Annual General Meeting
Friday 13 July 2012
at The Garden Museum

The following members of Council were elected: James Bartos, Bill Billington, Daniel Glass, Richard Wheeler and Christopher Woodward. Anne Richards was elected as a Vice President of the Society for a five-year term. Hilden Park Accountants Ltd was appointed as Independent Examiners. Thanks were recorded to all the Society’s staff, and to Chloe Bennett, Charles Boot, Ruth Brownlow, Christine Lalumia, Dr Niall Manning, Tim Richardson, and Dr Colin Treen, all of whom stood down.

As usual the Minutes and a full report will be published in May 2013.

New appointments
The Society is sad to say goodbye to Elizabeth Cairns in her role as our Honorary Secretary. She took on the post quietly and professionally and has guided us with good humour. I met Elizabeth when she helped me with some research into William Mackenzie. When we asked for volunteers to take on the role of Hon. Secretary I was truly delighted when Elizabeth came forward and have enjoyed working alongside her since. It was a great comfort to have her beside me at numerous AGMs making sure that all ran smoothly.

We are very happy to know that we will remain in close contact with Elizabeth because she is also Chair of the Kent Gardens Trust which has been very active in taking part in the new responses to planning applications.

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

Our cover shows a detail of the ‘Union Jack’ bedding in the Avenue Gardens, Regents Park, photo by Rosemary Jury
I look forward to visiting her amazing garden in Kent, and seeing her snowdrop collection there. Thank you again, Elizabeth.

Succeeding Elizabeth as Honorary Secretary is Jeremy Garnett who has bravely volunteered himself at the same time as recently completing an MA. We look forward to working with him.

It is a huge relief to me that we have another volunteer in Bill Billington who has taken on the task of Honorary Treasurer. Bill has plenty of experience in the public sector and some members may already know him from joining various GHS Study Tours abroad.

We warmly welcome both Bill and Jeremy

Dominic Cole, Chairman

Update on Garden History Courses

Last October, in response to a general concern at the closure of a number of garden history courses, the Society called a meeting to discuss the future of garden history and conservation education in the UK. Representatives from many higher education and garden history bodies attended and it was reassuring to find that the picture wasn’t quite as gloomy as first thought, and, indeed, has since become even brighter! Garden history remains an engaging and vibrant subject for study and a brief roundup of part-time taught courses available this Autumn follows.

Those wishing to study garden conservation at masters level might consider the successful Bath MSc Conservation of Historic Gardens and Cultural Landscapes or the new University of Cambridge (ICE) MSt Historic Environment (both suitable for those who wish to work in the heritage sector).

Also new for this Autumn is an MA Garden History at the University of Buckingham (see p.32), based in London (run by Tim Mowl and Katie Campbell from the recently discontinued Bristol MA). It’s also worth checking out garden history related courses at the University of Greenwich and Writtle College, Chelmsford.

Birkbeck, London University, continues its popular module-based CHE (Certificate in Higher Education) History of Architecture and Landscapes, new last year; and Cambridge ICE (based at Madingley Hall) offers a number of Historic Environment courses at CHE level.

The Oxford (ODCE) on-line course ‘English Landscape Gardens: 1650 to the present day’, devised by Tim Richardson, is a ten-week course which runs each academic term; and a number of weekly courses on specific aspects of garden history are also held in Oxford. The Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, is offering a new diploma course in garden history and horticulture in association with the Garden History Society (see p.32). Also new this year is a short course on garden history research skills to be held at the Institute of Historical Research (London).

If you have already completed a taught course and would like to pursue your studies at PhD level, Birkbeck and Writtle Colleges, especially, welcome applications or expressions of interest. For those wishing to attend a course without formal assessment, the WEA and some local gardens trusts organize garden history courses.

If you are interested in any of these courses do check out the relevant websites to confirm when/whether they are running this Autumn. And have a look at our other events section for more.

Barbara Simms

9th Annual Essay Prize

The Society has now launched its ninth Annual Essay Prize; entries can be submitted up to and including 30 April 2013. The prize is open to any student registered in a bona fide university or institute of higher education, or any student who has graduated from such an institute in the past twelve months; either in garden history or from related departments such as geography, art history, history, architecture and archaeology.

Submissions should be from 5000 to 6000 words and the only restriction on subject matter is that it must be of relevance to garden history. The Society’s Essay Prize was established to encourage vibrant, scholarly research and writing and these qualities should be reflected in winning entries.

The prize includes an award of £250, free membership of the Society for a year and consideration for publication in the peer-reviewed, scholarly journal Garden History. All previous winners have been accepted for publication and often the best of the non-winning entries are invited to submit to the journal; entries from previous year’s competitions are currently in preparation for publication in forthcoming issues, or have already been published.

Download an Entry Form & Submissions Guide from our website. The Prize is supported by NFU Mutual.
The 2nd GHS Graduate Symposium

Under the banner of ‘New Research in Garden History’ the Society’s second Graduate Symposium took place in the afternoon of Friday 13 July 2012 following the AGM. The venue was the appropriate and convivial environment of the Garden Museum on the Lambeth embankment in London. Once again it was chaired by Patrick Eyres and the digital projection was masterminded by Charles Boot, and there was a splendid turn-out of members to provide an audience of a hundred-strong.

The Symposium takes its cue from one of the aims of the Society, which is ‘to promote the study of the history of gardening, landscape gardening and horticulture in all its aspects’. Consequently the Symposium offers encouragement to scholars who are unpublished in the field of garden history by providing a professional forum for the presentation of new research. This year’s programme comprised five speakers.

Leslie Diane Hunter, an MA candidate (18th Century British History) at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, explored *The Secrets of the Hampton Court Maze*, and in particular the way that the opening of Hampton Court to the public in the 19th Century transformed the Maze into a Victorian icon of British-ness, prompting replicas across the country and throughout the Empire.

Thomas Main, Gardener: Changing the U.S. Landscape, a Washington DC perspective, c.1812. Through meticulous detective work Main was revealed as a supplier of plants for Thomas Jefferson at Monticello and for the pleasure gardens of Washington’s genteel society, as well as for ‘improving’ farmers and estate-owners along the eastern seaboard of the United States.

Elaine Taylor, MA Landscape, Heritage and Society, University of Chester, discussed *A Garden for Lord Leverhulme: Roynton Cottage, near Bolton, Lancashire*. Her overview of the spectacular Pennine moor-side ‘homage’ to the gardens of Italy, Japan and England created by Thomas Mawson hailed the achievement as a triumph of Arts and Crafts Movement gardening.

John Hemingway, an MPhil candidate (West Midlands History) at the University of Birmingham, provided *An Interim Study of the Influences of William Shenstone on Other Gardens in 18th-Century England*. Working from contemporary maps and other documents he is investigating whether Shenstonian features can be detected in the gardens of those who visited The Leasowes.

Anne King, an Independent Researcher, introduced a little-known Scottish nurseryman in *Thomas Main, Gardener: Changing the U.S. Landscape, a Washington DC perspective, c.1812*. Through meticulous detective work Main was revealed as a supplier of plants for Thomas Jefferson at Monticello and for the pleasure gardens of Washington’s genteel society, as well as for ‘improving’ farmers and estate-owners along the eastern seaboard of the United States.

Winnie Chan, a DPhil candidate at the Institute for Chinese Studies, University of Oxford (*above*), examined the interaction of Chinese and Western cultures as well as the quest for modernity in *Looking for Antiquity and the New: The Chinese Hong Merchant Gardens of 19th Century Guangzhou*. The audience was riveted by the wealth of contemporary drawings and prints that fortunately have survived to record these largely vanished urban gardens.

Lively discussion followed each paper and it was amply clear not only that the audience was fascinated by all the subjects, but also that the Society wishes each speaker every success in their continuing researches. Informal conversations flourished afterwards during the drinks reception and continued throughout the Symposium Supper, which was produced by the Garden Museum’s excellent caterers.

Patrick Eyres
GHS events 2012 and beyond
Booking Forms for most events appear on our website

**Heritage Gardens and Designed Landscapes**
Brechin Auditorium, Angus
10am to 4:30pm, Saturday 8 September

A programme of presentations and visits by members of the Angus Landscape Survey Group and guest speakers under the auspices of the GHS in Scotland.

Our speakers are: **Marilyn Brown** (Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Scotland) on *From Paradise to Wilderness*, Marilyn’s book Scotland’s Lost Gardens will be published by RCAHMS in September; **Alice Bremner** (Angus Landscape Survey Group) on Stracathro Walled Garden; **Vanessa Stephen** (Freelance Landscape Architect) on Restoring Historic Landscapes; **Dave Walsh** (ALSG) on Some Angus Estates; **Sue Hewer** (ALSG/GHSS) Unravelling the Setting of the House of Dun.

After lunch we will leave for Stracathro Walled Garden and then at 3pm depart for House of Dun and a guided tour of the designed landscape there.

£10 to include buffet lunch, coffee and tea. Own transport required. Please contact Sue Hewer for further information: suehewer1@btopenworld.com or 01575 560 259. To book a place, please send a cheque for £10 per person, made payable to The Garden History Society, to Sue at Clintlaw Farmhouse, Lintrathen, Kirriemuir, Angus DD8 5JF.

**South-West Scotland Landscape Perspectives**
Cally Palace Hotel, Gatehouse of Fleet with the Ayrshire, Dumfries and Galloway Biosphere Partnership
10am to 5pm, Friday 14 & Saturday 15 September

Friday: Introduction to the Designed Landscapes of SW Scotland’s UNESCO Biosphere. A review of the work undertaken by the local Designed Gardens & Landscapes Group which has been researching and surveying non-Inventory designed gardens & landscapes in Dumfries and Galloway. Presentation on the achievements of community action to restore elements of the policies at Cally and Gatehouse of Fleet. Presentation on bringing life back to the policies of Craigmillar and Dalmellington. Visits to the policies of Cally and Gatehouse of Fleet.

Saturday: Visits to the policies of Craigmillar.

Places are restricted and early booking is advisable. Cost: £15 to include lunch on Friday 14 September. For further details, please contact Theo Stanning: 01556 630244 or: t.stanning@virgin.net

To book a place, please send a cheque for £15 (made payable to The Garden History Society) to: Theo Stanning at Seabank, The Merse, Rockcliffe, Dalbeattie, Kirkcudbrighshire, DG5 4QH.

**In a most agreeable valley:**
the development of the landscape at Bretton Hall, 1720–2012
Study Day at Yorkshire Sculpture Park in association with AGT, Yorkshire GT & YSP
10.30am, Friday 21 September

Following recent changes in the ownership of Bretton Hall, and after decades of divided management of the designed landscape, the whole has now been brought into the care of the Yorkshire Sculpture Park. An ambitious project to open up access, and restore both natural and built features, was begun in 2011.

The Study Day will trace the history of the Bretton Hall gardens and park through the eighteenth century and the early decades of the 1800s, focussing on the major landscaping of the park in the

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**CALL FOR PAPERS:**
3rd Graduate Symposium, 2013
The Society invites new scholars unpublished in the field to submit a proposal of 200 words.

Scholars in all disciplines are encouraged to submit, and any subject relating to garden history will be considered; from detailed explorations of little known gardens to relevant aspects of botany, ecology, archaeology, social history or horticulture.

Symposium papers must be no longer than 20 minutes long (approximately 2,000–2,500 words). Applicants must submit to: enquiries@gardenhistorysociety.org by Monday 7 January 2013.
GHS events

mid to late 1700s by Sir Thomas Wentworth (later Blackett); and the subsequent developments under Diana Beaumont, Sir Thomas’s daughter.

The Sculpture Park, established in the 1970s, has enlivened the landscape anew, winning both accolades and affection from its many visitors, culminating in being voted Yorkshire’s Most Magnificent Attraction 2011. It now embraces a new challenge, marrying restoration and conservation with contemporary sculpture and artists’ projects. Talks in the morning will be followed by guided walks around the gardens and park after lunch.

