

TGT news

96 Late Summer 2015



The Gardens Trust *

*This is not our new logo,
we hope to present that soon.

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copy deadlines

for **TGT micro-news 96a**: 10 November
for **TGT news 97**: 1 February 2016

news

The Formation of The Gardens Trust: A powerful new voice for Britain's parks and gardens

On 24 July 2015, at their respective AGMs in Newcastle, the Garden History Society (GHS) and the Association of Garden Trusts (AGT) voted to merge to become **The Gardens Trust** (TGT), a new body created to harness the strengths of the two existing organisations.

The main aims of the merger of the GHS and AGT are:

- To speak with a more powerful voice for the protection of parks, gardens and designed landscape;
- To play a key garden conservation role in the planning system as a statutory consultee;
- To provide support to strengthen the local activity of the County and Country Gardens Trusts;
- To be an internationally regarded centre of excellence in the study of garden history;
- To live within the means of the merged organisation and be financially sustainable over the long term.

The first AGM of The Gardens Trust elected a slate of twelve members of the Board, and a new Chairman, **Dr James Bartos** and a new Vice Chairman, **Michael Dawson**, were elected by the Board. **Dominic Cole** OBE, formerly chairman of the GHS, was elected President. Five sub-committees were established to reflect the areas of activity and interest of the new organisation, covering conservation, events, publications, membership and administration & finance.

The creation of The Gardens Trust is the culmination of some five years' work and discussion which also involved Parks and Gardens UK (the gardens database and website) and the Garden Museum. The move is fully supported by Historic England. The impetus for the merger was a sense that both the GHS and the AGT would be much

contact us

www.thegardenstrust.org
though much information for the present
remains on gardenhistorysociety.org
and gardenstrusts.org.uk

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The Society gratefully acknowledges
the support of Alan Baxter and Associates

Our cover shows Sir John Vanbrugh's Echo Pavilion
at Kings Weston, with a temporary replica of the
lost draped figure statue at the centre.
Photo by courtesy of KWAG, see p.8.

stronger if working together, especially in terms of conservation activity. To that end, the Historic Landscape Project was formed in 2010 by the AGT to begin the process of devolving much of the responsibility for the conservation of historic landscapes to the County Gardens Trusts (CGTs). A small team of conservation officers travelled around Britain with the objective of establishing or consolidating conservation activity within different CGTs: an initiative that has proved extremely successful. The intention is that the CGTs will over time take on more of the conservation work within their regions, with the central Gardens Trust conservation team concentrating on larger or more complex cases or national policy.



Charles Boot

Steffie Shields, Lisa Watson, Dominic Cole OBE and Dr Jim Bartos, sign the merger document.

Dr James Bartos, the first Chairman of The Gardens Trust, was formerly a member of Council of the GHS and of its finance and general purposes committee. 'I am extremely pleased that both memberships have voted in favour of the formation of The Gardens Trust,' he said. 'This is something we have been working on for some time, and I believe it will transform our ability to make a difference when it comes to the protection, conservation and understanding of our gardens and designed landscapes, helping to ensure their continued enjoyment into the future.'

Dominic Cole OBE, first President of The Gardens Trust, became Chairman of the GHS in 2002. 'I'm delighted at this outcome,' he said. 'I never really understood why we had two organisations doing much the same thing. Now the combined memberships of all the CGTs, all that knowledge and enthusiasm, can be merged with the specialist expertise and academic clout of the old GHS to become much more effective not just in conservation but in actively campaigning to protect

our designed landscapes. I believe that this merger is a great opportunity for both organisations.'

Historical background

The Garden History Society was founded in 1965 and celebrated its 50th anniversary this year. The GHS put garden history 'on the map' as an academic subject and almost immediately began to publish the twice-yearly academic journal *Garden History*, which remains the leading forum for scholarly work in this area. In addition it has pursued an active conservation and campaigning role, with a small professional team of conservation officers employed to comment on developments affecting important gardens and designed landscapes. Since 1995 the GHS has been the statutory consultee for designed landscapes and is therefore informed of any proposals which may affect places listed on Historic England's Register of historic parks and gardens (graded I, II and II*). All of these existing functions of the GHS will continue to be an important part of the role and remit of the new Gardens Trust, which inherits the charity number of the old GHS. Current members of the GHS, who become individual members of The Gardens Trust, stand at about 1,200.

The Association of Gardens Trusts was established in 1993 as a central 'umbrella organisation' intended to promote the care, conservation and enjoyment of historic designed gardens, landscapes and parks and to provide a strategic focus and training for the many CGTs established up and down Britain (currently 36). It publishes an annual Yearbook as a digest of the activities of the CGTs (which is to be continued) and organises study days and an annual conference. Each CGT is a CGT member of the new Gardens Trust in the same way that they were each a member of the AGT. Individual members of CGTs still belong to their respective county organisations, paying their annual subscriptions directly to them. In addition, individual members have the option of joining The Gardens Trust, to include a subscription to the journal *Garden History* and the new Gardens Trust newsletter, incorporating the opportunity to book for study days, foreign trips, lectures and seminars. The total combined current membership of all the CGTs currently stands at about 7,000.

Annual General Meeting Reports 2015

The Garden History Society's General Meeting and Annual General Meeting of the Association of Gardens Trusts were held at the University of Newcastle Conference Centre on Friday 24 July 2015. The format of the traditional meetings differed this year due to their principal purpose of asking members to vote on motions to approve the

merger between the Garden History Society (GHS) and the Association of Gardens Trusts (AGT) and related matters.

At the AGM of the AGT which preceded the GHS General Meeting, the motion to merge was approved by 24 votes in favour, with 7 votes against and one abstention. The Chairman, Steffie Shields thanked outgoing trustees and AGT Administrator Teresa Forey Harrison for all their support. She also paid tribute to all those in the past who had made the AGT the success it was, and in particular to Lorna McRobie on whose initiative the Association had been established, and to Gilly Drummond, who as President had motivated many in the County Gardens Trusts (CGTs) to become involved.



Gilly Drummond then presented the 2015 Volunteer of the Year Award to Kate Harwood (above) from Hertfordshire Gardens Trust, who is co-ordinating the CGTs research for the Brown Tercentenary (CB 300) in 2016. The Chairman announced that in future, as a legacy parting thank-you gift funded by generous donations from county gardens trusts and individuals, this annual presentation will be known as the 'Gilly Drummond Volunteer of the Year Award'.

Steffie then presented the retiring President with a



Teresa Forey Harrison

Scrapbook 'Memories of Gardens Trusts' (copies available from: blurb.com) and an RHS Registration Certificate for Narcissus 'Gilly Drummond' named in her honour for 'trumpeting' the cause of garden conservation countrywide (above).

At the subsequent GHS General Meeting, the same motion to merge was carried by 131 votes in favour and 7 against and no abstentions. The motion to change the name of the GHS to The Gardens Trust was carried 119 in favour and 16 against and 3 abstentions. The motion to approve the changes to the Articles of Association of the GHS was approved by 119 in favour and 16 against.

The Chairman, Dominic Cole, welcomed all those attending what was an historic meeting not only because it was the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the GHS but also because of the opportunity to embark on an exciting new phase of the Society's life. He thanked Patrick Eyres for organising the symposium, which had taken place that morning, and also Robert Peel and his team for planning and arranging the first joint conference between the GHS the AGT and the County Gardens Trusts. He gave special thanks too to Louise Cooper, GHS administrator, for all her support during the year.

At the conclusion of the meeting, he paid tribute to outgoing trustees Bill Billington who retires as Honorary Treasurer, Robert Peel, Patrick Eyres, Mick Thompson, Kristina Taylor, Daniel Glass, Andrew Turvey and Richard Wheeler for their valuable contributions to the Society. He welcomed the prospect that a number would continue to be involved in the new organisation.

The first AGM of the newly formed The Gardens Trust then took place chaired by Dominic Cole. He explained that the main business of the meeting would be to elect a new board and until those elections took place he would continue to chair the meeting. He then welcomed everyone to the first

Teresa Forey Harrison

meeting of the new organisation and thanked all those who had worked hard to achieve this exciting development including the members of the GHS and AGT representatives on the Transitional Committee.

Hilden Park Accountants Limited was reappointed as Independent Examiner and the Board authorised to fix its remuneration.

The following elections then took place:

Dominic Cole as President of The Gardens Trust.

The following current GHS Life Vice Presidents were confirmed: Ray Desmond, Sir Richard Carew Pole, The Dowager Marchioness of Salisbury, Sir Tim Smit and Dr Christopher Thacker and the following current Vice Presidents: Alan Baxter, Susan Campbell, Peter Hayden, Anne Richards and Dr Hazel Conway.

Gilly Drummond was elected a Life Vice President and John Sales, Steffie Shields and Robert Peel, Vice Presidents for a five-year term.

The following members of the Trust were elected to the new board: Dr James Bartos, Michael Dawson, Sarah Dickinson, Jeremy Garnett, Dr Marion Harney, Kate Harwood, Virginia Hinze, Dr Sally Jeffery, David Lambert, Tim Richardson, Dr Ian Varndell and Lisa Watson.

Before the meeting closed Steffie Shields, on behalf of the AGT & CGTS, congratulated The Garden History Society for their 50 remarkable years of garden conservation, and the Chairman for his recent OBE awarded for services to garden conservation. She thanked him for his contribution to the successful outcome of the day's meeting and expressed the hope that The Gardens Trust would move forward together in a stronger position and attract new members. She also thanked the conference organisers, particularly Mike Dawson and Robert Peel and their team, for all their work to make the weekend conference a great success.

At the conclusion of the formal business of the meeting, conservation reports were received from Jonathan Lovie, Principal Conservation Officer; Margie Hoffnung, Assistant Conservation Officer; Alison Allighan, Case Work Manager; Linden Groves and Caroline Ikin, HLP Officers. A synopsis of their reports is reported elsewhere in this edition.

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

The Board met immediately after the AGM and elected the following officers: Chairman: Dr James Bartos; Vice Chairman: Michael Dawson; Honorary Secretary: Jeremy Garnett; Honorary Treasurer: Lisa Watson.

The following committee chairs were duly elected: Conservation: Marion Harney; Education, Publication & Communication: Tim Richardson; Events: Virginia Hinze; Administration and Finance: Michael Dawson; Membership: Dr Ian Varndell.

Jeremy Garnett,
Honorary Secretary

Our Status as a Statutory Consultee

The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG), the UK Government department for communities and local government in England, has updated the Planning Portal page on Amenity Societies confirming that '... The Gardens Trust (formerly known as The Garden History Society) need to be consulted on applications for planning permission for development likely to affect any park or garden on Historic England's *Register of Historic Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England*, see Article 18 of and Schedule 4 to the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure)(England) Order 2015.'

**Jenifer White, National Landscape Adviser
Planning Group, Historic England**

The 2015 annual GHS Essay Prize

The prize has been won by **Josepha Richard** from Sheffield University, for her fascinating essay ***Uncovering the Garden of the Richest Man on Earth in Nineteenth Century Guangzhou: Howqua's Garden in Henan China***. This essay is of particular interest as very little work has been done on early nineteenth century Chinese horticulture by either Western or Eastern garden historians. The merchant's gardens of Canton (Guangzhou) were often the only Chinese gardens encountered by Europeans, as most foreigners at the time were forbidden to travel beyond the port city. While these gardens were described in visitors' diaries, paintings and early photographs, Richard has examined Chinese as well as European sources, to provide a conjectural reconstruction of the grandest and most famous of Canton's merchant gardens. The judges were particularly impressed by Richard's scholarly approach, the range of references she unearthed, and her thoughtful - and convincing - analyses of what is often mere scraps of information.

Melanie Veasey of Buckingham University was also Highly Recommended for her essay ***The Richest Form of Outdoor Furniture: The Open Air Exhibition of Sculpture at Battersea Park, 1948***. This detailed exploration makes excellent use of primary sources, particularly the archives of the London County Council, to examine the legacy of this seminal outdoor sculpture exhibition which introduced the British public to contemporary art, created a fashion for open air sculpture and established the reputation of Henry Moore.

Other entries addressed such diverse subjects as monastic ruins in eighteenth century gardens, royal parks and war memorials in the urban landscape.

Katie Campbell,
Chair of Judges



The Gardens Trust members assembled for the first time in a composite photo at Alnwick Gardens

The TGT needs you!

Dr Jim Bartos, new TGT Chairman, set us a challenge as the AGM drew to a close. Go out and recruit one new member each. Of course if we succeeded in this we would double our membership by the end of the year, which would be fantastic, and mean the new organisation would be speaking with an even stronger voice.

You will find that our membership rates are still pegged at the rate they were set at many years ago, and a temporary form can be found at the back of this publication. Please do what you can to recruit new members; we value every one of you.

Mind you it is not exactly easy to organise the existing lot, as marshals on our recent Conference in and around Newcastle, found out.

Life Member David Gedye, of whom more in our next edition, had organised for the assembled masses to be photographed at Alnwick Gardens by his cousin Margaret Whittaker. The composite result can be seen above, with a little help from photoshop! Margaret's original version in three separate photographs, can be found on our website for download, or prints can be ordered. To say that getting all our members in place to take a picture was like herding cats, does cats an injustice...



The Gardens Trust's libraries

The newly formed TGT inherits the two libraries formerly belonging to The Garden History Society, as well as their many hatted Honorary Librarian, yours truly Charles Boot. For those new to this publication, our libraries are held and maintained for us at the King's Manor, University of York, and at the University of Bath's Claverton Down campus, free of charge to the Trust and of considerable use to students there.

The latest additions have been the second part of the collection belonging to the late Basil Williams, and the remaining library collection of Ted and Jane Fawcett, some several hundred books on gardens and more on architecture, relating to building

conservation, Jane's own gift. These have already been sorted alphabetically and shelved, with cataloguing in process. Along with this gift came a collection of images and papers relating to the GHS and AA tours led by Ted over many years, which I have retained for cataloguing, and Ted's papers on dowsing landscapes. Our thanks go to both Marion Williams, and Jane Fawcett and her family for their generosity.

We will be conducting an audit of our two collections over the coming year and deciding on their future. The new Education, Publications and Communications committee will be meeting quarterly, and we hope to pursue a more engaged collections policy than the current rather *ad-hoc* arrangements.

TGT events 2015 & 2016

please continue to use gardenhistorysociety.org & gardenstrusts.org.uk for now...

Whilst our new website www.thegardenstrust.org is under development, notice of these events still appears on both the GHS and AGT websites; for the moment both remain in place. Please take care filling in booking forms as we have to get the details exactly correct in this time of transition. More detail of events will be announced in forthcoming issues of **TGT news** and **micro-news**.

Study Tour to gardens of Normandy
Thursday 10 to Wednesday 16 September
This study tour is now fully booked.

Study Day at Kings Weston, Bristol
Lancelot 'Capability' Brown
at Kings Weston: Exploring his Legacy
of Comfort and Elegance
with the Avon Gardens Trust
9.30am, 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.

The situation changed in 2011 when the Kings Weston Action Group (KWAG) was founded to

protect the estate, to fight for its future and protect its past. KWAG were recently nominated for an Historic England Angel award, results announced on 7 September. You did vote for them, we hope?

