

# MORETON (CADBURY)

GHS news



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# THE GARDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

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### Copy deadlines

for **micro-news 87a** — 10 May  
for **GHS NEWS 88** — 1 August

## news

### The Annual General Meeting

Council has decided as a one-year experiment to change the way in which notice of the AGM is given and the various papers for the meeting are circulated.

The Notice will be sent as usual to all members by post but it will contain only the formal notice giving the date, time and place of the meeting, details of the agenda, postal voting paper and conference booking form. The minutes of last year's meeting and the Annual Report and Accounts which are usually part of the AGM booklet will be available for inspection online on the Society's website or at the Society's office.

The AGM booklet is expensive to produce and the new arrangement will be considerably cheaper for the Society. We will also be making a small contribution to conserving the world's trees.

We think that most members have access to the internet and hope that no-one will be inconvenienced. This is intended as an experiment and I would welcome the views of members on the proposal.

Members who wish to comment on the proposal should please write to:

The Hon. Secretary  
The Garden History Society  
70 Cowcross Street  
London EC1M 6EJ

Or email: [enquiries@gardenhistorysociety.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@gardenhistorysociety.org.uk)

Elizabeth Cairns  
Hon. Secretary

## contact us

[www.gardenhistorysociety.org](http://www.gardenhistorysociety.org)

The Garden History Society Head Office  
70 Cowcross Street, London EC1M 6EJ  
phone: 020 7608 2409  
email: [enquiries@gardenhistorysociety.org](mailto:enquiries@gardenhistorysociety.org)

The Garden History Society in Scotland  
The Glasite Meeting House,  
33 Barony Street, Edinburgh, EH3 6NX  
phone/fax: 0131 557 5717  
email: [scotland@gardenhistorysociety.org](mailto:scotland@gardenhistorysociety.org)

The Society gratefully acknowledges the support of Alan Baxter and Associates

Membership applications to:  
The Garden History Society,  
47 Water Street,  
Lavenham, Sudbury, Suffolk, CO10 9RN  
phone: 01787 249 286  
email: [ghsmembership@lavenhamgroup.co.uk](mailto:ghsmembership@lavenhamgroup.co.uk)

Front Cover: Susan Jellicoe's photographs record the then newly established Cadbury factory site at Moreton (see p5 & p19). *The original horizontal layout has been digitally manipulated.*  
By courtesy of The Landscape Institute

## John Harvey's papers arrive in Sheffield

After John Harvey's death in 1997, his papers relating to gardens and gardeners were donated to the Society. They were moved to York, where they were initially intended for the Institute of Advanced Architectural Studies but with the demise of the Institute they went into storage. After having moved through several places, in January 2011 they finally arrived at the Department of Landscape of the University of Sheffield, arriving there from a store in Malton.

It is the intention to catalogue the papers and then make them available for research. The Yorkshire Gardens Trust has promised £1000 to help with this process, but further funding is being pursued. It would be ideal if material could be scanned and stored on an accessible database, and we will be investigating this possibility, which requires further resources.

If you would like to contribute to this project please contact the Administrator at the usual address.

## A new event in our Calendar The GHS Graduate Symposium Keele University, Staffordshire 9.30am, Friday 22 July

The aims of the GHS Graduate 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
- to generate potential scholarly articles for inclusion in our journal *Garden History*
- to add another dimension to the **GHS Annual Conference** (see p7 for more details)
- to attract new members to the GHS

We were delighted with the response to our **Call for Papers**, with entries coming from throughout the UK, as well as the USA and Italy. Entries took the form of an abstract for an intended 20-minute presentation.

Our choice of five speakers is: Oliver Cox on *Jeremiah Dixon, Alfred the Great, and the merchant fathers of Leeds in the late eighteenth-century*; Sarah Hundleby on *The Development of Bramham Park,*

*1700–31*; Sarah Law on *The Rufford Abbey Estate in the early eighteenth century in the context of hunting, in particular the emerging sport of fox hunting*; Elaine Mitchell on *'A fine crop of peaches, and several hundred geraniums'; the flowering of Thomas Clark's metallic hothouse manufactory in the early eighteenth-century*; Gabriele Mulè on *The Extended Garden: Sicilian Landscape as an English Garden, from Castelvetrano to Selinunte following Walter Swinburne, 'Grand Tour' traveller.*

We have added the **Graduate Symposium** as an extra event at the Annual Conference; we hope it will become a regular fixture in the GHS calendar. The morning will be chaired by Patrick Eyres of *The New Arcadian Journal* and we hope will be well attended by both GHS members and peers of the speakers as a prelude to the Society's Annual Conference. Attendance is free, though there will be a charge for lunch if you choose to stay on, and attend the AGM and Annual Conference.

## Conservation Funding in Scotland

Three years ago the Garden History Society in Scotland initiated a survey of designed landscapes and gardens in the East Renfrewshire local authority area. The survey group consisted of a couple of GHSS members and volunteers from local history organizations along with interested local residents. The members of the group were given training in desk-top and site survey work and guidance on documentary research, with a view to compiling a listing and reports on sites of regional and local interest within the area. Building on the success of this pilot group, the Society has extended the project to form similar volunteer groups in several other local authority areas.

## volunteers needed

Do you have time to spare?

We are seeking volunteers to help with many elements of the Society's work.

- if you don't mind what you do but are willing to lend your administrative skills
- if you are computer literate and can offer a regular few hours per month at Cowcross Street, then please write in with your cv to: [enquiries@gardenhistorysociety.org](mailto:enquiries@gardenhistorysociety.org)

## news & GHS events

At the time, this proactive approach to conservation was seen as an adjunct to the GHSS principal work of providing advice to local authorities and others in relation to development proposals affecting designed landscapes and gardens. Casework of this nature has been the Society's main conservation activity and has been funded for a number of years by Historic Scotland. That situation is about to change.

The present tranche of funding comes to an end in March of 2011, and the GHS Scottish Group has applied for financial support under Historic Scotland's Programme of Support for Voluntary Organisations for 2011-14. Our application covered traditional conservation work, along with support and expansion of the volunteer project.

A recent meeting to discuss this application clarified Historic Scotland's current approach to funding our activity. Consideration of development proposals for designed landscapes and gardens is no longer seen as an HS core responsibility and hence in current conditions there will be no financial support for this kind of activity. On the other hand 'Building Capacity' and 'Community Involvement in Heritage' are now seen by government as important and our volunteer project appears to strike the right note.

In short, there will be no financial provision for 'case work' activities previously supported, but the volunteer group project for which funding was

previously refused is now seen as meeting the HS and government policy on raising awareness and involving community groups. However, such funding as may be granted must be directed to the training and guidance of volunteer groups and professional moderation of survey reports and submissions to local authorities and heritage databases.

Discussions and further submission for funding are ongoing at the time of writing. However it is clear that Historic Scotland wishes to extract itself within the short to medium term from the whole aspect of funding heritage groups like our own. Any support in the next two or three years will be breathing space for societies like GHS in Scotland to develop a model which can attract funding from elsewhere to continue its range of conservation activities. Such a model will undoubtedly require closer working relationships with other bodies in the heritage sector in Scotland.

This change of direction for funding in Scotland may well be a portent for similar changes in the funding of the Society's work in the rest of the UK.

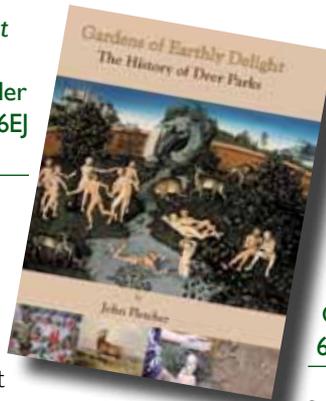
It will put a significant strain on financial resources and emphasises the urgency of the review of the way we deal with conservation 'casework' and the Society's relationship with other organisations working in the same heritage area.

**John R West**  
Chairman GHSS

## GHS events 2011

*Gardens of Earthly Delight: the origins, development & purpose of deer parks through the ages*  
**Dr John Fletcher**, Specialist Deer Vet and Breeder  
The Gallery, 70 Cowcross Street, London EC1M 6EJ  
6.30pm, Wednesday 16 March

Paradise gardens of the Middle East and Anglo-Saxon *hayes* were the origins of medieval deer parks, where considerations of aesthetics were important long before the advent of the 17th century designers. Dr Fletcher will discuss these aspects of deer parks as well as their management through the ages and more recent theories about the capture and handling of deer stock. His book, *Gardens of Earthly Delight: the History of Deer Parks*, is being published in March 2011.



*Mr Brown Engineer: aesthetic and practical aspects of 'Capability' Brown's water management in 18th-century landscapes*  
**Steffie Shields**, Garden Photographer & Writer  
The Gallery,  
Cowcross Street, London  
6.30pm, Wednesday 23 March

Steffie Shields reflects on her research into engineering aspects of 'Capability' Brown's handling of water, from Grimsthorpe to Blenheim. As 18th-century improvements advanced

healthy country living, Brown's lake-making brought natural-seeming, enduring practical changes to the landscape on an unrivalled scale, to enable farming, horticulture and sport to take place, while opening up new vistas for pleasure and serenity, still widely experienced today.

Cost for winter lectures: £8 for GHS members booking in advance, £10 for non-members and for all tickets purchased at the door. Ticket includes one glass of wine or soft drink. For availability and further information please contact our Information Line: 020 7608 2409 or email: [events@gardenhistorysociety.org](mailto:events@gardenhistorysociety.org) or see the booking form in our December mailing.

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**Study Day on: Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe's Hemel Hempstead Water Gardens with the Hertfordshire Garden Trust**  
9.30 to 4.30, Saturday 9 April

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Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe, architect, town planner, landscape architect and garden designer had a career spanning seventy years and was one of the twentieth century's leading landscape architects, his first love being landscape and garden design. Jellicoe was Principal of the Architectural Association and President of the Institute of Landscape Architects. He had a vast knowledge of landscape design history which he was keen to apply to landscape design projects; a strong empathy with modern art from early in his career and later a strong interest in the role of the unconscious in garden design. The Water Gardens at Hemel Hempstead are known to have been one of the designer's favourite projects.

The programme: *Introduction* by Chair Ian Kitson, Landscape Architect and Garden Designer; *Jellicoe's Beasts* by Annabel Downs, Landscape Architect and Garden Designer; *Tour of Water Gardens*; *The Hemel Water Gardens Today* Mick Thompson, Herts Gardens Trust; *Garden Cities and New Towns: the Hertfordshire Experiment* by Kate Harwood, Herts Gardens Trust; *Serpents of Moreton Marsh* by Ed Bennis, former Head of Landscape Architecture, and Head of Research at Manchester Metropolitan University; *A National Context* by Fridy Duterloo-Morgan, Heritage Protection Adviser West, English Heritage this will be followed by a discussion and summary.

Venue: Lockers Park School, Lockers Park Lane, Hemel Hempstead Herts HPI I TL. Tickets: £35 Garden History Society and Hertfordshire Gardens Trust members, £39 non-members (includes all refreshments). See the enclosed Booking Form.

**GHSS AGM & Gardens of the Royal Mile**  
Glasite Meeting House, Edinburgh  
11am, Saturday 9 April

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The Garden History Society in Scotland will hold its AGM at the McWilliam Room, Glasite Meeting House, Barony Street, Edinburgh EH3 6NX. After the business of the day, and a sandwich lunch, there will be a guided walking tour of garden sites on the Royal Mile, followed by tea. All GHS members are welcome at GHSS events.

Cost: £15 to include lunch and the guided tour of the gardens on the Royal Mile. Members in Scotland will be circulated in due course with an application form, members in England who are interested should contact John Ellis: [johnbellis@aol.com](mailto:johnbellis@aol.com) or: 0131 556 1611

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**90th birthday party for Mavis Batey at Petworth House**  
Thursday 5 May

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Please note that this event takes the place of our usual Summer Party. Invitations have been sent out under separate cover. If you haven't received an invitation, please contact the Administrator: 020 7608 2409 or email: [events@gardenhistorysociety.org](mailto:events@gardenhistorysociety.org)

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**Study Tour to Turin**  
Tuesday 17 to Sunday 22 May

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The trip aims to embrace many of the Savoy family properties both in and surrounding the city; **Venaria Reale, Villa Madama, Villa Reale, Racconigi, Stupinigi, and Moncalieri**, also the parks of **Castello d' Aglie** and of **La Burcina** at Biella some distance north of Turin, as well as two **Russell Page** designed gardens in private hands and two contemporary private gardens designed by **Paolo Pejrone**; he and a representative from the *soprintendenza dei beni culturali* will discuss with us the issues of conservation in Piedmont during our tour of Racconigi.

Robert has already received a lot of interest so may run a repeat in 2012 if more interest continues to flow in. Although this Study Tour is fully subscribed as we go to press, if you are interested please contact Robert Peel by email: [rma.peel@btopenworld.com](mailto:rma.peel@btopenworld.com) or ring him after 14 March: 020 7121 8938 in case there have been withdrawals and places have become available.

## GHS events

### Training Day: Surveying Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes

Broich House, Stirlingshire  
9.45am to 4.30pm, Saturday 21 May

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This event is effectively a call to action! The recording of historic gardens and designed landscapes of local and regional interest and importance is essential but, in the present financial climate, it will not get done without volunteers. The GHSS has already set up a number of regional volunteer groups to undertake surveys involving both desktop 'detective' work and on-site visits. However, many more are needed. This training day provides an opportunity for members and other potential volunteers to learn something of the methods used in the desktop phase and to hear about the achievements of the existing groups. It also offers all potential volunteers the chance to develop on-site survey skills and put them into practice in the afternoon in and around the Broich policies.

Your society and the historic gardens and designed landscapes of Scotland really need you! However, if you would simply enjoy visiting Broich and hearing about the progress of the Survey project, you will be very welcome. You don't have to be a potential volunteer to come to the event!

A significant bonus to the training day is the chance to see one of Scotland's few layering yews (*Taxus baccata*) and Sir Peter's magnificent collection of rhododendrons.

The Training Day will be held at Broich House, Kippen, Stirlingshire FK8 3KN (by courtesy of Sir Peter and Lady Hutchison), £16 including lunch, coffee and tea. Contact Sue Hewer: [suehewer1@bopenworld.co.uk](mailto:suehewer1@bopenworld.co.uk) or 01575 560259 for further details or to reserve a place

### Study Day at Wilton House:

9.45am to 5pm, Friday 10 June

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Fully Booked

### Gertrude Jekyll and the Country House Garden

Judith B Tankard  
with the Garden Museum, London  
6.30pm for 7pm, Monday 13 June

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Judith Tankard will discuss her new book *Gertrude Jekyll and the Country House Garden: from the archives of*

*Country Life* celebrating Jekyll's gardens and legendary collaboration with architects as shown in pictures from *Country Life's* archive. During her long association with the magazine, Jekyll wrote hundreds of articles exploring her theories of garden design, planting combinations, and ornamental features. **Munstead Wood**, her legendary home in Surrey, will be shown in new pictures taken especially for the book.

Judith B Tankard is an art historian, writer, and editor specializing in landscape history. She writes for *Hortus*, *Apollo*, *Country Life*, *Landscape Architecture Magazine* and other publications and is the author of eight books.

Cost: £10, £15 non-members. Contact: 020 7401 8865 or email: [gardenmuseum.eventbrite.com](mailto:gardenmuseum.eventbrite.com)

### Study day at Selborne, the home of the naturalist, Gilbert White

Tuesday 21 June

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The Reverend Gilbert White (1720–93), author of *The Natural History and Antiquities of Selborne*, spent most of his life in the village Selborne. His garden, well recorded by him in his letters, diaries and journals, has been largely restored to its 18th-century form with much advice from Kim Wilkie. There will be a tour of the garden with the Head Gardener, David Standing (who lectured to the Society in winter 2010), the chance to explore Gilbert White's house and the village of Selborne, and an optional guided climb up the Zig Zag, created by White, to Selborne Common, now owned by the National Trust.