Our speakers are: Karen Lynch on ‘Happily situated, in an elegant style: two generations of landscape development at Bretton c.1760–1830; Karen looks at the transformation of the Dearne valley with the creation of two lakes and the embellishment of the park with a range of ornamental structures. Along the way she will introduce two interesting creators of this landscape, Sir Thomas Blackett and his daughter Diana Beaumont.

Our speakers are...
Kristina Taylor on
Passion, Plants and Patronage:
Three Hundred years of the Bute Family Landscapes
at the Royal Botanical Garden of Edinburgh.
7pm for 7.30pm, Thursday 14 March

A Landscape at Luton by Paul Sandby (1760s)
Members £5, Non-members £7.50. Tickets on the door.

Study Tour to the Landscapes of California
Sunday 14 to Thursday 25 April
FULLY BOOKED.
Contact Liz Goodfellow: LIZGZ@aol.com

Gardens and Art
GHS/OUDCE Weekend School,
at Rewley House, Oxford
Friday 7 to Sunday 9 June

From Utens’ lunettes of Medici estates in the Italian Renaissance through to Monet and Giverny, the depiction of gardens has usually had an agenda that goes far beyond mere representation. This weekend school will be concerned primarily with the way in which gardens have been portrayed in art, though the influence of art on garden design will also be considered. There will be a visit, possibly both to a garden and to the Ashmolean.

For further information contact Rewley House:
01865 270 380 or email: ppdayweek@conted.ox.ac.uk

Study Tour to the parks and gardens of North Bohemia, Silesia & Saxony
Late September

Following on from our highly successful Study Tour to Bohemia and Moravia in the Czech Republic earlier this summer, Harriet Landseer will be leading a follow-up expedition to the northern part of the country and crossing over the border into Poland as well.

The tour will cover gardens in Bohemia, Silesia & Saxony, including two significant landscape parks
GHS events & conservation notes

of the 1780’s, Krasny Dvur and Veltrusy, with numerous important and interesting follies, the Arts & Crafts garden at Nove Mesto and a later garden nearby from the 1930’s owned by the same family.

Crossing into Silesia, we will enter into the beautiful Hirschberg Valley that so attracted the Prussian high nobility in the early 19th century that they built manors and parks here, turning it into one of the most important garden landscapes in Central Europe, famously visited by John Quincy Adams. Visits will include Wojanów, Karpniki and Lomnica, as well as the summer home of Friedrich Wilhelm III, Mystakowice, redesigned by Schinkel and Lenné.

We will cross the Polish border to visit Bad Muskau, laid out by Prince Pückler-Muskau after a visit to England in 1816 that led him to admire the work of Humphrey Repton. The sentimental garden at Seifersdorfer Tal, where the design was influenced by Herder; leads us into Dresden, with visits to gardens established by Augustus the Strong, Schloss Pillnitz and Großsedlitz, and a private garden near Meissen, completing the tour.

Details from Robert Peel: 0207 121 8938 or: rma.peel@btopenworld.com

Conservation Management Plans: a treasure trove for researchers

Linden Groves, GHS Conservation Casework Manager

For years now, the Society’s conservation team have been urging historic landscape owners and managers to commission and work to Conservation Management Plans (CMPs), to ensure informed and considered ongoing management strategies for their historic designed landscapes.

As it is widely accepted to be best practice to include a substantial section on a site’s history and development and surviving state, CMPs form an invaluable and sizeable body of information on the UK’s historic designed landscapes. Indeed, many of the Society’s members will have provided the research for these documents.

As a landscape architect, our Chairman, Dominic Cole, has worked on CMPs throughout his career and explains: “Even where research may have been undertaken before, the process of compiling the CMP assimilates a great diversity of information and analyses it for its chronology, archaeology, biodiversity, significance and influences. It will contain the historical maps and illustrations that are so vital to understanding a place and will set out those parts of the existing landscape that should be preserved and those parts which require attention.”

The Society is now developing a project to harness this knowledge, with sponsorship from English Heritage. In the first instance we aim to produce a readily-available reference list of CMPs and related research concerning historic landscapes in the UK, including where to access them.

The list will be available online in March 2013 via the Parks & Gardens UK website, www.parksandgardens.ac.uk. We are looking at ways to keep it updated in future.

The GHS is also working closely on this project with the Hestercombe Gardens Trust, which is creating a CMP archive as a key resource for researchers and landscape consultants to be available through its planned Centre for Landscape Studies.

This project is the starting point for a wider GHS campaign to highlight the benefits and uses...
Hestercombe Gardens Trust, intended home of the Conservation Management Plan archive; compare with the older image in our last issue, p16

of Conservation Management Plans, particularly in times of economic recession. We are planning a schedule of workshops, publications and training sessions and details will be circulated over the coming months, so do please let us know if you have ideas for the campaign.

In the meantime though, we would be delighted to hear from any readers with details of specific CMPs, either ones that you have worked on, commissioned, or used yourself.

Please send as many of the following details as possible, to: cmp@gardenhistorysociety.org
• Site name and location (including county)
• EH Register grade, if applicable
• Author/Consultants
• Date
• Title
• Purpose (e.g. Heritage Lottery Fund, Environmental Stewardship, English Heritage, Task Force Trees, planning application etc)
• Status e.g. draft, final
• Where to find a reference copy (preferably a public record office or library) and/or a web link

Additionally:
• If you are not the author/owner of the CMP, please try to obtain permission first and let us know whether this has been done.
• Please alert us if there may be copyright issues.
• Would you be interested in submitting the CMPs to the Hestercombe archive?

Examples of CMP details already received can be found at www.gardenhistorysociety.org/conservation/conservation-management-plan-project/ We will also be using this page to post project updates.

Queries about the project, and submission of details for CMPs relating to historic parks and gardens, can be directed at: cmp@gardenhistorysociety.org or you can call 07596 656 574.

The Designed Landscape at Trent Park, Middlesex:
Analysis, interpretation and guidance for new development
Barbara Simms

English Heritage (EH) has recently commissioned the Garden History Society to conduct a London-based pilot scheme on a small number of at risk designed landscapes, whereby, using primarily desk-based research, the GHS provides EH with the background research needed to encourage owners to engage with their site and develop a conservation management plan. The first pilot site was the designed landscape at Trent Park (London Borough of Enfield), a site occupied by Middlesex University’s Trent Park Campus, until summer 2012. I was commissioned to undertake the study in June 2012. The report has been given to London Borough of Enfield in order to offer guidance on the role of the historic designed landscape within new use of the Campus.

Trent Park Campus is on the site of a late eighteenth-century landscape park, lakes and woodland, once within the medieval hunting forest of Enfield Chase, and developed throughout the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries with gardens and pleasure grounds on the west, south and east sides of Trent Park House (the Mansion). The four key periods of garden-making were during the ownership of Richard Jebb (1780s), John Cumming (early 1800s), David and Francis Bevan (mid-late nineteenth century), and Philip Sassoon (1908–39). A detailed description of the site’s history can be found on the National Heritage List for England. Since 1947 the Mansion and about 81 hectares of land have been in educational use and during the 1960s and 1970s, to accommodate an increasing student population, additional teaching blocks and halls of residence were built within the
designed landscape. The remainder of the site was opened to the public as Trent Country Park in 1973.

The gardens around the Mansion and its wider parkland are registered at Grade II, a number of garden structures and statues are also listed Grade II, and a moated site in Moat Wood (Camlet Moat) is a Scheduled Ancient Monument. The designed landscape, the Mansion terrace and two lead statues (Samson defeating a Philistine and Hercules and Antaeus) are also on the Heritage at Risk Register. The entire estate is within the Trent Park Conservation Area (designated 1973) and has been designated an Area of Special Character (Enfield Chase Heritage Area AOSC).

The key historic features identified by the report were the Lakes and Cascade the North Lawn, the American Garden, and Arboretum, the Lime Avenue, the Rookery, the Daffodil Lawn, the Walled Kitchen Garden, the Long Garden and Wistaria Walk, Ice House Wood, and the Water Gardens, and recommendations were made for their future conservation. Also taken into account was the importance of the statuary and monuments brought by Philip Sassoon to Trent Park from Wrest Park, Stowe and Milton Abbey and their siting in the garden and the wider landscape, and visual relationships between the Mansion, garden and the Country Park.

It is clear that the educational buildings constructed in the 1960s and 70s detrimentally affect the setting of the Mansion and conservation guidance in the report focused on the re-creation of a coherent designed landscape by the reinstatement of features, pathways and views. This would be made possible by the removal of Bevan Block (the construction of which obstructs visual links to and from the Mansion, the Lake, Ice House Wood, and the Water Gardens); and the Music Block (which interrupts Sassoon's theatrical sequence of gardens from the Wistaria Walk to the Water Gardens and destroys the views southwards along the Long Garden).

Also key to the re-establishment of visual links to and from the Mansion would be the removal of trees, shrubs and undergrowth from both the north and south banks of the Lake to create open edges. The site also has a number of ecologically significant features, such as Ice House Wood and the Lakes. Recommendations were made for a policy for the management of groups of mature trees, as in the Arboretum, and woodlands, such as Ice House and Rookery Woods, that provide screening and enclosure; as well as a design and planting policy for flower gardens along the Wistaria Walk and the Long Garden.

To complement this guidance for a new owner, the GHS report identified the significant historic features of the designed landscape at Trent Park, their present condition and vulnerability and suggestions for future conservation.

In anticipation of providing guidelines for a new use of the Trent Park Campus, Enfield Council produced a Planning Statement for the site's future development. This emphasized the heritage value of the site contributed by its designed landscape, the need to secure full repairs through any development opportunities, to preserve its historic character, and to secure continued public access to the heritage assets for future enjoyment.

To complement this guidance for a new owner, the GHS report identified the significant historic features of the designed landscape at Trent Park, their present condition and vulnerability and suggestions for future conservation.
‘The true taste of beauty’: Gardens in the Letters of Samuel Molyneux

Paul Holden, FSA

In October 1712 Samuel Molyneux (1689–1728) travelled to London from his home in Dublin to be enrolled as a Fellow of the Royal Society. Being the only child of the celebrated astronomer, philosopher and constitutional writer William Molyneux, (1656–98) and in his capacity as secretary to the Dublin Philosophical Society, the young Samuel had long nurtured good relations with the intellectual elite. Once in the capital he exploited these connections to seek audiences with the foremost collectors and connoisseurs of the day and to view their prized collections housed in ecclesiastical and secular buildings, historic royal palaces, parks and gardens. Where he went and what he saw was recorded in a series of intelligent and well-measured letters written to his learned uncle, Thomas Molyneux (1661–1733), back in Dublin. These accounts of early-Enlightenment London, Oxford and Cambridge were quite unlike the prolonged social commentaries offered by other travel writers, such as, Zacharias Conrad von Uffenbach (1710), Daniel Defoe (1720) and Don Manoel Gonzales (1731).

Part of the manuscript may be familiar to members of the Society, as four of the 159 folios were published in 1975 by John Dixon Hunt and Peter Willis in their book The Genius of Place: the English Landscape Garden 1620–1820. The focus of the editors attention was Molyneux’s visit to the gardens of Lord Rochester’s house in New Park, overlooking the River Thames near Marble Hill, an account they described as ‘possibly the earliest account of an actual landscape garden, as opposed to theoretical formulations of the idea’. New Park, however, is just one of several first-hand accounts relating to gardens and landscapes.