The exterior of 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 are **David Martyn** on *Kings Weston, 'About the House and Terraces'*, setting the scene for Brown at Kings Weston; **Steffie Shields** on *Moving Heaven & Earth: 'Capability' Brown and the Gift of Landscape*, an overview of Brown's diverse works in relation to his philosophy; and **Judy Preston** on *Another piece of the jigsaw*, a tantalising glimpse of Wright's involvement in improving the Kings Weston landscape. The morning's talks will be followed by a guided tour of the grounds. This is an all-day event and includes coffee, lectures, lunch and the guided garden tour.

Do take a look at www.kwag.org.uk which has a range of images, both historic, with drawings by Vanbrugh, and modern, of current projects.

Places still available. Full details and booking form on our websites. Cost: £50. Please contact Teresa the CGT Co-ordinator: gardenstrusts@agt.org.uk or: 020 7251 2610 to make a reservation.



The north front of Kings Weston from Vanbrugh's Great Terrace before it was removed, c. 1760, unknown artist.

Masonic Symbolism in Gardens at the Freemasons' Hall, London WC2

11am, Saturday 31 Oct

Our speakers are: **Ricky Pound** on *Masonic Signposts in the English Landscape Garden: the Case for Chiswick*; **Cathie Bryan** on *Freemasonry and Ancient Egypt*; **Vanni Torrigiani** on *Masonic Symbolism in a Tuscan Garden*; **Michael Symes** on *Masonic Elements in French, German and Polish Gardens*; **Dr Cristina Ruggero** on *Filippo Juvarra's visionary experience in garden design: Roman legacy in 18th century England*; and **Diane Clements** on *The Imperial War Graves Commission and Freemasonry*. There will also be a chance to see the museum collection with objects on display connected with Freemasonry and Gardens. Please note the very slight change to the speakers' subjects.

Cost: £60. See the flyer sent out with our previous mailing, or our websites, for the full programme.

2016: preview

Please note that these are provisional dates and programmes, to be confirmed in later September when the new Events committee of TGT has been constituted.

TGT Winter Lecture series

Wednesday in January, February, March

The Gardens Trust Winter Lecture Series 2016 will open on Wednesday 20 January with a talk by **Margaret Stewart** on the Earl of Mar's visionary schemes for gardens in Scotland, England and France, followed by **David Adshead** on the gardens at Wimpole Hall, **Keir Davidson** on Woburn Abbey gardens and park, and **Katherine Myers** on the Earl of Shaftesbury's Philosophy of Nature in estate gardening. Full details of all five lectures in the series together with booking information will be sent out to members with the Journal and *micro-news* in early December. Information will also be available on The Gardens Trust website events pages, in due course.

Garden Study Tour of south west Scotland Saturday 14 to Friday 20 May

At the height of the Spring woodland and rhododendron season, we shall be visiting several important historic designed landscapes, from the 17th century onwards. The very special climatic conditions of this area mean they are ideal for growing exotic plants and trees from the Himalayas, Chile, the Antipodes and other temperate zones. Who would have thought that the glorious Monkey Puzzles tree avenues we shall see could appear to be so effective in the Scottish landscape?

The guest lecturers will include **Christopher Dingwall**, first conservation officer of the Garden

History Society in Scotland, and **Melissa Simpson**, National Trust for Scotland Gardens Advisor.



Kristina Taylor

Charles Jencks' DNA Garden of the Six Senses, Portrack.

Our Study Tour will include the **Garden of Cosmic Speculation** at Portrack, **Dumfries House** and its new walled garden, **Drumlanrig Castle, Threave, Culzean Castle** on its cliff top overlooking the sea, **Logan House** and its adjacent **Botanical garden** and **Castle Kennedy**. There will also be visits to significant more private gardens too.

The tour will begin with 3 nights in Dumfries followed by 3 nights in Stranraer, ending back at Dumfries station in time to catch the train to connect with the main west coast line at Carlisle.

The tour is open to both individual and affiliated (through their County Trusts) Gardens Trust members so please send expressions of interest in this tour to Kristina Taylor: wowkristina@hotmail.com

Paris Gardens Study Tour June



La Maison Colonne du Desert de Retz, c.1785.

In the last few days of June a study tour of late 18th century landscapes and gardens of Paris and Ile de France is being planned for TGT by **Gabriel Wick**

TGT events & conservation

and **Robert Peel**. We hope to visit the iconic sites of **Desert de Retz**, **Mereville** and **Parc Jean Jacques Rousseau** at Ermenonville as well as other less famous but equally impressive examples such as **La Roche Guyon**, **Rambouillet** and **La Folie St. James**.

Details will be available in early October from: rma.peel@btopenworld.com with more information in the next edition of TGT *news* in late autumn.

Lancelot 'Capability' Brown 300 years on; a celebration of his life and work in Cambridge Summer Conference

Friday 2 to Sunday 4 September

'There wants a good plan!' Cambridgeshire Gardens Trust invites members and friends of The Gardens Trust and County Gardens Trusts to Cambridge.

Our **provisional** programme for the weekend includes garden tours, lectures and exhibitions on Brown's life and works, both executed and planned: a visit to 'Capability' Brown's **Manor at Fenstanton** and his enigmatic memorial in the parish church; tours of his major landscapes at **Wimpole Hall** and **Madingley Hall**; a visit to the renowned **Cambridge Botanic Gardens**; a guided walk along 'The Backs'



Charles Boot

The magnificent double herbaceous borders, Clare College Fellow's Garden, Cambridge, GHS 2009.

to view what he did, and did not, implement there, and the College Gardens; lectures by **Steffie Shields**, **Patrick Eyres** and **Tom Williamson**.

The conference will be based at **Robinson College**, Cambridge CB3 9AN, where GHS members stayed in 2009, in very comfortable accommodation. Further details from 1 October: acolbert25@btinternet.com www.cambsgardens.org.uk or phone: 01487 822 591

conservation

2015 AGM reports from our officers and other news...

Jonathan Lovie Principal Conservation Officer An overview

The past year has seen a significant level of conservation activity for the Garden History Society (GHS); and more excitingly, perhaps, for the conservation partnership between the GHS and our colleagues in the County Gardens Trusts (CGTs). Margie Hoffnung and Alison Allighan, who have each played a vital part in ensuring that our partnership has literally gone from strength to strength, will say more about their work later in these reports. Linden Groves will also be telling us about the work she and her fellow Historic Landscape Project (HLP) Officers Verena McCaig and Caroline Ikin have been undertaking, but I would like to emphasise that all this activity has formed part of a much bigger initiative aimed at effective and efficient 'working together' for the benefit of our historic designed landscapes.

Turning to some examples of the type of casework we have been handling directly at the GHS during the year (usually with the support, advice and

valuable input of the relevant CGT), it is rather sad to note that, despite all the publicity surrounding the 'Capability' Brown Tercentenary (CB300) celebrations next year; we have seen a number of potentially highly damaging proposals affecting some of the most important Brown landscapes.

Warwick Castle: proposals for permanent 'glamorous camping' or 'glamping' (see p.15) in the Grade I landscape in place of a smaller, existing temporary scheme, predicated on the assertion that the proposed site did not form part of Brown's design; entirely missing the point that what makes Warwick significant is the interaction of various phases of landscape development.

King's Weston, Bristol: we have seen several proposals affecting this site, some of which we only became aware of through the good offices of the CGT. This has highlighted a serious concern at the attitude of the LPA to historic designed landscapes in the city.

Milton Abbey, Dorset: very recent proposals for timber-clad 'activity pods' hidden behind a new yew hedge to be located between the Abbey Church

and the mansion right in the heart of the Brown landscape; ironically, justified in part on the basis of anticipated CB300 activities. We are aware that some organisations, such as Historic England, have been involved in pre-application discussions about this scheme and a major proposed conservation scheme for Milton, but we have not be included. . .

Pre-application discussions can be greatly beneficial for all parties and avoid the necessity for us to make a formal objection during the planning process.

Auckland Castle, Northumberland: a good example of pre-application consultation early this year with regard to proposals for the walled garden, and also a chance to discover a most exciting designed landscape which we feel has such a high level of significance that it should be considered for up-grading to Grade I on the Register.

Our old friend 'sustainable energy' has led to several damaging proposals to which we have objected through the year:

Wind turbines were proposed affecting the setting of **Shugborough**, Staffordshire (where we greatly appreciated the advice and help of Chris Gallagher); and **Boconnoc**, Cornwall where a proposed turbine would have challenged the visual supremacy of Thomas Pitt's late C18 obelisk which dominated the surrounding countryside and the designed landscape within which it sits (below).



Jonathan Lovie

Solar arrays were proposed affecting the setting of Grade I **Stancombe Park**, Gloucestershire and Grade I **Waddesdon Manor**, Bucks.

Proposals for new housing development have also arisen during the year, with one particularly concerning scheme affecting the setting of **Kedleston**, Derbyshire where again we are grateful for expert advice from Chris Gallagher through the JCC.

Looking ahead, some cases this year have highlighted trends and themes which may form an important part of our work in the coming years. The redevelopment of the **Commonwealth Institute**

in Kensington, London entailing the destruction and de-Registration of the Grade II Sylvia Crowe landscape, along with the work that JCC member Kate Harwood and others have been doing at the **Hemel Hempstead Water Gardens**, raises serious questions about the designation and protection of post-War designed landscapes which we intend to pursue.

But in case the future looks too uncertain and depressing, I finish by drawing attention to the recent announcement of funding for parks and cemeteries by HLF and the Big Lottery, including support to the tune of some £4 million for Thomas Mawson's Hanley Park, Stoke on Trent, where in the past GHS and colleagues at Historic England have fought hard to avert damaging development in part of the park known as Cauldon Grounds; and earmarked funding of over a £1 million for London Road Cemetery, Coventry, designed in 1845 by Joseph Paxton, especially welcome and appropriate as the 150th anniversary of Paxton's death falls this year.

Margie Hoffnung
Assistant Conservation Officer
Update on Planning Application
Responses from County Garden Trusts
Great views, serious conversation,
and surprisingly good biscuits...

It is great to be here today and to introduce myself to any of you that I haven't yet met, and to give a very brief overview of what your fantastic contributions have helped achieve over the past year. Without a doubt the most rewarding part of my job as Assistant Conservation Officer has been getting to work with so many of you. This time last year in Cardiff I was still pretty new at my job and knew hardly anyone but having attended all the Regional Forums to date that is no longer the case. I certainly feel, and hope you do too, that it is much easier to email someone about a planning application if they are not just a name on a contact list.

When I started I had no current contact details for several CGTs. This has now completely changed, and over the past year I have been in touch with every county. As I sit at my desk, wading through on-line information for planning applications each week, they rarely give a complete picture of how a Registered Park and Garden might be affected. Jonathan Lovie and I both work part time, and cannot possibly be familiar with, and research, every application with the thoroughness it deserves. Luckily more often than not, I know you will already usually be familiar with those sites local to you, understand their significance; something generally very poorly grasped if at all by many Local

conservation

Authorities(LAs)) and point out vital things glossed over by a developer. Large applications may sometimes contain over a hundred documents which are time-consuming to download and frustrating particularly when things like maps are put in upside down, or out of focus.

County Gardens Trusts are Wonderful...

I try never to forget that you are volunteers and you do this from the goodness of your hearts. That is why I am so delighted that over the last 18 months the amount of responses received from you has increased by a staggering amount. In the whole of 2013 you sent in 53 responses, and as of last week, this year alone you have already sent in 178. That is an increase of over 500%, just amazing. You put together well thought out, extremely sensible responses which are entered into the Casework Log, which Alison Allighan will be talking about. It contains the planning history of every site we have ever been consulted upon over the years. I say 'we have been consulted upon' as despite regular reminders depressingly often LAs still fail to notify us of applications.

Since April I have been given a few more hours each week, which is great. In May I sent a Questionnaire to all CGTs. Well over half of you very kindly took the time and trouble to respond, some in great detail. This showed that many of you have problems recruiting volunteers, especially those who feel able to tackle planning applications, and there is widespread concern for the limited understanding of the importance of Historic Landscapes by LAs. Many of them do not even have a member of staff with conservation experience let alone familiarity with Historic Landscapes. Historic England's staff are enormously stretched, as are we all, but if we do not work together and respond to inappropriate planning applications who else will? I want to use my extra hours to (re)visit individual CGTs to better understand what constraints you operate under and to see what we can best do to help. I have been to a few of you already but am looking forward to visiting more of you so please contact me if you think this might be useful and we can put some dates in the diary: acogardenhistory@gmail.com

I know that many of you are chatting up your Local Planning Officers, so that it becomes second nature for them to get in touch should an application concerning a RP&G come up. The same goes for your local Historic Environment Record and other conservation bodies like CPRE.

If you haven't already done so I can also heartily recommend the Leap the Ha Ha email forum. I am regularly faced with planning applications for things like Victorian Swimming Ponds or Asylum Landscapes. I am ignorant of the finer points of



The Victorian Swimming Pond at Tynesfield.

many of these topics, but I know that out there will be someone who is not. Leap the Ha Ha has never failed me yet, with a helpful response arriving recently literally within ten minutes: <https://uk.groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/leapthehaha/info>

I have also been converted to **Linked In**. Earlier this year I was discussing with Kate Harwood of Hertfordshire CGT the total failure of the company who own **Panshanger** which is a Repton landscape with Brown remnants, to respond to any communications from her. Coincidentally, just a few days later, Linked In told me I should know the Chairman. I sent him a letter and within days a meeting was arranged and now proper contact has been established.

Whatever the results of today's AGMs, planning applications aren't going to go away, so the need for your contributions is as crucial as ever. It is not an exaggeration to say that without you all I simply couldn't do my job.

I would like to say a really heartfelt thank you to all of you for the time and effort you have so generously given. It's enormously appreciated.

Alison Allighan Conservation Officer, Scotland

Sadly this is my last report as the Garden History Society's Conservation Officer in Scotland as the post ceased on 31 December last year. As you are aware changes and mergers have not only been taking place in England and Wales but also in Scotland. In May this year the Garden History Society in Scotland (GHSS) merged with the GHSS Conservation Trust to form a new independent charitable organisation, **Scotland's Garden and Landscape Heritage**.

People often ask me what I think the GHSS achieved on the conservation front over the years.

Whilst I would like to be able to say we single-handedly fought off numerous high-profile planning developments which would have seriously damaged our designed landscapes, we all know that is not true. We were a small organisation and many of our successes over the years, not all planning-related, have resulted from working with other like-minded bodies. So, for my final report I should just like to highlight a few of the successes which came to fruition in 2014 and 2015, some of which had been very long-running cases.

First, the expansion of Hyndford Quarry into the **Bonnington** designed landscape, part of the Falls of Clyde *Inventory* Landscape, and also the New Lanark World Heritage Site Buffer Zone. GHSS, as part of an umbrella group supported the call-in of the application by Scottish Ministers following South Lanarkshire Council's granting of planning permission for the development. We heard earlier this month that we have a partial success. The western extension to the quarry, the part most damaging to the Bonnington designed landscape, has not been granted permission, but the southern, less damaging extension, has. Disappointingly the designed landscape was not taken into consideration and the case was decided on the basis of prolonged visual impact on the World Heritage Buffer Zone and the applicants overestimating the future demand for aggregate.