Cost: £30, £35 non-members. For further information and a booking form please email: [events@gardenhistorysociety.org](mailto:events@gardenhistorysociety.org), or write to: The GHS 70 Cowcross Street, London EC1M 6EJ (marking your envelope 'Gilbert White' and including an SAE).

### Midsummer Evening at Redcroft, Edinburgh

6.30pm, Tuesday 21 June

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A social evening at Anna and James Buxton's Edinburgh house (Redcroft, 23 Murrayfield Road, Edinburgh EH12 6EP) which we hope members will support. Drinks and light snacks in the



garden will be followed by readings, and we hope music, on the theme of mid-summer and gardens.

Tickets £10 from Anna Buxton, email: [annabuxtonb@aol.com](mailto:annabuxtonb@aol.com), or Phone: 0131 337 1747, or write to the address above. Non-members welcome. Numbers limited.

**Study Weekend:  
The Archaeology of Gardens  
with The National Trust for Scotland  
Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire  
12 noon, Saturday 2 July to 4pm, Sunday 3 July**

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The aim of the weekend is to acquaint participants with the theory and practice of this aspect of archaeology, the techniques used and the potential and actual outcomes. Based in Aberdeen, we shall begin with lunch on the Saturday followed by a series of three talks about the contribution that archaeology can make to our understanding of the development of historic gardens and designed landscapes and the practical techniques used in gardens archaeology. Speakers include: **Dr Shannon Fraser**, NTS Archaeologist for North-East Scotland; **Dr Hilary Murray** of Murray Archaeological Services Ltd and **Tom Addyman** of Addyman Archaeology, a division of Simpson and Brown Architects. Examples will be taken from the castles to be visited on the Sunday as well as other sites in Scotland. On Sunday we plan to visit three castles including **Castle Fraser** and **Fyvie**, travelling by coach and leaving from and returning to Aberdeen.

£60 for members and their guests £70 non-members (to be confirmed). Charge includes Saturday lunch and tea and Sunday coffee and tea. Participants will be able to purchase their own lunch on the Sunday at one of the NTS properties. There will be an optional dinner in Aberdeen on the Saturday night. Please note that the charge does not include overnight accommodation on the Saturday night. Places are limited. Contact Sue Hewer: [suehewer1@btopenworld.co.uk](mailto:suehewer1@btopenworld.co.uk) or: 01575 560259 for further details or to reserve a place

**Visit to Epping Forest  
with London Parks and Gardens Trust  
10.30am, Thursday 7 July**

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Our visit starts at the Queen Elizabeth Hunting Lodge (15 minutes walk from Chingford Station), the royal hunting grandstand built in 1543. A guided

tour of the building after coffee will be followed by a guided tour on foot of the important wood and pasture landscape of the forest in the area known as Barn Hoppitt. We shall then tour the garden of The Warren (to where a minibus will take those on foot), have a light lunch in the house, and afterwards listen to a talk on the Forest and the conservation issues of managing this landscape on the very edge of London, so valiantly saved as open space in the late C19. The visit will end at about 2pm.

Cost: £30 per person, including lunch. Numbers limited, and, please, apply no later than 23 June. For further information and for a booking form, contact Robert Peel on: [rma.peel@btopenworld.com](mailto:rma.peel@btopenworld.com) or by phone after 14 March on: 020 7121 8938

**The Garden History Society AGM  
& Summer Conference  
at Keele University, Staffordshire  
Modern Restorations, Old Landscapes:  
Georgian, Victorian and a Touch of Palladio  
Friday 22 July to Sunday 24 July**

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The conference will be based on the campus of Keele University, near Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire ST5 5BG. En-suite single room accommodation will be provided, together with normal conference facilities for the AGM, lectures and meals.



Leticia Yelman

**Thursday 21 July**

On Thursday afternoon the optional visit will be by coach to **Biddulph Grange Gardens**, created over a period dating from 150 years ago by James Bateman (*above*, 'China'). Bateman designed a number of connecting but singularly individual gardens in an eclectic mix, intended to surprise and impress his visitors. These gardens included among others a fernery, rock gardens, a pinetum, an Italian

## GHS events



Charles Boat

*The Upper and Lower Flower Gardens show contrasting planting styles on Barry's historic parterres at Trentham*

garden, and the more exotic 'Egyptian Court' and 'Great Wall of China'. Bateman also had a fine collection of exotics, including rhododendrons from the Himalayas, and many newly introduced flowering shrubs from China. Biddulph Grange Gardens is now a National Trust property.

### Friday 22 July

Registration from 9am onwards

#### 9.30am GHS Graduate Symposium

The morning will be chaired by **Patrick Eyres** (of *The New Arcadian Journal*). Our speakers are:

**Oliver Cox; Sarah Hundleby; Sarah Law; Elaine Mitchell** and **Gabriele Mulè** (see the article on p3 for more detail of this new event).

The Graduate Symposium will be followed by lunch. After lunch there will be a welcome from **Dominic Cole**, the Society's Chairman, followed by an introductory lecture.

The AGM will be at 3pm. There will be an early evening reception, followed by the AGM dinner. A bookfair will also take place during the day and on Saturday evening.

### Saturday 23 July

On Saturday morning **Dr Keith Goodway** (former GHS Chairman) will be speaking to us about the campus at **Keele**, and **William Emes'** involvement there as landscapist. In 1741 the estate was inherited by Ralph Sneyd from his brother Dryden. Ralph developed the estate over the following fifty years or so, calling in Emes in 1769 to provide him with pleasure grounds and a landscaped park. In 1760 Emes set up his own private practice, after being head gardener at Kedleston Hall. His style was similar to that of Brown, but no known links with Brown have been found. Emes' name is associated with over 80 sites, mainly in the north Midlands and Wales. William Sawrey Gilpin also advised on the grounds at Keele, c1830.

The parkland and grounds at Keele cover 617 acres (250 ha), and Keith will take us round the existing outlines of the old C18 landscape after his talk, followed by lunch at the university.

In the afternoon we shall visit **Trentham Gardens**, which have won the 2010 European Garden Award for the best historic garden restoration. Against a historical background of Jacobean formality, Brownian landscaping and Victorian design, Trentham has today two new gardens of international importance. These are Tom Stuart-Smith's reinterpretation of the Italian gardens, and Piet Oudolf's Floral Labyrinth with his 'rivers' of different ornamental grasses interspersed with colourful perennials. The opinion of members is eagerly awaited. Despite the glaring absence of the Barry designed Mansion, much has been achieved. It is particularly apt to be visiting when the Garden Museum is celebrating Stuart-Smith's work with such gusto.

On return to the University, the evening's events will start with the keynote speech followed by the Conference Dinner.

### Sunday 24 July

There will be an early start on Sunday morning to allow us to reach **Adlington Hall**, in Cheshire. Home of the Legh family since 1315, the estate comprises some 2000 acres. The Hall is quadrangular and has a C15 Great Hall and an Elizabethan half timbered wing. A new brick wing with a central portico was added by Charles and Hester Legh, dating from 1740–49. They also planted a fine Wilderness, through which runs the river Dean. Eight different garden buildings were constructed, connected by winding paths. Recently restored, this is the only Georgian landscape feature in Cheshire of its type. We shall see the interior of the Hall, and then be shown the Wilderness by the head gardener. We shall also

have time to see the modern gardens before we have lunch.

After lunch we shall visit **Henbury Hall**, also in Cheshire. Standing on the site of an older house, the Hall, built 1984–87, is based largely on that of Palladio's Villa Rotunda at Vicenza. Mr Sebastian de Ferranti, the owner, is kindly letting us visit the eleven acres of gardens and park, and we shall be able to see the exterior of the Hall but not the interior, which is his private home. The grounds were originally laid out in 1742 as a landscape park to complement a new Georgian house.

Today the gardens comprise a modern sunk garden in the Italianate style, and extensive shrub plantings beyond line the circuit paths leading to the restored landscape park with its lakes. Garden buildings, such as a Gothic folly and a Chinese Kiosk, enliven the scene. The conference will end late afternoon and the coach will drop rail travellers at the nearest railway station and then continue back to the University.

Conference fee per person for the whole conference: £282 See the **enclosed Booking Form** for other price variations, or to find out further details please contact, with A5 SAE: Anne Richards, 5The Knoll, Hereford HR1 1RU or: 01432 354 479 or email: [enquiries@gardenhistory.org](mailto:enquiries@gardenhistory.org)

### **Study Day on 'Capability' Brown at Compton Verney, Warwickshire Saturday 6 August**

This year's exhibition at Compton Verney, Warwickshire CV35 9HZ (see also **other events** listing) is the first exhibition to focus on the work of 'Capability' Brown (1716–83) in the Midlands, particularly on some of his designs at the beginning of his career. Through themes and case studies, including Compton Verney's own parkland (*above*) and also Croome Park, (Brown's first commission as a private consultant), the exhibition shows how both neo-classical mythology and technological improvements in travel and country pursuits played a part in creating the new 'natural' landscapes of the mid-eighteenth century.

Compton Verney is a Grade I mansion built c1711 by John Townesend and remodelled in the 1760s by Robert Adam. 120 acres of park and lakes were landscaped by Brown 1768–1770s; he also built the new chapel. The mansion has been an art gallery since 2004. Our Study Day will include



Charles Boot

a visit to the exhibition, a guided tour of Brown's parkland (*above*) surrounding the restored house, and two lectures on aspects of Brown's work.

Numbers are strictly limited to 60. Cost: £42 to include tours of grounds and exhibition, two lectures, lunch, coffee am, tea pm. Transport is not included, however; a bus may be arranged from Banbury Railway Station if there is sufficient demand. Contact with A5 SAE: Jennifer Meir, Jackson's Barn, Charlecote, Warwick, CV35 9EW or email: [jennifer.meir@btinternet.com](mailto:jennifer.meir@btinternet.com)

### **Study Day: The History of an Estate in its Designed Landscape**

**Smeaton Estate**, Tynninghame, East Lothian (by courtesy of Mr Kenneth Gray)  
10am to 4.30pm, Saturday 10 September

The Study Day will begin with coffee in Tynninghame Village Hall followed by two talks in which **David Affleck** will share with us the findings of the extensive and new research that he has undertaken into the designed landscape of the Smeaton estate. Lunch will be provided at the village hall after which we shall set out on a walking tour of the estate, guided by David and GHSS member, **Kristina Taylor**.

£16 including coffee and lunch. Contact Sue Hewer: [suehewer1@bopenworld.co.uk](mailto:suehewer1@bopenworld.co.uk) or: 01575 560259 for further details or to reserve a place

### **Study Tour to gardens in Cumbria Friday 16 to Sunday 18 September**

A three day weekend to gardens and houses in Cumbria, including aspects of **Thomas Mawson's** work and varied coastal and inland scenery, centred on Grange-over-Sands.

## GHS events

Friday begins with a visit to a new Mediterranean-style garden with a restored Victorian walled kitchen garden; after lunch at Grange-over-Sands, a coach will take us to **Muncaster Castle**, a family home since 1208, with its half mile long grass terrace overlooking magnificent views and World Owl Centre. We shall also visit the Castle and have a light supper there before returning to Grange-over-Sands.

On Saturday, the morning visit is to **Rydal Hall**, where Mawson designed the formal gardens which are in great contrast to the rocky, fast flowing Rydal Beck, flanked by a mid C17 grotto. After lunch (self service, but included), continue to **Brantwood**, John Ruskin's home and garden, spending the afternoon here before a private dinner in the restaurant.

**Holker Hall** is the Sunday morning visit, where there are formal and informal gardens and an attractive cascade bordering each side of a wide flight of steps. In the early afternoon, continue to **Levens Hall**, famous for its late C17 topiary; the garden also includes herbaceous borders and many interesting shrubs.

The cost for the weekend is £180 which includes morning coffee on the Friday, lunches and dinners on Friday and Saturday, coach travel on Friday and all entrances. Accommodation is not included. For further information telephone Anne Richards: 01432 354 479 or send a SAE for booking form and accommodation suggestions to: 5 The Knoll, Hereford, HR1 1RU.

### **Study Day on Brookwood Cemetery London's Necropolis: a perfect place of rest**

The Association of Gardens Trusts and Surrey Gardens Trust' in association with the GHS  
Saturday 17 September

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**Brookwood Cemetery**, Woking, opened in 1854, was upgraded to Grade I status on the Register in 2009 and its future is at risk. It deserves more recognition and support to enable the gradual deterioration of many of the monuments to be slowed, repaired and restored to their former condition. Its exceptional historic and artistic influence will be explored in three morning talks. Brookwood Cemetery's huge size (150 hectares) means that we will be selective in what we visit, in order to obtain a broad view of how it was used in the 19th century and how it relates to the 21st

century. Brookwood still has its own station and can be reached direct from Waterloo.

For further information, please contact the Co-ordinator at the AGT: [co-ordinator@agt.org.uk](mailto:co-ordinator@agt.org.uk) or: 020 7251 2610

### **A Study Day at Wrest Park Wrest Park Revealed**

The AGT, English Heritage and Bedfordshire Gardens Trust in association with the GHS  
Thursday 13 October

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The restoration of the landscape at **Wrest Park**, Silsoe, near Bedford, continues apace. The Study Day will demonstrate how new research methods have shown that previous restoration was at times inaccurate. The different overlays now offer a palimpsest of the landscape through the formal to Regency and family influences. The morning talks will take place in the dining room of the house and the afternoon will allow the delegates to walk the landscape, see the completed areas of restoration and the archaeological excavations taking place.

For further information, please contact the Co-ordinator at the AGT: [co-ordinator@agt.org.uk](mailto:co-ordinator@agt.org.uk) or: 020 7251 2610.

### **Study Tour to the Gardens of Mexico featuring the gardens of Luis Barragán** Friday 7 to Tuesday 18 October

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We will visit much of the extant public and private work of the influential architect/ landscape architect **Luis Barragán** (1902–88), including the house and studio he built for himself in 1947, the gardens of **Casa Ortega**, the neighbourhood of **Jardines del Pedregal**, and his celebrated outdoor space at Cuadra San Cristobal, **Casa Egerstrom** (subject to confirmation).

Based in Mexico City and the picturesque colonial towns of San Miguel de Allende and Santiago de Queretaro, we'll also visit, among other things, **Chapultepec Park**, the **National University Campus**, the 'floating' gardens of **Xochimilco**, and a selection of private gardens, where we'll be exclusive guests of the owners. Other highlights include an excursion to **Cuernavaca**, a resort town in the highlands south of the capital known for its flowering landscapes, and a memorable visit to **Las Pozas**, Edward James' Surrealist sculpture garden in the jungle.

The tour will be led by **Jeff Sainsbury**, with help

from **Robert Peel** and local guides and experts, including **Dr Anibal Figueroa**, who will accompany us for part of the tour and give an informal lecture on the life and work of Barragán.

Although fully subscribed as this goes to press, if you are interested please contact Robert Peel by email: [rma.peel@bopenworld.com](mailto:rma.peel@bopenworld.com) or ring him after 14 March: 020 7121 8938 in case there have been withdrawals and places have become available.

### **The Victorian Garden**

Oxford Continuing Education/GHS Joint  
Weekend School  
Rewley House, Oxford  
Friday 21 to Sunday 23 October

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The annual weekend school will explore the complexities and variety of the Victorian garden: theory and practice, changes, developments and controversies. The work of particular designers will be considered. There will be a visit on the Saturday afternoon to **Coleshill** as an example of Victorian estate management including a garden.

