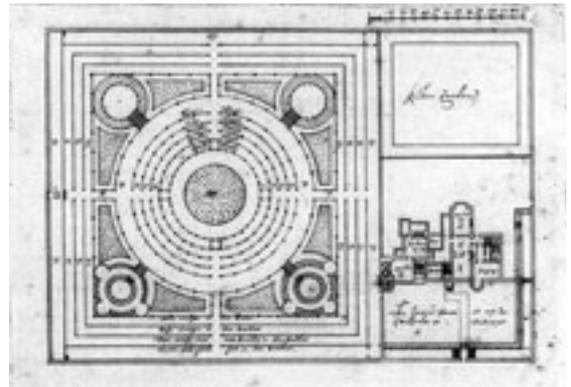
Cost: £30, contact Kate Harwood: [hertstalks@gmail.com](mailto:hertstalks@gmail.com)

### Twickenham Park Study Day

London Parks & Gardens Trust

10am to 5pm, Saturday, 25 April

Francis Bacon held the tenancy of Twickenham Park 1595 to 1608. Lucy Harrington, Countess of Bedford, took over the tenancy in 1609. Around this time Robert Smythson drew the plan of the garden seen below. The Study Day will examine the history of Twickenham Park, the house, garden and the site from Medieval times to the present.



Speakers are: Mike Cherry on *The History of the site to 1595*; Paula Henderson on *The early 17th century garden at Twickenham Park*; Questions & Coffee; Michael Symes on *Twickenham Park Gardens and 'Twickenhamshire' in the 18th century*. After lunch: Chris Sumner on *The Twickenham Park estate in the 19th Century*, followed by a guided visit to the Lake Grounds of St Margaret's Trust, site of Twickenham Park with Chris Sumner & Paula Henderson. Tea.

Cost: £35, includes lunch and other refreshments. To book: [www.londongardenstrust.org/summer.htm](http://www.londongardenstrust.org/summer.htm)

## other events

### **Plants in a small garden: Plas yn Rhiw** **Corinne Price**

**Bedfordshire Gardens Trust Spring Lecture**  
**7.45pm, Monday 11 May**

How a small garden, of just under an acre, was nurtured back to life by Eileen, Lorna and Honora Keating in the twentieth century. The sisters restored and developed the garden at Plas yn Rhiw for over 20 years. Honora, in particular, introduced new and unusual varieties.

**Cost: £5** for members, **£6** for non-members (including tea/coffee). At St Andrew's Chapter House, Amphill, Bedfordshire, MK45 2EL.

**Cedric Morris: Artist and Plantsman**  
**At the Garden Museum, London**  
**6.30pm to 8pm, Wednesday 13 May**



*Iris Seedlings, Sir Cedric Morris, 1943*

This event will explore the life and influence of one of the best known artist-gardeners, Sir Cedric Morris. Join us for an evening in conversation with his former pupil, artist Maggi Hambling, his biographer Janet Waymark, and gardener Sarah Cook, who now holds the National Collection of Iris introduced by Sir Cedric Morris, which she will be showing at the forthcoming Chelsea Flower Show in conjunction with Howard Nurseries.

We will explore Morris' early life and relationship with his partner, the vivacious Arthur Lett-Haines; his

career as a painter whose work is now represented in the collections of the Tate and myriad other museums; as a teacher who set up the East Anglian School of Painting and Drawing influencing pupils such as Maggi Hambling and Lucian Freud; and look at what it took to simultaneously become one of the nation's most respected flower breeders whose garden, Benton End, Suffolk, was well-known in its day.

**Cost: £20, £15** Friends of the Museum.

**The Renovation of Lednice Park, Moravia**  
**Přemysl Krejčířík & Kamila Krejčíříková**  
**At Stowe School, Bucks**

**6.30pm, Monday 18 May**

Přemysl and Kamila began restoring historic gardens after obtaining their degrees in landscape design at Mendel University, Brno. Perhaps the most important of these are the UNESCO projects, such as the Lednice/Valtice area, Lednice Park and its glasshouse, the garden of Villa Tugendhat at Brno and the Kvetna garden in Kromeriz. They are authors, lecturers and organisers of the Open Garden Gardens Weekend in the Czech Republic. Přemysl is also a lecturer at Mendel University.