A case ongoing since long before I became Conservation Officer, is the Japanese-style Garden at **Cowden**, Clackmannanshire. After working together with Historic Scotland, The Japanese Garden Society of Scotland and a Japanese garden designer, the significance of this site was finally recognised and it was added to the *Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes in Scotland* in 2013. However, the key to the garden's future and restoration is the need to increase the security of the site to avoid a repeat of the vandalism which destroyed the garden in the 1960s. The best way of achieving this is through the construction of a dwelling adjacent to the garden, something which has always been refused by Clackmannanshire Council as it was contrary to their countryside housing policies. With the garden's new *Inventory* status, earlier this month the Council finally granted planning permission for a dwelling, together with boathouse and pavilion on the site and we hope this will be the catalyst for gradual restoration of the garden.

In February 2014 we were asked to return to **Skibo Castle**, Sutherland and give further advice about tree planting on the estate. In 2007 we had been asked to advise about rectifying damage caused by widespread indiscriminate tree planting in the latter half of the 20th century. This was



Skibo Castle, the Carnegie landscape, 1908.

destroying the historic planting layout and views dating from Andrew Carnegie's ownership at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries. Revisiting Skibo was uplifting as most of our advice had been acted upon, with large areas of the core landscape transformed and restored. In addition the landowner had undertaken major restoration projects on many of the listed buildings on the site, the swimming pool and the Category A Listed glasshouse range. He had also managed to locate the original Thomas Mawson designs for Skibo, items which we had been told by the archives in Kendal had long since been lost. In short and unbeknown to the landowner he was implementing a Conservation Management Plan so our parting advice on this occasion was to suggest writing everything down and pulling it into a formal plan to guide future management of the landscape.

Other successes I would like to cite are the work on over 50 non-*Inventory* designed landscapes undertaken by the local research and recording groups in Scotland. About half of this data been uploaded to the **Royal Commission and Parks and Gardens UK** websites and work is still on-going. Without funding from Historic Scotland this would not have been possible and the work is now being extended into Falkirk and parts of South Lanarkshire by Scotland's Garden and Landscape Heritage.

And also last, but by no means least in 2014, the continuation of our well established relationship with the **Forestry Commission Scotland**, allowing GHSS input into Felling Licence Applications and Long Term Forest Plans. The role of FCS in designed landscapes in Scotland has been particularly important since the withdrawal of Scottish Natural Heritage from a designed landscape responsibility in 2007.

So, a very brief summary of 2014 but I should just like to take this opportunity to thank everybody for all the cross-Border, sometimes even across two borders, help and advice they have given me over the past eleven years when additional support from

conservation

outside Scotland was needed; in particular the GHS Conservation Committee, the GHS-AGT Joint Conservation Committee, and the GHS Council.

Alison Allighan Conservation Casework Manager

I have been GHS CCM since October 2013, probably better known as the face behind the weekly casework lists. These lists are compiled from the Conservation Casework Log, the hub for co-ordinating all the information which comes into GHS about conservation consultations.

it work for everyone. So, how can this resource, the Casework Log, be improved to help you more?

We are very conscious that we are asking the CGTs to do more and more things to help us but your support in the 'Working Together' process over the past couple of years, particularly in sending us your responses to consultations, has been fantastic as the figures show.

As a new organisation we are going to be asked to justify our existence, effectiveness and bids for funding, more and more i.e. demonstrate our value for money. As such, one of the key indicators we are

Individual Conservation Casework Details

Site name:	Kings Weston House	Site county:	Avon
GHS ref. number:	E16/1136	Application status:	Live Dead Neither
Local Authority:	Bristol CC	LA ref. number:	14/05506/P http://planningonline.bristol.gov.uk/online-applications
Whether statutory:	Y	Grade:	0
One or more photographs available?	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Date received [YYYY-MM-DD]:	2014-12-05	Date received notes:	
Date for action [YYYY-MM-DD]:	2014-12-26	Date for action notes:	
Date completed [YYYY-MM-DD]:		Date completed notes:	
Proposal:	PLANNING APPLICATION Outline application for proposed Enterprise units (Use Classes B1 (b) (1) and B2), with associated carparking, access, fencing and landscaping. Land Adj] To Karakal, Pengoile Lane, Bristol BS31 9EA. OFFICE/COMMERCIAL		

Without going into a lot of technical details about the log I am well aware that many people are a little unsure what the 'log' actually consists of. The Log is a secure data-entry website on which consultations coming in; planning applications, pre-applications, policy, Historic England etc., and general enquiries are all recorded. In addition, we record, not only the GHS, but also the County Garden Trust's responses to consultations.

Data can then be extracted from the log in the various formats in which it is needed, most commonly:

- The weekly lists of casework.
- The monthly lists of casework responses submitted by GHS & CGTs.
- Figures to support Historic England funding applications and Subsequent Monitoring.
- Data for Historic England's Annual 'Heritage Counts' reports.

The Log as it stands has served the GHS well for 15 years but it is now being asked to do things it was never designed for. It also has quirks and limitations which need to be ironed out; it currently juggles three sets of geographical boundaries (old and new local authority ones, and CGT ones), it doesn't like Gloucestershire, and it's never heard of the Scilly Isles.

Over the next few months we will be looking at ways the Log can be developed to serve the new The Gardens Trust and we need feedback from the various CGTs, to do this effectively and try to make

now being asked to log is 'outcomes', i.e. planning applications approved, refused, withdrawn etc. Only a handful of local planning authorities currently advise us of these so if there is a quick and easy way of getting this data to us for recording on the log we would be so grateful. These figures could be crucial in obtaining funding for TGT over the next few years.

Once you have had time to think about these points we would be very grateful if you could email any suggestions about the log and its future to: conservation@gardenhistorysociety.org

Linden Groves & Caroline Ikin Historic Landscape Project Officers

LG: Whether you voted for the merger or not, the coming together of the Association of Gardens Trusts with its thousands of grassroots members through the County Gardens Trusts, with the Garden History Society's statutory consultee status and academic reputation is a very very big day for the historic designed landscapes that we all care so greatly about. I'm one of relatively few people to have worked closely with both the GHS and the CGTs and have no doubt that although there is now a steep mountain for us to start to climb, what lies ahead is the potential for us all together to really secure a future in which historic parks and gardens get the attention and conservation that they deserve. Exciting times, and we're facing them together!

So, where are we at with the HLP? As you will remember, we waved a sad goodbye to the founding Historic Landscape Project Officer **Verena McCaig** back in March. Verena clearly made a massive contribution to our collective mindset and activities, and we owe her a big thanks. In exchange for Verena, we now have the truly brilliant **Caroline Ikin**. Caroline comes from a Sussex Gardens Trust and National Trust background, with a particular interest in Victorian gardens and has hit the ground running. Caroline is now focussing on supporting CGTs in the South East, South West, London and West Midlands, whilst I am enjoying working with the East, East Midlands and North. Between us we work one full-time post, with each of us doing 2.5 days. In addition, we have funding for a few extra HLP hours, which are being undertaken by **Margie Hoffnung** to complement her work as Assistant Conservation Officer, allowing her to nurture closer links with the CGTs. We hope you find the HLP's offerings to be useful to your work; currently we have Historic England funding until March 2016, and are hoping for a further year after that but in this financial climate please keep all your fingers and toes crossed.

One very tangible thing that the HLP has been able to use some of its funding for in this financial year is what we're calling *The Planning Project*. This is a leaflet written for local planning authorities that once and for all will set out the situation regarding historic designed landscapes, both *Registered* and unregistered, in the planning system. In particular, it will explain the obligation to consult, and will clarify the relationship between the GHS, or now TGT, and the County Gardens Trusts once and for all. The current draft is a really splendid piece of work, undertaken by **Victoria Thomson** of Buckinghamshire Gardens Trust, shortly before she began work as Historic England's Head of Planning Advice. With a fair wind, this will be published in the autumn, and we are looking to furnish CGTs with ample copies so that you can use them as an excuse to go and have some serious chats with local authorities, knowing that the leaflet will really emphasise the value of the CGTs. That said, we do welcome your thoughts on how this

leaflet distribution could work, so please let the HLPOs know your views.

CI: I've been enjoying getting to know CGT members around the country and seeing at first hand the tremendous amount of work going into the research and conservation of our designed landscapes. The HLP is here to help, but we won't be around forever so we're concentrating on providing the ways and means for you to support one another. By pulling together to act as a whole, we'll have not just a bigger voice, but a louder voice, and we can use this effectively in the conservation of gardens and landscapes.

The Regional Forums are now firmly established in the CGT calendar and these events give everyone the opportunity to share success stories, discuss issues and meet representatives from Historic England, CPRE, local authorities, Natural England and, most importantly, other CGTs. We can all learn from each other and it's become plain that there's not much that CGTs haven't tackled over the years! There's no need for us all to reinvent the wheel and the Regional Forums and email group provide a means of requesting and sharing information. The other port of call for information is, of course, the **Resource Hub**, which is hosted by the Parks & Gardens UK website and also accessible via the HLP page on the AGT website. Here you will find up-to-date guidance and advice ranging from Historic England planning documents to the minutes of the JCC to training materials to information on research projects and recruiting volunteers. We're constantly adding to and updating the Hub and have recently begun adding the monthly Casework Log showing the responses to planning applications submitted by the GHS and the CGTs, as well as new information on solar arrays and wind turbines, so do have a look and let us know if you have anything you would like to add.

Coming up later this year and early next year are Regional Forums throughout the country. We're also planning to host training days next spring on Designation, Significance and Writing Planning Letters, so do email us if you're interested and would like to know more.

Glamping: a new threat to an historic landscape...

Christine Hodgetts, Warwickshire Gardens Trust

A disturbing and disappointing case last year related to the proposal for 'Glamping', Glamorous Camping, in the grounds of Warwick Castle, which is now part of the Merlin Entertainment Group.

At the recent AGM it was described in Jonathan Lovie's conservation report as the worst application of the year. The site chosen was Foxes' Study, which

lies at the southern end of the Castle's ownership. It is part of the Picturesque planting undertaken by George Greville, the second Earl of Warwick (new creation), in the 1790s.

Originally it would have been a mixed plantation, with a shrub understorey. The nineteenth century mapping (overleaf) shows it interlaced with paths,



from which the varied attractions of the woodland could be enjoyed. It forms a transition area between the pleasure grounds and the park, which is currently in private ownership. As visitors walked down the Lawn (Pageant Field) there would be distant views of Spiers Lodge in its hanging woods, and Leaffield Bridge. These features then disappear from sight obscured by the woodland of Foxes' Study until they burst into view again as visitors emerged onto Leaffield.

The Castle had been investigating proposals for this area for some time. A maintenance and storage building occupies a site near the outside edge, and the woodland has become much eroded recently, but few visitors venture this far. A proposed maze, on stilts to be above the floodplain and the tree roots, received permission, but was then deemed impracticable.

Then, in 2013 around 40 tents appeared, without permission, for the summer season. The Castle were informed that planning permission was required and an application was duly made early in 2014. This was for a six month period for a single year. We and the Garden History Society opposed it both on the grounds of the visual damage to this important element of the landscape, and also because of the inevitable degradation to the woodland which would follow the presence of 280 people a night for the duration of the growing season. A fence created an enclosure to protect the campers and their belongings, and to segregate the offered



entertainment such as archery from daily visitors. The application was granted, but we felt confident that the damage would be so apparent that a renewal would not be supported.

We were not far into the season before another application was submitted. This was to retain the seasonal camping in 41 tents indefinitely and also to build twelve permanent semi-detached lodges (24 units) and five permanent tree houses in staged developments. In addition there would be boardwalks, some of which already served the existing tents, lighting, an administration centre, dining tent, showers and toilets.

The planning framework establishes that development which causes substantial harm to heritage assets should be wholly exceptional. Where the harm is less than substantial, it should be weighed against the benefits. There have been some helpful decisions recently bringing forward the principle that less than substantial harm does not equate to a less than substantial planning objection.

On the benefit side, the Castle offered economic advantage to the town, where the visitors to the glamping would eat, shop, and visit other attractions. A number of such attractions, spanning an area from Coventry to South Warwickshire, sent almost identical letters of support. Additionally, it was put that Merlin's business plan required the development, without which they would have to consider their on-going position in Warwick, and we were reminded that considerable sums were spent annually on maintenance of the fabric of the Grade I (and Scheduled Monument) Castle. Merlin's accounts are freely viewable on the internet so the public is able to draw its own conclusions. We feel that particular consideration should be given to the rent paid annually to Merlin's holding company.

In the other pan of the scales, Merlin's advisors argued that this part of the park was not as important as others, because it was not by Lancelot 'Capability' Brown, and because it had already been encroached upon by the maintenance building and car parking, and additionally the structures were barely visible from outside the Study, and hardly anyone went there anyway.

We and the GHS argued that the park did not owe its Grade I listing to the Brown association alone, as is clear from the Historic England description; that planning advice did not allow existing damage to be a reason for permitting more, that whether features of a designated heritage asset were visible to the public is not material, and that the impact on the Study itself had been ignored.

English Heritage (now Historic England) had not objected in principle, simply advising on particular

points where the layout could be improved. The planning officers recommended that it should be granted, but after a strenuous campaign which also involved the Warwick Tree Wardens and Warwick Society, the Planning Committee turned it down.

Our celebrations were to be short-lived. Early in 2015 a further application was made, this time for the temporary structures, for three years, and because of their 'temporary' nature, this time it was granted. The tents are now up again for the summer, and an appeal has just been lodged against the decision to refuse the permanent structures and use. Claims to speak at or submit evidence to the Public Inquiry have to be sent to the Inspectorate by 28 August, though we all know that third parties can usually submit evidence up to days before the inquiry.

A further complexity is that the Castle has submitted a new application, for which no documents have yet appeared. Tents are not mentioned, though we wonder whether they will expect to use out the remaining two years of that permission. Instead there is an application for sixteen semidetached lodges, (holding up to 192 by their previous calculations) a facilities building (including restaurant) substation, boardwalk, lighting 'boundary treatment' and infrastructure.

This case raises several topics of discussion. Does the current system of planning applications relating to designed landscapes being handled by HE buildings inspectors rather than landscape architects provide the best outcomes for the landscapes?

Do the Local Planning Authorities have the expertise to analyse critically the landscape documentation submitted with applications?

Do LPA's, parishes and third parties have the expertise to evaluate the claims of benefit submitted by applicants?

Continuing information on this application at: www.warwickshiregardenstrust.org.uk

Updates

Valley of the Water of Leith between Stockbridge and Dean Village

We are delighted to announce the completion of the Dean Valley Conservation Statement incorporating comments by WoLCT, HS and CEC.

You can download the Dean Valley Conservation Statement, figures (maps) and historic maps as three separate pdfs from the old GHS website.

Gateway House, Basingstoke, Listed Grade II

Is it a building, is it garden? Regardless of its description, and now known as Mountbatten House, the Arup Associates building with its innovative James Russell designed roof gardens is now listed Grade II by HE.

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please send in your contributions...

Tetzcutzingo (Tezcutzingo) hill complex, a pre-Hispanic garden in Mexico

Teresa Pulido-Salas and Marina J. Hernández-Cruz, Centro de Investigación Científica de Yucatán

Tetzcutzingo has long been considered to be the first botanical garden in the Americas. Tetzcutzingo, lies in the municipality of Texcoco in the State of Mexico, 45 kilometres west from the centre of Mexico City. It includes architectural ruins of considerable historic interest, and also has an extraordinary floral and animal diversity, with many species otherwise scarce in the Valley of Mexico, as our various studies revealed.