Cost: £290, other options available on application. Details from the Short Courses Administrator, OUDCE, 1 Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JA. Contact: 01865 270 380 or email: [ppdayweek@conted.ox.ac.uk](mailto:ppdayweek@conted.ox.ac.uk) or see: [www.conted.ox.ac.uk/courses](http://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/courses)

### **The Victorian Fernery at Benmore**

Professor Mary Gibby  
with the Architectural Heritage Society of Scotland  
Glasite Meeting House, Edinburgh  
6.30pm, Monday 7 November

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**James Duncan**, an enlightened Victorian, built the fernery at Benmore in 1874 at the height of 'Pteridomania'. Sadly, following a change of ownership the fernery went into decline. It survived as a derelict ruin for some 100 years, but was restored to its former glory in 2009.

Professor Mary Gibby of the Royal Botanic Garden of Edinburgh is a respected authority on Pteridophytes (ferns and horsetails). She was involved in the reconstruction of the Fernery at RBGE garden at Benmore and will describe this project in her talk.

The Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland has deemed the Fernery to be 'extremely rare and unique in its design'. It is built into a hillside and ranges

from single storey to three levels, with a vaulted entrance, grotto and pool. Unique, too, because of its scale (142 sq m), it is now a Grade B listed building of great architectural and botanical value.

£5. Tickets on the door

### **Paradise of Exiles: the Anglo-American Gardens of Florence**

Katie Campbell

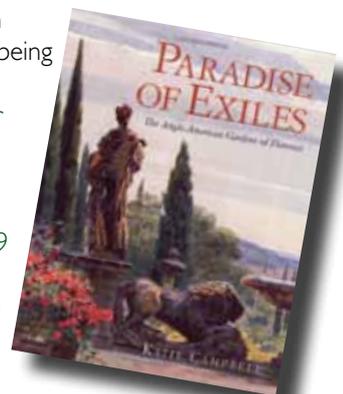
with The Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens  
Edinburgh at the Lecture Theatre, Royal Botanical  
Garden of Edinburgh, 20 Inverleith Row  
7pm for 7.30pm, Thursday 8 December

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Sadly we had to cancel Katie Campbell's talk last year because of snow. However, we are delighted that it has turned out to be not so much a cancellation as a postponement and her talk is rescheduled for the above date.

This lecture will be based on her most recent book, *Paradise of Exiles: The Anglo-American Gardens of Florence*, described by Anna Pavord as 'Scholarly as well as wonderfully entertaining, this is an unmissable book'. (*Gardens Illustrated*). Combining social history with horticulture Campbell explores the eccentric community of English and American expatriates which gathered in Florence at the end of the nineteenth century. As the city around them modernised they gravitated to the hill towns transforming neglected estates into Renaissance-style villas, dealing in art of dubious provenance, recording local customs and writing endlessly about themselves, each other and great figures of the past. Despite their charmed lives these Anglo-Florentines played a crucial role in preserving Italy's cultural history, protecting important villas, restoring ancient landscapes and creating some of the country's best loved gardens. More importantly they researched and recovered horticultural traditions at a time when these were in danger of being lost forever.

£3 for members. £5 for non-members. Bookings can be made by phoning the RBGE Membership Office on 0131 552 5339 followed by payment on the night. Tickets will also be available on the door.



# conservation notes

from our officers in England

The latter part of 2010 has proved to be a busy period for the Society's conservation officers in England. New initiatives and proposed legislation from the coalition Government have, and will continue to occupy much of our attention; and at the same time considerable uncertainty over the funding of statutory consultees and national amenity societies by English Heritage has prompted us to give very careful consideration to our conservation work and the way in which it is delivered.

We were very relieved to learn just before Christmas that despite very substantial cuts in its own grant from central Government, English Heritage has been able to budget to maintain its support for our work as a **statutory consultee** for a further financial year. We are most grateful for this support, but it is clear that while English Heritage has a strong commitment to our work, in the face of the general financial situation we cannot, and should not assume that it will be possible for the organisation to continue to fund us at historic levels beyond March 2012. During the course of this coming year, therefore, we hope to develop a new framework for our work as a statutory consultee, which it is anticipated will involve much closer working with the county Gardens Trusts and, potentially, other locally-based interested voluntary organisations to ensure that despite changes to the planning system, local authority resources and other challenges, our heritage of historic designed landscapes continues to be conserved. Change is often uncomfortable; but it can also be liberating and invigorating. We hope that this will be the case with our conservation work.

## The Localism Bill

This major piece of Government legislation received its second reading in Parliament on 17th January. The Bill is an extensive document which seeks to deal with a variety of issues; as such it is immensely complicated to formulate an overall view of its likely impact. However, it is clear that as presently framed, the Bill will make major changes to the planning system; the second set of major changes within some eighteen months.

As a philosophical principle, the empowerment of local communities is perhaps one with which many of us would feel an instinctive agreement. Too often

in the past decisions have appeared to be taken at some remote bureaucratic or legalistic level with scant regard to the potential impact on individuals. As a statutory consultee (or remote expert voice, depending on one's point of view) we have played our own part in that system. The Government's legislation seeks to address this perception by requiring local authorities to hold referendums on any matter (including planning issues) if a petition is signed by 5% of local electors or a single councillor. Authorities are not obliged to follow the result of such a referendum, but they must show that they have taken it into account. Clearly, when applied to planning issues in particular, local referendums have great potential to be taken over by single-issue groups or campaigners who will not, perhaps, have an appropriate understanding of the longer term objectives of conserving the historic environment. For all its perceived faults, the present system of planning law does at least ensure a relatively level and objective basis on which decisions can be made.

The Bill envisages rights for community groups to bid to provide services to the local authority. In a climate which is seeing local government spending radically reduced and funding for urban designed landscape such as public parks and cemeteries under increasing pressure, it is possible that we shall see the emergence of community groups managing such places on behalf of the local authority; however, whether sufficient motivated groups will emerge to bridge the looming funding gap remains to be seen.

With regard to the planning system itself, the Bill again produces mixed responses. Some proposals, such as the extension of the Community Infrastructure Levy on new development to cover on-going maintenance costs of elements of the historic environment such as 'public green spaces' – presumably encompassing public parks, cemeteries and other designed urban spaces – is to be welcomed. On the other hand the immensely complex regulations proposed for the development of Neighbourhood Plans, Neighbourhood Development Orders and Community Right to Build Orders raise the potential for seriously detrimental development affecting the setting of, for example, registered parks and gardens which would not be permitted under present regulations.

The new neighbourhood development procedures are intended by Government to bring forward more development than is presently the case. As such, neighbourhood planning does not have to be fully compliant with the Local Development Framework, and only has to have regard to national planning policies. The neighbourhood plan becomes part of the Local Development Framework, thus acquiring considerable weight in the planning process; and the statutory requirements to have special regard to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the historic environment are dropped where a Neighbourhood Development Plan is developed.

### High Speed 2 – the revised route

The Government announced a revised route for the proposed high speed rail link between London and Birmingham in the autumn. While some welcome amendments have been made, such as moving the line further from vulnerable sites such as Waddesdon Manor, Buckinghamshire (Grade I), at least two major designed landscapes, Hartwell House, Buckinghamshire (II\*) and Stoneleigh Abbey, Warwickshire (II\*) will see the line passing directly through the registered landscape.



Eric Throssell & Buckinghamshire County Museum

*The High Speed 2 line will cross Aylesbury Vale on a partially raised embankment (on the right in Nebot's 1738 painting) and plunge into a 'ha-ha' (sic) to pass through the still extant North Avenue at the National Trust's Hartwell House in Buckinghamshire*

It is true that in both cases the original route has been revised in an attempt to reduce its impact (at Stoneleigh, for example, the line now avoids the Deer Park with its early nineteenth century

picturesque landscape); but the engineering required for the various cuttings and viaducts, the overhead gantries, and the scale of the land-take needed for construction and, presumably, maintenance, will have a devastating impact on the integrity of these sites. It is precisely these factors which make the impact of the proposed line on the setting of landscapes such as Shardeloes, Bucks (also II\*) such a sensitive issue; here the line passes in a shallow cutting across the hillside in the main view from the house and actually surfaces at almost 'point blank' in views across the East Park where Humphry Repton made proposals. It is clear that the line will, if constructed, have a major impact on other elements of the historic environment.

We hope to work on a co-ordinated response to Government with the Gardens Trusts in the affected counties.

### The Future of the Forestry Commission in England

The Government's controversial plans to dispose of some 258,000 hectares of woodland and forest presently managed by the Forestry Commission poses an interesting dilemma for the Society. The proposal to hand areas of 'heritage woodland' such as the Forest of Dean or the New Forest to new or existing trusts seems positive and should, with appropriate safeguards built into any agreements, ensure sympathetic management and access of these ancient landscape features which have an important aesthetic role, both in themselves and as an inspiration to artists, writers and even composers over the centuries.

On the other hand there are places where forestry activities, particularly where commercial timber production has predominated, have had a major and not always sympathetic impact on pre-existing designed landscapes.

This is not to say that the Commission's woodland is not well-managed, with good public access and benefits for wildlife; but there are places where the present forestry regime has a detrimental impact on the historic significance of the landscape, and where a change in ownership may allow a different management regime to be pursued. There may even be instances where inappropriately located plantations can be removed for the long-term benefit of the designed landscape. This is a particularly important consideration in a climate where new tree planting

## conservation notes

for fuel and biomass is being encouraged, often at the expense of historic parkland. Trees are of course good, but only when planted in the right place: the wrong tree in the wrong place has a very enduring detrimental impact.



Jonathan Lovie

*Coniferous planting interrupts the designed view from the site of the original Eggesford House towards Old Park Clump, a visually important C18 skyline feature*

As I write, I look across the Taw valley in Devon, where in 1919 the Forestry Commission undertook its first plantation, now known as Eggesford Forest, within the eighteenth and nineteenth century designed landscape associated with Eggesford House. The original mixed ornamental and semi-ornamental plantations (discernable from a few remnant trees) have gradually been replaced by a predominantly coniferous crop, leading to a significant change in the character of the landscape and a loss of its designed intent; at the same time it could be argued that the Commission's activities have, over time, assumed a relative historic significance of their own.

The Conservation Committee has been considering this dilemma, and in preparation for this huge change in land ownership, is looking to prepare a list of designed landscapes which have

been affected by forestry plantations, and where we might seek to influence a change in direction.

## The Royal Parks

In the eighteenth century, Queen Caroline is said to have asked the Prime Minister, Sir Robert Walpole, how much it would cost to close St James' Park to those members of the public who were fortunate enough to be key-holders. The reply, "Only three Crowns, Ma'm", was apparently sufficient to deter her ambition. Today, the future of the Royal Parks is again in doubt: not their continued existence of course, but the way in which they will be managed on behalf of the public.

In recent years the Royal Parks Agency has come to be seen as a standard-bearer for informed historic landscape conservation, striking the not always easy balance between preserving historic fabric and meeting the needs of contemporary Londoners and tourists. The restoration of the Nesfield designed Avenue in Regent's Park, which played a key role in the recent *King's Speech*, is a fine example of the important work taking place.

The proposal, now seemingly a 'done deal' to transfer management of the Royal Parks to the Greater London Assembly (GLA) calls the management style of the parks into question. Commercial interests, and particularly the hosting of an increased number of large-scale events in the parks could have a significant impact both on the character and fabric of the parks, and the level of public access within them. The London Olympics next summer will be a significant test of the public's reaction to this phenomenon, as almost every Royal Park will be hosting some aspect of the Games. At the same time, pressure on places such as Green Park and St James Park to become the repository for an ever-increasing number of public monuments (to the detriment of their historic character and fabric) continues, and requires a robust planning regime. We shall,



Charles Boot

*The breakdown of last winter's 'German Fair', to the northeast of Hyde Park's Serpentine, 11 January 2010*

along with the London Parks and Gardens Trust, be watching developments with great attention.

*Jonathan Lovie, Policy Advisor  
& Principal Conservation Officer (England)*

## conservation notes

from our officer in Scotland

### Legislation

As reported in last summer's *GHS news 86*, the Historic Environment Amendment (Scotland) Bill progressed through the Scottish Parliament during 2010 with its third reading in January 2011. The Bill was duly passed and is expected to receive Royal Assent and become an Act in early March. The provisions of the Act will then be brought into force on specific dates including the duty for Scottish Ministers to compile and maintain an *Inventory of Gardens and Landscapes* and an *Inventory of Battlefields in Scotland*, updating them as and when necessary.

Historic Scotland has now finished the re-survey and updating of the Scottish Borders section of the designed landscape Inventory and the amendments will be published when this provision is brought into force. Whilst some sites will be removed from the *Inventory* as they are no longer considered to meet the criteria for inclusion twenty-five years after the original survey, other sites will be added, with an overall increase to thirty-one sites of national significance in the Scottish Borders Council area. The re-survey and updating project has now moved on to Aberdeenshire and northeast Scotland.

In December the long-awaited replacement for the *Memorandum of Guidance for Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas*, 'Managing Change in the Historic Environment' was published by Historic Scotland. Consisting of an initial suite of fourteen freestanding guidance notes on a range of topics, the list will be expanded over time.

At present there is no one leaflet specifically for Gardens and Designed Landscapes, but much of the content of the 'Setting' leaflet is relevant and contains a link to the GHS website and PCANs 11 and 13; *Development in the Setting of Historic Designed Landscape*, and *Briefs for Historic Landscape Assessment*. Further details of both the *Inventory* and the *Managing Change in the Historic*

*Environment* guidance notes can be found on Historic Scotland's website [www.historic-scotland.gov.uk](http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk)

### Forestry consultations

The steady flow of forestry consultations into the conservation office was maintained over the latter half of the year with a notable rise in applications for Woodland Creation under the Scottish Rural Development Programme's Rural Priorities. In the majority of cases we supported the applications for native woodland creation in appropriate areas of designed landscapes, but have become increasingly concerned with applications received for planting-up parkland areas as woodland.

Often described in an application as 'uneconomic agricultural land' and seen as a potential source of bio-fuel for the future, there is a danger that much parkland could become lost under blanket planting of native woodland. In most applications we have tried to encourage a reduced area of planting, usually towards the periphery and as an extension to existing woodland, retaining some open parkland space. In addition we have encouraged the replacement of individual parkland specimens and or clumps of trees, with the inclusion of non-native species where this is appropriate, reflecting the historical planting mix.

### Cammo House

At Cammo House, on the western outskirts of Edinburgh we were consulted by the City of Edinburgh Council about the restoration and recreation of the **Pinetum**. The Cammo landscape was laid out by Sir John Clerk, later 2nd Baronet of Penicuik, (1676–1755) in the early 1700s and this formed the framework for subsequent landscape developments. Cammo House was remodelled by William Adam in the late 1720s but was destroyed by fire in 1977. The ruin was consolidated and made safe in 1980 and remains the focal point of the estate. The landscape was remodelled in the 1770s and a small Pinetum laid out to the west of the house in the mid 19th century. Since the acquisition of the estate by the National Trust for Scotland in 1980 the grounds have been managed as a countryside park on the Trust's behalf by City of Edinburgh Council. Although now a popular green space and informal park, the management regime has resulted in a loss of detail of the designed landscape. The Pinetum has remained un-mown and largely unmanaged with

## conservation notes

a resultant invasion of *Rhododendron* and Ivy, and apart from one *Cedrus deodara* planted in 2006, no replacement planting undertaken. Some of the original trees have survived to the present day including a *Pinus pinea* (Umbrella Pine) which is thought to be the second largest in the UK; other specimens include a *Pinus cembra* (Arolla Pine) and *Thujaopsis dolabrata* (Hiba). If works to the Pinetum are undertaken we hope this can be seen as the first stage in restoring some of the more significant elements of the designed landscape. Other features which would benefit include the Canal to the south of the Pinetum (which may also have been designed by William Adam), the walled garden and the Home Farm.

