



Heidi Howcroft

## Members celebrate 50 years of The Garden History Society

Following on from a most thought provoking day's Seminar on 'Images for Garden History,' at which we enjoyed highly stimulating talks by Vanessa Remington, Todd Longstaffe-Gowan, Sir Roy Strong, Rosie Razzall, Professor David Ingram, Anna Pavord and Christine Lumia, GHS members assembled in the Library of the Linnean Society at Burlington House. We celebrated the 50 years since the founding of the Society by cutting a cake, beautifully made in the form of Vita Sackville-West's tower at Sissinghurst, appropriately with a cup of tea! The original meeting founding the Garden History Society took place in the Tea Lounge of the nearby Charing Cross Hotel, in September 1965. On this occasion Dominic Cole, our Chairman, cut the cake, following two brief

speeches by Sir Roy Strong, a former President of the GHS, and by Jenifer White of Historic England (the successor body to English Heritage) emphasising the key role the GHS had performed in creating the *Register of Parks and Gardens* and other important legislation and achievements the GHS has been responsible for.

The day's events then continued with guided walks through Green Park and St James's Park, and culminated with a private view of the Exhibition 'Painting Paradise' at the Queens' Gallery at Buckingham Palace. The exhibition continues until Sunday, 11 October 2015, and the £10 entry price allows revisits to the Gallery for a year.

All in all a most enjoyable day which will stay in the memories of those members who were lucky enough to be there.

## Update on the GHS and AGT merger

At this stage there is little more to report except that the documentation to allow the merger to go ahead is nearly complete. All the draft documents defining the merger have been published on our temporary website so that members of both organisations can consult them there: [www.agt-ghstogether.org](http://www.agt-ghstogether.org)

The website contains all the information about the merger, with pages devoted to the process, our proposed new name 'The Gardens Trust', our new constitution, the members of the transitional committee, a timeline, and other relevant documents.

The merger process has been undertaken by a transitional committee with members being drawn from both the AGT and the GHS. Expert help has been accessed where

required from within the existing organisations or from third parties.

As of the end of May, we await the final votes by the respective councils of the AGT and GHS, and papers will be sent out concerning the series of Meetings to be held on the afternoon of Friday 24 July in Newcastle upon Tyne later in June, assuming the two councils agree to go ahead.

This package will be sent out together with the 50th anniversary timeline of the GHS, as an additional celebration of the first 50 years of the Society.

It only remains to encourage as many of you to vote in person at Newcastle University on Friday 24 July, or by postal or proxy vote following the receipt of your Voting Papers later this month.

## be heard...

### student opportunities

#### GHS Annual Essay Competition

Judging of this year's Essay Prize won't take place until early June, so we can not report the winner's name at this stage. We will announce the winner's name shortly thereafter and will make the usual presentation at a future event.

#### Our 5th Graduate Symposium to be held at Newcastle University Friday morning, 24 July 2015

This year's Symposium will be held as part of the activities at our Summer Conference in Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Attendance at the Symposium does not require attendance for the whole Conference, separate ticketing is available, see the Conference Booking Form for details, or contact Anne Richards: 01432 354 479 or email: [anner@knoll12.plus.com](mailto:anner@knoll12.plus.com)

Our four speakers will be: **Kasie Alt** on *Fictions and Fabrications: the Gothic Folly at Wimpole*; **Nick Chibnall** on *Villa Gardens of Liguria and the Italian Riviera*; **Dianne Long** on *Designed Landscapes of Industrialists, 1700 to c.1820*; **Erin McHugh** on *The Role of Iconography within the French Formal Garden at Versailles*.

We are delighted that Nick Chibnall who was due to speak at last year's Symposium, but who had to drop out at the last moment, will be able to attend this year.

As usual speakers will have twenty minutes to speak under the watchful eye of Symposium Chairman, Dr Patrick Eyres, who will then allow five to ten minutes for questions from the floor.

The main aims of the Symposium are to provide a professional forum for the presentation of new research in the field of Garden History; to provide an opportunity for scholars to hone presentation skills; to encourage scholars who are unpublished in the field of Garden History.

## Events 2015

for full details please see [www.gardenhistorysociety.org/events](http://www.gardenhistorysociety.org/events)

#### **GHSS Garden Party Fund Raiser at Connie and John Byrom's Garden of the Nine Muses evening, Friday 5 June**

Cost: £50 each.

#### **GHS Rewley House Conference Gardens and the Theatre Friday 5 to Sunday 7 June**

Cost: £142. Contact: 01865 270 380

or: [ppdayweek@conted.ox.ac.uk](mailto:ppdayweek@conted.ox.ac.uk)

#### **GHSS visit to Tynninghame House Saturday 20 June**

Garden Visit and Afternoon Tea. Cost: £20.

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

Friday 24 to Sunday 26 July

Thursday: extra visit to **Seaton Delaval** and **Northumberlandia**, Charles Jenck's landform sculpture. Friday: Graduate Symposium, the AGMs & conference dinner. Saturday: **Croxdale Hall**, **Hardwick Hall**, **Sedgefield**, and **small gardens in Durham**. Sunday: **Alnwick Gardens**, **Hulne Priory** and **Belsay Hall and Castle**.

Although the Conference is now full we still have plenty of room to accommodate you for the Graduate Symposium and General and Annual General Meetings on the afternoon of Friday 24 July. Please see the Conference Booking Form for details, or contact **Anne Richards**: 01432 354 479 or email: [anner@knoll12.plus.com](mailto:anner@knoll12.plus.com)

#### **Little Sparta 'Under Attack'**

11am to 3pm, Saturday 8 August

The Little Sparta Trust, with the GHS/AGT, are hosting a special fund raising gala opening of Ian Hamilton Finlay's garden in North Lanarkshire, Scotland, in aid of both the Little Sparta Trust and the new GHS/

AGT joint organisation. There will be a visual history of the making of the garden, a film extract with Ian, poetry readings and music as well as tours with the head gardener George Gilliland. Refreshments will also be available alongside art and plant souvenirs to buy. A bus will be available to take visitors from Edinburgh to the venue.

Cost: £25 (£35 including bus there & back from Edinburgh). Tickets through the Little Sparta website. Contact **Laura**: 07826 495 677 for further details.

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

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

Places remain available on this Study Tour.

Contact: [rma.peel@btoopenworld.com](mailto:rma.peel@btoopenworld.com)

#### **Study Day at Kings Weston, Bristol Lancelot 'Capability' Brown at Kings Weston: A Re-assessment Exploring his Legacy of Comfort and Elegance**

with the AGT and Avon Gardens Trust 9.30am, Tuesday 22 September

Cost: £50. Please contact **Teresa** the AGT Co-ordinator at: [gardenstrusts@agt.org.uk](mailto:gardenstrusts@agt.org.uk) or: 020 7251 2610 to make a reservation.

#### **Autumn Study Day: Masonic Symbolism in Gardens in the Freemasons' Hall, London WC2 1 1am, Saturday 31 Oct**

Our speakers, **Ricky Pound**, **Cathie Bryan**, **Vanni Torrigiani**, **Michael Symes**, **Dr Christina Ruggero** and **Diane Clements** will explore this complex subject.

Please see the enclosed flyer for the full programme. Cost: £60.

## THE GARDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

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