Tetzcutzingo is a piece of 'natural landscape' that invites one to pause and reflect, even today, some 500 years on from its heyday during the time of King Nezahualcoyotl. Although not legally protected, it is already essentially an ecological reserve of unusual floristic diversity. This diversity allows us to speculate on the naturalist personality of Nezahualcoyotl, one of the three most important kings in pre-Hispanic Mesoamerica.

Conservation, aesthetics and botanical/agricultural experiments

Environmental conservation, even in the oldest of civilisations, has depended on those personalities with both the influence and the power to make decisions. Tetzcutzingo was chosen by King Nezahualcoyotl (1402–72) as his preferred place for relaxing and recreation.

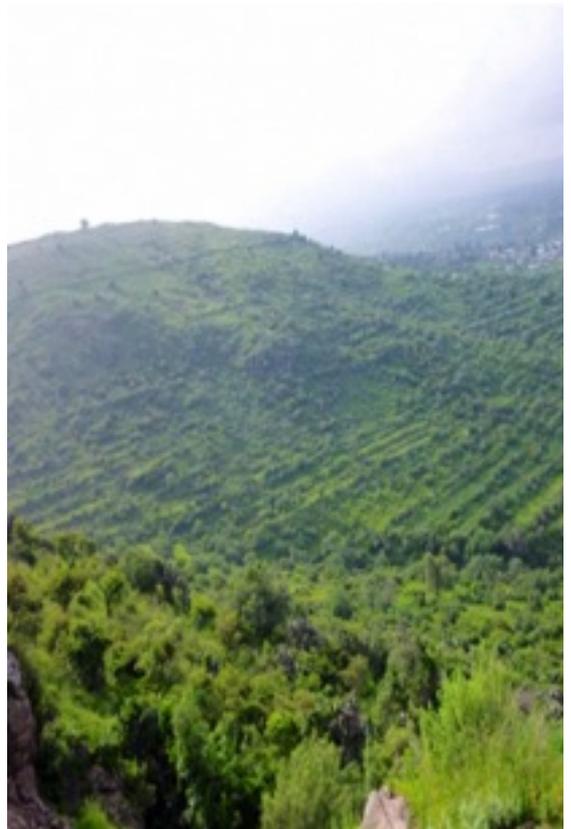
The site is considered by some historians to be the first botanical garden in the Americas, though similar places had been founded earlier on other continents. An important factor in creating gardens, in every time and in every place, has been aesthetics.

The concept of the modern Botanical Garden in the Americas, came from the beautiful European gardens founded in the 19th century and their mission to spread botanical knowledge. In pre-Hispanic Mexico plants considered to be 'strange' were valued, because they were not common in the region or indeed unknown. To make such a collection was an important way to show power, and a good sense of aesthetic taste gained admiration from visitors. We also can infer another function, not always recognised, which is that of agricultural experimentation, as a nursery with plants coming from different ecosystems in order to test their potential use, whether for food or ornament.

Tetzcutzingo and Metecatl hills together form a small mountain complex that occupies around 120 hectares. Positioned in the heart of the Mexican culture, it was an important part of the Texcoco era that reached its cultural splendour in the 15th century. In order to prepare the terrain they



A panoramic view of Tetzcutzingo.



The Terraza system on Metecatl hill.

constructed the agricultural system 'terrazas' or levels and borders to prevent erosion of soil caused by torrential rain. Tetzcutzingo was the centre of an elaborate engineered system for the management of water.



The aqueduct on top of Tetzcutzingo.

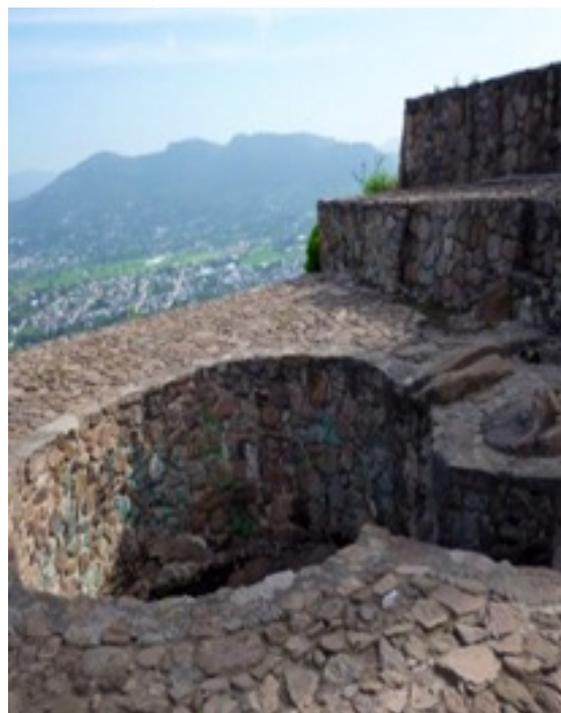
From this epoch, we can see the surviving elements of the system developed under Nezahualcoyotl in order to supply enough water to Tenochtitlan (the site of modern Mexico City). The governors of the city were his relatives (regents) who had protected him when he was 17 years old and he was threatened right after his father died, and so he felt in their debt. The structures that can still be observed today start up in mountain of Tlaloc at 4000m above sea level. From there the water was conducted to the lowlands of the Valley of Mexico, passing through Metecatl and Tetzcutzingo where the water could be kept in small open storage areas to benefit the gardens with irrigation when needed.

Nezahualcoyotl passed laws to protect the forests, and ordered that rare plants should be collected and sent from far away lands, including tropical areas, as 'tributes' to him; it was the recognised pre-Hispanic system, with payments to the government, using an established network of long-distance routes.

He also promoted the development of the arts, not least in writing, he was both a poet and an architectural designer. All of these actions reflect his multifaceted, talented and sensitive personality.

After Nezahualcoyotl died, his son Nezahualpilli inherited the kingdom, but he did not lavish the site with the same interest, having neither the talent nor delight in plants of his father. So Tetzcutzingo fell into neglect, after decades of insufficient care, most especially after the Tenochtitlan conquest.

The Spanish arrived in America in 1492, only 20 years after Nezahualcoyotl died, and it was to be another 29 years later that Cortés would finally arrive at Tenochtitlan. But stories still appeared in the records about this beautiful though neglected place. Many years later again, Francisco Javier Clavijero (1780) for one, mentions Tetzcutzingo as a wonderful place that people were talking about even in his day.



A part of the irrigation storage system.

History and botanical diversity

Some authors have expressed doubt about this account of history. Even today, Tetzcutzingo, with no solid protection in place for its unusual biodiversity, is a place that stimulates and awakens our senses and invites our reflection.

Our botanical studies have discovered many reasons for our belief in the stories. We have now found some 372 species in Tetzcutzingo, and 63 more in Metecatl, which gives a total of 435 species in an area of just 60 hectares. There are the many with especially beautiful flowers like *Sprekelia formosissima* and *Bomarea hirtella*.

(continues on page 22)

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Mr Brown at Blenheim

Sarah Rutherford

'Too late! You have just missed the opportunity to acquire a unique and very large sketch of proposals for the grounds at Blenheim Palace by Lancelot 'Capability' Brown, which failed to sell at an auction by Bonhams on 8 July.

The pen, ink and watercolour sketch, on three pieces of laid paper measuring some 26 x 58 inches, shows the park view from Vanbrugh's bridge across the lake towards Woodstock. The lake shore and island are planted with young trees with the steep slope up to the plateau of Woodstock town beyond.

The sweep of the town buildings are carefully drawn, partly screened by more trees, behind a medieval-style fortified town wall that Brown proposed, possibly by Brown's assistant John Spiers. The scene has the air of a real Hollywood film set, reminiscent of Vanbrugh's mock fortifications across the main avenue at Castle Howard, and designed to appeal to susceptible imaginations. Sadly the wall was never realised but the lake certainly was. Horace Walpole remarked that the lake 'is now amazingly beautiful and puts the bridge's nose out of joint'.



1. The Lake
2. The Town
3. The Hill of Blenheim

4. The Church
5. The Hill of Blenheim

It is a rare piece of the outstanding Georgian designer Lancelot Brown's handiwork, and even rarer for being publicly available to buy.

It is the 'one that got away' from the major Blenheim collection of the plans and drawings that Brown produced for what is generally regarded as his masterpiece, and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The lightly coloured drawing was gifted to the town of Woodstock in the 1930s by the 10th Duke of Marlborough to mark the occasion of his being given the Freedom of the Town.

Bonhams have said that the sketch is 'extremely rare' as much of Brown's work remains in private collections. Good collections of his plans and

drawings are held by East Sussex Record Office for Ashburnham Place, and by the National Trust for Rothley Lower Lake in Northumberland, but nothing as ambitious as this large drawing.

It had been expected to fetch about £70,000 to £100,000 when auctioned in London. Plans for its future are still under discussion.

Sarah's forthcoming book *The World of Capability Brown* will be published by National Trust Books in spring 2016.



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(continued) There is the delicious fragrance of many of the flower species, but especially that coming from the bush *Eysenhardtia polystachya*, the dominant species on the west side of the hill. Then there are the calls and songs of the many birds inventoried, such as the famous Cenzontle (*Mimus polyglottos*) with its beautiful songs, named by Nezahualcoyotl as 'the bird of four hundred songs' and mentioned in his poems.

Tetzcutzingo is only a small 'mountain'; but along with Metecatli they make up a complex system in terms of history, geography and ecology. The top of the hill enjoys a wide view of the whole Valley of Mexico. As a whole structure to collect and conduct water they should be preserved. They constitute a surviving relic place of biological conservation in the endangered Valley of Mexico, both a survivor of our pre-Hispanic history and a recreational area in our days.

The first author of this article was surprised when she came back to Tetzcutzingo 20 years after the works conducted for her masters degree, to find that it was still a beautiful place, with the same species still surviving there.

In 2000 it was finally designated as 'Cultural Patrimony of Mesoamerica', which gives it is a significant place in world history and cultures.

Unusual botanical richness to protect

During the making of the botanical inventories and ecological study, we had some interesting findings: a new species *Pavonia pulidoae*, with two other characteristic species of hot climates *Thevetia peruviana* and *Malvaviscus arboreus*, and that in all some 40% of the plant/vegetable species have a traditional medicinal use locally. Around Metecatli we found 63 other different species which makes a total

of 436 species, reflecting an unusual floristic richness considering the 120 hectares of the complex. Based on our findings in the surviving flora, it seems to confirm that Tetzcutzingo was the main place to enjoy as a garden, and Metecatli was the place to observe more agricultural activities.

A factor that helped preserve this richness is the presence of the big igneous rocks that protect micro habitats by maintaining humidity during the whole year, making a rich environment for species of a small size such as *Echeandia nana*, *Milla biflora* and *Pinguicula moranensis*, and even endangered species like *Valeriana sorbifolia*. We also found some animal species which are rare elsewhere in the Valley of Mexico, but they still survive here. It seems that local people have been protecting the place as sacred, or just for its beauty.

For these reasons we proposed in 1986 that Tetzcutzingo should be declared as a Protected Area, an Ecological Reserve or Bio-cultural Reserve. This idea is being followed up more recently by the Colegio de Postgraduados led by Dr Lourdes Bauer and Alejandrina Ruíz. We hope that legal protection can finally conserve the ancient complex, both as a biosphere and area of historic importance. There is an illustrated guide to identify the plants on the hill (Pulido & Koch, *Guía ilustrada de las plantas del cerro Tetzcutzingo, especies comunes en el Valle de México*, 1992); interest could be further increased by the fact that this illustrated guide already exists to help identify the many plants and beautiful flowers there, and it will only encourage, foster and increase knowledge of the area and a willingness to conserve it.

Launch of the Caldwell Nurseries' Project at Arley Hall

John Edmondson

Cheshire Gardens Trust held a seminar to launch their new web site at the Arley Hall garden festival on Saturday 20 June. To describe the project as the culmination of several years' work would be true, but only partly so: it is continuing to acquire and process data from the Caldwell family, former employees, the collections of Knutsford Heritage Centre and from the rich archives of the Caldwell nurseries at Knowsley, Lancashire and Knutsford, Cheshire which are held in the Cheshire Records Office. Their ledgers have been digitised and a selection is being transcribed into a database using software developed with the help of grants from the Royal Botanical and Horticultural Society of Manchester and the Northern Counties and The Heritage Lottery Fund.

Rather than reading a detailed description of the web site, it is sufficient to visit it online at

www.caldwellarchives.org.uk and select each of the eight drop-down menus in turn. These provide access to a history of the Caldwell nursery firm, which was established by 1759 (the oldest surviving ledger is from 1789). William Caldwell became a partner in 1797. He had previously run another family nursery at Knowsley near Liverpool and some of the ledgers are from there. The Knutsford nursery prospered, and survived two world wars, but closed shortly after its sale in 1992. Confusingly, a succession of six owners went by the same name, William Caldwell. The Knowsley nursery was sold to Thomas Caldwell, when the first of these six moved to Knutsford.

The nursery ledgers were publicised by the late John Harvey, but their full complexity has only recently emerged following detailed research. There are six different types: day books, order books, sales

ledgers, purchase ledgers, cash books and wages books (some of which occupy the same book and are written from each end towards the middle). These are now being documented online through a crowdsourcing project; a team of volunteers has been converting the handwritten originals to a relational database that already provides a multitude of records of plants, customers, prices and locations. In parallel with this activity, digital recordings from surviving family members, employees and recent customers of the Caldwell nurseries have been made for an Oral History project and these can be heard, or the transcripts read, online.

Although the majority of historic customers so far listed are from Cheshire and Lancashire, it is already apparent that the nurseries' customer base extended much wider; plants were exported to Ireland and even the West Indies! Three sites are described in detail on the web site; much more work is needed to elucidate the full range extending from the noble seats at Knowsley, Tatton and Eaton Halls through industrial sites such as Quarry Bank Mill at Styal, to modest villa gardens and parsonages.

The ledgers contain detailed information on delivery arrangements by wagon, canal and railway. These will provide a rich source of hitherto unpublished data for historians to mine. A growing collection of printed catalogues is also being digitised, providing readily accessible data on prices and availability of plants, trees, seeds, bulbs and garden tools.

One of the most surprising sections is one on 'garden services'; in the case of Caldwell's, these included landscape design, planting and maintenance,

Ledger Summaries
Home » Plants » Caldwell Ledgers » Ledger Summaries
Use the dropdown menu below to choose which ledger you wish to browse through. You can use the left and right arrow buttons to scroll through page by page, or type in a specific page number into the box below. Transcriptions are shown where available.