## Cumbernauld House



Alison Allighan

In *GHS news 83* (spring 2009) we discussed the Cumbernauld House designed landscape. Just before Christmas an application was submitted to North Lanarkshire Council for the conversion of this A-listed William Adam house to residential use with the recreation of the parterre garden to the south (*above*, currently a car park). Whilst the use of the building is not what many in the local community had hoped for, we are encouraged by the fact that this project can be achieved by minimal external alteration to the house, and without any enabling development. The only new building on the site will be two residential units on the footprints of buildings adjacent to the stable-block, which will itself be converted for residential use. With the recreation of the parterre garden the stone sundial (*right*), dating from 1725 (but thought to have been brought to Cumbernauld at a later date) currently standing somewhat forlornly to the rear of the house can be restored to its former location.

## Recording Groups

Our volunteer recording groups have been busy with the Dumfries & Galloway producing first drafts of their survey results at properties in the Nith Valley National Scenic Area including **Southwick, Mabie, Conheath** and **Auchencairn**. In Angus a new group established, trained and supported by Sue Hewer and Christopher Dingwall has begun work on the desk-top research element of properties in that area. As many of you will be aware our current funding from Historic Scotland (HS) ceases at the end of April, and an application for funding for the coming year is currently under consideration. HS has indicated that, rather than continue funding us to provide advice about the Regionally and Locally significant sites not included in the *Inventory*, any grant awarded should be used to expand the network of volunteer recording groups across the country.

In this *news* you will see a notice advertising an event to be held in May at **Broich**, Stirling, to introduce members and volunteers to the work being undertaken. If you are interested please come along and find out what we are doing; we need your involvement to make this project successful.

Any members in East Lothian in particular, please note that if our funding application to HS is successful this is one of the areas we hope to expand the project into next. If you cannot go to the Broich event but are interested in finding out more about the work, please contact the Scottish Conservation Office for further details (see *page 2 for my contact details*)

**Alison Allighan**  
**Conservation Officer,**  
**Scotland**



## appreciation

we celebrate two outstanding women

### Joy Williams MBE — an inspirational lady



Letitia Yetman

Joy Williams from Exmouth, Devon, has been awarded an MBE for services to children. What might one ask has this to do with gardens, gardening or even garden history? Everything, as it is Joy's work with schools for the Devon Gardens Trust that has gained her this very well deserved accolade. Joy has been involved with schools since the inception of the Gardens Trust movement in the 1980s, and the inspiration behind major improvements in school grounds throughout the country from which a generation of children have benefited. These children will be our future head gardeners, landscape architects and garden historians.

Joy, a clergyman's daughter, trained at Bedford Froebel College. Her first teaching post was at the Dragon School, Oxford, followed by a spell in Dar es Salaam. Returning to England, Joy taught at Twyford Primary School, Hampshire from 1962–80 then became Head of the Teacher's Centre, Winchester until 1990. As School Grounds Co-ordinator for Hampshire, her pioneering work brought together Hampshire County Council, Hampshire Wildlife Trust, Hampshire Gardens Trust, Learning Through Landscapes and the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers. In those early days there was much to learn and Joy's teaching, gardening and practical

skills enabled her to win the confidence of schools, encouraging and supporting them in their projects. The strategies developed at that time for much needed improvements in school grounds and play areas were followed by many of the emergent Gardens Trusts throughout England. Under the aegis of the Association of Gardens Trusts, regional education meetings continue today to be a valuable forum for disseminating the latest ideas on school projects.

Moving to Devon in 1994 Joy embarked on new chapter of work with schools for the Devon Gardens Trust, becoming Chairman of the Trust and subsequently of their Education and Events Committee. Full of lively enthusiasm and wonderful ideas, Joy has personally visited scores of far-flung schools, often arriving laden with donated plants for particular spots, encouraging and inspiring teachers and pupils with projects tailored to their needs and helping to transform often dull school yards into attractive and welcoming areas. It may seem hard to believe but even in a predominantly rural county like Devon there are schools with no grass at all, merely a tarmac playground, and children (as well as teachers) who have never dug the soil or seen a plant. Joy's visits and encouragement have seen unsightly regulation chain-link fencing covered with attractive climbers, planters made from discarded car tyres and old wellies, vegetables timed to ripen during term-time, wildlife ponds, forest schools, trees for shade, after school gardening clubs; the list is endless. Joy has a knack of persuading local garden trust members to donate appropriate plants, and local garden centres specific child-sized tools.

Part of the process also enables teaching staff to source items purchased with DGT grants and manage their grounds aided by parents and volunteers. On visits to these schools DGT members are always greeted by delighted children eager to show off their new vegetable plots, seating areas and so on. It is impossible to imagine how many children have been and continue to be influenced by Joy's work with schools over the past 30 years. Schools now receive help from many outside bodies but the seeds were sown in Hampshire by a lady with boundless enthusiasm who modestly tends her own delightful garden.

*Letitia Yetman*

appreciation

Mavis Batey MBE — ‘The Genius of the Scene’ at 90



Jessica Smith, by kind permission of Barr Elms Publishing

Mavis Batey on the Palladian Bridge at Stowe

We couldn't let the occasion of Mavis's 90th birthday pass without a few words. A large and joyous group will gather at Petworth on Thursday 5 May (see p5), to celebrate the long involvement Mavis has had with the Society.

She took over as Honorary Secretary from Kay Sanecki in 1971. She held that post until 1985 when she was elected President, and excelled in that role until 2000, when she finally stepped down. We remain delighted that she had been awarded the Veitch Memorial Medal by the Royal Horticultural Society in 1985 for her 'contribution to the preservation of gardens which would otherwise have been lost' and, perhaps even more so, for the award of an MBE in 1987 for 'services to the preservation and conservation of historic gardens'.

In 1996 we published a *festschrift* in celebration of Mavis in our journal *Garden History* 24:1, with an affectionate tribute to her by Ted Fawcett, himself having just stepped down as Chairman. An extensive interview by Sarah Jackson appears on

*Parks and Gardens UK*, under *contemporary-profiles* and fills out the story still more. Mavis's description of the campaign to save Painshill was a highlight of the recent conference there, and is published in the recent *The New Arcadian Journal* 67/68. We are delighted to include these two memoirs from her co-authors of *Indignation!* the publication which celebrated the campaign for conservation.

**Kim Wilkie writes**

I first met Mavis peering over my drawings in an exhibition of *Thames Connections* at the Royal Fine Art Commission in 1991. "So when are you going to start?" she said and, before I knew it, she had mobilized southwest London to support the abstract ideas and they had become a project. This was the beginning of the **Thames Landscape Strategy** and the start of my friendship with Mavis and Keith. Over the coming years Mavis would travel up almost every week to our little studio at the top of a house on the top of Richmond Hill.

She would bring a bottle of sherry to keep up our spirits and donated all her time and expertise on behalf of the Garden History Society to leverage grants and wider support. Sometimes she would get the last train back to Bognor Regis and Keith was always there to meet her or to deliver her to some far-flung project in Oxfordshire or central England. They made a wonderful, witty and enormously generous team.

It is now inconceivable to think of the Thames Landscape Strategy without Mavis' insight, scholarship and unstinting work. No request was ever too great and I have box files of her letters and investigations in her careful hand that must have been written between 5 and 7am before her own day got going. I have worked with Mavis on everything from Strawberry Hill in Twickenham to Broad Street in Oxford. Always she has brought a clarity and depth of understanding that has given life to each place. More than anything else, Mavis has a unique ability to see landscape connections across history and cultures. The minute precision of her scholarship combined with the cultural breadth of her vision is very rare and very exciting.

**David Lambert writes**

Like so many people, thousands when you think about it, I wouldn't be here, where I am this morning, if it weren't for Mavis. I first met her in the village hall in Iffley thirty years ago where, as an aimless English graduate, I had seen a poster for a talk on historic parks in Oxfordshire and

wandered in to listen. Probably one of hundreds of talks in drafty village halls which Mavis gave across the county over many years, for the CPRE, for the WEA and of course for the GHS.

The Mock Turtle was taught 'Mystery, Ancient and Modern' and Mavis too has explored countless mysteries, reading and looking not only with a Carrollian eye for the absurd, which she finds everywhere, but also with a code-breaker's tenacity in solving those puzzles. And she has led the rest of us fearlessly — as she says, "all you needed at Bletchley was a pencil" — through Regency shrubberies or the planning system, from the imperial gardens of Jehol to the deserted villages of Oxfordshire. It's all of a piece for her and that's a wonderful thing.

Her *delightability* has always been the counterweight to her *indignation*. Whether making connections that illuminated a garden's history (her memory is far more capacious even than the magic wardrobe where she files the carrier bags of notes) or writing the next letter of protest, the giggle at something that has tickled her is never far away. And still nothing seems to escape her. Only this autumn, she was on the phone disbelieving that people seem to have no knowledge of some of the heroic battles waged by the GHS and CPRE and others in the past to save historic landscapes and parks.

So we'll be raising the flowing glass again on the 5 May; many happy returns, Mavis, lots of love and thank you from us all.

**agenda**  
our roundup of what's going on in garden history, parks and gardens

**Moreton's Jellicoe designed water gardens at risk?**

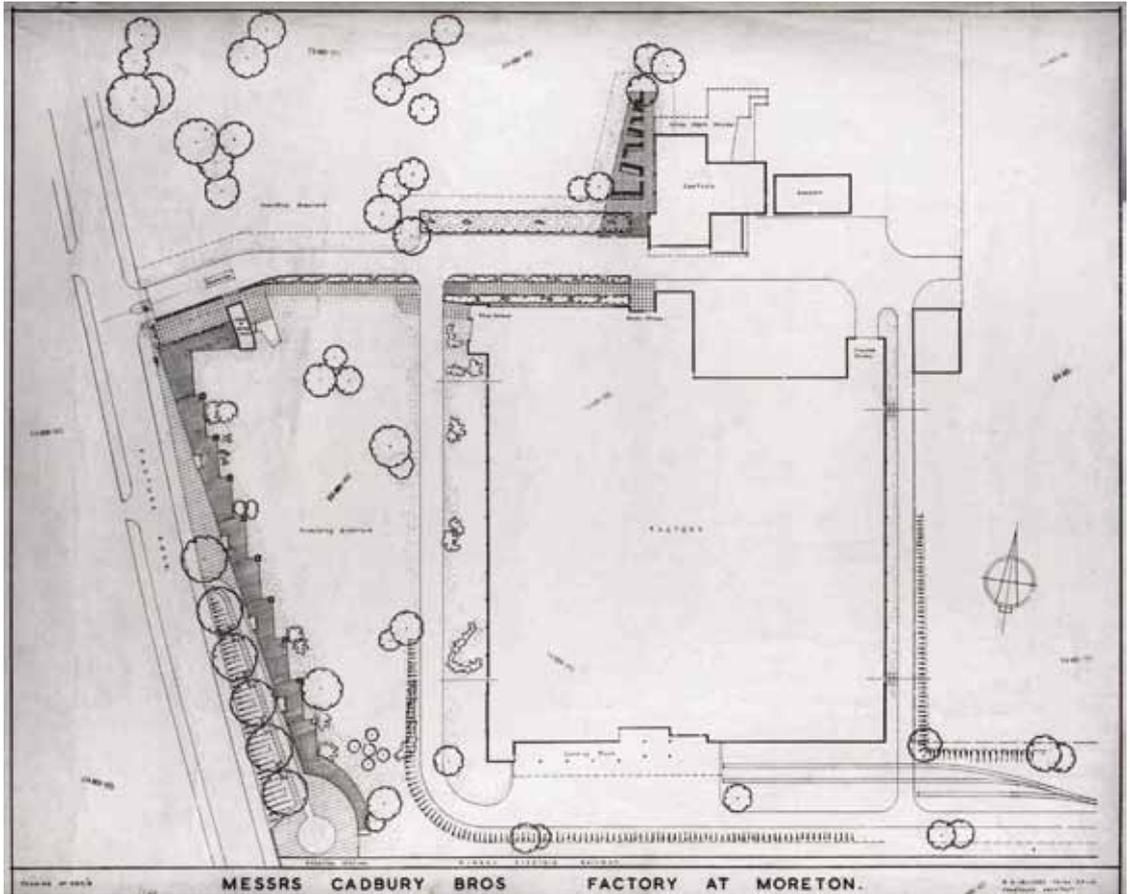
*Annabel Downs* (see p5 for related Study Day)

It is the roof line of one of the main buildings that first catches your attention as you get off the train, and apart from the signs on the building, these northern lights structures in the roof, together with the cool north westerly location, are tell tales of what the building was designed to deal with, Cadbury's chocolate biscuits. The building was completed in 1953 and won a Civic Trust Award. Typical of the Cadbury approach, it's a campus of buildings, for as well as the production buildings there



Charities Boat

## agenda



Landscape Institute

are canteens, social clubs, pavilions, sports fields and much open space. Geoffrey Jellicoe was invited to design the landscape which he found 'diabolical'.

The most interesting part of the scheme that he worked on was the boundary against Pasture Road, just at the point the main road swoops up and over the Liverpool-Wirral railway line and the entrance to Moreton Station, there's a little slip road that peels off parallel with Pasture Road and leads to a side entrance of the station. Along this boundary Jellicoe plays with water, creating a concrete lined canal with a series of shallow stepped pools with scalloped edges for the water to tumble over. At the station end there's a pump that takes it back to the beginning. He uses the idea of water as a barrier rather than just constructing a fence or wall to bound the site. More than this he engages with the passer-by to look onto the canal with a series of viewing platforms cantilevered over the water: these are only accessible on the public side of the boundary, you see the water in a completely different way looking up and down its length than you do

looking across it. The outline of these platforms mirror the curves of the roof; in this way Jellicoe shares with the passer-by this delightful idea and view. It must have resonated completely with the Cadbury ethos. Susan Jellicoe took some photos of the scheme after it was completed (*front cover*), and Jellicoe used this project as one of the examples of designing with water in *Techniques of Landscape Architecture* edited by AE Weddle, as well as in his own books.

There are two noteworthy points about this scheme; firstly it is almost unaltered since the photos were taken. It's been neglected and not well maintained and the planting has long gone, but it survives intact. The second point is that the ideas Jellicoe developed here were subsequently used in his Hemel Water Gardens project where a section of the River Gade is canalised and is designed with viewing platforms and the same fluted weir detail. In another factory site for Delta Metals in West Midlands Jellicoe designed yet another version of this canal with weirs but this time without the viewing platforms.

The Moreton factory has been under threat for a number of years and also subjected to a series of changes in ownership. In January this year Burton's Foods (the current owners) announced that they intend to close the entire site with the loss of all jobs. Redundancy notices have been issued. According to the House of Commons debate in January (2011) this site is the only land in the area suitable for industrial development and is zoned for that use.

In some ways it seems very inappropriate to think about saving designed landscapes when there are so many more pressing issues to be dealt with. However this is a significant example of Jellicoe's

work, and because it lies on the boundary of the site it could more easily survive and flourish as part of a new landscape, and then also with its shaped platforms it would be an indicator of what was here before. It will need help and shouting about to ensure it doesn't get swept away, not many including the speculators and developers will readily see its benefits.

Jonathan Lovie adds: a case should be made to EH to get the landscape on the *Register of Parks and Gardens*. EH is planning a thematic study of post-war landscapes in the next year or so, should be able to respond reasonably quickly.