Throughout his commentaries Molyneux displays a sound understanding of the rationality, logic and consistency of garden design and, as such, acts a barometer of early-Enlightenment thought. In forming his opinions he echoes those of his contemporaries, such as, Joseph Addison, of the Tatler and the anti-Baroque polemic of Anthony Ashley Cooper, 3rd Earl of Shaftsbury who, along with many other Whig Protestants, decried the inflexible contrivance and ordered philosophy of the Baroque garden and favoured a return to tamer, more intellectual, classical style. Molyneux approves of ‘noble grown trees in wild woods’ and ‘Natural Woods and Waters & a distant prospect’ and disparages the ‘pleasure a great man takes in able to force nature, and to make and finish a garden in a Season’ as being ‘vain Efforts’. His confidence in natural landscape over anything artificial makes him a staunch critic of many of the gardens he visits.

At Bushy Park, for example, a landscape created by Lord Halifax, he writes of ‘little or nothing remarkable but the Cascade which was not very high’, while at Hampton Court he approves of the situation but expresses a disappointment with the French geometric designs, leading him to comment ‘I did by no means think it adequate in the whole to the notion I had of the Palace of a great Prince’. Kensington Palace too falls short of his expectations (above). Its elevated reputation as a ‘Masterpiece of Art in the new regular manner of greens and gravel gardening’ is censured when Molyneux concludes ‘I say all this be in its way very agreeable yet in my opinion all this falls so low and
short of the sublime unconfinedness of nature…I cannot conceive how the world is so entirely fall’n into this way of gardening’.

His companion on this visit was, most likely, Joseph Addison, who appears to have helped shape Molyneux’s opinion as he dutifully records in his letter ‘[he] did not like these Epigrams in gardening and was much more pleas’d with the Epick Style or the Pindarick’, a reference to the paradise garden in Greek literature. Addison established this very point five months before in the Spectator when he wrote ‘As for my self, you will find, by the Account that I have already given you, that my Compositions in Gardening are altogether after the Pindarick Manner; and run into the beautiful Wildness of Nature, without affecting the Nicer Elegancies of Art’.

Not every garden incurred Molyneux’s wrath. New Park he describes as ‘perfect satisfaction’ and ‘beyond anything I have ever seen’ adding ‘I think I have never yet seen any piece of Gardening that has so much of the true taste of beauty [it] seems the Endeavour rather to follow than to alter nature, and to aim at no beauty but such as she before had seem’d to dictate’. He admires the exotic plants at Chelsea Physic Garden and Fulham Palace, the home of the Bishop of London, and the topiary at the Kensington nursery of George London and Henry Wise, despite his self-admission of having no grounding in ‘Botanicks’.

On leaving London Molyneux visits two of Wise’s incomplete projects. At Windsor Castle he witnesses the reorganisation of the Maastricht garden which only gets a fleeting reference of being ‘extremely steep [and] cut into 3 or 4 noble slopes’ while the fragmentary garden and landscape at Blenheim Palace he describes in detail predicting that it will develop into a thing of great magnificence. This is the great quality of these letters. They offer hope for the future, not only in sense of place but in the emerging disciplines of art and science. They are evocative of early-Enlightenment philosophy, generating a shift from the formalism of the Baroque towards a new elegance suitable for the impending Hanoverian age.

6 September 1712

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*The London Letters of Samuel Molyneux, 1712–13* is published by the London Topographical Society, £20
Planning for the 2016 Celebrations was launched at Ampthill Park on 13 June, hosted by Ampthill Council. Exciting momentum is building towards planning national events, portable travelling exhibitions and sharing more landscapes with a wider public and the younger generations. About 150 delegates attended from all the key organisations involved in the garden world, and also including Visit Britain and Visit England, and many owners and managers of Brown sites, and representatives of many county gardens trusts from around the country.

A lively question-time and ideas brainstorming session followed, ably chaired by Jenifer White of English Heritage. It is widely recognised that county gardens trust volunteers will be key in sharing contacts, thorough research for observer’s guides, and linking parks with trails, so as to assist owners and managers of Brown landscapes with hubs and celebratory events all over the country. This will be a remarkable opportunity for county gardens trusts to raise their profile, to assist with HLF bids and to encourage apprentice schemes. The nursery trade should start propagating Brown’s favoured young trees now; and indeed Mike Calnan announced that the National Trust is about to open a new propagating facility.

The day was expertly summed up by Gilly Drummond, President of the AGT, focusing our aims and endeavours towards “new audiences, to inspire, educate and entertain”.

Landscape historian Johnny Phibbs (above, pointing) showed us all how to read the key design features of this significant Bedfordshire landscape, now a public park. We were shown that events do not have to be complicated or costly. At Ampthill, they simply hired and erected an eye-catcher, a colourful, striped ‘Turkish’ tent in the middle of the park landscape (right); inside were cool lemonade and a basket of strawberries for refreshment. Johnny had arranged for cheerful and helpful volunteer park rangers to be stationed at key points around the park who had been primed to explain each special feature, an animated landscape! After just a day’s training one said he was seeing a landscape he had known all his life in a new light.

Delegates were able to explore freely, observe, think, discuss, network; enjoying a walk in the sunshine, exploring how Brown left intact an existing lime avenue and exploited the fascinating topography of the Greensand Ridge, with carriage rides amongst clumps of intermingled beech, sweet chestnut and Scots pine still framing memorable views.

The AGT will build on Brown’s legacy by working with schools, and will help towards putting his prolific works in context. Above all, we will demonstrate how, despite the passage of 300 years, ‘Capability’ Brown, the world’s most famous landscape architect, is still very relevant to conserving and managing 21st century horizons today and for the future. The GHS is already planning a series of articles on
Brown, in the journal and newsletter, with a special edition of the journal focussing on his impact on the international garden scene.

Please contact Steffie: shieldssb@aol.com or Adam Clarke, Capability Brown Tercentenary Project Manager: adam@creativeculturallearning.co.uk if you have any specific ideas to add to plans for the Brown Tercentenary Celebrations or wish to sponsor an event or trail guide. We have only just begun, watch this space! 2016 is just around the corner…

**Re: ‘Miller, Walpole, Wentworth or Milne?’**

*Mike Cousins*

Further to Simon Scott’s *agenda* item, ‘Miller, Walpole, Wentworth or Milne?’ in *GHS news* 89 [pp.13–14], various aspects of this need readdressing.

Drayton Arch on the outskirts of Banbury is not reliably attributed to Sanderson Miller; it was built by William Hiorn in 1770–71, for which he was paid £42.1 Lord North’s work at Wroxton, and in particular his interest in the Drayton estate are detailed in my article ‘Wroxton Abbey, Oxfordshire: An Eighteenth Century Estate’.2 The inspiration for building the gateway probably originated a few years earlier, in 1766. Whilst staying at Waldershare, Lord North made at least two excursions to Kingsgate, Lord Holland’s seaside retreat in Kent. Here he would have seen the King’s Gate in its prime, built two years earlier to the design of John Vardy, together with Robert Digby’s flanking battery and sentinels, and the sham castle from drawings by Charles Hamilton of Painshill.3

There was a renewed interest in the Wroxton estate after the death of North’s third wife at the end of 1766, and the change in expenditure in the Wroxton accounts reflects this. The Drayton estate (purchased in 1744–45) seems to have received little attention until around 1768, from which time payments are noted for various works at Drayton hill and grounds, including the aforementioned to Hiorn. Had Vardy not died in May 1765, he may well have received the commission from Lord North for the Drayton Arch, but this would account for the variation, or different interpretation of Hiorn’s design.

Likewise, Horace Walpole’s comment on ‘Boughton and Drayton’ if so often misinterpreted, that it is worth clearing up once and for all. The reference (in full) ‘… Boughton and D[ra]y[t]on] I have seen and Kirby I should like to see’, comes from Walpole’s letter of 10 October 17804 in response to various questions from Lady Ossory, and what seems to be a repeat invitation from her Ladyship to see Kirby. Here, Walpole was harking back to a round of country house visits

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3 Michael Cousins, “‘As for Paradise which is but another name for Kingsgate’”, *The Follies Journal*, no. 8 (Summer 2009), pp. 47–88, especially pp. 52–55.

that he made in 1763, including Bletchley, Goathurst, Horton, Castle Ashby, Easton Maudit, Boughton, Drayton, and Addington. The Boughton that he refers to is that of the Duke of Montague, and Drayton is Drayton Park, then seat of Lady Elizabeth Germain, but formerly of the Mordaunts. Both places were visited on the same day, 22 July, but his itinerary excluded Kirby, hence his desire to see it.  

Walpole’s sentiments on these places are worthy of mention. Of Boughton, he considered that the house ‘stands in a hole’ [p.54], and was much more taken with Drayton Park, of which he wrote [p.57]: ‘The garden is kept up in the old Style, with a mall, cradle walks with windows cut in them, just as it was made by Sir John Germain, who brought the taste from Holland, when this was thought one of the largest and finest gardens in England.’ He also wrote that, ‘Not one of these houses, Horton, Easton, Castle Ashby, Boughton or Drayton, have the least tolerable prospect.’ [p.55].


The Kymin, a remarkable cultural landscape.

Min Wood

Seven hundred feet above Monmouth are the Kymin Rocks. From here there are views over ten counties and once one could see far down the Wye Valley to the Wyndcliffe and Piercefield. In the eighteenth-century there were those, encouraged by Gilpin’s Observations, who searched for stations from which picturesque views of the landscape could be seen or composed. For local landowners and the people of Monmouth there was no need to search, and their excursions into the countryside were not to satisfy the tyranny of the eye, they were just for fun.

Going again and again to picnic amongst those rocks, and encouraged by the Duke of Beaufort, they decided to make a ‘slight’ pavilion in a place which ‘enjoyed a Prospect, equal in point of richness and picturesque beauty, to any inland view in the while range of the kingdom.’ This was completed in 1796 and is now known as the Round House the windows of which were intended to offer composed pictures of near, middle and distant views.

The building of the pavilion, funded from public subscriptions, was supervised by a Mr Hardwick who then set to work on the adjacent woodland called Beaulieu Grove. Accessed through a large door, now lost, suggesting enchantment to be seen beyond, he created two paths, one with six different seats offering views of particular incidents in the landscape leading to a platform with views of the great sweep of the Wye above Monmouth and a returning route from which the churches of Buckstone and Stanton could be glimpsed.

The Round House restored

The National Trust have put the Round House into good order and manage its grounds, including the bowling green which added to the attraction of the place for the people of Monmouth. However, Beaulieu Grove is now owned by the Woodland Trust who appear to show no interest in its history or cultural importance. For that reason alone the more people who visit and appreciate the significance of Beaulieu Grove the more likely it is that the Woodland Trust will be persuaded to take a more positive approach to the important heritage asset that it has in its hands. There is open access to it since Offa’s Dyke Path runs past the Round House and through the Grove along the spine of the hill.

If this were all, any traveller to or through Monmouthshire should not miss the opportunity...
to visit this remarkable landscape. But there is more not to be missed.

Nelson’s victory at the Battle of the Nile on the 1st August 1798 had an electrifying effect on the British who were dispirited by the threat of invasion, the French Revolution, economic distress and civil unrest. The mood was captured in a letter from Hon. Mrs Edward Boscawen to Hester Pitt, Lady Chatham.

Rosedale, Richmond, Surry. 5 Octr 1798

I have waited and waited at length I am satisfy’d indeed: delighted, triumphant! Last Night I had a great N in brilliant Lamps adorning the Front of my Mansion and All our royal Village was illuminated. My Walks have been render’d pleasant by the continual Sound of Bells ringing All around, the Fire of Cannon without ceasing... God be prais’d that Thus our success extends, and that the Fear of Us, and the Dread of Us is thus impress’d on those Monsters the french who have overturn’d the World, and extended Slavery and Misery to the remotest Parts of it.