Ledger: Ledger 363/E Page: 50 GO

Hamilton, Wm., Gardener - Ed. 3s. 8d	29/06/1790
Hamilton, Wm., Gardener - Ed. 2s. 4d	20/07/1790
Hamilton, Wm., Gardener - Ed. 1s. 3d	04/08/1790
Hamilton, Wm., Gardener - Ed. 0s. 7d	24/08/1790
Hamilton, Wm., Gardener - Ed. 6s. 6d	09/02/1791
2 Pk x Best Windsor Bean	Ed. 4s. 6d
2 Packet x Turkey Long Pod Bean (seed)	Ed. 3s. 6d
2 Pk x Early Aldridge Bean	Ed. 4s. 0d
2 Pk x Charlton Early Peas (seed)	Ed. 5s. 0d
2 Packet x Dwarf Marrow Pease	Ed. 5s. 0d
1 Packet x Early Frame Peas (Seed)	Ed. 4s. 0d
1 x Pruning Knife (Iron)	Ed. 1s. 0d
Hamilton, Wm., Gardener - Ed. 5s. 6d	05/03/1791
Hamilton, Wm., Gardener - Ed. 2s. 6d	12/03/1791
Hamilton, Wm., Gardener - Ed. 11s. 6d	01/04/1791

Screen shot taken from the introductory video on the web site showing pages from one of the ledgers and some order details.

and acting as an agency to recruit gardeners for their customers. There are also sections on floral shows and similar events, which originated in the 18th century (or possibly earlier?) as a means of exchanging plants and seed and rewarding excellence. The Manchester area was particularly noteworthy for growers of Auriculas, but this does not seem to have been reflected in the Caldwell nursery stock. 'Bread and butter' stocks such as Hawthorn were shipped in large batches; even exotic trees such as *Myrica cerifera*, the Candleberry Myrtle, were being supplied in quantity in the 1790s.

Cheshire Gardens Trust would be delighted to recruit more volunteers to help populate the database; as the activity takes place online it is not necessary for you to live in Cheshire nor indeed to be a computer expert. Contact details are given on the web site.

The Hothouse at Ramshead walled garden

Anthony Shaw for East Renfrewshire Designed Landscapes and Gardens Group

Caldwell House is close by Uplawmoor, in what is now East Renfrewshire, but has been historically in both Renfrewshire and Ayrshire. It was formerly the seat of the Mure Family. Around 1771 William Mure, Baron of the Exchequer, commissioned a design for the castellated mansion from Robert Adam to replace an earlier house of 1715. Documents indicate that financial constraints resulted in the building lying as an unfinished shell from 1776 until 1791 when, following the sale of the family properties in Edinburgh, local contractors were employed to complete the work.

Caldwell House is now on the *Buildings at Risk Register*, but significant parts of the estate, although overgrown, are largely unaltered. The estate includes the remains of a formal garden associated with the previous house and remnants of several features associated with the late 18th century ornamental

landscape. These include rustic walks with a bridge, a cascade and belvedere site, as well as the ornamental Caldwell Tower (see *GHS news 88 Summer 2011*, p.18–19).

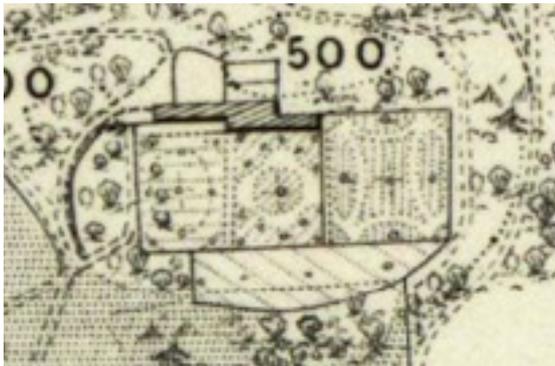
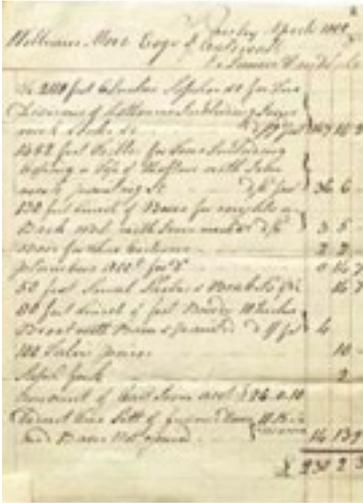
The Ramshead walled gardens occupy a prominent position at the crest of the Brandy Hill at Caldwell, and were newly constructed around 1799 following the demolition of the older house. This is referred to in correspondence from Clementina Hunter Blair to her brother David, written on 17 June 1799 whilst staying at Caldwell with her sister Anne Hunter Blair, wife of William Mure of Caldwell. There is evidence of the re-use of dressed stone in the construction of the walled garden.

The hothouse was fitted out around the same time. An account rendered in 1800 to William Mure from James Findlater of Paisley identifies some of the work. The account refers to 'Two Divisions of

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hothouses including Iron work & Locks etc...' along with 'wood for Two Cisterns', with a total cost of £238 2s 6d.

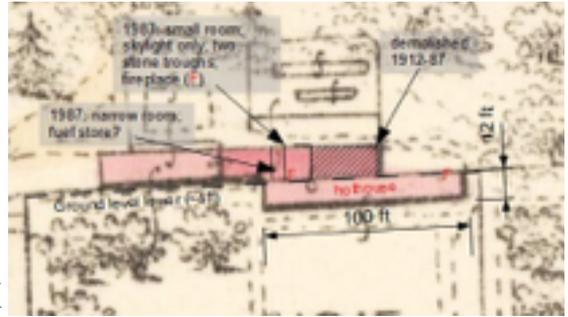
The Ordnance Survey 6 inch 1st edition, of around 1856, provides a detailed image of the walled garden and hothouse together with the planting layout within the walled gardens. The paths shown outside the walled garden formed part of the Brandy Hill pleasure walks.



Detail from OS 6 inch 1st edition c. 1856(9).

By the time of the 1895 OS survey, the hothouse had been demolished but the other buildings remained. Sometime after the 1912 OS survey, the east-most portion of the adjoining buildings was removed. During the ownership of the Glasgow Health Board the garden had been densely planted with conifers and by the late 1980s the western portion of the hothouse wall was in a ruinous condition and was taken down.

The next diagram is taken from the 1st Edition 25 inch OS map of 1856 and provides a little more information on the dimensions and history of the hothouse. In 1987, the area shown shaded had long since disappeared although part of the heated portion of the north wall remained. The flues extended into the remaining section of buildings. The fireplace opening indicated in the small room/bothy appears to have been an integral part of the heating system connected to the upper flue as in 1987 the



Annotated detail from 1st edition OS 25", 1856.

wall above the fireplace was topped with coping stones and the only evidence of a chimney was at the eastern end of the upper flue.

The dimensions of the hot house have been derived from ground based measurements using known remaining features at the location.

As can be seen from the following image of the rear of the remaining section of the heated wall, there are height differences between the inside of the walled garden and the ground outside. Steps at either side of the wall accommodated the change of around 4 feet for the doorway adjacent to the east end of the hothouse. This doorway gave access to the garden beside the end wall of the hothouse. Also on the rear of the wall are sockets indicating a former structure in this area.



Outside face of the heated wall showing differences in ground level.

The heated wall

Key features of the heating system remain and have been recorded.

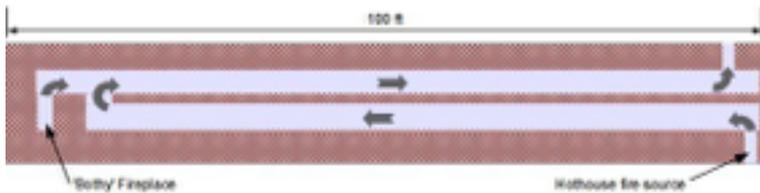
What remains of the heated portion of the north wall provides some information on the way in which it operated and also some construction details. The image indicates the location of the flues, the remaining fire source and the chimney.



Key components of the heated north wall

The internal rear wall is in parts faced in brick whereas elsewhere sandstone is visible. The wall was constructed with an upper and a lower horizontal flue. The flue width is around 12 inches throughout, though the upper and lower flues are of different internal height. The upper flue has a height of 28 inches; the lower flue 36 inches. The flues are separated by a solid band of 3 courses of brick, below and above which are courses of long bricks. These are laid perpendicular to the main course, to form the roof and floor of the lower and upper flues. The chimney is 8 inches by 16 inches.

The arrangement of the flues is somewhat unusual. The diagram represents what is believed to have been the flue arrangement.



The lower flue was not directly connected to the main fireplace in the furnace room or bothy but was fired at the western end. The relatively small size of the flue opening and the height at about 3 feet above the original ground level within the garden suggests that the source of heat was likely to have been the exhaust of a stove located inside and at the end of the hot house.

The upper flue appears to have been heated directly from the fireplace in the bothy on the outer side of the wall and would have gained some remaining heat from the exhaust of the lower flue. The exact detail of the integration of the bothy fireplace into the flue system can no longer be definitively verified since the removal of this section of wall in 1987. However, the relationship between the western ends of the flues, the solid wall above the fireplace, and the location of the only chimney at the eastern end of the upper flue all tend to

confirm the supposed arrangement.

The prospect of obtaining sufficient draught and heating along such an extensive system using a hothouse stove alone seems unlikely. Using the main stokehole for firing of the lower flue would have been impractical due to the difference in levels inside and outside this part of the garden. Although unusual, the arrangement appears to have been a practical solution to the problem posed by the variation in levels at the location of the hothouse. The upper and lower hear sources would also ensure more even heating of the wall than was commonly obtained with a single low level fire

The construction (and a fault)

Some years ago, emergency repairs were necessary in order to prevent further deterioration in the remaining section of the heated wall. Part of the upper flue inner wall had broken away and collapsed. This provided an opportunity to measure the upper flue size and photograph the interior. It also helped to explain the reason for the collapse of the section of the upper flue.



Chimney exit visible underneath coping stones

The entire external south facing side of the north wall is constructed from hand made bricks of 4"x3"x9" (w:h:l).

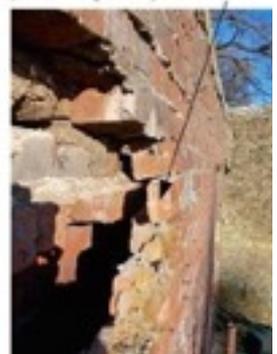
The roof and floor of the horizontal flues use long 'through bricks' and in the area of the collapse those seen are 4"x3"x14".

This is not a long enough brick to span the 12" flue width and still carry the brick to the outer wall surface. Where these bricks were used the builders inserted a sliver of brick on the face of the wall to fill the gap and give the appearance of a full length through brick. This can be seen in the image below.

'long bricks' should be supported here



problem disguised by sliver of brick



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In other areas of the wall longer through bricks project right to the face of the wall and rest completely on the course below.

Was it the result of a miscalculation? Had the more expensive longer through bricks all been used up by the time they reached the final course? Or was it another example of William Mure's attention to costs? Whatever the reason, the external appearance hid the compromised structural integrity which led ultimately to the collapse of this part of the wall inner face.

An account from William Smith, bricklayer, of Glasgow includes the supply of 6 Long Bricks at 6d each. The account is for:

1000 Stock Bricks at 30s per 1000

50 Circle(?) Bricks at 80s per 100

250 Fire Bricks at 8s 4d per 100

6 Long Bricks at 6d each

Fire Clay at 8s

2 Bricklayers at 8 Days each at 3s 6d per day

Clearly this account does not cover the cost of building the whole of the heated wall, but if these are the same long bricks used to form the flue, the price might provide a reason to use whatever was available, even if not ideal for the final course. The long bricks were an incredible seventeen times the price of the stock bricks. That is 0.15p vs 2.5p per brick or in terms of prices today, around 2.3p and 39p per brick.

The payment date of the account is 1803. Perhaps at the time of this account the hothouse was being finished and a final few long bricks were needed to complete the flue even though the long bricks available were too short. Along with £1 12s 6d for

My own Expense, ... , Time & Trouble in going twice to Caldwell, the account totals £7 14s 4d.

William Smith, bricklayer, can be traced to 13 Stockwell, Glasgow using the National Library of Scotland's useful on-line copies of Post Office Directories for Scotland.

From the Estate Papers of around 1844 it appears that the heated rear wall may have been under repair. Although difficult to read, the account from Robert Wilson of Neilston (10) mentions *22 Days Repairing fleuis* (flues?) and the purchase of a quantity of *fire brick*, possibly indicating the continuing use of the hot-house. Other entries in the same archive show that Robert Wilson was employed on many other builder work activities by William Mure around this time.

A missing stone at ground level enabled estimated measurement of the lower flue to be confirmed. There are also signs of old disturbance to the brickwork on the front wall at around the same point. Both are probably connected with flue clearance operations.

Acknowledgements

Many thanks to John West for his assistance in preparing this document and his continuing interest and enthusiasm in our work together. I am also very grateful to Anne King and Anne Sparrow for assisting with locating some of the material referred to from the Mure of Caldwell Family Papers, at the National Library of Scotland in Edinburgh. East Renfrewshire Designed Landscape and Gardens Group thank the Trustees of the National Library of Scotland for permission to use the manuscript images in this article.

A Significant Centenary: Robert Vyner of Newby Hall

Ken Briggs

It is now a hundred years since the death of Robert Vyner, who was owner of Newby Hall near Ripon, Yorkshire, between 1892 and 1915. On the basis of his Yorkshire Evening Post obituary however the anniversary hardly seems worth celebrating: *The well-known racehorse owner had few interests beyond his racing, a little shooting and coursing. He was of a quiet retiring disposition and had no taste or inclination for public life of any sort.*

No wonder then that the current Newby Hall Gardens guidebook claims that he was *more interested in racing than gardening.*

He was in truth a much more colourful and creative personality than the obituary suggests and indeed a very keen gardener. I would suggest that the reason his horticultural enthusiasms and achievements are not celebrated as are those of his predecessors and the Comptons that followed him,

is the hugely ironic timing of the completion of his great contribution to Newby's gardens, the magnificent rockery, as it was then referred to. We now know that the final act in the establishment of that rock garden was the turning on of a very impressive water feature on 26 August 1914, three weeks after the declaration of war, by which time three of Newby's gardeners were already in Kitchener's army. This, coupled with the fact that Vyner himself died seven months later, meant his horticultural successes were never celebrated, and the gardens went into immediate decline. It would be another seven years before serious attention was given to them, and the pre-war memories, by then, had disappeared.

So what were Vyner's horticultural credentials? For those we must look not only to Newby but to his large garden at the Chateau Sainte Anne in Cannes,

which he had purchased in 1865 shortly after his marriage. There, where he was known as 'Capitaine Vyner'; he had been a lieutenant, then Captain in the Grenadier Guards followed by the Life Guards, in his 20s. He seems to have been a sociable Jekyll, compared with the reputedly retiring Hyde who was a simple Yorkshire country squire. He and his wife Nelly were at the centre of the social life of the wealthy *hivernants*, not least in relation to the annual *Bataille des fleurs*, for which Vyner was one of the judges.

Vyner's concern for the garden there is made particularly apparent from as early as 1891, when he discussed his need of a gardener for his Cannes home with Prince George, later George V, clearly a good friend, who was then living at 'The Cottage' in Sandringham. Prince George put him in touch with Thistleton Dyer, the then Director of Kew who was able to recommend to him a man called Canning, with whom Vyner was very well pleased. Prince George obviously knew the Cannes garden well and was already impressed with it. Further to that correspondence, Dyer put Vyner in touch with Sir Robert Hanbury who had the famous garden at La Mortola, just down the road from him on the Italian riviera. Vyner was interested in cacti and it was suggested that Hanbury would give Vyner some agave suckers. Much later in 1913, when Vyner was determined to sell the chateau following his wife's death, his collection of cacti was one of the things he was most concerned to get back to England safely. After Vyner's death his daughter hoped to sell the collection to Kew.