## James Bateman — a tale of gardens, orchids and ceramics

*Paul Baker* (see p7 for related garden Visit)

July 2011 sees the 200th anniversary of the birth of James Bateman (1811–97), Fellow of the Linnean and Royal Societies, Vice-President of the Royal Horticultural Society and the creator of the extraordinary world image garden at Biddulph Grange (*right*) in Staffordshire. Bateman is celebrated as a botanist who orchestrated the collection of tropical plants and published the largest book (in 10 volumes) solely devoted to orchids, *The Orchidaceae of Mexico and Guatemala* (1837–43). He was also the author of two other major works on the cultivation of orchids; *A Second Century of Orchidaceous Plants* (1867) and a *Monograph of Odontoglossum* (1874).

Although much research was carried out at the time that the National Trust took over the garden in 1988 comparatively little has been written about James Bateman and the influences affecting his garden since Peter Hayden's publication

of *Biddulph Grange, Stafford: Victorian Garden Rediscovered* (1988). Inevitably, Bateman's interests in botanical matters have tended to overshadow his wider interest and connections. However a series of unrelated episodes have recently

combined to shed more light on the Bateman's life. The acquisition in 2002 of land on the east side of his house, included the former Geological Gallery, long used as workshop during the time the estate was a hospital (1922–91), provided an opportunity to better understand the connections between Bateman's Millinerian beliefs and the design and purpose of his garden. Recent research work by Pam Wolliscroft, the former Curator of the Spode Museum Trust, has uncovered further links with the world of ceramics and a discovery in the Enville Hall *Plant Book* of 1832–33 has demonstrated just how extensive was Bateman's



*The plate from 'Orchidaceae' depicting Laelia Majalis used on the Spode plate illustrated oveleaf*

## agenda

orchid collecting and dealing at an early age.

The concept of a link between the Millenarian belief of the imminent second coming and the layout of the garden at Biddulph has been the subject of some literary discussion. The geological gallery was a narrow corridor that lay to the north side of the service courtyard, and connected the house with the garden on the east side. Bateman's knowledge of mineralogy is understandable given his family's interests as mine owners.

His father, John Bateman, had an established fossil collection.

The wider interest, as demonstrated by the geological maps in the Gallery, arose from the increasing need to understand geological properties as civil engineering expanded during the industrial revolution.

We know from the diaries of Edward Cooke, James Bateman's friend who helped design the garden and its structures, that they visited the Great Exhibition and it is highly probable that they would have gone on to view the sculptures designed by Benjamin Waterhouse Hawkins at Sydenham. A link exists with sculptures in the garden by Hawkins; the Frog in 'China', the Dragons on the Temple roof and the Ape of Thoth. Bateman would almost certainly have been familiar with the work of William Buckland, Reader in Mineralogy at Oxford just before Bateman went up to Keble College. In 1829 Buckland had been commissioned to write the 9th Bridgewater Treatise entitled 'Geology and Mineralogy considered with reference to Natural Theology'. The illustrations in this book may have been an inspiration for Bateman's layout of his gallery at Biddulph. James Bateman was, as were the majority of his peers, a believer in a doctrine of creation based on the Genesis narrative. However, the advancements in geology were leading to a recognition that much longer time periods were needed to explain the sequences and processes that had created them. Many involved in the advancement of geology as a science such as William Buckland were ordained Doctors of Divinity. Buckland had expounded a theory of

Geology based on a series of cataclysmic events to explain the changes evidenced by sequences of strata. Each geological period was ended by an event that exterminated all living forms and resulted in new series of plants, animals and topography based on new geological strata. In such a world the biblical flood was but one example of a cataclysmic event.

This is in accord with what we know of Bateman's views. He was opposed to the use of hybrids for most of his life believing they were a manual intervention in the divine process. In a lecture to the RHS in 1864 he argued that Plant Hunters, men such as Douglas, Fortune and others had a finite number of plants to discover, "they will find their occupation gone". The situation would only be resolved in Bateman's view by divine intervention.

Brent Elliott in his book *Victorian Gardens* writes '... the garden at

Biddulph Grange, by evoking vanished and alien civilizations, served as an affirmation that the millennium was coming.' However there remains a doubt about Bateman's motives in establishing the gallery and linking it to the layout of the garden. If he really believed a great statement about the approaching millennium and a rebuttal of Darwin's theory was required then why were his views and Biddulph not more closely associated? Kemp in his *Gardeners' Chronicle* article of 1862 makes only a passing comment about the layout of the Gallery being in accordance with the days of Mosaic cosmology. As far as we have been able to ascertain there no other contemporary accounts of the gallery.

In 1837 Bateman had begun to publish *The Orchidaceae of Mexico and Guatemala*, dedicated to Queen Adelaide. As only 125 copies of the edition were published, surviving copies are comparatively rare. Bateman prepared the text, and commissioned leading botanical artists to prepare hand painted illustrations for the book. Most of the orchids depicted had been collected by George Ure Skinner on his behalf. The list of subscribers includes William Taylor Copeland who along with



his associate Thomas Garrett formed the Copeland & Garrett partnership that had taken over the Spode business in 1833. Bateman was already a customer of the firm having commissioned a tea service for his 21st birthday decorated with his own hand drawn illustrations of Knypersley Hall Batman's home until 1840 and other local landmarks. It is more than likely that the Bateman family and Copeland moved in the same circles; Copeland was a director of The North Staffordshire Railway and John Bateman had persuaded the company to build a branch through the Biddulph Valley. It is, therefore, not surprising to find Copeland amongst the list of subscribers. However what had happened to Copeland's edition was unknown until 2006 when archive material was transferred from Spode Ltd to the Spode Museum Trust. Amongst these were lithographs and the remnants of a large book on orchids. The museum's curator was able to identify these as being from *Orchidaceae of Mexico and Guatemala* and thus Copeland's original copy which had clearly been used as a design source by the firm's ceramic artists and engravers. The importance of the find was further reinforced by the discovery of a copper engraving plate with an orchid design taken from the book. A modern reproduction (*left*) was made which is now on display at Biddulph Grange Garden. Whether this was part of a set based on the illustrations and for whom it was made remains a mystery. A further link between Biddulph Grange and the local ceramics industry came to light when a plate (*above*) depicting the south side of the original Bateman's house was brought into Biddulph Grange. It bears a mark



of the Davenport Pottery at Longport dated to 1870–87.

Bateman's early interest in orchid collecting has been well documented. The publication of *Orchidaceae of Mexico and Guatemala* established Bateman's reputation as a leading authority on tropical orchids at a comparatively early age. Bateman, whilst still a student at Oxford, in 1833 had commissioned Thomas Colley to collect orchids for him in British Guiana and in 1834 George Ure Skinner had begun to send him orchids. Therefore the discovery of a list of 'Knypersley Orchidea' from the Enville Hall *Plant Book* of 1832–33, prior to these dates, raises interesting questions about the extent of his orchid collection at an earlier period. There are a total of 149 orchid varieties listed and the plant book also records purchases. Bateman described himself as being "impatient at the tardy rate at which new species crossed the seas" as the reason for dispatching Thomas Colley, implying at least that he was already familiar with introductions prior to that date. There is evidence that Bateman had been cultivating tropical fruits in the Knypersley hot houses prior to his being infected by the "Orchidomania which now pervades all." However this latest discovery suggests that James was collecting and dealing at a much earlier age, he would have been in his late teens, than has hitherto been accepted or his father John Bateman may have been an established collector and James obtained his passion and plants from him.

An exhibition and conference at the Potteries Museum in July will explore this further: [www.stokemuseums.org.uk](http://www.stokemuseums.org.uk) for more details.

## Tracking Down 'The Great Michael'

*Christopher Dingwall*

It was back in August 2010 that I found myself standing with historian Louise Yeoman and

several other interested parties in a ploughed field at Tullibardine, a little to the north of

## agenda



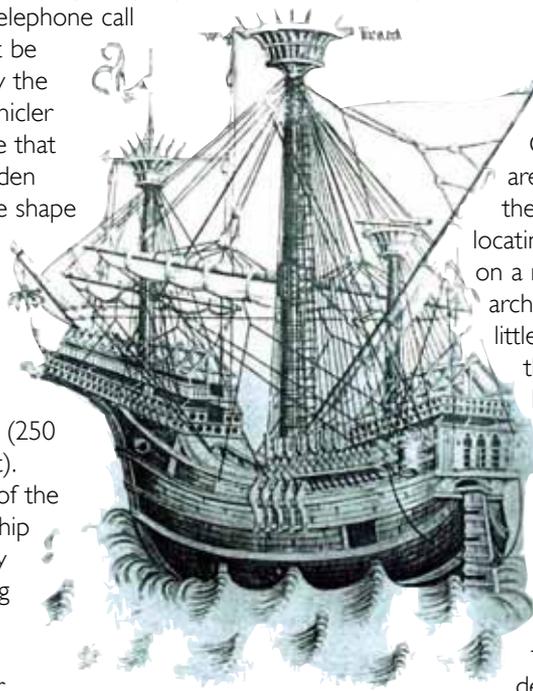
Christopher Dirigwall

Aucherarder, in West Perthshire (*above*). My visit had been prompted by a telephone call asking whether there might be some truth in a tale told by the 16th-century Scottish chronicler Robert Lindsay of Pitscottie that there had once been a garden laid out there in the precise shape and dimensions of a great early 16th-century warship known as the 'Great Michael' (*right*), a feature which, by all accounts, would have measured some 75 metres (250 feet) by 11 metres (35 feet).

Most people have heard of the 'Mary Rose', favourite warship of the England's King Henry VIII, which foundered during the Battle of the Solent in 1545; fewer, perhaps, of the 'Great Michael', built for Henry's Scottish contemporary King James IV, and launched in 1511. Regarded by many as the most successful of the Stewart kings, James had this great ship built as a symbol of power to impress his neighbours and allies, most notably the English and French. However, his reign was to end disastrously at Flodden Field in 1513, when his ill-judged invasion of England, prompted by Scotland's 'auld alliance' with France, resulted in a crushing defeat, and his death along with many members of the Scots nobility.

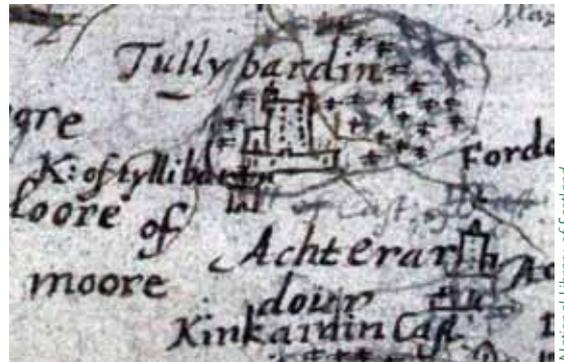
Pitscottie's account, believed by many to be somewhat fanciful, talked of the shape of the Great Michael as having been planted out in hawthorn at Tullibardine Castle by one of the shipwrights

involved in her construction. But why might this have been the case, so far from the sea, and from the shipyard at Newhaven on the Firth of Forth where she was built? The answer is that, with large oak trees required for building a ship of such huge dimensions, timber had to be brought from as far afield as Scandinavia, and from Scotland's inland forests, among them those of Tullibardine and Kincardine, nearby Auchterarder. Not only that, but one of the king's carpenters is known to have been a John Drummond, who hailed from Auchterarder. Finally, there are later accounts which suggest that remnants of the hawthorns survived into the early 19th century.



Although no trace now survives above the ground of the great Murray stronghold of Tullibardine Castle, and although there are no hawthorns to be seen, the party was successful in locating the site of the castle on a ridge, with the help of archaeologist David Connolly. A little to the north-west of this there is an elongated marshy hollow which local folklore identifies as the site of the 'Great Michael' garden.

Viewed from ground level there might seem little prospect of a garden in this position having much visual impact. Yet, if one imagines that the feature was designed to be seen from a viewing platform atop the five or six storey tower house depicted by the 16th-century cartographer Timothy Pont (*below*), the story



National Library of Scotland

begins to make more sense. Hawthorn is likely to have been chosen, because it would withstand regular clipping, to maintain its shape. Comparison might be made with other near-contemporary garden features such as the 'King's Knot' at Stirling, or the P-shaped fishpond at Craigmillar Castle near Edinburgh, both features designed to be seen from elevated viewpoints. Also, with Tullibardine Castle being one of the places which the reigning monarch would have visited in the course of a royal progress through his kingdom, what better way could there be to flatter the king?

In a BBC Radio Scotland programme presented by Susan Morrison, and broadcast in November 2010, all parties were able to reach agreement that, while we could think of few precedents, there seems every likelihood that the garden at Tullibardine was laid out as Pitscottie described it, and that traces of it may have survived into the 19th century, albeit modified by 18th-century landscaping which would have accompanied the re-building of the castle for the Murrays of Tullibardine and Atholl to designs by architect William Adam.

## Discovery of an archive of Edwardian photographs at Hestercombe

by Rebecca Pow

The GHS has had a long and active part in the rediscovery and restoration of Hestercombe gardens near Tauton. As with any accurate restoration project, historic information and research is the key, and Hestercombe prides itself on its endeavours in this respect, with hours spent delving into any sources that might offer clues to the past so that the jigsaw can be pieced together. So when, out of the blue, a unique archive of photographs of Hestercombe taken between 1892 and 1920 came to light, it was considered manna from heaven!

The archive belonged to the Viscount de Vesci, and the photographs were taken by his great uncle. The Viscount's great-grandmother, the Hon Mrs Portman, came to live at Hestercombe following her marriage to the Hon. E.W.B. (Teddy) Portman (right) in 1892 and here she remained until her death in 1951. It was one of Mrs Portman's sons, Ivo, (from her first marriage which left her a widow), who during his many visits to Hestercombe took the enviable collection of photographs.

Viscount de Vesci, however, whilst being aware of his families past association with Hestercombe, had never visited the place. By chance quite recently his interest was aroused when he saw Hestercombe mentioned in the garden trade magazine, *Horticulture Week*. It prompted him to get in touch with Hestercombe to see if his



archive of photographs might be of any interest. Philip White, Chief Executive of the Hestercombe Gardens Trust, couldn't believe his good fortune, "Discovering these photographs was completely over whelming. We've spent hours of research time trying to throw some light onto Edwardian times at Hestercombe and here was a real life snap shot revealing so much more! Suddenly the people who lived here were brought to life: the Portman family, their staff, the model farm that they created, and, amazingly, an almost stone by stone

record of the development of the famous Lutyens garden!"

Securing a grant from the HLF Philip White had the archive of over 250 black and white photographs copied and then commissioned me to incorporate the photographs into a short film charting the Edwardian Era at Hestercombe.

Making the film was a painstaking process. Together with the gardens' archivist Kim Legate we identified the images, and armed with a weighty quantity of background

material that included original articles from the *Somerset County Gazette*, transcripts of interviews with people who had previous connections with Hestercombe, birth, death and marriage details, plans of the model farm, references to the Portmans and Hestercombe found in the diaries and letters of Sir Edwin Lutyens, plus some invaluable articles published in *Country Life*

## agenda



Quarrying on site



Constructing the Great Platt



The finished Great Platt

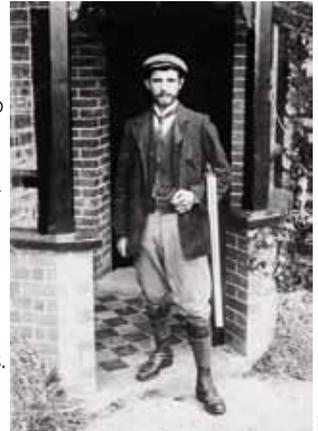
Viscount de Vesci, Hestercombe

magazine from 1906 (featuring the Model Farm) and 1908 (a lavish feature on the finished garden), a story line and film script were developed and the complex cleaning of the images and editing process could begin.

Piecing together the story of Hestercombe during this period was a fascinating challenge. The photographs enabled us to breathe new life into the past in a spine tingling way and provided the backbone for all the other material. The end result is, I hope people will agree, an absorbing nugget of social history.