Even in Monmouthshire, far, far inland there was a feeling of general relief and gratitude for the exploits of the Navy and 15 of its Admirals who, over the past 50 years, had kept the sea lanes of the world open and held back the French navy. A monument to naval success was built next to the Round House, in 1800, by enthusiastic local people, and it was surmounted by Britannia holding a trident rather than a spear in her hand to symbolise Britain’s mastery of the seas, one of the first occasions when she was thus portrayed.

After an £80,000 restoration, funded by the National Trust and CADW together with other private donations, the Naval Temple was rededicated by Commodore Toby Elliott in the company of the captain of HMS Monmouth, Commander Gordon Ruddock, on the 1st August 2012, the anniversary of the Battle of the Nile. There to witness the event was Mrs Anna Tribe OBE (seated), a descendant of Admirals Nelson and Boscawen and of the Duke of Beaufort. The Temple now stands as a proud reminder of the achievement of the Royal Navy in defending our peaceful enjoyment of those ten counties which can be seen from the Kymin.

For directions to the Kymin and the opening hours of the Round House see the National Trust Website: www.nationaltrust.org.uk/kymin
Combe Royal is a Victorian house, listed Grade II, with a notable garden in a deep Devon combe, in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, near Kingsbridge in the South Hams. The lower garden, which was largely planted with giant rhododendrons, still exists, but little remains of the elaborate Victorian layout around the house. The garden was renowned for the early study of citrus fruit. Combe Royal oranges were sent to Queen Victoria in the 1860s ‘who afterwards sent her head gardener from Osborne for the purpose of enquiring on the spot as to the mode of culture.’ (Fox, 1864).

The garden was featured in the *Journal of Horticulture* in 1871 (*above*), when its Orangery was described as growing varieties of orange, lemons, limes and shaddocks, unprotected except for reed mats in severe weather. The ‘Orangery’ is actually a large free standing south-facing wall with an arcade of chamfered 4-centred arches of dressed slate; inside the arches there are alternative courses of red brick stretchers and brick-on-edge, and at the west end there is a blind ninth bay. This listed wall has survived, although it is now bare of plants. It is, as far as is known, the only one surviving in Britain, though there may also have been another, similar in design, in Barnstaple.

The 1906 and 1907 OS map shows extensive woodland with a series of walks south east of Combe Royal and a long drive from the Lodge above Lower Combe Royal. But by 1999 the woodland walks were overgrown, and the citrus wall was buried under brambles and undergrowth. Devon Gardens Trust arranged for the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers to clear away the undergrowth. The property was owned by Devon County Council for some years and was used as an office by the Social Services Department until two years ago. Devon County Council sold the property in 2010 and the new owners have renovated the house. They have employed a young enthusiastic gardener to work on the garden. He was brought up on the adjoining farm, and has memories of how the site looked before nature was left uncontrolled to take over the former designed landscape. Large areas of undergrowth have been removed from both sides of the valley revealing the Citrus Wall in its former glory. But there is much more to do.

The owners’ intention is to restore the wall in its original garden setting, more or less as it was in the early photographs of the site. The Devon Gardens Trust fully support the work in progress and has given the owner information & photographs from their archive.
The crowded lecture room at the Linnean Society on a gloomy Wednesday morning was ample proof of the lasting legacy of John Evelyn’s life and work. The joint day arranged by the GHS and London Parks and Gardens Trust brought together leading authorities on the many and varied aspects of Evelyn’s work and times, at a time when the site of his former home and garden as well as the adjacent Royal Naval Dockyard at Deptford, are threatened by a massive new development.

With Evelyn’s biographer Gillian Darley in the chair, we were introduced to the man and his work, our appetites whetted for the visit to Sayes Court to take place later in the day. Mark Laird then gave us an inspiring pre-recorded ‘world view’ of Evelyn, his message seeming to gain power by its very disembodiment. Jan Woudstra then laid out the garden for us and brought the trees and French-inspired design before our eyes. Frances Harris impressed us with the importance of the Evelyn archive and how the collection informed us of the many aspects of his life. Michael Hunter described Evelyn’s role in the establishment and work of the Royal Society. Several speakers acknowledged the work of Pru Leith-Ross, who many there were delighted to see in the audience.

Roo Angell and Bob Bagley then led us forward from Evelyn’s time through the next two centuries with a history of the site, and the proposal of a ‘National Trust’ establishment by Evelyn’s heirs, although this was not to be. By the time Roo and Bob had sat down, we had been drawn into their crusade to re-establish an Evelyn presence at the Sayes Court site, now subject to re-development. Their passion and persuasiveness could hardly fail to convince the most hardened developer; and progress had already been made in establishing the importance of incorporating a tribute of some sort in the plans. Finally a view of methods and approaches for dealing with situations such as these were described by Jonathan Lovie, GHS Conservation Officer and Policy Advisor.

Ably herded by Robert Peel, the party then reassembled on Embankment Pier and sped to Greenwich, catching a view of the Sayes Court site from the river in passing. At Deptford, we were led into the small remaining piece of the garden, now a public park, the centrepiece a mulberry tree allegedly planted by The Great Sayes Court hedge wrecker, Peter. Then we were led along the road to gaze through some modern iron gates into a concrete wasteland, the proposed development site itself.
After an introduction by Val Hepworth, the Study Day got underway in the Visitor Centre auditorium with a rapid recital of the history of the estate by Mark Newman, Archaeological Consultant for Yorkshire & North East Region of the National Trust. George Aislabie first acquired the estate by marriage into the Mallory family in 1663 and was responsible for the initial works around the Deer Park before his death in 1675. John Aislabie, the third son of George, took over the estate in 1693 and started work on the Water Gardens in 1718 before becoming embroiled in the South Sea Bubble scandal. This resulted in a large fine, which was perhaps surprisingly rapidly paid off and by 1723, work had recommenced. But in 1725, as a portent of things to come, floods destroyed the Lake and Cascade. By 1730 the initial work by John Aislabie was complete but soon additional land was acquired including the site of ‘the Quebec’. John died in 1742 and was succeeded by his son William who spent from 1742 to 1748 creating the Chinese Garden, which has subsequently been almost completely obliterated. In 1768 he acquired the Abbey site from the Messenger family and in 1781 he connected all his interests together, particularly Hackfall, to produce a huge linear garden landscape. The archaeological interest in the site started from John Aislabie’s time when people were curious as to how the Monastic system of just over a hundred years previously had worked. John had antiquarian interests but it was William who started proper work on the Abbey by removing bracken and clearing rubble before carrying out limited excavations, mainly to recover artifacts. The first modern style excavation was carried out by John Richard Walbran, a local wine merchant in the 1830s and 1840s, when Earl de Grey was the owner of the site.

Mark then covered the history of the visitor experience at Studley, starting with the well-heeled visitor with an interest in antiquarian matters. It gradually become more egalitarian with the development of Harrogate as a health spa and Studley became an easy day trip to escape the rigours of some of the treatments practiced there at the time. The arrival of the Leeds & Thirsk Railway with its station at Ripon in 1848 led to a vastly increased number of visitors from special excursion trains, which in turn declined when the move to car travel started.

Roo Angell has been in touch to say, ‘We are working on some exciting developments at the moment which I hope would interest everyone who came to the Study Day. At the moment we are probably still a little way away from solid news, but over the next few weeks we are hoping for certain elements to come together.’ Have a look at: www.deptfordis.org.uk/ for alternatives to the proposed development and details of the Build the Lenox project. Also see: http://londonslostgarden.wordpress.com/ A version of this report first appeared in London Landscapes.
Finally Mark went through his own involvement at Studley since 1988, beginning with the basics of a survey of the whole property, archaeological excavations, public consultations and most recently the work on the Quebec. The latter’s connection to the rest of the gardens and history does not appear to be very clear but it was first mentioned in 1768. In 1801 a bronze cannon was fired and in 1900 there were large scale festivities taking place. In 2011 investigations started in a very public manner with period re-enactors and full engagement with all age groups. He summed up at the end of his session with the various problems of flooding, silt deposits etc. and the various options the Trust was considering at present.

Michael Ridsdale took to the podium next. He is Head of Landscape at Studley and is another long serving member of the team, arriving in 1985. He explored the problems of the Quebec site due to the short catchment of the Skell, the poor hydrological design of the water features of the garden which leads to regularly flooding and a constant problem with silt accumulating, particularly in the Reservoir, which has subsequently been dumped indiscriminately over the estate. He illustrated the problems with a series of graphic slides showing the River Skell flowing through the Abbey Ruins (see the Society’s Annual Report 2011, and micro-news 89a for illustrations).

The final session was taken by Dr Patrick Eyres, director of the New Arcadian Press, who went...
through the imagery of such objects as the Neptune statue as set out by such luminaries as Joseph Addison, Batty Langley and Stephen Switzer. The statue's popularity started by commemorating the Protestant Succession, or it could have been a code for the return of 'the King across the Sea', but eventually was a celebration of John Aislabie's, no doubt lucrative, connection to the Navy and generally to British Naval Supremacy. Patrick then moved on to Castle Howard, Wentworth Castle and Norton Conyers, which all have statues in honour of the Peace of Utrecht after the Seven Years War, John Churchill the successful general or to the great increase in trade that resulted from the territorial gains of this peace, in order to put the Quebec into context.

Commemorating the defeat of the 1745 rebellion and Rockingham's part in rallying Yorkshire troops, there is the Hoober Stand and Rockingham Wood at Wentworth Woodhouse which was laid in the shape of a military encampment. The tower at Richmond was originally connected to the last battle that a British King took part in at Dettingen, but renamed in honour of Culloden. There were also several 'Heights of Abraham' as well as the Cook Monument near Roseberry Topping, the monument at Stoodley Pike, the Waterloo Lake at Roundhay Park and coming up to date the Naval Battle at Peasholme Park, all celebrating naval and military success. However probably the oddest example shown was Keppel's Column, a celebration of the acquittal of Admiral Keppel and Rockingham's opposition to the American War.

After lunch there was a guided tour round the Garden led by Mark & Michael and a first-hand view of the problems in the Quebec area. Unfortunately the weather didn’t live up to the standard of the morning’s speakers but we all left better informed about Studley and more appreciative of the difficult decisions which will have to be dealt with in the future. It was just two weeks later that the waters were to rise again.

Fragments of History: Study Day looking at the Caldwell Estate, 9 June

An 18th century print of Caldwell shows the marked similarity to Dumfries House, and its setting, 30 miles away

On Saturday 9 June the GHSS East Renfrewshire Group organized a Study Day in the Mure Hall in Uplawmoor. This was the first of three such events this year, which build upon the survey and research carried out by local groups, and on this occasion looked at the history and development of the nearby Caldwell Estate. The choice of venue was appropriate as the hall was originally provided as a memorial to the last member of the Mure family to reside at Caldwell and the day set out to look at the relationship between this prominent local family and the designed landscapes of their estate.

The day started with an introduction to the work of GHSS in East Renfrewshire and the range of
gardens surveyed by the group. Though not rich in major designed landscapes, the area has the remains of gardens made by local gentry in the 17th century, in the 18th and 19th century by mill owners and in late Victorian and Edwardian times by professional men with offices in nearby Glasgow.

The designed landscape at Caldwell holds remnants of all these periods and the first session concluded with a short history of the estate and the landscape styles and fashions employed, from formal baroque gardens through parkland and romantic hillside walks to late-nineteenth-century pleasure grounds.

Not surprisingly, the changes to the designed landscape closely followed the fortunes of the Mures of Caldwell. The family’s history was traced from minor mediaeval landowners with an interest in politics, a Baron of the Exchequer, members of parliament and rectors of St Andrews and Glasgow universities, through to the last of the Mures to live at Caldwell.

Some of the major events in the family’s history were highlighted. In the mid 17th century his involvement in Scottish politics led to William Mure’s exile at the Dutch court for supporting the covenanted cause. With lands restored following the accession of William of Orange to the English throne, the landscape developed to reflect the rising status of the Mure line.