But also fascinating among his letters, was one sent on Christmas Day 1912 to his agent in Yorkshire about two volumes of a reference book called *The Treasures of Botany* which Vyner had bought for him second hand, through a friend in England, and which he was awaiting in Cannes. Clearly one of his most pressing winter occupations was his horticultural research, and at that point it would almost certainly be in relation to his planned rockery at Newby. Indeed we have further evidence that he went plant hunting into the Alpes Maritimes that same winter and also brought back plants from Ste Marguerite, the island just off the coast from Cannes.

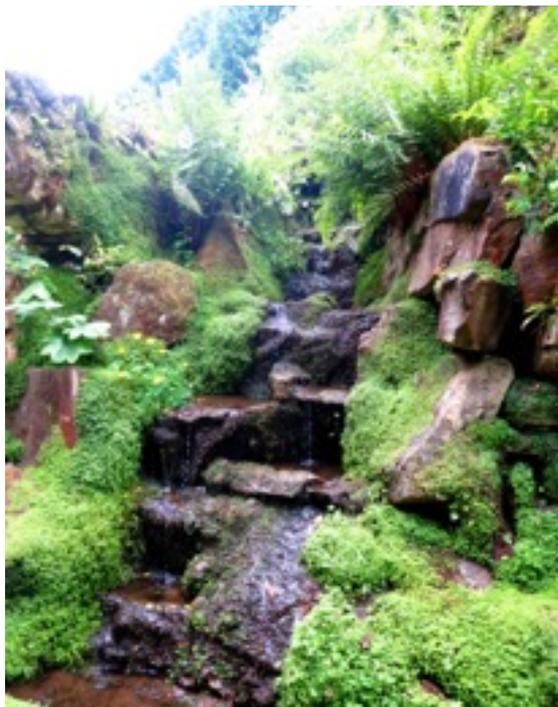
And just as his gardening experiences in Cannes inspired his planning for Newby, so he used his horticultural contacts and friends to send plants from England to Cannes, notably a huge supply of bulbs; 34,000 in 1912, and these all on the recommendation of his close friend Ellen Willmott, where she was planting in equally vast numbers.

Correspondence between the two of them in the years leading up to the First World War makes it clear that Willmott became a much valued family

friend as well as an adviser on plants and trees that Vyner might grow at Newby. And the advice was not all one way, Vyner was keen that Ellen Willmott should try plants that he knew and she didn't, like the 'marquetry' he was familiar with from his garden in Lincolnshire.

In 1913 the Newby Hall rock garden project itself was started. For this, Willmott sent irises, plants on which she was an international authority, thrift and bamboos. Vyner discussed with her the progress he was making with the rock garden, particularly in relation to the creation of a water supply and cascade. He was clearly very hands on with this project, once the main contractors Kent and Brydon had finished their work, perhaps partly as consolation for the death of his wife in November 1913. He also clearly had worked out who best to advise him on rock garden matters. Ellen Willmott had herself created a gorge incorporating one of the most renowned rock gardens in the country, at Warley Place in Essex, so arguably he had the best consultant possible for developing a garden area which he probably hoped should become as impressive as anything to be found in the UK.

After his wife died, Ellen Willmott was particularly sympathetic and supportive. The fact that Vyner sent her a piece of lace from one of Nellie's favourite gowns makes apparent how strong the link for him was with Willmott to whom he wrote as 'the kindest woman in the world'.



Ken Briggs



And so to the sad detail of the period after the war began. The Head Gardener at Newby, George Watson, wrote to Ellen Willmott in 1915, asking her whether she knew of any young man who might be able to take on the rockery. We might guess that no such person was available under the increasingly restrictive wartime conditions and the rockery was therefore necessarily neglected almost as soon as it had been completed. Even more poignant perhaps was this from Walter Dale the Newby agent in 1919, when Watson left, 'We want a worker, for as you know there is a lot to do, and the gardens have been badly neglected, and will take some getting back to normal condition. We don't want a fancy gardener, but one who will manage the work and

control his men without bullying.'

So we briefly lost the historical continuity of the gardens' development but can clearly see that Vyner was much more than a footnote to their illustrious story.

Today, especially with the newly acquired knowledge of Robert Vyner's inspiring horticultural initiatives, the rock garden is the subject of increasing thought and attention from a gardening team at Newby who would choose to develop that extraordinary pre-first world war asset in ways that reflect both the Vyner and Willmott vision, and contemporary garden taste.

Acknowledgements

With thanks for the kind permission of Mr RJG Berkeley in allowing me access to the Ellen Willmott archive.

A Family Affair: Coton Manor gardens

Ann Benson

It's rare to find a garden that has been in one family for nearly a century, and rarer still to be able to follow that garden's history and growth over the years, as one generation handed over to another. It's also rare for that garden to draw journalists to write about it if it has not been designed by one of the elite landscaping figures in history. Accounts of historic gardens and designed landscapes usually lead with the name of their famous designer, the name used like a magnet in the article's strapline. Gardens

without such famous connections may struggle to receive the accolades they deserve for their capacity to lift our spirits, even if they have been doing just that for nearly a century.

Coton Manor garden lies near Guilsborough on the western side of Northamptonshire. Ten acres of garden surround the seventeenth-century house. The 'bones' of the garden were laid down in the 1920s by the grandparents of the current owner and without input by any famous designer or



Ann Benson

The herb garden at Coton Manor

horticulturalist. It was lovingly created as a space to be enjoyed by the family who have continued to be 'hands-on' in the development and maintenance of the garden. The next generation met the Manor's financial challenges by opening the garden to the public. An interest in unusual plants, birds and manipulating the water issuing from Coton's many springs melded to provide floriferous borders, flamingos and diverse water features. The subsequent generation inherited Coton on the cusp of the millennium. Their eye for colour, texture and composition has enabled the garden to reach new heights in terms of its capacity to resonate with the

thousands of visitors who are drawn to this quiet corner of the Northamptonshire countryside.

When the *Daily Telegraph* held a competition in which the public were invited to nominate their favourite garden, Coton Manor secured third position, ahead of several large gardens in the care of national bodies, and the only private garden amongst the top three. It is testament to the skills of three generations of amateur gardening owner-occupiers. What of Coton's future? When Coton Manor's current owner, Ian Pasley-Tyler, was asked this question, he replied: 'the next generation would be the fourth of my family at Coton. I have three children, a son and two daughters, who have shown varying degrees of interest in the garden. We are quietly confident that one of them will be sufficiently inspired by these surroundings to continue the work of previous generations'. Coton will continue to be a family affair.

Ann Benson's *A History of Coton Manor and its Garden* (Stevenage: Berforts Information Press Ltd., 2015) tells how the house and its surrounding designed landscape have developed, and survived, from Domesday to the present.



GHS 5th Graduate Symposium at Newcastle University 24 July 2015: part I

Report by Phil Christie

The GHS Graduate Symposium for 2015, held in the capacious Herschel Building of Newcastle University, was almost a standing-room only event, the audience being swelled by representatives from many of the County Gardens Trusts who had also come along to participate in the historic merger of the Association of Gardens Trusts with the Garden History Society. The proceedings for that momentous occasion were yet to come and the animated members of both organisations were keen to hear what the invited graduate speakers had to say about topics that were close to the hearts of many of their listeners. They were not disappointed.

The role of iconography within the French formal garden at Versailles

Erin McHugh

Erin is an honours student in history from St Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota. Expecting to graduate in 2016, she has already travelled extensively in Israel, Palestine and Jordan, and has studied at the Centre for Mediaeval and Renaissance Studies at Keble College, Oxford. An athlete and

community volunteer, her historical research has included the 1680 uprising of the Pueblo North American Indians against the then Spanish colonialists. Here, she focused on an iconographic interpretation of the gardens at Versailles.

Erin opened by making the assertion that the French formal garden of Louis XIV at Versailles expressed the principles of absolute monarchy and proceeded to analyse the evidence in support of her assertion. She identified three main strands to her argument: (i) that the gardens comprised iconographic features such as Apollo; (ii) that garden tours and itineraries served to educate visitors in the proper understanding of the iconography, and (iii) that the menagerie at Versailles served as a model for court and wider society.

Born in 1638, Louis XIV came to the throne at the age of four during the regency of his mother, Anne of Austria, and ruled until his death in 1715. Having relied on his Cardinals Richelieu and Mazarin to centralise the powers of the state, on the death of Mazarin in 1661 Louis assumed the position of his own chief minister and became the greatest

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exponent of absolute monarchy. In the same year, expansion of the old palace at Versailles, built by Louis XIII on the site of his hunting lodge, was begun under architect Louis Le Vau (whose success at Vaux-le-Vicomte may have hastened his client Fouquet's downfall), closely followed by André Le Nôtre's development of the gardens in 1662, both under the close supervision of Louis himself.

By the time the king moved permanently to Versailles in 1682, an elaborate court etiquette was established that had the aristocracy vying to participate in his rising in the morning and retiring at night. The allusion to Apollo was established; Louis was the centre of the state and, like the sun, was the source of light and life for all his subjects. Apollo iconography abounds: on the gilded gates to Versailles, in the power and dynamism of the Apollo fountain, and the six nymphs attending to Apollo in the grotto at the end of a heavy day administering or controlling all his subjects' needs. The undefeated sun was the undefeated king and Louis wanted the French people to know they needed the sun-king to survive.

Contemporary guide books and tours of the palace and gardens were organised to ensure that visitors were blinded by the Sun, or at least aware of its imagery. At the Latona fountain, inspired by Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, the sculptures by Gaspard and Balthazar Marsy illustrate the legend of Apollo's mother, Latona, protecting Apollo and Diana from the insults of the peasants of Lycia, and calling on Jupiter to avenge them. Jupiter transformed the peasants into frogs and lizards. Might there have been a parallel to the protection of Louis by his mother, Anne of Austria who was regent during the Fronde uprising? Louis wrote and directed the itinerary, with a stop above the fountain to gaze on a vista extending to infinity or eternity (placed facing the château in 1670, the group was reset around 1687 to face the Grand Canal). In 1671, an account of a visit by the Venetian ambassador tells of a drive with the king around the garden, and observes that the tour expounded the political arrangement and evoked a personal cult around the sun-king.

The Versailles menagerie was designed by Le Vau in 1663 and located in the SW corner of the park. It held largely domesticated animals, in contrast to the fighting beasts in Louis' earlier Vincennes menagerie, and was not intended to be a zoo, but rather a living metaphor for court society. The Versailles menagerie centred on an octagonal, domed and balconied building with views of 7 enclosures whose separating walls formed a radiating fan. There was nothing new about keeping birds and animals but Versailles represented a shift in form and function, as Louis moved away from programmes of animal

combat in Vincennes and adopted more peaceful and graceful, less mobile animals, at Versailles.

Visitors were impressed by species not seen before. Parallels were implied between the birds on display at Versailles and hierarchical distinction. Birds were of the highest order: they were created on the fifth day of creation in the bible and perfected before mankind. They were closest to divinity because they were virtuous and obedient. In mediaeval Europe, the pelican was believed to provide blood by wounding her own breast when no other food was available for her young and thereby came to symbolise the Passion of Jesus and the Eucharist. Louis controlled the court as much as, or possibly more than, his menagerie and the court was expected to embody the same characteristics of obedience in a theatre of civility. (In response to a question after her talk, Erin mused that if Louis identified himself with the pelican, he might have been guilty of blaspheming against himself!)



Cranes and toucans, with their exotic plumage and exquisite courting dance existed to be seen and to be looked at. Being looked at in the court menagerie exerted a profound influence, instilling a sense of inferiority – paralleling Jeremy Bentham's C18 concept of the ideal prison, or panopticon, wherein every inmate was observable at all times by an unseen, central guard, thereby guaranteeing good behaviour at low cost. The Versailles visual politics ensured that court members would never know when the guard (Louis) was looking and had always to be on their guard.

Erin closed by reminding us that Louis XIV saw himself as a visionary leader who exerted a miraculous power over his people. The animals suggested that power by being peaceful, graceful and virtuous and served as a model for the court. 2015 is the tercentenary of his death and the iconic gardens remain, full of Apollo icons, and serves to remind us that Louis XIV was one of the most successful absolute monarchs of all time.

Fictions and fabrications: the Gothic folly at Wimpole

Kasie Alt

Researching for a PhD in Art History, with a focus in garden history, at the University of Texas at Austin, Kasie Alt is also an Assistant Instructor at UT- Austin in the Survey of Renaissance through Modern Art. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Art History from Northern Michigan University and an MA from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Part of the research that formed the foundation for her fascinating talk on the Gothic folly at Wimpole Hall in Cambridgeshire was made possible by a fellowship as a Visiting Scholar at the Yale Center for British Art in 2014.

The Wimpole estate, comprising Wimpole Hall and some 3,000 acres situated about nine miles to the south west of Cambridge, has passed through several hands since the present hall was begun in 1640. The grounds were laid out by landscape designers including George London and Henry Wise. In the 1720s Charles Bridgeman laid out a formal grand avenue of over two miles to the south. In 1740 the estate was acquired by Philip Yorke, 1st Earl of Hardwicke, the same year in which his son and eventual heir, Philip, married Jemima de Grey who brought her own title (Marchioness Grey) and estate of Wrest Park with its formal garden. Philip Yorke inherited the Hardwicke title and Wimpole estate in 1764 and in 1767 Lancelot 'Capability' Brown made his first visit. From 1768–72 Brown set about naturalising the rest of the grounds, establishing two lakes and an ornamental bridge.

In the north park, the first earl had desired an eye-catcher and, around 1749, had initial plans drawn up, possibly by Henry Flitcroft, who had remodelled part of the Hall, for a gothic elevation. This design was not used and instead Sanderson Miller, the noted folly-builder of the day, was engaged to draw up plans between 1749–51 for a ruined castle and gothic tower on Johnson's Hill. Miller may well have used his earlier gothic ruin at Hagley Hall as a model. The Wimpole folly remained an idea on paper until the period of Brown's re-landscaping following the first earl's death, and Miller's design was constructed, possibly with the assistance of James Essex, between 1768 and 1770.

Approaching from the main hall, the ruin is visible but after crossing the ha-ha, it increasingly dominates the landscape. Apparently of crumbling stone and brick, curtain walling connects three towers of which the eye-catcher is the four-stage, gothic centre tower. Each stage has windows of two lights in Y-tracery and crosslet loop lights, as if for defence. On reaching the site, the innocent visitor questions



Kasie Alt

whether it is indeed the remains of a mediaeval castle and begins to realise that the construction is much more recent. The curtain wall on the west side has an original entrance opening with shields of arms and a Y-traceried window above. Through the curtain wall, masonry become brickwork and all illusion crumbles. In the midst of the ruins can be seen two doorways to tower and basement. Details, such as a faux-Latin inscription above the tower door, now mainly disappeared, suggest that a few visitors were expected to explore the folly further and be rewarded for their curiosity. Unlike Miller's sham castle eye-catcher, the Gothic Folly as built during the time of the 2nd Earl was weatherproofed, perhaps so that it might be used for picnics or gatherings or as a viewing point. The Marchioness was initially less impressed with the 'unpicturesqued' folly, though she eventually approved of the changes which make it a three-dimensional, solid object, instead of a two-dimensional object in the distance.