Now showing in an ingenious new viewing theatre in the tunnel beneath Lutyens' Dutch Garden, the film is proving a great attraction with garden visitors. They meet the 1st Viscount Portman who bought the Estate in 1873 and gave the house an Italianate facelift; next enters Teddy Portman who, together with his wife Constance, was responsible for commissioning Edwin Lutyens to design the formal garden (his only purely garden commission.) Then follows the dramatic transformation of parkland into garden, showing the bold excavations and subsequent hard landscaping using stone blasted from Hestercombe's own quarry (*top left*) and finally the luxurious planting (*top right*).

The state-of-the-art model farm at Hestercombe comes into sharp focus in the film too, including Lord Portman's prize herd of Red Devon cattle (he was renowned for his cattle breeding and showing), and Mrs Portman's treasured Jersey dairy cows. The photographs intriguingly also feature detailed portraits of some of the army of gardeners and staff that once worked at Hestercombe. "Over 70 people were employed on the Hestercombe Estate before World War One, to man the farm, gardens and house," expounds Philip, "and it was really exciting to be able to put faces to the names such as the gamekeeper, Charles Henry Butters (*right*), the carter Albert Rowcliffe and the head gardener, Mr Arnold who managed over 20 under gardeners. We can also see the hierarchy of staff in the house too, from Mrs Portman's lady's maid, to the kitchen staff and even Mr Portman's chauffeur, Fred Humphris. It's fascinating and such a contrast to today."



Viscount de Vesci, Hestercombe

## Wentworth Castle: an Award, Restorations and Conferencing

*Patrick Eyres reports*

During October 2010, the on-going programme of work at Wentworth Castle was complimented by **Restoration of the Century**; this award marks the centenary of Jackson-Stops and Staff, and is a joint initiative with *Country Life* magazine. Of the 100 sites nominated from five regions, fifteen finalists were selected and Wentworth Castle was judged to be the winner of the northern region. The 'certificate' proved to be unique; a watercolour by

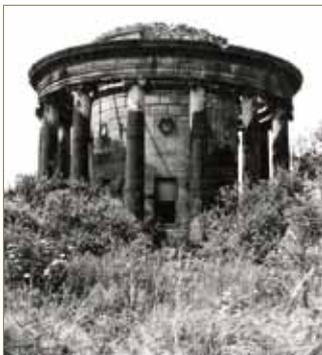
Liam Wales inscribed with the award. The painting's view of the Rotunda was particularly appropriate because the building's restoration had been completed only in July.

The elegant Rotunda was originally completed in 1746 as a parkland 'eye-catcher'. Back in 2004, at the beginning of the Phase I restoration, it was saved from collapse and consolidated. In 2010, through the auspices of English Heritage and

Yorkshire Forward (among others), the Rotunda was re-roofed and the interior's marble floor restored. This was no mean achievement due to the price of lead these days, which meant that, during the course of restoration, thieves stripped it off the cupola not once, but twice. Since then, Yorkshire Forward has been axed along with the other Regional Development Agencies. Yorkshire Forward had consistently provided vital support to Wentworth's on-going restoration programme and thus to the Trust's ability to sustain its role as an employer. I'm sure that Wentworth's experience has been replicated throughout the region.

The next restoration will be, at long last, the Victorian Conservatory. Its present state is ruinous and almost overwhelmed by rhododendrons. So it is hoped that the Stage 2 bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund will be successful and that the building will be returned to a resplendence similar to that shown in the c1900 photograph. Note the kneeling figure just outside the entrance. This is 'The Blackamoor', the only survivor of a number of lead statues installed in the garden c1720, and represents a kneeling African holding a sundial on his head. It was restored earlier this year from a state of woebegone collapse. However, even though it now looks fabulous, it will be stored away until it can take pride of place within the restored Conservatory. This will allow time to find out more about it; any information concerning the whereabouts of other statues of 'The Blackamoor', and what the figure might have signified in an early Georgian garden, would be greatly appreciated.

In August the Trust held its first conference, and the GHS lent its support to the educational aims. Indeed the majority of delegates were GHS members. Many had visited in 2003 just before the restoration started, when the GHS conference had been held at Sheffield University. Over three days, eleven speakers and 85 delegates explored and discussed aspects of political gardening in Britain between c1700–c1760. Set against the backdrop of the political instability generated by the Jacobite attempts to restore the exiled Stuart kings to the British throne, the conference sought to identify the symbolic meanings embedded within the country estates of the Tory, Jacobite and dissident Whig landowners who formed the parliamentary opposition to the mainstream Whig governments



Wentworth's Rotunda in c1960 and restored



Wentworth's Conservatory c1910 and 'The Blackamoor'

that managed Britain on behalf of the Hanoverian Kings George I & II. While the academic sessions took place in the library of the mansion's Palladian wing (c1760), the afternoons were busy with tours of the mansion, gardens and park. Dining occurred in the Baroque wing (c1710) and delegates feasted on 18th-century cuisine prepared deliciously in a 21st-century manner. The profusion of floral displays also allowed the sense of smell to feast on the scent of flowers that filled the mansion throughout the weekend.

The conference proved to be such an outstanding success that another is being considered. In the meantime, as the speakers brought so much new material into the public domain, the Trust is seeking funds to publish the papers.



## agenda

# Eruption illuminates Wörlitz Park, Germany

*Tess Canfield reports back*

On 21 and 22 August, 2010, the volcano on the Stone Island, in the beautiful English style Wörlitz Park, erupted in columns of smoke, sheets of flame and cascades of 'lava'. The Villa Hamilton, perched on the side of the volcano, was unscathed. In celebration of 10 years on the UNESCO World Heritage List, two Gala Evenings were orchestrated by the Kulturstiftung Dessau Wörlitz.



*Carl Kuntz, 'Der Stein zu Wörlitz' (c1796)*

In 1788, Prince Leopold III Fredrich Franz, of Anhalt Dessau (1740–1817), began construction of the Stone Island, the largest ornament in his extensive English-inspired landscape gardens. It eventually encompassed the volcano, an amphitheatre carved from the rim of an ancient 'crater', Roman Baths, a Temple of the Day, and a Temple of the Night. In tribute to his friend Sir William Hamilton, the famous diplomat and volcanologist, the exquisite Villa Hamilton was erected on the shoulder of the volcanic cone; the work was complete by 1796.

The evening of the 21 August was a perfect reprise of summer, enhanced by a strolling Dixieland jazz band. At about 4:30 the 'Fortunate' who had managed to get tickets assembled at the boat landing on the lake, where they were served champagne with a fresh blackberry. After a suitable interval, the visitors, in groups of twelve, were escorted onto the twenty 'gondolas' that ply the lake and waterways of Wörlitz; the tickets had all gone in January, but I got one as a result of intense string-pulling, and, by a miracle, my friends who had come to watch from the bank were offered two last-second returns, amazing. Each gondola

was equipped with a long table down the centre, laid with flowers and cutlery for a five-course meal with four wines. We proceeded in a splendid procession, equipped with wine and the first course. Bread and wine were lowered in baskets from the many decorative bridges we passed under; one a scale model of the Ironbridge at Ironbridge Gorge. The main course, veal chop with a fancy pile of vegetables, was delivered from the lakeside in a big insulated box, and quickly served by a waitress, who hopped off taking the box with her at a brief stop. Loud volcanic rumblings could be heard as we were rowed gently down narrow waterways decorated with temples of various sorts. Puffs of dark smoke wafted past. A poet read from the banks, while costumed ladies dropped rose petals from bridges.

After an hour or so, we entered the main part of the lake. We disembarked onto the Stone Island, and assembled in the amphitheatre for a musical performance of 'Venus and Adonis', by four excellent women dressed in black. An hour and a half later, in dwindling light, we rejoined our gondolas, where dessert and two dessert wines, were waiting. We were rowed into volcano viewing position for the main event of the evening.



*Tess Canfield*

As the sun set, the moon rose just to the right of the Vesuvius, which proceeded to smoke with great intensity, and rumble even louder. The banks of the lake were lined with at least a thousand volcano enthusiasts. Soon fire began to shoot from the cone, and flows of 'lava' coursed down its sides. The eruption increased, decreased and increased again, illuminated wonderfully by the

nearly full moon. The evening ended too soon, at about 9.30. Without aerial fireworks, or musical accompaniment, the eruption was as much like the 18th century as possible, and absolutely magical. The next night was a repeat performance, but late in the evening there was a sudden violent

storm, which curtailed the eruption and caused the fire department to assist some of the gondola occupants in a muddy climb onto the lakeshore. Previously, the volcano erupted in September of 2005 to celebrate completion of the extensive and costly restoration of Europe's only artificial volcano.

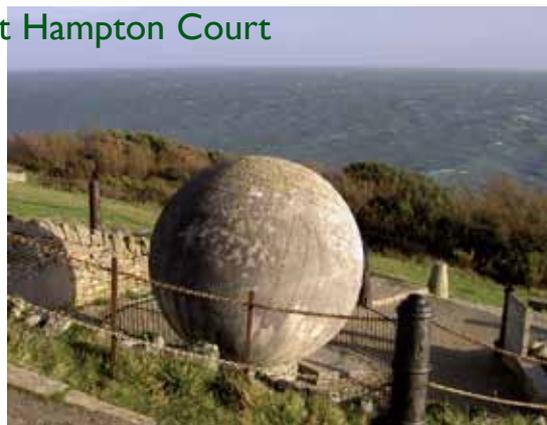
## 'Ecology and the Designed Landscape' at Hampton Court

13 November 2010, report by Hazel Conway

The debate on the protection of the natural environment and the conservation and preservation of historic landscapes has a long track record. This conference, held in association with Historic Royal Palaces, provided the opportunity to learn about some recent cases, the issues posed by local authority and other landowners' regarding sustainability, climate change, ecology, biodiversity and the significance of the term 'native species'.

To the public in general every tree is good and the prospect of mature trees being felled for whatever reason can lead to violent reactions. Many years ago the plan to open up Repton's vistas on an historic landscape in north London, involved cutting down some Turkey oaks (*Quercus cerris*), while retaining English oaks (*Q. robur* and *Q. petraea*). This led to accusations in the local newspaper of ethnic cleansing! The proposals to implement the Thames Landscape Strategy involved opening up the views from the 18th-century houses to the Thames. Each proposal for each vista was discussed in detail with the local community and once the reasons for such a strategy were clear there were no problems. The restored Arcadian river landscape between Richmond and Kingston, has received international acclaim.

While trees can evoke deep feelings I doubt if similar feelings are inspired by brambles. Yet without management great swathes of landscape would be colonised by them. Jonathan Lovie, GHS chief conservation officer, introduced the conference with some examples from current casework many of which concerned views, or rather their obstruction. These included Durlston Castle, Swanage (Grade II), a late 19th-century didactic landscape laid out by George Burt, with public walks, gardens, a globe, texts on plaques and a coastal walk with views of the Isle of Wight. These views, key elements of the landscape, have become overgrown and blocked by scrub, and need to



Jonathan Lovie

### Durlston's Great Globe and invasive scrub

be revealed. The owners, Dorset County Council and the District Council, have put a blanket TPO (Tree Preservation Order) on the whole site. This means that no trees or shrubs can be cut down, and the views cannot now be revealed. The site has been poorly managed for many years, and there is no understanding of its historic significance. According to one speaker, the obduracy of the Durlston situation requires positive guidance from the government, since ecology dominates and controls English legislation, thus putting designed landscapes at a severe disadvantage. Others argued for the need for dispute resolution to unblock the Durlston question, we wait to see how the current Lottery funded restoration turns out.



Jonathan Lovie

Trees planted in the wrong position can have a most detrimental effect. At the Vyne (above),

## agenda

Hampshire (Grade II) a large tree planted in front of the house, obscures the immediate view (well perhaps not now, looking at the recent picture). At Newark Park, Glos (Grade II), a post World War Two plantation blocks the immediate view from the house and instead of fencing, new hedges have been planted to provide a bat corridor. These successfully obscure the long views.

### Wind Farms

The Government incentives promoting renewable energy schemes and their effects on historic landscapes were spelled out in *GHS micro-news 84a*, Winter 2009, and in English Heritage's guidance on *Wind Farms and the Historic Environment*, 2009. At the conference it was clear that the impact of wind generators on historic sites continues to cause serious concern. On a more positive note Chris Mayes of Natural England is undertaking post-graduate research at Bath University on 'Wind Energy and the Historic Environment'. Developing rigorous methodologies by which to calculate the impact on historic landscapes of wind generators, at varying distances is becoming an increasingly urgent issue.

### Water restoration

Croome Park, Worcs (Grade I), was 'Capability' Brown's first landscape commission from the Earl of Coventry. Since its creation water levels and quality have changed as the impact of the noise from the M5 has increased. The challenge faced by the hydrologist Nick Haycock was how to recreate Brown's core vision while at the same time mitigating the impact of people, dogs and the effects from the surrounding agriculture whose runoff is high in nitrates.

### Native species



Nigel Temple/GHS Collection

Liz Whittle, Inspector of Historic Gardens in Wales, drew attention to Stanage Park (Grade I) Repton's third Welsh landscape (*above* a view

from Peacock's *Polite Repository*, September 1805), now likely to be towered over by a wind farm located on a 100m high hill. Stackpole Court in Pembrokeshire dates from the 1790s and here the National Trusts' emphasis is on nature conservation, while the historic environment is ignored. Dynevor/Dinefwr in the Wye Valley (SSSI and AONB) features a dramatic Giant's Cave and a designed landscape. The historic beech clumps require restoration, however beech is not seen as native to Wales and is therefore not permitted, despite the historic evidence of its original planting. Another factor of concern in Wales is the effect of climate change and the evidence of increased flooding every other year in the Conwy valley and elsewhere.

To the 'new puritans' of the biodiversity movement native species of trees and plants are good because they provide the best habitats for the widest variety of native wildlife, this can include vertebrates and insects as well as fungi and moulds. The starting date for British native trees is generally agreed to be the end of the last Ice Age. However many books disagree about which particular tree species should be included, the number varying between 30 and over 40 species. It was TRE Southwood's study of the variety of insects found in different tree species, including natives and non-natives that has been the basis of much subsequent research. Research at Sheffield University on 'Biodiversity in Urban Gardens in Sheffield' (BUGS) is now questioning this, and revealing a very different scenario. This research on urban gardens both large and small was presented by James Hitchmough, Professor of Horticultural Ecology, confirming that their ecology is more diverse than that of rainforests. Further studies have shown that important factors in promoting biodiversity are large surface areas of leaves and spatial complexity, but the role of native plants is not important. Research has also shown that other areas rich in biodiversity include car parks, swales and wetland.

The promotion of green energy sources and the preservation of natural habitats are extremely important issues and legislation supports them both. What stood out clearly from this conference is that many proposals are severely detrimental to our historic landscapes and their historic significance needs to be taken much more seriously, by developers, local authorities and the government.



Vivien Caplin, self portrait-detail

### Vivien Caplin

Vivien Caplin, who died on 30 December 2010, was a stalwart and longstanding member of the Garden History Society. Always so full of enthusiasm with hands on involvement in so many of the activities of the Society, she could

also surprise people with her wide range of knowledge, often into curious corners of which one might otherwise have known nothing, until she enlightened you!

A regular at GHS Summer Conferences, including the most recent at Nottingham, Vivien also supported the Winter Lecture Series and Garden History Study Weekends at Rewley House.

She remained active and optimistic right to the end of her life. She evoked admiration and affection in her many friends, and will be missed by many GHS members.

She has left her collection of garden history related books to the Society for its library.

*Meg Hardie*

### Alix Wilkinson

Many members will be saddened to hear of the sudden and unexpected death of Dr Alix Wilkinson on 28 January 2011. We will publish a full appreciation in our next issue, and her final article will be published in our upcoming Summer Journal. If you have memories about Alix that you would like to share, please send them to the **news** editor, at the address on the back page.