When another William Mure was created Baron of the Scottish Exchequer he employed the Adam brothers to build a castellated mansion “fit for his status” along with a suitable parkland landscape. The next generation added the Brandy Hill walks in the romantic style, but there seems to have been relatively little subsequent change until 1895 when Colonel William Mure married the daughter of the Earl of Eglinton.

Perhaps it was not a coincidence that the development of another formal garden with glasshouses, herbaceous borders and avenues of ‘exotic’ trees appears to have been put in hand around this period.

However, Colonel Mure was the last member of the family to live at Caldwell. After he died in 1912 his young heir was brought up in London and the link with the estate was broken.

The next presentation used the range of available historic maps and archive material to illustrate the features of the various designed landscapes. The outcomes of the Group’s surveys were shown and the various extant features used to build up
a more detailed picture of the relationship of the gardens to the Adam mansion. The survey work had traced entry routes to the estate made prior to the construction of Caldwell House and together with remaining fragments of designed landscape indicate that two earlier houses and gardens were made nearby following the abandonment of the original tower house. The old tower by Loch Libo, about half a mile away, was subsequently rebuilt as a feature of the late 18th century landscape.

The group discussed the archive work still needed to add more detail to the survey findings and the difficulties presented by the need to travel to Edinburgh for documentary research.

The final session before lunch looked at the decline of the house and estate following its sale to the Glasgow Health Board and its shameful treatment in recent years, which has allowed the roof of the listed building to be removed along with other willful neglect. The latest proposals for restoration were outlined and the potential impact on the landscape of the inevitable accompanying housing discussed.

In the afternoon the group travelled the short distance to Caldwell and in a warm sunny interlude enjoyed a walk around the late 18th century Brandy Hill walks. These provided an opportunity to see the now derelict listed Mansion, the early Lime avenue, the Cascade, Ice House and other remaining fragments of designed landscape.

The day set out to examine this significant element in East Renfrewshire’s heritage, and the close relationship between the estate and its social history. It made a plea for planners to respect and conserve the features of the site as far as possible in any developments. The thirty-six attendees included representatives of the local authority as well as interested members of the public from surrounding communities. The interest generated by the event gives the Society some hope that the future of this largely neglected estate may not be as bleak as its immediate past.

Wentworth Castle: the Conservatory, another Conference and a Book

Patrick Eyres

The extraordinary Georgian palace of Wentworth Castle, Barnsley, is home to the Northern College for Residential Adult Education, while the gardens and park are owned and managed by the Wentworth Castle Heritage Trust, which over the past decade has implemented the rolling programme of restoration.

The Victorian Conservatory is the latest phase and a huge sigh of relief has gone up now that work is well underway to transform the eyesore at the heart of the gardens into the wonder it deserves to be. The project was inaugurated by Prince Charles in January (see micro-news 89 p.37) and, half a year on, the building has been liberated from the engulfing jungle of rampant rhododendrons and the garden terrace revealed. Once all the glass has been removed from the iron framework the structure will be dismantled and transported to the workshop in Barnsley where the sections will be restored. The building will be resurrected on site next spring. When it re-opens later in the summer of 2013 it will also be a delightful venue.
agenda

for weddings and functions. To ensure that guests don’t swoon away in the heat, the plantings will be representative of the temperate rather than tropical climates of the various continents, and a treasured feature will be the Blackamoor statue, which has also been splendidly restored.

The second Wentworth Castle conference, held on 3 to 5 August, basked in the unusual phenomenon of a sunny weekend, which greatly helped it become another sumptuous triumph. ‘Diplomats, Goldsmiths and Baroque Court Culture: Lord Raby in Berlin and at Wentworth Castle, 1701–39’ was stimulated by the acquisition of Lord Raby’s massive wine cooler by Temple Newsam (Leeds Museums and Galleries) in 2011. Exquisite in craftsmanship and spectacular in scale, this Baroque masterpiece was part of the silver dinner service made in 1705–06 by Philip Rollos for Raby who was Britain’s first ambassador to the Prussian Court in Berlin. It had remained entirely undiscovered until Sotheby’s sale in July 2010, whereupon it was saved for the nation after a temporary Export Licence refusal and an appeal. As the Yorkshire country estate that Lord Raby (later Earl of Strafford) acquired while ambassador, Wentworth Castle was the natural venue for such a conference.

Ten papers by eminent scholars and curators from Britain, the USA, Germany and Holland re-connected the wine cooler to the estate by exploring the political contexts to Lord Raby’s embassies in Berlin and The Hague, as well as the craftsmanship, ritual function and cultural politics of Baroque court silverware in England, Germany and Holland, and the influence of Prussia on the architecture, collections and gardening at Wentworth Castle. Delegates also appreciated tours of the remarkable gardens and park as well as the mansion’s superb interiors, which were once again embellished with a festival of floral displays whose colour, form and scent were such a pleasure. Another exquisite Georgian Dinner was enjoyed within the splendour of the Baroque Great Hall beneath the ceiling decorated with Adrien de Clermont’s singeries. The wine cooler was admired through a visit to Temple Newsam, where the whole house and its collections were opened for the benefit of the delegates, and our buffet supper was followed by an enchanting concert of music composed for Vauxhall Gardens and the London theatres and performed by Ad Hoc Baroque.

The consensual response to the papers was that they must be published to disseminate their new
and primary research. This book will be the sequel to the proceedings of the 2010 Wentworth Castle conference whose publication was marked at the book launch generously organised by the Friends of Wentworth Castle Gardens. Set against the backdrop of the political instability generated by the Jacobite attempts to restore the exiled Stuart kings to the British throne, nine chapters, by Tim Richardson, Michael Symes, Carole Fry, Michael Charlesworth, Terry Friedman, Patrick Eyres, George Sheeran, Suzannah Fleming and Jane Furse, explore 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 that managed Britain on behalf of the Hanoverian Kings George I and George II. In addition, Jane Austen’s literary fascination with The Wentworths is discussed by Janine Barchas, and David Lambert considers the post-war context of education and heritage. To order Wentworth Castle and Georgian Political Gardening: Jacobites, Tories and dissident Whigs (198 pp., 130 illustrations, £25 including post and packing) contact: the Wentworth Castle Heritage Trust, Lowe Lane, Stainborough, Barnsley, S75 3ET, phone: 01226 776 040, email: heritagetrust@wentworthcastle.org or: www.wentworthcastle.org

in memoriam

Frank Cabot
Liz Goodfellow

The Garden Conservancy Tribute to Frank Cabot was held at the New York Botanic Garden where he was Chairman of the Board in the 1970s. Mr Cabot died in November 2011 aged 86. Although he began his career in investment banking, he quickly discovered his true love was gardening and he was a ‘hands-on’ horticulturalist for the rest of his life. In 1989 he founded The Garden Conservancy to save the dry garden, cacti and succulents, of Ruth Bancroft in California. Since then the organization has helped preserve more than 90 gardens throughout the United States. He was also a founder of the Aberglasney Restoration Trust in Carmarthenshire.

From the 1950’s he and his wife Anne developed their own garden, Stonecrop, in Cold Spring, New York, now open to the public, and the home base for The Garden Conservancy. Beginning in 1970, he developed 20 acres of gardens, including rock gardens, rope bridges over ravines, waterfalls and a pigeonnier, at his family property Les Quatre Vents, northeast of Quebec City.

The speakers at his Tribute included Angela Lansbury, honorary chair of the Garden Conservancy; nurseryman Dan Hinkley, author...
Barbara Paul Robinson, Marco Polo Stufano founding director of Wave Hill Garden, providing a range of insights to this extraordinary man; his ability to inspire and lead; and his passion for plants and gardens. We also received a booklet of thoughts and memories from his many friends and admirers, including Penelope Hobhouse who describes him as ‘an intensely charming and loveable man… a life enhancer’.

The director of Stonecrop Gardens, Caroline Burgess, described ringing Mr Cabot from an English telephone box to ask if she could come and work with him. When she ran out of coins, he called back, and invited her to America. The last speaker of the afternoon was Colin Cabot, who committed to carrying on the work and legacy of his father, Frank Cabot.

Professor Forbes W. Robertson, a long time member of the Society, has died in Edinburgh at the age of 92. Well known to Scottish members for his lectures and frequent attendance at events, to others he will be known by the articles he published in Garden History.

He was a distinguished academic. He was head of department and Professor of Genetics at Aberdeen University, and his papers are still referred to today. He had a life-long interest in plants, one of his grandchildren described him as a walking encyclopaedia of plant names, and being a linguist he knew them in several different languages too.

His interest in garden history developed after his retirement in 1985. He brought to the subject the resourcefulness, discipline and amazing memory which made him such a fine academic. In 2000 he published Early Scottish Gardeners and their Plants 1650–1750, which, as he says in the Preface, ‘grew out of curiosity about what was growing in Scottish gardens in the 17th and 18th centuries.’ The book was the product of lengthy research on primary sources; estate papers, nursery catalogues and the papers of Gardeners’ Fraternities among them, and some of this research was published in Garden History. The book provides much insight into what gardens were like and has numerous lists of the plants which were grown.

In his book, Forbes Robertson includes much information about fruit growing and he did further research on this subject. In Scotland there has been an increased interest in researching and restoring old orchards, and in the heritage fruit that was grown in them. The GHSS held a Study Weekend on fruit in Perthshire in 2009 and Forbes Robertson made an invaluable contribution. His advice on the solution to the problem of identifying the link between the present-day apples, pears, plums and other fruit and their historic forbears was to subject them to genetic testing.

A member of the Edinburgh based Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society, he was intrigued by Patrick Neill, who became secretary on the founding of the Society in 1809, and remained in the post until shortly before his death in 1852. Neill, whose family firm published Encyclopaedia Britannica, was an extraordinary man who had a renowned garden in Edinburgh and was at the centre of a hub of botanical contacts, but no book had been written about him. Perhaps this was because his notebooks and other papers were missing. Last year, at the age of 91, Forbes Robertson published his biography, Patrick Neill: Doyen of Scottish Horticulture. There was a certain symmetry between the writer and his subject, they were both Scotsmen of great intelligence, untiring devotion to duty and complete absence of showmanship.

Forbes Robertson
Anna Buxton
**Exhibition: The Plant Seekers**

*at the Garden Museum, Lambeth until 21 October*

This exhibition of material from the world-renowned RHS Lindley Library will bring to life exciting stories of some of our most intrepid plant hunters who travelled the world in search of new and rare botanical treasures. Often facing life-threatening situations, they transformed our knowledge of plants and horticulture.

This unique exhibition will demonstrate how international plant hunting has influenced the modern British garden. It will also show a wider impact of plant collecting, from its influence on science and medicine to biodiversity and other environmental issues.

Today however, plant hunting is at a crossroads. The expectation that countries of origin gain some benefit from ‘their’ plants, concerns over invasive aliens and a growing interest in native plants has raised questions over the future of plant hunting. With so many species in cultivation do we even need more? Conservation and the pressures of climate change also raise issues.

Speakers include: Roy Lancaster, Bleddyn Wynne-Jones, Tim Enwisle, James Hitchmough and Michael Wickenden, with opportunities for audience participation, chaired by Dr Noel Kingsbury.

Tickets £70; Museum Friends, Full-time students and Members of the RHS £50. Book online: www.gardenmuseum.org.uk or call: 020 7401 8865.

**Walled Kitchen Gardens Forum 2012**

**Walled Kitchen Gardens In Private Ownership**

*at Helmingham Hall Saturday 6 and Sunday 7 October*

This year we have chosen a two-day weekend in Suffolk, a very rewarding area for the Walled Kitchen Garden enthusiast, as it contains a high number of gardens which are not only beautifully kept but also privately owned. Our theme will therefore be centred on the trials and tribulations of ‘Walled Kitchen Gardens in Private Ownership’.