**Sir Hans Sloane's Plants on Chelsea**  
**Porcelain**

**A Loan Exhibition, at Stockspring Antiques**  
**Tuesday 2 to Tuesday 16 June**

Exploring the relationship between the Chelsea Physic Garden, G. D. Ehret and other botanical artists and the Hans Sloane style of decoration on Chelsea porcelain. All exhibits are from private and museum collections.

Fully illustrated catalogue by Sally Kevill-Davies.  
114 Kensington Church St London W8 4BH.

**London Open Garden Squares Weekend**  
**Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 June**

A Weekend ticket (just £10 in advance) is your key to unlock and explore the many hidden gems and unique green spaces that London has to offer.

List of gardens: [www.opensquares.org/list.php](http://www.opensquares.org/list.php)

**The Arts and Crafts House: then & now**  
**Compton Verney, Warwickshire**

**Saturday 27 June to Sunday 13 September**

Encounter the spirit of the Arts & Crafts House with this celebration of historic and contemporary design. From the Garden to the Dining Room, this exhibition explores the Movement's fascination with the creation of the Home and its continued influence today.

Beginning with John Ruskin and William Morris, the exhibition will explore the source material which

© The estate of Sir Cedric Morris & Tate

inspired a new era of domestic creativity and a celebration of crafts practice. Celebrated designers and collaborators such as Edwin Lutyens and Gertrude Jekyll, Alfred and Louise Powell, the Barnsley Brothers and Ernest Gimson will be explored alongside today's leading designers including: Sebastian Cox, Rosa Nguyen, Dan Pearson, Andrew Wicks, Jim Partridge and Liz Walmsley. A number of key Arts & Crafts houses will also be featured including Morris' homes at Kelmscott Manor and Red House, Lutyens and Jekyll's Munstead Wood and Rodmarton Manor.  
[www.comptonverney.org.uk](http://www.comptonverney.org.uk)

**PAXTON150: A History of Public Parks Conference at the Department of Landscape, the University of Sheffield**

**Friday 11 and Saturday 12 September**

The PAXTON150 Conference is to commemorate Joseph Paxton (1803–65) and to evaluate the public parks legacy. It is organised in conjunction with the Landscape Institute and supported by the National Trust, English Heritage and the Heritage Lottery Fund.

As a trained gardener Paxton became one of the foremost pioneers in the landscape profession, designing parks, gardens, cemeteries and housing developments, while also pioneering techniques that lead him to be a recognised engineer and architect, particularly after the building of the Great Exhibition Hall in Hyde Park in 1851. This building, based on greenhouse technology, was not only an astounding achievement; it also provided him with international recognition. Besides this he was a railway pioneer, a visionary, and financially apt. His abilities ensured him with a considerable public profile and he was elected as a Member of Parliament in 1854.

Paxton published horticultural journals and books. All this occurred while being employed as a head gardener by the Duke of Devonshire at Chatsworth, which he also transformed. It is therefore not surprising that he pioneered in design of municipal parks, designing the first such park in Birkenhead in 1843. Other municipal parks followed, such as; People's Park, Halifax; the Slopes, Buxton; South Cliff and Valley Garden in Scarborough; Crystal Palace, London. These and other parks were not only progressive in what they provided and how, but they also inspired parks elsewhere, as did the entire public parks movement in Britain.

The conference also celebrates the renaissance of public parks in Great Britain that was launched in Weston Park, Sheffield twenty years ago, when the Heritage Lottery Fund pledged funding for the restoration of public parks. It is intended that we shall publish a large edited book. For the conference

we intend to favour contributions that display some link with Joseph Paxton or his work and that of his followers such as Edward Milner at home, or Frederick Law Olmsted abroad.

Contact: [J.Woudstra@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:J.Woudstra@sheffield.ac.uk)

**3rd Festival of Garden Literature**

**Saturday 3 and Sunday 4 October**

The 3rd Garden Museum Festival of Garden Literature will take place at Hatfield House, by kind invitation of the Marquess and Marchioness of Salisbury. First speakers announced: Hermione Lee, the prizewinning biographer of Virginia Woolf and Penelope Fitzgerald; Richard Mabey, the great British nature writer; Alan Titchmarsh, the legendary gardener, writer and broadcaster and Alison Weir, Britain's bestselling female historian.

Further details: [www.gardenmuseum.org.uk](http://www.gardenmuseum.org.uk)

**Lancelot Brown and his Associates Hertfordshire Gardens Trust**

**Saturday 16 April, 2016**

Study day to be held at Heathmount School at Watton-at-Stone in Herts. Speakers include **Tom Williamson** and **David Brown** and the focus will be on putting Brown into context. Details to follow.