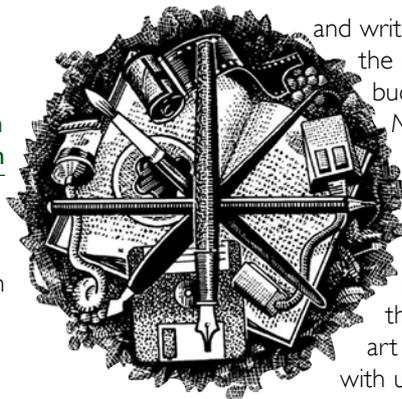
## other events

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

**30 Years of the New Arcadian Journal**  
Display of Journals, Broadsheets and Drawings  
The Stanley & Audrey Burton Gallery, Leeds  
10am to 5pm, Monday to Saturday, until 19 March  
Preview: 6 to 8pm, Friday 11 March, drinks 6.30pm

The Preview coincides with the annual **Contemporary Artists Book Fair**, Parkinson Court, University of Leeds, 11 & 12 March (11am to 6pm). Visit Patrick Eyres (editor-publisher) at the **New Arcadian Press** stall and enjoy perusing the *New Arcadian Journals*; join Patrick for a glass, or two, of wine with the artists Catherine Aldred, Chris Broughton, Howard Eaglestone and Andrew Naylor.

Chris Broughton designed the familiar pressmark (right) to visualise the co-participation of artists



and writers that sustains the creative and bucolic spirit of the *NAJ*.

The limited edition, Leeds-based *NAJ* is a unique, fine press publication that combines art and scholarship with unfussy design.

By championing the study of political gardening, and by promoting restoration of place and meaning, the *NAJ* has shed new light on historical landscapes as well as contemporary artists' gardens (notably Little Sparta).

## other events

### **Foreign Trends on American Soil**

Symposium at the University of Pennsylvania  
Friday 18 and Saturday 19 March

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This symposium will be a forum for the discussion of the American tradition of garden and landscape design based on the interpretation and adaptation of trends imported into the United States from the eighteenth century until today.

### **History of Gardens and Landscapes at the Institute of Historical Research, London**

These **free** seminars are open to all who are interested in the history behind the landscape; we meet in the Wolfson Room in the Institute of Historical Research. Please check on the IHR website beforehand. Do join us for a meal afterwards if you've time.

#### ***Leberecht Migge and the 'Green Revolution' in Weimar Germany***

**Dr David Haney**, University of Kent  
5.30pm, Friday 11 March

#### ***The development of street planting in the later 19th and early 20th centuries***

**Dr Hazel Conway**, GHS  
5.30pm, Friday 25 March

### **Summer term**

#### ***Gardens of London's Strand 'Palaces' in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries***

**Dr Paula Henderson**, the Courtauld Institute  
5.30pm, Friday 13 May

#### ***Dr Faustus and the Aztecs: Magic, Lust and Knowledge in the sixteenth century***

**Dr David Marsh**  
5.30pm, Friday 27 May

#### ***Botanical artisans: apothecaries and the study of nature in Venice, 1550–1630***

**Dr Valentina Pugliano**, University of Oxford  
5.30pm, Friday 10 June

#### ***Embassy and English gardens in the seventeenth century: diplomatic contributions to gardening***

**Pippa Potts**, the Courtauld Institute  
5.30pm, Friday 24 June

Contact: Dr Janet Waymark, Institute of Historical Research: [janetwaymark@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:janetwaymark@yahoo.co.uk)



Questions addressed by the forum will include the American reception of foreign design practices and theories, whether imported from the West, as in the case of the Italian Renaissance garden, or from the East, as in the case of the Japanese-style garden. We will also focus on the American reaction to the application of foreign ideas on native soil. Participants will engage in cross-cultural comparisons and consider the cultural, social, and economic aspects that allow for the identification of a particular garden 'style' with a geographic and political entity, and how the forms of a local tradition, when transposed into a new territory, take on new sets of values and are expressive of new ideals.

Speakers include **John Dixon Hunt**, **Raffaella Fabiani Giannetto** and **Lance Neckar**.

For more details and to register, contact Stephanie Kao: [stephkao@design.upenn.edu](mailto:stephkao@design.upenn.edu) or see [www.design.upenn.edu/landscape-architecture/foreign-trends-american-soil-symposium](http://www.design.upenn.edu/landscape-architecture/foreign-trends-american-soil-symposium)

### **Visit to Strawberry Hill London Parks & Gardens Trust Tuesday 10 May**

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A guided visit to the house, followed by a tour of the newly restored gardens led by **Chris Sumner**, who has been closely associated with the work. After lunch there will be visits to other venues in the area: Radnor Park, Orleans House or York House.

For cost & further details contact Katy Myers: 0208 340 7623 or email: [katherine.myers73@gmail.com](mailto:katherine.myers73@gmail.com)

### **Designing with water: new work in garden history Day Conference at Faculty of Law, Cambridge 10am, Saturday 21 May**

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Chaired by **Prof. Tom Williamson**, speakers are: **Dr Elisabeth Whittle** on *Innovation in the use of*

## Talks at the Garden Museum

*The Painter and the Garden*

Christopher Woodward

6 for 7pm, Thursday 10 March

VISTA discussion

with Dan Hinkley

6 for 7pm, Wednesday 16 March

*Bringing back wildflowers: It's time to get serious!*

Charles Flower

6 for 7pm, Thursday 17 March

*Making Wildflower Meadows*

Pam Lewis

12pm for 12.30pm, Monday 21 March

*What are 'natural' landscapes?*

Tim Dee

Wednesday 6 April, 6 for 7pm

VISTA discussion

with George Carter

6 for 7pm, Tuesday 12 April

Cost: £15, Museum Friends: £10; the two VISTA discussion events: £10, Museum Friends: £5. Please book in advance: 020 7401 8865 or email: [gardenmuseum.eventbrite.com](mailto:gardenmuseum.eventbrite.com) For full details see: [www.gardenmuseum.org.uk/events/](http://www.gardenmuseum.org.uk/events/)

*water in 16th and early 17th century gardens in Britain*; Prof. Timothy Mowl on *Fishing, philandering and philosophical contemplation: discoveries in the English landscape*; Dr Caroline Dalton on 'The disposition of the Water and Canal will be exceeding fine': *water in the early eighteenth-century designed landscape*; Dr Diane Barr on *Ornamental water in Staffordshire's designed landscapes 1500–1800*; Anne Rowe on *Hertfordshire's lost water gardens c1500–1750*.

Cost: £39, payable to 'University of Cambridge'. Venue: Room LG17, 10 West Road, Cambridge CB3 9DZ. Contact Dr Susan Oosthuizen: 0758 3151 685 or email: [smo23@cam.ac.uk](mailto:smo23@cam.ac.uk)

## Herb Festival

at the Garden Museum, London

Saturday 4 & Sunday 5 June

The Herb Society and Garden Museum join forces for a feast of herbs and herb-related exhibits.

Admission: £6 or £5 (concessions),

## Open Garden Squares Weekend

organised by the London Parks and Gardens Trust  
Saturday 11 & Sunday 12 June

For further information on participating gardens, ticket prices and opening hours: [www.opensquares.org](http://www.opensquares.org)

## Gardens and Gardening in Early Modern England

Colloquium & Call For Papers (closes 15 March)  
University of Birmingham  
Saturday 18 June

The Centre for Reformation and Early Modern Studies at University of Birmingham in conjunction with the Early Modern Gardens Research Network at Trinity College Dublin welcome Dr Paula Henderson, author of *Tudor House and Garden* (2005) as our keynote speaker. Also Dr Diane Barre on *Ornamental water in early modern Staffordshire gardens* and Dr David Marsh on *Gardens and gardeners of Stuart London*. Other speakers are yet to be confirmed, but we also expect to include a talk on the recent recreation of the Elizabethan gardens at Kenilworth Castle.

A part of the day will be a panel (maximum of four) of short postgraduate papers on this subject, and as such we would welcome proposals from postgraduates whose research addresses the theme of the colloquium. We welcome submissions on any related subject such as who was gardening in early modern England, why were they gardening, how were they gardening and where they were gardening, as well as papers that address the difficulties and methodologies of researching this inherently ephemeral subject.

Please send proposals of no more than 200 words for a 20-minute paper to Jill Francis: [jfr430@bham.co.uk](mailto:jfr430@bham.co.uk) by 15 March. Further details will be posted nearer the time on: [www.crems.bham.ac.uk](http://www.crems.bham.ac.uk). For more information contact Jill Francis as above.

## A Celebration of Thomas Wright (1711–1786): Eighteenth-century Polymath

Institute for Garden and Landscape History one-day conference at the University of Bristol  
9.30am, Saturday 25 June

Thomas Wright was born into a yeoman's family on 9 September 1711 at Peg's Pool, Byers Green near Bishop Auckland. Details recorded in the

## other events

Journal of his early years trace the education and apprenticeships that nurtured his lifelong interest in theology, astronomy, natural history, philosophy and literature. These gave him the opportunity to develop considerable skills in surveying, draughtsmanship and mathematical calculations.

This polymathic perspective permeates Wright's body of work and the qualities of his landscapes led George Mason to accord Wright the title 'Professor of Gardening'. The conference will seek to unravel some of the threads in the web woven by this complex and gifted man. As part of the celebration of Wright's tercentenary, the Institute will be organising a series of field visits to **Shugborough, Hampton Court House and Horton Park** in July, August and September respectively, which will make sense of how Wright was driven by an obsession to create his earthly vision of Paradise: 'Elysian Fields, Pindaric Shades and a Myriad Enchanting Mansions'.

Contributors include: **Sir Arnold Wolfendale, Prof. James Stevens Curl, Dr John Olley, Dr Sue Wilson, Jezzar Giray, Joe Hawkins, Judy Preston** and will be chaired by **Professor Tim Mowl**.

To express your interest and informally indicate your intention to participate please contact Judy Preston: [jp4653@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:jp4653@bristol.ac.uk) or see: [www.gardenhistoryinstitute.co.uk/events.html](http://www.gardenhistoryinstitute.co.uk/events.html)

### **Stanley Spencer and the English garden** Compton Verney, Warwickshire Saturday 25 June to Sunday 2 October

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This exhibition focuses on a crucial, but hitherto ignored, aspect of Spencer's work: his gorgeous garden views and landscapes. Its central theme is as relevant today as it was in interwar Britain: the increasing development of the countryside, and the ensuing confrontation between the natural environment and man-made structures.

See below for visitor information.

### **'Capability' Brown and the landscapes of middle England** Compton Verney, Warwickshire Saturday 25 June to Sunday 2 October

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This is the first-ever exhibition focusing on the work of the internationally renowned landscape designer 'Capability' Brown (1716-83) in the Midlands. Through themes and case studies,

including an analysis of Compton Verney's own parkland, the exhibition shows how improvements in guns and carriage technology were just as important as neoclassical mythology in creating mid-Georgian landscapes – landscapes that pretended to be 'natural', but were in reality just as artificial as the formal gardens they replaced.

See details of our 6 August Study Day on p9.

Both exhibitions are at Compton Verney, Warwickshire, V35 9HZ. Cost: £11.80, concessions: £9.50, closed Mondays.

### **Garden Party** London Parks & Gardens Trust Wednesday 29 June

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At the Garden Museum, Lambeth Palace Road, London SE1 7LB.

For cost & further details contact Katy Myers: 0208 340 7623 or email: [katherine.myers73@gmail.com](mailto:katherine.myers73@gmail.com)

### **Presentation of LPGT research** at The Gallery, 70 Cowcross Street 6.30 to 8.30pm, Thursday 14 July

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Presentation of Trust Research into London parks and gardens, to be held at The Gallery, 70 Cowcross Street, London EC1M 6EJ.

Admission free. Contact Katy Myers: 0208 340 7623 or email: [katherine.myers73@gmail.com](mailto:katherine.myers73@gmail.com)

### **The Runnymede Memorials** Mausolea and Monuments Trust Tour led by Gavin Stamp 2pm, Sunday, 17 July

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Starting with Sir John Denham's monument in Egham Church, and moving on to the John F Kennedy Memorial at Runnymede by Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe and others along the Thames-side meadow, honouring the signing of the Magna Carta, and the RAF Memorial to the Missing on Cooper's Hill by Sir Edward Maufe

The tour will commence at 2pm at the entrance to St John's Church, Egham. £10 members; £15 non-members. Book online: [mausolea@btconnect.com](mailto:mausolea@btconnect.com) and send your cheque for the required number of tickets made out to The Mausolea and Monuments Trust to The Secretary, Mausolea and Monuments Trust, 70 Cowcross Street, London EC1M 6EJ

## **The Rescue of the Georgian Garden** Ashridge Garden History Summer School with the National Trust and the Georgian Group Friday 5 to Wednesday 10 August

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The seventeenth annual Garden History Summer School to be held at Ashridge will have a programme that will consider Georgian gardens with a particular emphasis on the work undertaken in many of the gardens to rescue them from decay and decline and restore them to their former glory.

Through a series of lectures and garden visits the summer school will consider the development of Georgian style in gardens. Lecturers will include a group of conservation architects, historians and garden owners and managers that have been closely involved with the restoration work undertaken in the gardens we plan to visit. There will be an overnight stay away from Ashridge.

Proposed garden visits will include a selection from **Hartwell House, Wotton House** (Bucks), **Croome Park, Ashridge House**, Park and gardens, **Claremont, Painshill Park, Hestercombe** (see p25) and **Prior Park**.

Cost: £865 (residential), others on application. Please contact Sally Rouse on: 01442 841 179 or email: [sally.rouse@ashridge.org.uk](mailto:sally.rouse@ashridge.org.uk)

## **Pineapples and Pineries: a very British Craze**

Seminar at Hartwell House Hotel, Aylesbury  
10am, Saturday 13 August

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The Bucks Gardens Trust is holding another in its popular series of Hartwell Seminars, on the Eighteenth-Century Pinery, its Structure and Cultivating Pineapples. Eric Throssell's research into the now-demolished Richard Woods 1760s pinery at Hartwell is the prompt for this event.

We invite short (20-minute) contributions from those with knowledge of particular Pineries as a short presentation. We welcome all those interested in this rather esoteric, but nonetheless mouthwatering, subject of housing and growing the King's Fruit in the reigns of the first three Georges.

We hope to disseminate the knowledge of this rather esoteric subject and will publish illustrated proceedings in similar



format to our recent and well-received *Gibbs in the Garden*.

The cost is £70 for the day including morning coffee and a buffet lunch. Address applications for attendance, and to offer a summary of contributions to Rosemary Jury: 01296 715 491 or:

[events@bucks-garden-trust.org.uk](mailto:events@bucks-garden-trust.org.uk)

## **Power Gardening: Dukes & Generals in Early 18th-Century Oxfordshire** Annual Conference of the Association of Gardens Trusts at Worcester College, Oxford & Blenheim Palace Friday 2 to Sunday 4 September

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Based at Oxford's Worcester College, we will examine the development of four great gardens in Oxfordshire in the early 1700s: **Blenheim, Heythrop, Rousham** and **Shotover**. There will be visits to each of these with expert guides, highlighting links between their creators (including two Dukes and two Generals). These gardens illustrate the transition in landscape gardening from rigidly imposed geometry to 'Arcadian' informality.