**Early Evening Talks at RHS Lindley Library London**

**Behind the Scenes at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show**

Alex Denman
6.30pm, 18 September

**Impressionists in their Gardens**

Caroline Holmes
6.30pm, 16 October

Talks take place in the upper reading room, Lindley Library London, doors open 6pm for pre-talk drinks. Tickets: £7 RHS Members; £10 Non-members. To book phone 0845 612 1253 (lines open Mon-Fri 9am-5pm excluding Bank Holidays) or: www.rhs.org.uk/libraries
other events

Talks will be held on the Saturday at Helmingham Hall, a magnificent Elizabethan mansion with Grade I listed gardens. Lady Tollemache, the garden designer, has kindly offered to show us around the walled kitchen garden which, like the house, is surrounded by its own moat. Speakers will include Caroline, Countess of Cranbrook, Jason Gathorne Hardy, Professor Tom Williamson; others to be announced.

The following day we will visit some wonderful privately owned gardens in the area: Heveningham Hall, a Grade I listed building set in a Capability Brown landscape with a large walled garden divided by a serpentine wall; Great Glemham House, which has a polygonal shaped walled garden with glasshouses, both fully productive; Glemham Hall where we will be having lunch, has several walled areas, mostly ornamental, and Parham Hall has an acre walled garden with glasshouses, frames and potting shed, completely enclosed with a serpentine wall.

There will be a limit on numbers so please apply before 20 September. Cost: £100 (full time students £80) to include lunches, refreshments, coach travel, entry and tours of the garden.

Contact Anne Richards: 01432 354 479 or email: f.grant14@tiscali.co.uk

Symposium on Natives and Aliens: Ethnicity in the Garden
at the Garden Museum, Lambeth
10am to 5pm, Monday 15 October

Gardening is central to English and British national identity. So how is the gardening scene changing in an increasingly ethnically-diverse society? What about the people who garden in this country? Is gardening a predominantly ‘white’ activity? How open is our garden culture to ‘foreign’ influences? What impact do different cultural attitudes to gardening have on the landscape in our multi-ethnic society? Is there any significance in the parallels between the discussion surrounding ‘native’, ‘alien’ and ‘invasive’ species in the UK garden with the discourse about asylum and immigration in the popular press? This symposium seeks to explore these questions and more to encourage more debate about ethnicity and garden culture in the UK.


UK Public Parks Summit
Details to be confirmed
Thursday 25 October 2012

The Heritage Lottery Fund and Big Lottery Fund are holding a one-day event that will bring together contributors from across the UK and internationally to explore the future of our public parks. The summit will discuss innovative management approaches and funding, provide information to support the sector and communities as they strive to adapt to the challenges they now face, and bring together a wide range of stakeholders from the public and private sectors with an interest in public parks for the future.

Rosemary Verey: The Life & Lessons of a Legendary Gardener
at the Garden Museum, Lambeth
6.30pm, Tuesday 30 October

Barbara Paul Robinson will talk from her personal experience as a gardener with Rosemary Verey and from her research for her new book of the same title which is being published this month. This will be Barbara’s only talk in the UK before her return to the US.

Tickets £15; Museum Friends £10. Book online: www.gardenmuseum.org.uk or call: 020 7401 8865.

The Historic Buildings Parks & Gardens Event 2012
at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, London
9am to 5pm, Tuesday 13 November

We would like to invite GHS members to attend FREE OF CHARGE. As a visitor to the Event you will have FREE ACCESS to the comprehensive all day exhibition, where over 70 exhibitors will be displaying a broad selection of products and services used in the care, repair, conservation and restoration of historic buildings, their contents and surrounding landscapes. Held annually for over 25 years, this major heritage conservation day has evolved from, and is held in parallel with, the AGM of The Historic Houses Association who kindly allow, subject to seating availability, visitors and delegates to listen to their President’s Address, to their Guest Speaker, Loyd Grossman, OBE, and The Duke of Buccleuch and Queensbury KBE, DL.
Five historic parks to be restored
Back at the end of June, the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Big Lottery Fund jointly awarded confirmed funding of £4.8m to three parks in London, North Shields and Derby. HLF has also separately awarded £3.1m to two parks in Scotland. All these parks can now begin major redevelopment work. The parks awarded a confirmed grant include:

- **Isabella Plantation**, Richmond Park, London: grant of £1.4m
- **Northumberland Park**, North Shields: grant of £2.2m
- **Eastwood Park**, Chesterfield, Derby: grant of £1.07m
- **Rouken Glen Park**, East Renfrewshire: grant of £2.1m
- **Dock Park**, Dumfries: grant of £991,300

Initial support has also been awarded to the following parks: **Gunnersbury Park**, Hounslow, London, £321,000 development funding; **Langtons Gardens**, Havering, London, £163,100 development funding; **Memorial Park**, Fleetwood, Lancashire, £102,600 development funding; **Grosvenor and Hilbert Park**, Tunbridge Wells, £148,800 development funding; **Cassiobury Park**, Watford, £418,600 development funding; **Stornoway Castle Grounds**, Stornoway, £195,600 development funding.

Major accessions to repositories in 2011 relating to Gardening

**Berkshire Record Office**
East Reading Horticultural Society: minutes and other records 1941–2010 (D/EX 1482)

**Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies**
Ivinghoe Parish Council: records incl minutes, accounts, allotment records, corresp and papers rel to property, maps, Poor Lands Charity records and Duncombes Charity records 1894–2010 (PR 116)

**Cumbria Archive Centre, Kendal**
Cartmel Agricultural Society: minutes, catalogues and prize lists, balance sheets and accounts, posters, press cuttings 1960–2004 (WDSO 219)

**Derbyshire Record Office**
Bakewell Agricultural and Horticultural Society: committee minutes 1923–1950 (D7483)

**Ealing Local History Centre**
Ealing Allotment and Gardens Society: minutes and corresp 1965–2010 (407)

**Enfield Local Studies Library and Archive**
Grange Park Floral Art Club: minutes, corresp and photographs 1959–2012

**Essex Record Office**
White Notley Gardening Club: accounts and other papers 1956–1962 (A13166)

Contact: 01462 896 688, or email: events@hall-mccartney.co.uk or: www.hall-mccartney.co.uk or write to: The Historic Buildings Parks & Gardens Event, Hall-McCartney Ltd, PO Box 21, Baldock Herts SG7 5SH.

The English Country House: A Journey Through Time
at Christ Church, Oxford
Thursday 11 to Sunday 14 April 2013

Speakers are: Dr Steven Parissien on *Imagining the Country House: An Overview of Style and Interpretation 1600–2000* and *The Georgian Country House: From Baroque to Bombast*; Dr John Goodall on *Tudor and Stuarts: the Great House from 1500 to 1700*; Dr Ian Dungavell on *Bigger and Better: The Victorian and Edwardian Country House*

1830–1920; Dr Jeremy Musson on *Upstairs and Downstairs: Behind the Scenes in the English Country House*; Prof Timothy Mowl on *The Country House Garden: From Parterre to Partition*; Dr Julian Holder on *The Country House in the 20th Century: Reinterpretation and Renewal*. There will be visits to Broughton Castle, Rousham, Compton Verney and Honington Hall.

Cost is £585 per person (en-suite Supplement: £45 per room). Fee includes the full lecture and activity programme, three nights’ accommodation in Christ Church, all meals, wines and refreshments as programmed and a staff service charge. Contact: Special Interest Event, The Steward’s Office, Christ Church, Oxford, OX1 1DP. Tel: 01865 286 848, email: specialinterest@chch.ox.ac.uk or: www.chch.ox.ac.uk
other news & views

Hampshire Archives and Local Studies
Thomas Lobb, gardener and bailiff, Penton Lodge estate: accounts and notebook on his work, local life, family events related to his employers 1884–1929 (107A11)

Herefordshire Record Office
Herefordshire Flower Guild: records 1881–2004 (CN23)

Kingston Museum and Heritage Service
Tolworth and District Leisure Gardeners Society: records 1948–2007 (XX476)

Medway Archives and Local Studies Centre
Hoo Gardeners Association: minutes and newsletters 2000–10 (DE886)

Norfolk Record Office
Robert Pole, market gardener, Belton: diaries (3) and other family papers 1888–2011 (ACC 2011/214)

Nottinghamshire Archives
Keyworth and District Gardening Association: records including papers of the Horticultural Section of the Keyworth Show 1976–2009 (7957)

Somerset Heritage Centre
Cedars Hardy Plant Nursery, Wells: corresp, bills and receipts 1902–1932 (AIDGD)
Kelway & Son Ltd, nurserymen, Langport: corresp, accounts and papers 1912–1989 (A/DHH)

Stockport Archive Service
Bramhall Horticultural Society: records 20th cent (D2023)

Suffolk Record Office, Bury St Edmunds Branch
Suffolk Organic Gardeners Club: accounts, corresp, newspaper cuttings and misc. papers 1982-2008 (GC715)

Surrey History Centre
Burree family, market gardeners, Manor Farm, Byfleet: additional family and business records including wage and accounts book 1920–2011 (8903)
F & G Mizen Ltd, Bonsey’s Farm, nurserymen, Woking: sales ledger 1930–39 (8901)

West Sussex Record Office
John Cheal & Sons, market gardeners, Crawley: personal papers of WE Cheal, director 20th cent (Acc 16145)
West Sussex Growers Association: additional records including minutes, accounts and Friendly Society register 20th cent (Acc 16421)
West Sussex Growers Association: Tomato Study Group minutes 1954–65 (Acc 16103)

West Yorkshire Archive Service, Bradford
Baldon Horticultural Society: minutes, cash books, membership books, allotment tenancy agreements, papers and sales books 1942–2009 (WYB518)

West Yorkshire Archive Service, Leeds
Shadwell Horticultural Society; secretary reports, financial records including account and cash books, flower show registers of entries, results and award winners 1947–2010 (WYL2343)

Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre
Heytesbury Horticultural Society: minutes 1960–77 (4006)
Melksham Flower Arrangement Society: minutes and papers 1983–2010 (3106)

National Island Archives, Guernsey
Guernsey Southern Agricultural and Horticultural Society: minutes, papers, and accounts 1912–2003 (AQ 1218–1219)
Guernsey Western Agricultural and Horticultural Society: result records and prize books 1995–2007

Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Library and Archives
Marianne North, traveller painter and naturalist: letter to her maid Annie, whilst in Tenerife c1870–1879 (PrP 11-0012)
Bernard Verdcourt, botanist, Kew: corresp, papers and notes related to work at Royal Botanic Gardens Kew c1960–2000 (PrP 11-0007)
Kew Mutual Improvement Society: session minutes 1904–1905 (PrP 11-0001)

University
Borthwick Institute for Archives: University of York
Backhouse Plant Nursery, York: glass slides 19th–20th cent (BN)

Oxford University: Griffith Institute
Alexandra H Wilkinson, garden historian: notes and drafts for publications related to ancient Egyptian gardens and cultivation, with slides and some notes on jewellery c1960–2010
For more: www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/accessions/

News from English Heritage

Jennifer White writes:
English Heritage has released a PowerPoint presentation with a voice over which explains how the historic environment fits within the new National Planning Policy Framework. The slide show takes about 40 minutes but it is well worth watching. The web link is: www.helm.org.uk/server/show/ConWebDoc.17697

Register of Parks and Gardens update
In the first 6 months of 2012 seven sites have been added to the Register Of Parks and Gardens and Stanley Park, Liverpool has been upgraded...
The additions to the Register are: Ramshaw Hall Garden, Evenwood and Barony, County Durham at Grade II; Woodlands Vale Estate, Ryde, Isle of Wight at Grade II; The Deepdene (including Chart Park), Dorking, Surrey, at Grade II* (right); The Japanese Garden at the New House, Shipton under Wychwood, Oxfordshire, at Grade II*; Hampton Court, Hope under Dinmore, Herefordshire, at Grade II; Horton Hall Park, Hackleton, Northamptonshire, at Grade II; and Queen’s Garden, Sedbergh, Cumbria also at Grade II.