**Lancelot Brown in Buckinghamshire Bucks Gardens Trust Seminar**

**At Wotton House, Wotton Underwood**

**Saturday 28 May, 2016**



Charles Boot

*The three arch bridge/dam on The Worrals at Wotton*

A seminar to be held at Wotton House, Bucks. Main speakers will be **Richard Wheeler** and **Dr Sarah Rutherford**, currently researching a new book on Brown for the National Trust. There will be presentations on some of the twenty Brown designed sites in Bucks (16 confirmed), currently being researched by our members. The Seminar will conclude with a walk around the little known but stunning Wotton landscape. More details to follow.

## in memoriam

### Charles Boot and others remember Robin Fausset and Colonel Richard Gilbertson

When I became involved with the garden history world about twenty years ago, it seemed to be full of lots of characters, united by their love of gardens, parks and what has become known as designed landscape. What of course we don't notice is that we are in turn becoming those characters to a younger generation, but that is the way it goes.

Two people I met in my early years were Robin Fausset, and, slightly later, Colonel Richard Gilbertson, a rank he wore lightly, but never gave up. They were very different in character, Robin setting himself up as a 'marmite man', with a wicked and teasing nature, overlying a great thoughtfulness about landscape and its power to inspire. He was then a member both of the Society's Council, and of what has become my home in the Society, the Education and Publications Committee. His seemingly acerbic nature was a stern and forceful presence there, with occasional collapses into mirth. Richard on the other hand had an overlay of the parade ground covering a kind and gentle nature, always willing to get stuck in and bring out the best in people.

Both men were great forces in their respective territories, Robin being a keen supporter of the fledgling Devon Gardens Trust, surely one of the more dynamic ones, with its broad interests in conservation, education and scholarship. He performed several roles there all well documented in their *History*, starting as

a member of their steering committee, from 1988, and serving as chairman from 1990 to 1993. 'The Trust gained a sense of fun as well as mission during his Chairmanship. It helped of course that Robin had a professional marketing background, and so he was especially keen to promote the Trust and its work to existing and potential members and more widely afield. The garden visits programme gained particular momentum during his period of office, a key selling point for the Trust. His work on the Georgian landscape at Castle Hill (in *Garden History* 13:2, 1985) was ground-breaking: when challenged on some of his conclusions by the redoubtable John Harris, Robin squared up to him with characteristic vigour, and won the argument.'

'From time to time major road schemes threatened the designed landscape, in Devon. The Trust worked very hard to oppose the route of the A30 road

scheme in East Devon which threatened both Escot, a 19th century house in an 18th century park which under the proposals would be truncated, dividing the house from its church, and Rockbeare, a Grade I house in a notable 18th century park. The first letter of protest was sent in November 1987 in the early days of the Steering Committee and the matter was very vigorously pursued from then onwards. There were several hearings at one of which Robin, on behalf of the DGT, was at the witness stand for three hours. In 1993 the Trust and many other organisations were saddened to learn that apart from only minor modifications the Ministry of Transport's scheme would go ahead. A great deal of time and effort on the part of many individuals went into opposing the scheme and the lack of success in this instance was a great disappointment.

Better results were achieved at Bridwell Park where Robin was instrumental in achieving the rejection of an appeal for a housing estate to be built on part of the Grade II parkland. The campaign to save Castle Hill, when it was threatened by the A361 Exeter to Barnstaple road, was even more successful, and the road was re-routed behind the house, following the line of the defunct railway, rather than through the 18th-century park in front of it.

Robin died at Christmas and was buried on 6 January, 2015, which would have been his 90th birthday.

Richard was a key player in the Welsh Historic Gardens Trust, and also a very useful and dynamic founder member of the committee of, and later Treasurer for, the AGT, even stepping into the breach and setting up a Summer

Conference at Bangor in 2006, at very short notice.

A familiar figure at GHS Annual Conference, with his trusty camera slung around his neck, he was always to be easily heard, with an instantly recognisable voice, sharing his knowledge and love of roses, which were always his main interest and the focus of his own superb garden.

Do read his article on 'The Origins of Our Garden Roses' in the AGT Archive.