Kasie invited us to consider whether the folly had an allegorical purpose beyond that of a picnic spot, and to explore its fabricated character. In the way that it dominates the north park, perhaps it represented the triumph of reason over catholic superstition? Or was it simply that Philip Yorke was fond of the Gothic revival? A print of the Gothic Tower at Wimpole, from 1777 or before, shows use of Gothic epithet above lines by Daniel Wray Esq., which make reference to 'Magna Charta' and Whig politics. The Gothic tower symbolises virtues of the Norman line and carries allusions of historical association. Wray was a contemporary and close friend of Yorke, and was a contributor to the first volume of the *Athenian Letters*, first published in a small, private edition by Philip and his brother Charles in 1741. The *Athenian Letters*, supposedly based on the correspondence of an agent of the King of Persia, residing at Athens during the Peloponnesian war, was a commentary on the history of the times, and had a number of

agenda

anonymous contributors. Other collections of papers and letters associated with Yorke included the *English Mercurie*, a fabricated newspaper account of the Spanish Armada supposedly written 'By Authority' in 1588 during the reign of Elizabeth I, and *The Philosopher*, dated 1738–41, a manuscript, by multiple authors, of about 36 essays and verse translations on various subjects. Yorke, together with his literary companions, evidently had fun in publishing fake historical accounts and commentaries; the jeu d'esprit *English Mercurie* was cited in historical writings until the authors' identities were uncovered in 1839.

Kasie suggested that Philip Yorke felt that the best format for presenting potentially controversial or even satirical ideas was through the fictional historical construct. Perhaps we should look at the folly as being multi-layered. As a sham ruin, the folly tries to hide its origins but behind the curtain wall, the visitor is invited to enjoy the illusion and the fabrication — a visual practical joke. After working out the illusion, the viewer can then enjoy a great view from a new stand-point. The folly is both something to see and to see from.

Through Philip and his wife Jemima, there are links between the estates at Wrest and Wimpole, and the writings. In garden design as in the writings, the format is as important as the content. Philip and Jemima visited a number of sites including Aislabie's water

Little Sparta: a summer (re)treat

Letitia Yetman

People came from far and wide to the summer fund-raising party and book launch at Little Sparta, the late Ian Hamilton-Finlay's iconic twentieth century sculpture garden set high in the Pentland Hills, south west of Edinburgh.

In glorious sunshine, very favourable weather for this challenging spot, The Little Sparta Trust treated us to a most enjoyable event enabling us to see the garden at its magnificent best, making the half-mile uphill hike from the car park worth every step.

Head gardener George Gilliland led fascinating garden tours outlining the ethos behind the numerous installations, their wit and underlying meaning, ranging from classical iconography to the French Revolution and the Second World War.

Memories of Ian were related by his lifetime associate Professor Stephen Bann, whose talk was followed by a flute recital and a poetry reading.

The excellent new guide book, *Little Sparta*, launched on the day, is written by Jessie Sheeler with chapter introductions by Patrick Eyres and photographs by Robin Gillanders.

Little Sparta, due to its northerly location, is a

garden at Studley Royal and their tours perhaps enabled them to consider times when the stones rested more firmly on each other. The couple had a lot in common and Jemima had a great deal of influence over her husband. Philip became a person within the garden but Jemima also had a mind of her own. She was not overwhelmed by Lancelot Brown's agricultural approach to landscape and felt she had a husband with more imagination, perhaps than previously thought. At Wimpole the Yorkes had an idea and Brown was able to modify that but a little.

In conclusion, Kasie asserted that the Wimpole folly is a physical metaphor of Yorke's writings: Philip claimed connection to the past by his literary research, and he created the stories that gave foundation to the contemporary reality. The nature of the folly's design invites viewers to look behind the curtain to see the false form, as in the letters and writings – a fiction and fabrication. The fabricated folly has as much to do with imagined historical associations as have the writings. But, in the end, illusion can be stripped away to discover the fabrication and to enjoy the view.

A visit to Wimpole Hall is part of the Conference in early September 2016, planned by Cambridgeshire Gardens Trust in celebration of Brown's Tercentenary.

We will continue with the report on our other two speakers in our next issue...

fragile environment requiring careful conservation and constant upkeep by the Little Sparta Trust, who were raising funds from this event, and the sale of books and artefacts, to maintain this important chapter in garden history.



Boreas fells the Ash Tree

Patrick Eyres

News from Little Sparta

The Ash tree in the Front Garden, with its plaque 'Mare Nostrum' fell in the autumn of 2010. Fortunately the tree's sudden falling did not damage severely any of the works, but it did topple some of the trees of 'Bring Back the Birch' and damage the boundary wall and part of the bench with its inscription,

The Seas Waves - The Waves Sheaves - The Seas Naves

The Ash, with its sound of the sea in its leaves was the foundation tree of the garden: an original source of the garden's lyricism, and part of its metaphoric association with the sea. As tallest and oldest tree it had a venerable presence being the first sign of the

garden, folded into the moorland, as the visitor climbs the stony path to the house.

We were initially going to remove the tree stump but decided against it as the Ash was regenerating from within the cambium layer. A new Ash sapling has been placed in the shelter within the shards of the trunk, protected from the strong winds that can sweep up the moorland. So the old tree will nurse and nourish the new as is fitting and as Ian perhaps would have wished, making for a gentle regeneration.

Our gratitude goes to arborists Robin Craig, Donald Roger and to our gardener Ralph Irving for their work with the Ash.

in memoriam

Keith Goodway, 1930–2015, remembered by David Jacques

Members will remember Keith as studious, at first sight aloof, but forever helpful and always concerned to get the facts and interpretation straight. The occasional flash of dry humour betrayed his appreciation of irony and the ridiculous.

He was born in Southend and brought up in Ashted, Surrey, later attending Dorking County Grammar School where he was head boy 1948–49. He obtained a scholarship to King's College, Cambridge, where his first class honours degree, MA and PhD were all in Botany. In 1951 he joined the Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland. He joined the staff at Keele in 1954.

Keith will forever be associated with Keele, and some background will explain why. After the dissolution of the monasteries Sir William Sneyd bought it and other lands, beginning the 400-year-long connection between the Sneyds and Keele. The first Keele Hall was built in stone in 1580. In 1741 Ralph Sneyd, still then a student at Oxford, started his tenure of over 50 years. He enclosed the remaining open fields, built a walled kitchen garden in 1762, and landscaped the 118 acre park. The gardens were further altered during the 1820s and 1830s when the Springpool woods were planted, the seven lakes, the holly hedge, the white well, the Italian garden, the sunken garden and the fountain were also created. The small boathouse on the first lake was also constructed. The hall was rebuilt in 1855–60 to the Jacobean designs of the celebrated architect Anthony Salvin.

Hence the grounds and gardens were magnificently laid out with many interesting architectural, horticultural and landscape features, but decline set in between the wars. In 1939 the deteriorating house and estate were requisitioned

by the War Office. Dozens of temporary buildings came to be erected to house troops and there were NAAFI units as well. Forces evacuated from Dunkirk in 1940 certainly passed through Keele, and American forces were stationed there later in the war. After the war the base was converted into a transit camp for refugees. The Hall had not been improved by military occupation, and in the grounds there was a new layer of neglect.

The University College of North Staffordshire had been founded in 1949, and Keele was just five miles from the centre of the city of Stoke-on-Trent. Having secured public funding from the University Grants Committee January 1948, the last Sneyd was persuaded to part with 620 acres (250 ha), for the sum of £31,000, to become a rural campus. At first the university college occupied the temporary buildings, 'The Huts' as they were called, of which there were over a hundred. Hence Nissen huts



Keith Goodway in conversation at Trentham, 2011.

Charles Boot

in memoriam

housed the Students' Union, the original refectory and Chapel, and a primitive gymnasium and a garage.

Gradually all but two of the temporary buildings were replaced by permanent ones. The University chapel was designed in 1958. The University library was opened in October 1962. The Chancellor's Building was built in 1962. The Students' Union was completed in 1963. Some of the more robust huts continued as student residences into the 1970s while many more remained as offices, workshops and storage well into the 1980s. Growing steadily, the university college was promoted to full university status in 1962, receiving a Royal charter in January of that year, and becoming the University of Keele.

Biology was not offered as a degree course anywhere in the UK until Alan Gemmell established the Biology Department at Keele in 1950. He remained professor till 1977. He is popularly remembered as a regular member of the panel of *Gardeners' Question Time* for some 30 years. Keith was an early recruit to his department and became a dedicated teacher, developing his clear, organised, style of lecturing. He was resident on campus, and married Cordelia Lamb, a former Keele student, in 1957. He became known, *inter alia*, for his study of kettle holes (depressions left by blocks of glacial ice, the water surface later covering over with bog vegetation). He was the expert on *galium* or bedstraws. He conducted field trips to a 40-acre natural mere, Copmere, to study eutrophication, and was later involved, as an expert in the native flora, in assisting Land Use Consultants in revegetating the Park Hall Country Park in 1974.

Keith got to know the grounds at Keele extremely well. He discovered the *common centaury* (actually rather uncommon) in woods there in 1965. Gemmell was chair of the grounds committee. He is said by Keith to have hated grey squirrels and students equally. In 1975 Keith's 'A guide to the trees at Keele' was issued as an Occasional Publication by the University Library. Gemmell had drafted Keith onto the committee, and was to hand over its chairmanship to him.

At this time in the late 1970s the redevelopment of the temporary structures was nearly complete, but had proceeded with little regard to landscape issues, and attention to the campus as a whole landscape was overdue. Informed that there was a plan for Keele in the Sneyd manuscripts in the University Library, Keith thought he should follow this up. On inspection it seemed to be by someone with a funny-sounding name, William Emes. The plan was entitled, in a nice cartouche top left, 'A PLAN of the intended Improvements at KEEL the Seat of Ralph Sneyd Esq. by Wm. Emes 1769'. This man had not appeared in garden history publications, and Keith



Keele University Library

The William Emes plan for Ralph Sneyd of 'Keel', 1769.

wanted to find out more about the mysterious Emes. He went to the Stafford Record Office, and then others. He started accumulating Emes sites, and had an impressive list of about 50 already by 1980. The usual form of greeting became: 'and how many Emes sites now?', and he would answer '57' or whatever it might be.

Keith had meanwhile met Peter Hayden who lived locally and who was the foremost British expert on Russian gardens. Peter showed him that three pieces of Catherine the Great's 'Green Frog' dinner service carried images of Keele. By this time Keith had undertaken research in the Sneyd papers and was ready to write up the history of the grounds. This first came in the form of 'Landscapes and Gardens at Keele, 1700–1900', published in 1982 in Volume 22 of the *North Staffordshire Journal of Field Studies*, edited by Christopher Harrison. This reappeared as an essay in Harrison's book, *The History of Keele* (1986). It is much to all garden historians' regret that Keith never widened the subject and turned his researches into a book on Emes's *oeuvre*.

However he did organise the GHS annual conference at Keele in July 1986, and of course gave the evening talk on William Emes on the Friday. About this time he was much delighted that two large and particularly ugly huts placed on the Italian gardens on the front of Keele Hall were removed. This had been designed by Nesfield in the 1860s, and although there were not the funds to recreate that design Keith did install a heather garden which gave some of the same feel. The Emes legacy has recently been recognised by the University in the naming of the William Emes Building, appropriately enough the home of the Estates Department.

During the 1980s Keith had an on-off entry into retirement; he many times observed that although he was officially retired he was being asked to teach just as much as before. However teaching commitments did subside after a few years and he

had time to pursue other interests. He became involved, with Peter Hayden, at Biddulph Grange, the extraordinary Victorian garden, with areas representing various parts of the world; then an orthopaedic hospital. Julian Gibbs of the National Trust was grateful for his knowledge and guidance over the questions of acquisition, which was accomplished in 1988, and the subsequent restoration.

Keith became a trustee of Castle Bromwich Hall Gardens 1991, and took much interest in the archaeological findings about gardening. Chris Currie's 'The archaeology of the flowerpot in England and Wales c.1650–1950', in *Garden History* 21:2 (1993), owed much to his lengthy observations. In 1982 the precursor to the *EH Register* was being prepared, and he, Peter Hayden and Alan Taylor, the County Council conservation officer; prepared the entries for Staffordshire, notable for being as few as they were rigorous. He was the chairman of the steering committee of the Staffordshire Gardens and Parks Trust, which was formally established in 1992, and remained chairman for three years and on its committee until 2007.

The Castle Bromwich archaeology by Currie revealed a more complex story of the garden than had formerly been realised, with significant Victorian layers, and Keith wanted this to be respected. This was counter to the simplistic marketing strategy ('the only surviving early eighteenth-century formal garden'), and, finding himself at variance from other trustees, he resigned in 1993. However a fresh challenge arose, chairing committees of the GHS. He had been a member of its Council from 1988, and at the time Mavis Batey was persuading the conservation committee to relieve her of conservation work, a role in which she had been such a stalwart since the 1970s. In 1991 the chairmanship was handed over to Keith, and during his time David Lambert was GHS conservation officer; and Christopher Dingwall was appointed as the Scottish conservation officer in 1992. The GHS became a statutory consultee in 1995.

When Bill Corlett came to end of his term as GHS chair in 1995 the obvious successor was Keith. These were golden days. The funding for conservation in Scotland was, by a slip of the pen, three times the amount that had been intended, and the finances were in general in good shape. A director, Linda Wigley, was appointed in 1996, and she organised a stand at the Chelsea Flower Show, and had the GHS logos and publicity material designed. Keith did the usual three years, stepping down as chair in 1998. He then resigned from Council.

His interests, meanwhile, were turning towards gardening. He had written 'William Emes and the Flower Garden at Sandon, Staffordshire', for *Garden*



Charles Boot

History 24:1 (1996), and in 1998 he became a trustee of Kelmars House. Nancy Lancaster had extended her interior style of shabby chic into the gardens and brought in Norah Lindsay, the garden designer of her day (above). Around the Hall Geoffrey Jellicoe laid out a formal terrace. Keith took much pleasure in this aspect of the property, but was also interested in the wider estate, for example sharing an estate plan of 1739 because it showed an 'enfilade' ride around the estate. This trusteeship lasted till 2008.

Keith had purchased a house in Newcastle Road, Stone, and moved there in 1993. He joined the Stone Historical and Civic Society and indulged a range of interests include genealogy, ceramics, classical music and travel. He was appointed a trustee of the William Salt Library (the only surviving topographical library not yet swallowed by a county council or university), and was a volunteer at the Wedgwood Museum.

In August 2011 a 13th-century bronze seal matrix from Stone Priory, used for making the seals for the priory's deeds, was found in a field in Cobham, Surrey. Its inscription reads 'S'ecc Sce Marie et Sci W(v)lfadi Martiris de Stanis' ('the seal of the church of Saint Mary and Saint Wulfad, Martyr of Stone'). Keith took a prominent part in the appeal in 2012–13 to raise the money to purchase the matrix. The historical society and churches from across the town did raise the money, in part by selling wax imprints of the actual seal, which went on show in St Michael and St Wulfad's church on the site of the priory.