Applications for registrations and amendments can be made online: www.english-heritage.org.uk/professional/protection/process/online-application-form/

You can now download the Register of Parks and Gardens GIS dataset from: http://data.gov.uk/dataset/parks-and-gardens

There is also a new leaflet out on Local Lists: www.helm.org.uk/upload/pdf/local-listing-guide.pdf?1342667481

We are delighted that the RHS Lindley Library London reopened in July

Gaynor Messenger writes:

While you will see very little change to our reader areas, we have extended our environmentally controlled, secure areas, to give the best protection we can to our art and rare book collections. Many collections have been returned to Lindley Library London, but others will be housed off-site at least for the short term.

In the upper reading room, our modern collections of books and journals are open 10am to 5pm, Mon to Fri, (excluding Bank Holidays). The lending collection for RHS Members is also housed here. Our heritage collections of garden history, art, photographs and archives are available by prior appointment only, in our research room. To book, contact us in advance, giving full details of all material needed. This will ensure staff are available and that the material can be brought from our stores.
Tel: 0207 821 3050 or email: library@rhs.org.uk

The RHS Lindley Libraries also welcome Fiona Davison as Head of Libraries and Exhibitions, following the retirement of Barbara Collecott. Fiona joins the RHS after over 20 years working in the museum sector. For the last 10 years she worked at the Museum of London, supporting the development of museum services across London by co-ordinating the capital’s share of the multi million pound ‘Renaissance in the Regions’ investment programme.

Fiona says, ‘It is a huge privilege to have the opportunity to work with such a fantastic and significant collection and alongside such knowledgeable and enthusiastic colleagues. The RHS is committed to sharing its collections and expertise and I look forward to working closely with the Garden History Society and its members to support their work and, in the process, bring our collections and the stories they can tell to a wider audience.’

Garden History Course: Informing Conservation and Management

Sinclair Williamson, Course Coordinator, writes:

The National Trust for Scotland’s School of Heritage Gardening is delighted to offer this course once again. The course will be presented by experienced garden historian Christopher Dingwall, in partnership with the Trust’s specialist staff including Gardens Advisors, Head Gardeners, and Garden Archaeologists. The course will run over fifteen days from September 2012 to June 2013 (approximately two day per month, with a break from December to February).

The programme will be presented as a series of talks, field visits and seminars, with participants being expected to undertake some practical work, whether individually or in groups. Additional days should be set aside by participants to undertake their own historical research and/or to prepare written work as part of this course. There will be an option to undergo an assessment at the end of the course, to achieve...
the NTS Certificate in Garden History (Garden Conservation and Management).

Since the course has already been written and we are changing the format, we are able to offer the course at £45 per day. Assessment Fee: £65. Advance booking of entire course: £675. Contact Sinclair Williamson, Course Coordinator: The National Trust for Scotland, Hemiston Quay, 5 Cultins Road, Edinburgh, EH11 4DF, tel: 0844 493 2283, or mob: 0774876 6791 or email: shg@nts.org.uk

RBGE Diploma in Garden History

Phil Lusby, course director, writes:

Our new course starts in autumn 2012. Since the founding of The Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh (RBGE) in 1670 there have been profound changes in the layout of British gardens and the plants used to design them. The RBGE has played a seminal role in increasing the number of plants available to the gardener and the advancement of horticultural techniques required to successfully cultivate them. The Garden has been associated with the work of some of the most famous botanists, plant collectors and horticulturists including John Hope, George Forrest, and David Douglas to name but a few. These, and more recent individuals, have left an incredibly rich botanical and horticultural legacy. The educational history stretches back as far as the origins of the institution; indeed, it was the desperate need for education that drove the founding of the Garden in order to improve the state of medicine in Edinburgh. It is therefore highly appropriate that the RBGE should be a centre for education in the history of gardening and horticulture.

For me, the study of the development of any subject clarifies and aids understanding of the present, and also provides a context for current actions. It also allows informed consideration and evaluation of past activities, in the light of today’s knowledge. This should also place us in a stronger position to make informed decisions for the future. We are now, more than ever, required to consider those elements of the practice of horticulture and botany that can be legitimately sustained. Preservation of historical accuracy versus environmental responsibility will be a recurring topic for discussion and debate during our journey through the history of gardens and gardening. The conservation of some historic structures and materials now has to be balanced against the need to reduce the usage of resources that are now threatened or inefficient in energy consumption.

As works of art, gardens and designed landscapes are perhaps the most vulnerable and subject to change yet they have played an important role as a reference for, and expression of our national identity. The Garden History Society, founded in 1966, was the first society to recognize the value and relevance of garden historical study and the need to conserve the most important examples of these fragile creations. I am therefore very pleased that this course has been formally supported by the GHS. In accordance with this association, all students will be joined to the GHS for its duration so will have access to all the facilities of this highly respected society.

A handbook detailing course requirements and content can be downloaded from our website.

MA in Garden History
at the University of Buckingham

The University of Buckingham is introducing as part of its London Programme a new research MA in Garden History which offers a unique opportunity to study the subject.

This is a unique and innovative MA by Research which combines original research with training in the methods, materials and approaches garden history involves. The Course Director is Professor Timothy Mowl FSA, who is internationally renowned as a leading scholar and writer on the history of gardens, designed landscapes and architecture. He is supported by Dr Katie Campbell, Michael Liversidge FSA and Marion Mako who have each published original research in the subject, as well as by a panel of tutors and, for special research seminars, invited guest lecturers who represent at its best the vitality and vigour of current scholarship and thinking in garden history and related areas including Sir Roy Strong, Anna Pavord, Professor Stephen Bann, Robert Adam and Professor Mark Horton.

Independent research for a dissertation which a student prepares and writes in a close working relationship with a supervisor is at the heart of the Buckingham MA. The degree is awarded on the basis of the dissertation, which should be not less than 20,000 words. The supervisor provides advice in identifying and defining a research topic, locating sources and developing approaches to the chosen topic. Supervisors and students meet regularly, and...
the supervisor is the student’s primary contact for academic advice and support.

The MA in Garden History provides a thorough preparation in research techniques and to the background to the history of British gardens and designed landscapes from the sixteenth century to the modern period.

This is a London-based course. The Autumn Term seminars will be held at The Royal Anthropological Institute, the Winter and Spring Term evening Research Seminars and dinners will be held in the elegant surroundings of the Oxford and Cambridge Club, with a Residential Weekend based in Oxfordshire at the Kings Arms Hotel, Woodstock.

The MA can be completed full-time in one year, or in two years by part-time study. Full-time students submit their dissertations by the end of September, one year from starting the MA. Part-time students attend the Autumn Term seminars and Residential Weekend and the Research Seminars followed by dinner in their first year, and complete the dissertation in the second year.

Prospective applicants should contact: The Secretary for Graduate Admissions, School of Humanities, University of Buckingham, Buckingham MK18 1EG (tel. 01280 820120).

Master Classes in The Ukraine

Rosemary Alexander writes:
I was recently invited to give a two day Master Class on Garden Design to sixty practising Ukrainian landscape and garden designers. Organised by Marina Gerasimenko and Roman Danilchenko, the intensive course was held in an old communist complex deep in a forest outside Kiev.

I was delighted by their knowledge and understanding of the landscape business, and despite the extreme climate, this is obviously a developing market, with a large available range of landscape materials and mature trees. The participants, mostly female, came from all over the Ukraine, and from Russia. As a result, the English Gardening School is now increasing our activities in Eastern Europe.

25 years of the Avon Gardens Trust

Peggy Stembridge writes:
Avon Gardens Trust celebrated their 25th anniversary at the AGM held on 22 July 2012 in the Orangery in Goldney garden, Clifton. The launch of the Trust had taken place there on 15 July 1987, presided over by Mavis Batey, then President of the GHS.

This time the sun shone, and there was tea, birthday cake and glasses of wine, as well as tours of the garden and the unique grotto for some 60 members and friends.

Avon Trust is still supported by a large proportion of founder and early members. Several attended or sent greetings. Mavis too sent her congratulations, and she has also contributed to the special edition of the Trust’s Journal No 6, recording our achievements of 25 years. Other members, including Stewart Harding and David Lambert, contributed memories of working with the Trust. Mike Dawson particularly set the context for the forming of the first county gardens trusts with the growing interest in garden history, already shown by the GHS.

Journal No 6: 25 Years (32 pp A5, illustrated in colour), available by post at £3.50. Send a cheque payable to Avon Gardens Trust, c/o 12 Church Road, Abbots Leigh, BS8 3QP

Caldwell’s Nurseries Project progress report

John Edmondson & Barbara Moth, CGT, writes:
The ledgers of the William Caldwell nurseries of Knutsford, Cheshire, have long been recognized as a uniquely detailed record of horticultural activity from the late 18th and 19th century (see John Harvey’s article ‘Supply of plants in the North-West’ in Garden History 6:3 1978, 33–37.)

Caldwell’s Nurseries operated in Knutsford, Cheshire from around 1780 until 1991, supplying plants not only locally, but also nationally and internationally. In 1974 John Harvey wrote: ‘The Knutsford Nursery was and has ever since remained one of regional importance’. Seventeen of their business ledgers have survived, covering...
other news & views

various periods from 1789–1837 and from 1912–26. They provide information on prices, customer accounts, and changes in plant fashion, workers’ wages and methods of transport.

The Cheshire Gardens Trust have now started to document the nursery records on computer, and were recently awarded a grant by The Royal Botanical and Horticultural Society of Manchester and the Northern Counties towards software development of the pilot archival element of the project. A team of volunteers is now being assembled to undertake the inputting of information from digital images of the ledgers, the originals of which are kept in the Cheshire Records Office, Chester.

Information is being collated on the species and cultivars of plants grown and supplied by Caldwell’s nurseries, along with the names and addresses of their customers. The information is held on a Caldwell Archives Cloud, and registered volunteers are each allocated a number of pages to work on. The longer-term aim is to make this information available online as a research resource. It is hoped that with further funding all the ledgers can be transcribed and made available to researchers via a website, together with research into oral history.

In the past year trained volunteers from Cheshire Gardens Trust have been recording the memories of the Caldwell family, nursery staff and customers, creating an oral history of Caldwell’s Nurseries. In July 2012 the Trust created a silver medal-winning garden for the RHS Flower Show at Tatton Park themed on Caldwell’s Nurseries.

Further information is available on the CGT website: www.cheshire-gardens-trust.org.uk/caldwell-archive/ If you are interested in taking part in the project to transcribe the ledgers, please contact: patriciaaalexander@tiscali.co.uk or: barbara.moth@btinternet.com

Endsleigh revisited

Letitia Yetman writes:
When an historic landscape changes hands, concerns are often raised about future upkeep, as happened in 2004, when Endsleigh, the Grade I Repton landscape at Milton Abbot in Devon moved from the benign guardianship of the Fishing Club to ownership by the well known hotelier Mrs Olga Polizzi and her daughter, Alex. Although much of the original furniture was sold, the transformation from fishing lodge to boutique hotel has been remarkably sympathetic. Restoration work begun in the late 1990’s continues today, including the clearance of excess undergrowth enabling the reinstatement of the rockery and the improvement of vistas in the Dairy Dell. The formal gardens near the house remain close to Repton’s Red Book illustrations. Hotel guests and visitors are actively encouraged to explore the historic landscape with an informative leaflet and map.

Knighton Wood: are we missing a trick?

Sara Tenneson writes
In January this year, with the help of Stephen Smith, I put in an application to English Heritage for an entry for Knighton Wood on the Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England.