Gilly Drummond says: 'Richard was a rare bird, charming, courteous, patient, well organised and often very innovative. I loved him and was so grateful to him for all his support in the early days of



the AGT... The County Gardens Trusts movement owes a great deal to him and it has been instrumental in tapping into a wealth of voluntary commitment to parks and gardens from so many people, a vein of enthusiasm that we did not know even existed outside the academic world of garden history when we started. Richard was so endearing to work with and I am sure many people recognise and honour his very significant contribution in helping to form the bedrock of so much support for parks, gardens and designed landscapes.'

Steffie Shields adds: 'The phrase 'old soldiers never die ... they simply fade away', comes to mind. He served garden conservation, GHS, WHGT and AGT with as much dedicated focus and enthusiasm as he

did the Army. I will never forget the wonderful weekend AGT Conference at Bangor hosted by WHGT for which Richard was largely responsible. It was a privilege to spend time and work alongside a man who took it on himself to serve others. Richard was a complete one-off! Bless him.'

Richard was also keenly interested in the fortunes of his local museum in Pembrokeshire, even building cabinets for them. Another cause close to his heart was the successful attempt to restart the Welsh whisky business, at Penderyn.

Richard died on 17 February 2015, aged 88. His funeral will be on Tuesday 10 March at 2 pm at St Peter's, Lampeter Velfrey, Pembroke, South Wales.

See also p39.

## other news & views

for news, letters, comments

### The Mavis Batey Apprenticeship

The late Mavis Batey wrote a seminal article, *A Romantic Garden for a Restored Gothic Castle*, which has influenced the restoration of the Strawberry Hill garden. Her family has agreed that the Strawberry Hill Trust should set up an apprenticeship fund in her name, as a tribute to her generosity in sharing her knowledge and to preserve her memory through the works of succeeding generations of gardeners.

Since opening in 2010 the SHT has taken on a garden apprentice each year. Through this, young people, who were previously without training or employment, after working with our garden team for a year have earned an NVQ qualification and entered the horticultural profession. This year's apprentice is working towards an RHS qualification. It is a truly valuable scheme for us, for the local borough, for the profession and for the world of horticulture at large.

We want to maintain this success by setting up a £250,000 endowment to ensure that we can continue to fund an apprentice on an annual basis. Through the Heritage Lottery Fund Catalyst Endowment scheme, every pound donated is matched. If you are a UK taxpayer your gift will also be eligible for Gift Aid, so that through these two schemes, for every £10 donated we will receive £22.50. Donors of £200 or more will have their names recorded in the house.

To make a donation please send a cheque payable to the Strawberry Hill Trust (268 Waldegrave Road, Twickenham, TW1 4ST) or go to our website: [www.strawberryhillhouse.org.uk/](http://www.strawberryhillhouse.org.uk/)



Cambridge University Botanic Garden

*The Cory Library, now housed in the former residence of the Director of the Cambridge University Botanic Garden*

### Cory Library, Cambridge

**Jenny Sargent writes:**

Just over a year ago I was appointed Library Manager here at the Cory Library, Cambridge University Botanic Garden. My appointment followed a long period during which the library was without staff, and therefore inaccessible to external readers. We are a small library of about 7000 volumes on botany, horticulture and related subjects, with over one thousand early printed works, and sets of early botanical and gardening periodicals. It strikes me that we may well have material of interest to GHS members. The Cory Library is now open to visitors, by appointment: 9am to 1pm, Mon to Fri.

Contact Jenny: 01223 336 270, or email: [library@botanic.cam.ac.uk](mailto:library@botanic.cam.ac.uk)

## other news & views

### Major accessions to Repositories in 2013 relating to gardening Local

#### Berkshire Record Office, Reading RG1 6AF

Reading Horticultural Federation: additional minutes and papers 1936–2005 (D/EX1820)

#### Cheshire Archives and Local Studies, CH1 1RL

Upton by Chester Horticultural Society: minutes, corresp, photographs and papers 1996–2012 (D 8437)

#### Dudley Archives and Local History Service, DY1 4SQ

Wollaston Gardener's Guild: diaries, corresp, minutes, accounts, annual reports, and membership records 1943–2010 (9722)

#### Edinburgh City Archives, EH1 1YJ

Drummond Place Garden Association, Edinburgh: charter, minute books, abstract of accounts, wages books 1823–2008 (Accession 911)

#### Essex Record Office, Chelmsford CM2 6YT

Ongar and District Horticultural and Allotment Society: minutes and accounts 1941–2013 (Acc. A13643)