Cost: £360 (residential), others on application. Organised by Oxfordshire Gardens Trust, contact: The Conference Organiser, 27 Ditchley Road, Charlbury, Oxford, OX7 3QS, email: [info@oxconf.co.uk](mailto:info@oxconf.co.uk) or phone: 01608 811 818

## **The Historical Aspects of Pears** Conference at RHS Harlow Carr, Yorkshire Wednesday 16 & Thursday 17 November

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The program includes: **Joan Morgan** on *Pear culture in Europe; historical aspects from the medieval period onwards with comment on the change over to French and Belgium varieties in the 17 & 18 centuries*; **Jim Arbury** on *History of pear culturing in the UK; with emphasis on varietal characteristics & fashion changes in varietal and cultivation practises*; **Peter Briers** on *Culinary, medicinal and other utilitarian aspects* (samples to taste!); **Crispin Hayes** on *Pears in Scotland and the 'Auld Alliance'*; **Jim Chapman** on *Pears and Perry*.

Contact Peter Robinson for further details and booking forms, phone: 01423 520 365 or email: [lyndarobinson@toucansurf.com](mailto:lyndarobinson@toucansurf.com)

*Our gardeners are taken from one of Nebot's 1738 paintings of the gardens at Hartwell House (see p13).*



## Major accessions to repositories in 2009 relating to Gardening

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This should have appeared in our last edition. For more see: [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/accessions/](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/accessions/)

### Local collections

#### Cornwall Record Office

Camborne Produce Association: minutes, allotment rent ledgers 1917–89 (X1334)

#### Devon Record Office

Lilian Mey Cronne, diarist: weather and gardening diaries 1977–99 (7590)

#### Dorset History Centre

Bothenhampton and District Horticultural Society: minutes and accounts 1976–2008 (D.2203)

#### East Sussex Record Office

Saltdean Horticultural Society: minutes, corresp and programmes 1988–2008 (10125)

#### Essex Record Office

Dedham Horticultural Society: minutes 1977–95 (D/Z 549)

Hill Road Allotment Group, Chelmsford: minutes 1986–99 (D/Z 555)

#### Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies

Mid-Hertfordshire Floral Arrangement Association: additional records, incl minutes, corresp, visitors' book, book of income, book of expenditure and scrapbooks 1965–2009 (Acc 4631)

Stevenage Allotments and Gardeners Association: records, incl association and show accounts and card indexes of extinguished tenancies and notices to quit plots c1947–2000 (Acc 4690)

#### Highland Archives: Lochaber Archive Centre

Lochaber Horticultural Society: minute and account book 1906–13 (L/D44)

#### North Yorkshire County Record Office

Northallerton Horticultural Society: minutes 1992–2008 (Z.1313)

#### Surrey History Centre

Wimbledon Borough: additional records incl registers, surveyors' wage accounts, minutes of Technical Instruction, Lighting and Allotments Committees 1852–1938 (8514)

#### Warwickshire County Record Office

National Council for the Conservation of Plants and Gardens, Warwickshire Group: minutes, corresp, newsletters, accounts, photographs 1983–2009 (CR 4266)

### University collections

#### Reading University: Museum of English Rural Life

Unnamed researcher into market gardening: research notes, research paper and news cuttings c1930–39 (D DX 1882)

#### Suttons Seeds Ltd, seed merchants, Reading:

additional records incl trial books c1873–1989 (TR DX 1815, 1816, 1887)

## EH's National Monuments Record online archive goes live

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From now on everyone will have online access to more than a million historical photographs and documents relating to England's historic buildings and archaeological sites, held by the National Monuments Record (NMR), English Heritage's public archive. Images, plans, drawings, reports and publications covering England's archaeology, architecture, social and local history, are held on a database at [www.englishheritagearchives.org.uk](http://www.englishheritagearchives.org.uk)

Until now, these searches had to be done in person at the NMR's public search rooms in Swindon. Using a range of search terms, users can discover whether English Heritage holds any items in its archive relevant to the topic they are interested in, mainly photos, but also including maps, plans or reports. Users can even search for a type of building, or for an exact address. Each catalogue item consists of a description and users can place orders online.

Registration is free, but users will be charged for the documents they order (price varies). Alternatively, users can contact Enquiry and Research Service: 01793 414 600 or email: [nmrinfo@english-heritage.org.uk](mailto:nmrinfo@english-heritage.org.uk) to place an order or ask for help.

## Pride of Penshurst Carnation

### Viscount De L'Isle writes:

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As is so often the case plants go out of fashion. One such example is the 'Pride of Penshurst' Carnation. 'Pride of Penshurst' was a yellow Malmaison border carnation, created by Frederick Bridger, Head Gardener at Penshurst Place in the early 1800's. It was in the original double Herbaceous Border at Penshurst Place, which is in the final phase of a major restoration



George Carter

and redesign by the Chelsea Gold Medallist George Carter, this spring (*above*). Mentioned as noteworthy by Gertrude Jekyll, it won 12th prize at the Melbourne flower show in 1904. I regularly wonder, for the continuity of our garden's history, if anyone has a specimen still growing, so we could re-introduce an example back here.

Contact: [enquiries@penshurstplace.com](mailto:enquiries@penshurstplace.com)

### **A Society for Garden Archaeology**

**Kathryn Gleason writes:**

The Society for Garden Archaeology's mission is to serve as a center for an emerging global community of scholars devoted to the archaeological investigation of gardens and designed landscapes. In doing so, the Society for Garden Archaeology seeks to disseminate current research across geographic and cultural boundaries. The Society for Garden Archaeology shall further the study of gardens and designed natural environments, and will broaden the scope and methods that archaeology brings to the understanding of past cultures and human activities. There is going to be a launch of in Paris this spring.

[www.gardenarchaeology.landscape.cornell.edu](http://www.gardenarchaeology.landscape.cornell.edu)

### **London Parks and Gardens Trust**

**Marketing Manager (two days per week)**

The Trust wishes to appoint a manager to lead its marketing and publicity, raise the Trust's profile, secure sponsorship and organise its major annual event Open Garden Squares Weekend (OGSW) in June. You will support and co-ordinate marketing and publicity for all the Trust's activities: education, publications, research, conservation and campaigning. Often you will be the Trust's

spokesperson, to the media and at events.

The post reports to the Trustee responsible for marketing and membership, is a permanent appointment, following six months probationary period, and offers a salary in the region of £37,500 (*pro rata*), subject to relevant skills and experience.

For full details of the post:

[www.londongardenstrust.org/marketingmanager](http://www.londongardenstrust.org/marketingmanager)

Applications by email only, outlining why you are suitable for this post and attaching a current cv: [chair@londongardenstrust.org](mailto:chair@londongardenstrust.org). Deadline for receipt of applications 5pm on 6 April. Interviews will be in the first week of May.

### **Wildside Nursery, Buckland Monachoram** **Letitia Yetman writes:**

The recent TV series *The Landscape Man* with Matthew Wilson featured Keith Wiley and his artist wife Ros developing their ambitious plans for their new four-acre nursery garden in Devon. Keith was previously head gardener at The Garden House nearby, where he developed acclaimed naturalistic and prairie planting schemes, taking inspiration from the wild. The project is still very much a work in progress but is it taking shape nicely, creating a riot of colour and interest in the Devon countryside. Those who saw Keith struggling with his digger in the unrelenting winter rains and Ros racing to plant up and clear weeds on the TV will be pleased to hear that this inspirational modern garden is now very much worth a visit and should be increasingly interesting in years to come...

Thursdays and Saturdays only (10am to 5pm) April to the end of July. Also Thursdays only (10am to 5pm) in September. In addition there are 2 charity open days on Sundays 3 & 10 July. Admission £4.50

### **MA Garden History at the Institute of Historical Research**

**Dr Janet Waymark writes**

After two university committee meetings last term, the application for an MA in garden history to be taught at the IHR were turned down. The Director of the IHR, Professor Miles Taylor, made a very positive case for the course, and it was regarded as well up to the high academic standard required. However, the financial situation has worsened, and the IHR is now having to shut down MA courses

for the present. We are all very sad to see the last of the courses devoted to the research of historical gardens which have been invaluable for conservation purposes. Perhaps the GHS could give some thought to this in the coming year.

## **The Marsh Award for Excellence in Public Sculpture 2011**

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The Marsh Christian Trust and the PMSA invite nominations for the Marsh Award for Excellence in Public Sculpture 2011 by 30 April. The £1,750 award can be won outright or shared, by a newly commissioned public sculpture\* or restoration; unveiled or completed since 30 October 2009.

For more details: [www.pmsa.org.uk](http://www.pmsa.org.uk)



Memorial to 158 Squadron by Peter W. Naylor, at Lissett, East Yorkshire. Winner of the Award in 2010

The dramatic backdrop for this memorial is a 12-turbine windfarm; huge propeller blades now sweep the air again. Ironically and yet fittingly, the turbines are manufactured in Germany, from the very areas that 158 Squadron devastated in 1945.

## **The English Gardening School** Rosemary Alexander writes:

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EGS is now very settled in its new location in 15 Lots Road, Chelsea, London SW10 0QJ and offering several new courses: [www.EnglishGardeningSchool.co.uk](http://www.EnglishGardeningSchool.co.uk) for more information.

I am also having a series of Open Days at my home, Sandhill Farm House. The gardens are open for the NGS from 2 to 5pm on Saturday 2 & Sunday 3 April, Saturday 4 & Sunday 5 June, Saturday 24 & Sunday 25 September. Cost: £3.50

## **Watch that space: Stonehenge**

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Back in November the HLF finally announced a £10m investment for Stonehenge. HLF's grant "will support work to remove the existing visitor facilities allowing the experience of the stones to be more naturally integrated with its ancient processional approach and the surrounding landscape. These much-needed wider improvements will give people the chance to explore what the site would have been like thousands of years ago. The project aims to improve the visitor experience, including the creation of a new carefully designed visitor centre which will include education and exhibition spaces to help people learn more about Stonehenge's history. The project will also support training opportunities and a new volunteering programme."

Fiona Reynolds, Director-General of the National Trust, said: "The grant from the HLF gives this important project a major boost. Stonehenge is one of the nation's most precious ancient monuments but the current facilities for visitors are woefully lacking. We're delighted by HLF's support and will continue working with English Heritage and other partners in delivering the much-needed improvements to the site."

## **Recent major HLF awards to Parks**

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### **Cwmdonkin Park, Swansea: £820,000**

Described by Dylan Thomas as "a world within the world of the Sea Town", the Park plays a significant role in the surrounding community. Opened in 1874, the park is located within the Ffynone Conservation Area and forms part of the Dylan Thomas trail. The HLF grant will help restore the park's Victorian character including the bowls pavilion, unique cockleshell path and water garden. Volunteering opportunities will be created through the existing Friends Group which will run guided walks and poetry and writing sessions as well as contributing to conservation and gardening work.

### **Duthie Park, Aberdeen: £2.5m**

Duthie Park, home to the David Welch Winter Gardens and one of Scotland's most popular parks, attracts over 500,000 visitors every year. An outstanding example of a late-Victorian park, HLF's grant will help rejuvenate the park by restoring its various ponds and a fountain to full working order; returning the unique mound feature to its original

striking design and the original promenade will be re-established. The active Friends Group will lead community activities designed to get local people and volunteers involved.

### **The Green, Allerdale, Cumbria: £1.2m**

The Green lies between the picturesque North Cumbrian coastline and the Victorian town buildings fronting onto it. HLF/BIG's grant will restore some of The Green's most historic features, including the Victorian Pagoda, the Edwardian toilets and the 1950s Rose Garden built to commemorate Queen Elizabeth's Coronation, as well as a providing a new waterplay and events area. Training will be provided for up to 80 new staff and volunteers in nature conservation, restoration and construction skills and how to effectively lead guided walks.

### **Wandle Park, Croydon, London: £1.9m**

Wandle Park, created in 1890, is one of the oldest parks in Croydon. Over the years, the park has lost many of its original historic features, including the River Wandle, which has lain buried beneath the park since 1967. A priority for the project will be unearthing this river; HLF and BIG's investment will help restore the park's Victorian character by reviving the bandstand, water-fountain, ornamental planting and part of the original boating lake. An extensive activity plan will also be put in place.

## **Grade I Listed Park Fencing?**

**Colin Pool asked (on our website):**

I live in a Grade I listed park (*sic*) and my land is classified as agricultural. I wish to fence about four-acres in order to contain sheep. Does anyone know if I require planning permission to fence? I am proposing to erect a stock proof post and rail.

### **Helen Thomas replied:**

If you are a farmer then 'A farmers guide to the planning system' at [www.defra.gov.uk](http://www.defra.gov.uk) may be useful. In any case you would be best advised to contact the Conservation Officer at your local authority for advice, these things are often not as simple as they may seem and may also, for example involve the setting of listed structures/buildings, the archaeological status of your land, not to mention protected hedgerows etc. and change of use.

Also parks are not 'listed'. They are included on the *English Heritage Register of Historic Parks and Gardens* – and graded I, II\* and II which can give rise to confusion.

## **principal officers**

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**Principal Conservation Officer, England:**

Jonathan Lovie

**Conservation Officers, England:**

John Clark, Linden Groves, Alison Hampshire

**Conservation Officer, Scotland:**

Alison Allighan

**Conservation Casework Manager:**

Linden Groves

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Dr Barbara Simms

**Editor **GHS NEWS:**** Charles Boot

**Honorary Librarian:** Charles Boot

**Website Manager:** Kristina Clode

**GHS representative on NT Council:**

Pamela Paterson

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**Honorary Treasurer, GHSS:** Julian Stanning

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

## GHS events diary

### 2011

- Wednesday 16 March *Gardens of Earthly Delight* John Fletcher, Cowcross Street London
- Wednesday 23 March *Mr Brown Engineer* Steffie Shields, Cowcross Street London
- Saturday 9 April Study Day: *The Water Gardens of Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe* with HGT
- Saturday 9 April GHSS AGM, Edinburgh
- Thursday 5 May 90th birthday party for Mavis Batey at Petworth House, West Sussex
- 17 to 22 May Study Tour to Turin
- Saturday 21 May Training day: Broich House, Stirlingshire
- Friday 10 June Study Day at Wilton House *The Tudor & Stuart Gardens*
- Monday 13 June *Gertrude Jekyll and the Country House Garden* Judith B Tankard at Garden Museum
- Tuesday 21 June Study Day: Selbourne, home of Rev. Gilbert White
- 2 & 3 July Study Weekend: The Archaeology of Gardens, Aberdeenshire, with NT Scotland
- Thursday 7 July Visit to Epping Forest, Essex
- Thursday 21 July Visit to Biddulph Grange, Staffordshire
- Friday 22 July GHS Graduate Symposium, Keele University, Staffordshire
- 22 to 24 July AGM & Summer Conference at Keele University, Staffordshire
- Saturday 6 August Study Day on 'Capability' Brown at Compton Verney, Warwickshire
- Saturday 10 September Study Day on The History of an Estate in its Designed Landscape, Smeaton
- 16 to 18 September Study Tour to gardens in Cumbria
- Saturday 17 September Study Day at Brookwood Cemetery, Woking, with AGT & Surrey GT
- 7 to 18 October Study Tour to the gardens of Mexico
- Thursday 13 October Study Day on *Wrest Park revealed*, with AGT, EH & Bedfordshire GT
- 21 to 23 October *The Victorian Garden* OCE at Rewley House & GHS Weekend School
- Monday 7 November *The Victorian Fernery at Benmore* Mary Gibbey, Glasite Meeting House, Edinburgh
- Thursday 8 December *Paradise of Exiles* Katie Campbell, RBG Edinburgh

*Details and booking information for all our events can be found inside, on pages 4 to 11  
or on our website: [www.gardenhistorysociety.org/events](http://www.gardenhistorysociety.org/events)*

**GHS NEWS** correspondence and items to the GHS Head Office,  
or email the Editor: [news@gardenhistorysociety.org](mailto:news@gardenhistorysociety.org)

**GHS NEWS** deadlines: 1 February & 1 August, distribution 1 March & 1 September

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

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