Pulhamite outcrop at Knighton
The application has worked its way through the system and is now waiting for a final decision (as of going to press).

When the application got to the consultation report stage, the document was sent to the various parties involved. I was able to add more information; particularly about the importance of the Rhododendron plantings. The London Borough of Redbridge fully supported the application. Despite some gentle lobbying, the GHS did not make comment; I understand that this is normal procedure and particularly so because of financial and time restraints. However, as a member, it seems to me that we are missing a trick!

At the AGM this year Jonathan Lovie was full of praise for the members of the County Trusts and individuals who do the work in researching and recording our garden history. So, when any application is made from the Trusts or an individual to English Heritage, then the GHS should find some way to support it. The GHS can be proactive here and make a difference.

Conservation success or pollution?
Otters reach Rousham

_Tess Canfield writes:_

After years of effort, the Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Naturalists Trust (now called Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust; UK) have succeeded in reintroducing the otter to the River Cherwell, an event celebrated by David Bellamy and the Trust at Broughton Castle in 1997. Broughton lies 15 or so miles up the Cherwell from Rousham House and its outstanding gardens.

Only one of the Grade I listed landscape’s many remarkable features is a memorial, and that is to:

RINGWOOD
an OTTER-HOUND of extraordinary Sagacity.

_Tyrant of the Cherwell’s Flood_
_Come not near this sacred Gloom,_
_Nor, with thy insulting Brood,_
_Dare pollute my RINGWOOD’S Tomb._

The cascade grotto bearing the memorial inscription lies immediately below a large hexagonal pond, full of fish for as long as anyone could remember. By May of this year, the pond was still. All fish have been exterminated by the now flourishing otter population.

Planning and the Protection of Historic Parks and Gardens

_Victoria Thomson writes:_

I am currently undertaking doctoral research into the effectiveness of the planning system in protecting historic parks and gardens, and there are two particular lines of enquiry where input would be most welcome. The first relates to the evolution of the legislative provisions (such as they are) which support the protection of parks and gardens. Having tracked their emergence from the Parliamentary perspective, I am now keen to understand in more detail the way in which the Society and others sought to influence the process (from the 1960s onwards): recollections and any documentary sources would be much appreciated.

The second relates to more recent experience with the planning system, good or bad: I am keen to develop a broader understanding of cases where planning was particularly helpful or harmful in protecting the significance of historic parks and gardens, both before and after the change in national planning policy in 2010.

58 Berryfield Road, Princes Risborough, Bucks, HP27 0HF or email: victoria.thomson@btinternet.com

Post mortem on Greenwich

_Anna Buxton writes:_

It was a brave decision to stage the Olympic equestrian events in Greenwich Park, a World Heritage Site, and both the GHS, and many in the horse world, had serious misgivings. The historic landscape and some of the trees may have been put at risk, but to both spectators and competitors it was undoubtedly an enormous success. The arena was quite beautifully sited with a view from...
The Gloriana passes Syon House

every seat of the Queen’s House and the skyline of Canary Wharf, frequently, when I was there, coloured by approaching torrential rain. The cross-country course covered two circuits of the park, and the main restriction was that there was to be absolutely no digging, the topography had to remain unaltered. The obstacles were created off site and made many references to the location, the Observatory, the Meridian etc, and the 50,000 who attended on the day had a marvellous experience of the park and its views. The show jumping fences, featuring such icons as a London bus, the nearby Cutty Sark, London Bridge etc. were very original and attractive.

It all seemed very lavish, and where was the legacy? But I think we should congratulate both those with the vision to create this venue and the British riders whose outstanding performances won three golds, a silver, and a bronze.

A Green and Pleasant Land

Charles Boot writes:

One of the unexpected by-products of the summer’s festivities has been the ‘arrival’ of broadband broadcasting and the BBC gave a brilliant seventy day demonstration of how much of Britain’s landscape remains green and pleasant, how well policies to protect it have worked, and how we must remain vigilant.

The progress of the Olympic Torch Relay around all corners of the country was accompanied by near continuous live internet coverage, primarily of the runners, but as these mostly only ran through urban areas there was a delightful series of views of roads and many accompanying helicopter shots. The helicopters really came into their own on the final day, shooting the progress of the Torch as it was carried on the newly built Royal Barge, Gloriana, down the Thames, from Hampton Court to Tower Bridge. Leaving Hampton Court progress was rapid, though the flotilla of rowing craft did take a while to get through both locks at Teddington. This left plenty of time to notice the many parks and other open spaces along both river banks, showing the success of the Thames Landscape Strategy in the upper reaches but also the, perhaps surprising, amounts of greenery along the whole of the Thames even deep into the city, with lavish roof gardens appearing, particularly around the London Bridge area.

Not all of London came off so well, the finale of the previous day’s troch procession had been its reception by the Mayor in Hyde Park (above); the huge lawn running from Speakers’ Corner to the Serpentine was showing clear signs of stress with its long term occupation by a fenced off ‘arena’. It’s not so many years ago that this area was occupied throughout the summer by deck chairs, picnickers and ball players. That being said the sporting events taking place in parks throughout the capital really did stir people’s imaginations, let’s all make sure the ‘legacy’ includes putting them back to rights.

It isn’t only Hyde Park

Tess Canfield writes:

Under the current financial pressures, many local councils seem to be attempting to increase income
gained from hiring out their local parks. Acton Green Common, opposite Turnham Green tube station in West London, is an example of a local authority’s failure to manage an ordinary, much loved, and well used local park, chiefly laid to grass.

A commercial circus was permitted to occupy the park for over a week, eliminating normal park activities, and causing severe damage. Several years ago extensive damage was caused by another circus. In that case, the cost of repairing the damage far exceeded the rent received by Ealing Council. It appears to have happened again. It is not only large parks that need to be protected.

**Update on Hemel Water Gardens**

*Kate Harwood, Hertfordshire GT, writes:*

Many members attended our Study Day in Hemel, on 9 April 2011. Dacorum Council has since commissioned research and preparation of a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund, going in this month, for restoration of the Water Gardens to as near their original design and condition as possible. Both the Garden History Society and the Hertfordshire Gardens Trust (HGT) are delighted with this as the gardens are unique in their being the only remaining town centre water garden commissioned after World War 2 (finally laid out in the early 1960s, below) from one of the best designers of the period, paid for from the public purse to be of benefit to all the people of Hemel, free of charge, and give them a better quality of life.

But, there is a fly in the ointment. To make this viable the water flow in the Gade has to be restored. The proposal is to return it to the state it was when opened in 1962 with clear edges, sparkling stream, musical weirs and inviting banksides. The Environment Agency has rejected the council’s request for an exemption from Water Framework Directive Article 4.7 which would enable this work to be done. The EA want to restore the Gade to a chalk stream by putting in a lot of marginal vegetation in the canal to improve the ecology. Although we realise that chalk streams and their habitats are relatively rare, this stretch of the Gade has not been a chalk stream for 50 years and is much, much rarer than a chalk stream; there is only one Jellicoe designed Hemel Water Gardens in the world. The HGT have talked to a number of residents in Hemel and they remember the clear stream, the inviting banks, taking their children to fish or picnic and the sense of occasion the gardens gave. It seems wrong that the desire of so many people of Hemel, and across the country, and with the drive and the commitment of the council should be denied this restoration.

Let’s hope this doesn’t upset the opportunity for the restoration of Jellicoe’s magical serpent.

Comments in support of the restoration scheme, or indeed complaints about the EA’s stand point, should be sent to: James Doe, Assistant Director, Planning & Regeneration, Dacorum Borough Council, Civic Centre, Hemel Hempstead HP1 1HH.

**Turn Your Faces Towards Rousham**

*Geoffrey Lane, of Steeple Aston Village Archive, asks:*

I am not clear from Mavis Batey’s update on the John Clary letter whether she thinks that Clary wrote the letter before or after Walpole’s visit
Other news & views

in 1760. Could it be that it was the experience of showing Walpole around that made Clary uncomfortably aware of the shortcomings in the garden, so prompting him to write, in effect chiding his employers for their neglect?

Mavis Batey responds:
Geoffrey Lane makes an interesting point: did Walpole’s visit make Clary realize what a splendid garden Rousham was, or did Walpole’s praise give him the spur to write his cheeky letter to his absent master?

We know Walpole’s visit was in July 1760 but unfortunately only have the date of 1760 for Clary’s now famous letter.

More research through internal evidence may reveal that, but meanwhile we can be sure that Clary knew he looked after a fine garden, one which he had laid out under Kent’s instructions and that Walpole said ‘reinstated Kent with me’ when he visited. Clary was no jobbing gardener and worked closely with Kent and General Dormer for whom it was laid out. The 1739 plan for General Dormer was drawn up by Clary to enable him to indicate where he wanted his precious statues erected and it was Clary who took charge of the siting of the various garden buildings to get the right vistas as Kent seldom visited.

One in particular was specially important to him, the eyecatcher at Steeple Aston where Clary had his own house called Orchard Lea (now listed). He had obtained permission for the Kent eyecatcher to be built on the high ground on glebe land. He was in fact a petty squire and in 1766 he became an Enclosure Commissioner on equal terms with the Cottrell-Dormer who had fired him! When I explored Orchard Lea I was very taken with the Kentian summerhouse with gothic windows in the garden, ‘calling in the country’ of the Cherwell valley just in the same way as Pope’s friend General Dormer was doing at Rousham. I think Clary could tell Walpole a thing or two!

Oldway response
Carolyn Keep, Devon GT writes:
I appreciate that the conservation note from John Clark and Paul Hawthorne in GHS news 89 was concerned with the impact of development on Duchene’s extensive and impressive plan for the Oldway estate.

However I should like to add a footnote on the rock and water garden. This feature is separated from the main formal areas and was in fact designed and carried out by F.W. Meyer for his employers, Robert Veitch & Son, Exeter, ‘using not less than one thousand tons of stone’. He described the process in articles for The Garden, the first on 25 October 1902. The articles were subsequently included in his posthumous book, Rock & Water Gardens (ed. E.T. Cook, Country Life 1910). Meyer refers only to Mr P Singer with no mention of Duchene, so he could have operated as a sub-contractor or even prior to Duchene. The published photographs and others copied from Meyer’s lantern slides by the West Country Studies Library (below) will enable an accurate restoration of this feature.

Devon Gardens Trust has provided the developer, Akkeron, with relevant information on Meyer’s work. Akkeron have said that they wish to continue working with local stakeholders, including John Clark, who has resumed his former role as the Devon Gardens Trust’s Conservation Officer.
principal officers

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GHS events diary

Saturday 8 September  
GHSS Study Day: Heritage Gardens and Designed Landscapes  
Brechin Auditorium, Angus

14 & 15 September  
GHSS Study Day: South-West Scotland Landscape Perspectives  
Cally Palace Hotel, Dumfries & Galloway

Friday 21 September  
Study Day at the Yorkshire Sculpture Park: ‘In a most agreeable valley’  
the development of the landscape at Bretton Hall 1720–2012

Monday 5 November  
GHSS Edinburgh Lecture:  
Professor Charles McKean on Country House Policies 1550–1709

2013, with more to come

selected Wednesdays,  
30 January to 20 March  
GHS Winter Lectures, Cowcross Street, London

Thursday 14 March  
GHSS Edinburgh Lecture:  
Kristina Taylor on Passion, Plants and Patronage: 300 years of Bute family landscapes

14 to 25 April  
Study Tour to the Landscapes of California

7 to 9 June  
GHS/OUDCE Weekend School: Gardens and Art

late September  
Study Tour to the parks and gardens of North Bohemia, Silesia & Saxony

Details and booking information for all our events can be found inside, on pages 5 to 8, or look at our website: www.gardenhistorysociety.org/events