#### Glasgow City Archives, G3 7DN

Victoria Park Allotment Association, Glasgow: minute book 1981–1996 (T-AL)

#### Hackney Archives Department, London E8 3BQ

Hackney Allotment Society: minutes, corresp and newsletters c1980–2000 (2013/05)  
Stoke Newington Gardeners Guild: minutes, corresp and newsletters c1960–1999 (2013/04)

#### Hampshire Archives and Local Studies, SO23 8TH

Thomas Lobb, gardener and bailiff, Penton Lodge estate: copy notebook c1894–1921 (107A11)  
Andover Country Market: records incl minutes, accounts and shareholder records 1984–2013 (51A13)  
Hyde Abbey Garden, Winchester: papers rel to enhancement project, plans, promotional material, audio-visual recordings 1998–2013 (69A13W)

#### Highland Archives, Inverness IV3 5SS

Muirtown Nurseries Ltd: stock book, architect's plans, newspapers, photographs c1951–1977 (D1372)  
Sutherland Floral Art Club: minute books, proceedings, programmes, photographs, other records c1960–2010 (D1379)

#### Lincolnshire Archives, Lincoln LN2 5AB

Branston & District Allotments & Smallholdings Association Limited: records incl accounts, corresp 1919–1999 (MISC DON 1756)

#### Norfolk Record Office, Norwich NR1 2DQ

North Lynn Allotments Association: minutes, rules and newspaper cuttings c1966–1971 (SO 312)

#### Northamptonshire Record Office, NN4 8BQ

Plans and accompanying legend of allotments at Badby 1779–1841 (2013/112)

**Nottinghamshire Archives, Nottingham NG2 1AG**  
Nottingham Flower Club: records 1953–2013 (8502, 8523)

#### Somerset Heritage Centre, Taunton TA2 6SF

North Perrott and Haselbury Gardening Club: minutes incl lists of members 1959–1983 (AIDQY)  
Taunton Deane Horticultural and Floricultural Society: additional records 1974–2011 (DDX\TF)

#### Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Archive Service:

##### Lichfield Record Office, Lichfield WS13 6QG

Friends of the National Memorial Arboretum: minutes and corresp 1998–2006 (D554)

##### Surrey History Centre, Woking GU21 6ND

Gertrude Jekyll: letters c1927–1932 (9229)  
Dennis Turner, local historian of Reigate: additional papers incl material rel to Southwark Diocesan Advisory Committee, Reigate Priory, Reigate Society, Merton Priory Trust, CPRE, Reigate Health Management, Surrey Historic Buildings Trust, Horley Master Plan, the Surrey Society, Surrey Gardens Trust, Merton Borough Conservation Areas Advisory Committee, Beddington, Carshalton and Wallington Archaeological Society and Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty c1980–2010 (8984)

## National

#### British Library, Manuscript Collections NW1 2DB

Valerie Margaret Steriker Finnis, horticulturist and photographer: personal and family papers and corresp 1861–2000 (Add MS 89038)

#### Island Archives, Guernsey GY1 1LF

Windflower Hill Nurseries, Les Sages, St Pierre du Bois: financial records rel to lily growing 1900–1999  
West Agricultural and Horticultural Show, Guernsey: articles and financial records 2010–2011

#### Jersey Archive, St Helier JE2 4JY

Diary of events and gardening of the occupier of Richmond Place, Millbrook 1853–1854 (JA/2338)

#### Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew TW9 3AE

William Henry Bennett, gardener: notes from a series of lectures on organography and systematic botany 1879 (PrP 13-0031)  
Henry Robert Cocker, horticulturalist: corresp, photographs, working papers, lecture notes, autobiographical notes c1920–1990 (PrP 13-0007)  
Charles Edward Hubbard, botanist, gardener: additional corresp 1972–1973 (PrP 13-0028)  
Royal Botanic Gardens; papers rel to the Boris Alexander Krukoff seed collection 1972–1994 (QX 13-0022)

## University

#### Borthwick Institute for Archives:

##### University of York YO10 5DD

Fanny Eason Wilkinson (also known as Fanny Rollo Wilkinson), landscape gardener: letters to Fanny Eason Wilkinson 1878–1890 (FEW)

Ancient Society of York Florists: minutes and other records 1972–2012 (ASYF)

Wakefield and North of England Tulip Society: minutes 1907–1954 (WNETS)

Yorkshire Gardens Trust: records 2006–2012 (YGT)

### **Museum of English Rural Life, Reading RG1 5EX**

Women's Farm and Garden Association: records incl minutes, members records, visitors books, corresp, journals and newsletters 1915–2003 (SR DX2042)

### **The Pleasance**

**Mark Gibson, its Editor, writes:**

We're keen to start a series of articles to be published in *The Pleasance*, newsletter of GHSS, on Scottish gardens and gardeners abroad and we're now looking for contributions of about 350, 700 or 1000 words plus illustrations.