Keith took part in organising the GHS Conference at Keele in 2011 and he remained an interested member of the county gardens trust. He apparently stayed in good health and it came as a shock to his friends that he died so suddenly. He was buried in a new section of Stone Cemetery. Being the first in it, he got the prime spot, atop a small knoll appropriately overlooking the landscape of the Trent floodplain.

My thanks to Nick Goodway and others for contributing material for this piece.

other events

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

Paxton 150: A History of Public Parks Conference at the University of Sheffield **Friday 11 and Saturday 12 September**

To commemorate Joseph Paxton, 1803–65, and to evaluate the public parks legacy. Over the past twenty years there has been considerable interest in public parks in Great Britain encouraged by Heritage Lottery Funding that has ensured restoration schemes in large numbers of parks, based on historic research and other survey work. There is as yet no scholarly work that has emerged from this recent period; there are no popular books. The purpose of the conference is to forward the publication of a critical history of public parks.

Cost from: £90, contact Camilla Allen:
camilla.allen@sheffield.ac.uk or: www.sheffield.ac.uk

Garden Design: The Next Generation Conversation at the Garden Museum, London **6.30pm, 17 September**

Join **Tom Stuart-Smith** on stage with young garden designers **Hugo Bugg**, **Matt Keightley** and **Sophie Walker** to discuss their current and future projects, their ambitions as garden designers and what it's like to exhibit at Chelsea Flower Show!

Cost: £15, phone: 020 7401 8865
or: www.gardenmuseum.org.uk

Walled Kitchen Garden Network Forum **The Walled Kitchen Garden in the 21st Century** **At Croome Court, Worcestershire** **Saturday 3 and Sunday 4 October**

At the walled kitchen garden and newly restored 18th century mansion at Croome Court near Pershore. Speakers will discuss modern solutions to the problems posed by 18th and 19th century walled kitchen gardens. Subjects will include up-to-date management, greenhouse restoration and engineering, heating, water supplies, fertility and pest control, modern designs and layouts, and the latest in horticulture.

Cost £100, including entry, meals and refreshments
Call Lucy Pitman: 01985 847 408,
or: www.walledgardens.net

'Durability Guaranteed'...?

At the Swiss Garden, Bedfordshire **From 9.45 am, Saturday 3 October**

The Swiss Garden and Bedfordshire Gardens Trust present a study day to celebrate Pulhamite rockwork and its conservation. The Swiss Garden showcases several Pulhamite features, namely the Pond Cascade, Punt Harbour, Grotto & Fernery,

Rock Garden and Eagle Redoubt, which were added by Joseph Shuttleworth as embellishments to Lord Ongley's late Regency landscape during the 1870s. This study day will bring together the history and work of the Pulham family, at sites across the UK, and will highlight issues concerning the long-term conservation of their 'Durability Guaranteed' rock work features.

Cost: £35 per person. Contact Casey Munns:
01767 627 935, or: cassey.munns@shuttleworth.org

Garden fundraiser **with guest speaker Kristina Taylor** **At Kelmars Hall & Gardens, Northamptonshire** **From 11.30am, Sunday 4 October**

The event will be held in the principal rooms in the Hall and is to raise money for the Kelmars Garden Fund. The day includes **Kristina Taylor** on *Norah Lindsay & Nancy Lancaster, Gardening at Kelmars, their inspirations and influences*. Since 1997 the Kelmars Trust has embarked on a programme of restoration and rejuvenation of these special gardens; with the replanting of the main herbaceous borders in the spirit of Nancy Lancaster and Norah Lindsay and with the help of the HLF, the repair of the once-decrepit Vinery which has allowed the atmospheric Walled Garden to be opened. Most recently, the pretty Orangery has been restored.

Cost: £45. Contact Carla Cooper: 01604 686 543,
or: fundraising@kelmarsh.com

Women Garden Designers **Conversation at the Garden Museum, London** **6.30pm, Wednesday 7 October**

Join **Kristina Taylor**, author of *Women Garden Designers 1900 to the present*, on stage with designers **Jinny Blom**, **Lottie Muir** and **Johanna Gibbons** for a discussion on the influences, inspiration and legacy of women garden and landscape designers.

Cost: £20, phone: 020 7401 8865
or: www.gardenmuseum.org.uk

Architecture & Art in Historic Garden Design **At Hillsborough Castle, Ulster** **Friday 9 to Sunday 11 October**

Speakers include: **James Howley** on *Architectural Folly: a thirty Year Odyssey*; **Richard Wheeler** on *Reading the landscape: understanding the 18th century garden*; **Trevor Proudfoot** on *Statuary care and preservation in defiance of time and decay*; **Michael Walker** on *Enhancing historic gardens*

through creative design; Robert O'Byrne on *Building, contents, demesne: understanding the Holy Trinity of the Country House*; Michael Tooley on *Gertrude Jekyll and Claude Monet: the gardens of Munstead Wood*; Primrose Wilson on *The role of the Follies Trust in preserving architecture in historic garden design*; and John McCullen on *Borrowed landscapes and restoration at Heywood Gardens*. With site visits to Hillsborough Castle Gardens and Tollymore, Co. Down.

Cost: £150. Contact: trevor.edwards@nihgc.org

Christopher Bradley-Hole in conversation with Tim Richardson

At the Garden Museum, London

6.30pm, Thursday 15 October

One of the world's foremost landscape designers, his projects have had a far-reaching influence on the way contemporary design has developed. Christopher's practice embraces residential, commercial and public spaces; gardens, landscape and art.

Cost: £20, phone: 020 7401 8865

or: www.gardenmuseum.org.uk

Classical influences on Georgian Stourhead With Prof. John Harrison

at Stourton Memorila Hall, BA12 6QE

Wednesday 11 and Thursday 12 November

The gardens at Stourhead feature a number of elements influenced by the legacy of classical Rome. Henry Hoare, the owner of Stourhead from 1741–83, travelled to Rome as part of his own Grand Tour and his chief architect, Henry Flitcroft, was part of Lord Burlington's circle. We will explore classical influences on the eighteenth century English country garden, and consider classical influences in the context of the garden and wider estate at Stourhead.

Cost £90.

Historic Buildings Parks & Gardens Event The QEII Conference Centre, London

From 9am, Tuesday 17 November

We would like to invite you to attend The 2015 Historic Buildings Parks & Gardens Event (HBPGE) Free of Charge. Held annually for over 30 years, the HBPGE is a major heritage conservation day, which is held in parallel with, the AGM of The Historic Houses Association (HHA). Includes, HHA President Richard Compton on *Preserving and promoting Britain's private heritage since 1973*, with Tracey Crouch, MP, and by Dr Bettany Hughes.

To attend the Event Free of Charge please register on our website www.hall-mccartney.co.uk selecting code PR, email: events@hall-mccartney.co.uk or phone: 01462 896688.

2016, looking ahead

'Capability Now', a free exhibition at Orleans House Gallery on the Thames From February and till the end of May

Accompanied by several chargeable lectures. The exhibition will focus on Lancelot Brown's garden and architectural designs in the south west London area, together with his work nationally, placing Brown in the context of the evolution of the eighteenth-century English landscape movement from designers such as Bridgeman, Kent and Pope, through to and beyond to designers such as Repton and the emergence of the picturesque.

Lancelot Brown and his Associates Saturday 16 April

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.

www.capabilitybrown.org/events

Yorkshire Anticipates CB300 writes Patrick Eyres

The map of Capability Brown landscapes on the CB300 Festival website shows a dense cluster in the Home Counties complemented by the multitude of sites scattered in every direction across England. Twenty of these are spread out across Yorkshire and the county is preparing to salute Brown's 300th birthday with a series of events throughout 2016.

The curtain-raiser will be at **Wentworth Castle** outside Barnsley on Friday 22 April. The Wentworth Castle Heritage Trust, in association with The Gardens Trust, will host the study day on '**Capability Brown in Yorkshire**'. The morning's speakers are **Karen Lynch**, **Johnny Phibbs** and **Patrick Eyres**. In the afternoon **Jane Furse** and Johnny Phibbs will lead a tour through the Brownian park. All this, with lunch and refreshments can be enjoyed for only £50.

The study day will also see the launch of 'Yorkshire Capabilities', the *New Arcadian Journal* for 2016. This will publish the unabridged versions of the talks by Karen Lynch (landscapes and patrons), Johnny Phibbs (design characteristics) and Patrick Eyres (politics and patriotism), alongside contemporary illustrations by eight artists and a wealth of historical imagery. The NAJ also offers a 'hurrah!!' to Little Sparta where Ian Hamilton Finlay's tribute to Capability Brown, 'The English Parkland', has become the only CB 'landscape' in Scotland.

Exhibitions will run throughout the summer. On behalf of the Yorkshire Gardens Trust, Karen Lynch is

other events

curating **Noble Prospects: 'Capability' Brown and the Yorkshire Landscape** at the **Mercer Art Gallery** in Harrogate (25 June to 11 Sept.). This will feature historical artworks drawn from the county's collections. Both the exhibitions at **Harewood House** will highlight Brown's landscaping for the Lascelles. One will comprise historical paintings and drawings from the Harewood collection, and the other will include parkland installations created by contemporary artists in response to the 'capabilities' of the place.

Chichester Garden Fest

Tuesday 21 to Thursday 23 June

An idea to promote three days of exploring the world of gardens and *gardinage* to be held during the Festival of Chichester, in June 2016. To reflect the horticulture, and floral worlds of Chichester and West Sussex, the whole event staged in the Guildhall, Priory Park.

Yes, Maggie Campbell-Culver stages her dramatic return to the UK... Initial contact: 01243 931 706 or: m3c3c@uwclub.net or www.chichestergardenfest.com (possibly not yet activated).

NT goes Brown

National Trust is the largest single owner of Capability Brown landscapes, twenty-three of its properties can evidence his hand whether directly with work on the ground or through advice by correspondence with the original owners and seventeen properties can be confidently attributed as being significant and rare surviving examples of his work. To mark next year's tercentenary, NT Brownian properties have been working hard to develop a programme of activity that will engage members and visitors with the relevance of his legacy today.

Eight of these properties, Ashridge, Berrington, Croome, Hatfield Forest, Petworth, Stowe, Wimpole and Wallington will be supporting the national project as CB300 festival sites working with the festival team and HLF support to encourage a new generation of visitors to enjoy historic landscapes through Brown.

Berrington, Wimpole and Stowe are all working independently on plans to enlist contemporary artists to interpret the landscape in an exciting way, **Berrington** by using performance art, **Wimpole** with temporary installations in the landscape and **Stowe** using poetry and music. **Wallington** will be enabling visitors to experience Rothley Lakes for the first time and are planning to open the Owl House in the walled garden as part of the visitor route to enable views across to Paine's Bridge to be appreciated as Brown intended.

A number of properties are using next year to highlight on-site restoration works, **Sheffield Park** are opening finger views out to the wider landscape from Lower Lady's Well Pond as Brown proposed, **Wimpole** will be returning the setting of the recently restored castellated gothic folly to its Brownian origins, **Petworth** will be restoring and creating a 3D survey of the Tillington tunnels that provide freshwater to the Upper Pond on the west lawn, **Uppark**, **Dinefwr** and **Berrington** are all restoring their pleasure walks and re-instating the intended vistas through their Brown landscapes.

Lacock are intending to use art to raise attention of the key features in a Brown landscape, water, follies, trees, pasture, grazing herds and open skies whilst being reflective of the toil that went into creating them through an exploration of the social history of eighteenth century landscape creation. **Sheffield Park** will also be demonstrating how a mature tree was transplanted using eighteenth century methods and **Croome** intend to reinstate an entire copse of beech.

Many properties are using the festival as an opportunity to encourage their volunteers to undertake further research into Brown's significance at their sites. Much new information has been garnered at Hatfield Forest, Wimpole, Wallington, Charlecote Park and Croome about his planting and the extent of his commissions.

Ickworth and other properties are working with the Embroiderer's Guild to hold an exhibition of their members works with the subject of 'Capability' Brown landscapes and **Prior Park** will be hosting a site visit for the **ICOMOS, TGT & NT Conference**, in September on 'Capability' Brown: perception and response in a global context' which will be published in the Summer edition of *Garden History*, ahead of the Conference.

Mike Calnan, NT Head of Gardens, has been taking to the air, well not literally, but as a licensed operator of a drone to capture images of Browns work from an entirely different perspective. He has also captured the nickname of 'Captain' Mike in the process! Lisa Gledhill and a Royal Oak Horan Scholar will be working together to edit this footage into a film about year in the life of a NT Brownian landscape.

Richard Wheeler will be undertaking a series of lectures at Brownian properties that consider how Brown was able to interpret the intentions of his patrons in the landscapes he created. These lectures may include a cup of 'Capabili-tea' with a 'Capability' Brownie or if over lunch be accompanied by a bottle of Brown ale! All together an exciting year of events in the making to mark the birth of one of England's greatest artists.

For these and many, many more such events, watch this space for further information...

The Gardens Trust *

Membership Application

*This is not our new logo,
we hope to present that soon.

I/we would like to join **The Gardens Trust**

	UK	Europe	World
Single member	£35 <input type="checkbox"/>	£40 <input type="checkbox"/>	£43 <input type="checkbox"/>
Joint members	£43 <input type="checkbox"/>	£48 <input type="checkbox"/>	£51 <input type="checkbox"/>
Young, 24 or under	£10 <input type="checkbox"/>	Date of birth:	
Student	£10 <input type="checkbox"/>	Please provide proof	
of student status			
Libraries/corporate	£75 <input type="checkbox"/>	£80 <input type="checkbox"/>	£85 <input type="checkbox"/>
Life (single)	£700 <input type="checkbox"/>		
Life (joint)	£1000 <input type="checkbox"/>		

Payment details

I enclose a cheque for £ \$ € made payable
to **The Gardens Trust**

Or

Please debit my **credit/charge card** number

□□□□ □□□□ □□□□ □□□□

Expiry date: / Issue number (if appropriate):

Signature:

Name on card:

Member's details

Title: ForeName(s):

Surname:

[Title: ForeName(s):

Surname:]

Address:

.....

Town: PostCode:

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Gift Aid statement (UK taxpayers only)

I am a UK taxpayer and wish **The Gardens Trust** to treat
all donations I make from this date as **Gift Aid** donations

Signature:

Date:

Please complete this form and return to:

**TGT Membership, 47 Water Street, Lavenham,
Sudbury Suffolk CO10 9RN, UK**

For further information email:

tgtmembership@lavenhamgroup.co.uk

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TGT events diary 2015

- 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 *Masonic Symbolism in Gardens*
at the Freemason's Hall, London

& 2016

- Wednesdays in January, Annual Winter Lecture Series, Cowcross Street, London
February, March
Friday 22 April 'Capability' Bown in Yorkshire at/with the Wentworth Castle
Heritage Trust (see p.37)
14 to 20 May A Garden Study Tour of south west Scotland
June Paris Gardens Study Tour
2 to 4 September Summer Conference: Lancelot 'Capability' Brown 300 Years On;
a celebration of his life and work in Cambridge
9 to 11 September 'Capability' Brown: perception and response in a global context.
ICOMOS, TGT & NT Conference at the University of Bath.

Details and booking information for all TGT events can be found inside, on pages 8 to 10,
and elsewhere, or look at our old website: www.gardenhistorysociety.org/events

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

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