If you're interested in contributing such an article please email: [markiivm@gmail.com](mailto:markiivm@gmail.com)

### **The Museum of English Rural Life, Reading February 2015 update**



Landscapes Institute Library, MERL

Geoffrey Jellicoe's drawing showing a design from 1993 at Shute House, Donhead St Mary, Wiltshire

We are currently cataloguing the Geoffrey & Susan Jellicoe and Sylvia Crowe collections of drawings, photographs and related archival material and objects. While these collections are being catalogued we may be able to provide some access given sufficient advance notice. Work is also ongoing on the Milner White Collection, Preben Jakobsen Collection and Clifford Tandy Photographic Collection.

Contact: [merl@reading.ac.uk](mailto:merl@reading.ac.uk) or: 0118 378 8660

### **In memory of Richard Gilbertson**

**Jean Reader, Chairman WHGT, writes:**

We would like to commemorate Richard in some way, very discreetly as he was not one for fame and fortune, by providing some roses to either a WHGT project or another historic location in Pembrokeshire.

To contribute send a cheque to: Jean Reader, Chairman, WHGT, Aberglasney Gardens, Llangathen, Carmarthenshire. SA32 8QH. Please make cheques payable to: **Jean Reader**, marked Richard Gilbertson.

## principal officers

### **Vice Presidents**

Mr Alan Baxter, Mrs Susan Campbell,  
Sir Richard Carew Pole, Dr Hazel Conway,  
Mr Ray Desmond, Mr Peter Hayden,  
Mrs Anne Richards, Mr John Sales,  
The Dowager Marchioness of Salisbury,  
Sir Tim Smit, Dr Christopher Thacker

### **Chairman of Council**

Dominic Cole

### **Members of Council**

Dr James Bartos  
Bill Billington (Chair, Finance & General Purposes)  
Dr Patrick Eyres  
Daniel Glass  
Dr Marion Harney (GHS JCC representative)  
Dr Sally Jeffery  
Robert Peel (co-opted)  
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Judy Riley (Chair, GHSS *ex officio*)  
Kristina Taylor  
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### GHS events diary 2015

Wednesday 11 March	London Lecture by Karen Fitzsimon <i>Order in the Landscape</i>
Thursday 19 March	Edinburgh Lecture by Deborah Reid <i>Petticoats and Plants</i>
Wednesday 25 March	London Lecture by Dr Jane Whitaker <i>Gardens Fit For a Queen</i>
Thursday 30 April	Spring Study Day on <i>Imagery for Garden History</i> at the Linnean Society, London
Wednesday 6 May	Study Day at St Giles, Wimborne, Dorset
Saturday 16 May	Chelsea Fringe Event at Twickenham
Saturday 16 May	GHSS AGM and Lecture by Bill Brogden on <i>Stephen Switzer</i>
5 to 7 June	GHS Rewley House Conference on <i>Gardens and Theatre</i>
Saturday 20 June	GHSS Visit to Tynningham House
Friday 24 July	5th GHS Graduate Symposium, Newcastle
24 to 26 July	GHS and AGT Annual AGMs and Summer Conference, Newcastle
Saturday 8 August	<i>Little Sparta Under Attack</i> Fund Raising Gala Opening
Saturday 5 September	GHSS Visit to Dumfries House
10 to 16 September	Study Tour to Gardens of Normandy
Tuesday 22 September	Study Day at Kings Weston, Bristol
Saturday 31 October	Autumn Study Day on <i>Masonic Symbolism in Gardens</i> at the Freemason's Hall, London
Monday 2 November	Edinburgh Lecture by Professor Brian Evans on <i>The Picturesque and Sublime Landscape</i>

Details and booking information for all GHS events can be found inside, on pages 4 to 8, or look at our website: [www.gardenhistorysociety.org/events](http://www.gardenhistorysociety.org/events)

GHS news correspondence and items to the GHS head office

or email the editor Charles Boot: [news@gardenhistorysociety.org](mailto:news@gardenhistorysociety.org)

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