

GHS *news*

90 its nearly Spring 2013

THE GARDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

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Copy deadlines

for **micro-news 91a** — 10 May
for **GHS news 92** — 1 August

contact us

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news

Membership subscriptions: on-line payments

We have been working hard behind the scenes to modernise our payments methods and are pleased to announce that both GHS Membership payments and renewals will shortly be available online at www.gardenhistorysociety.org where you will be able to log on and complete your payment via credit or debit card, as well as update your personal details. We hope this will be of particular use to overseas members. Once up and running, any queries should be emailed to ghsmembership@lavenhamgroup.co.uk or phone: 01787 247 436. More details to follow or check the website.

You can continue to pay by cheque, Direct Debit, BACS bank transfer or credit card.

Unlike very many other organisations, we continue to hold our membership rates at:

- Ordinary member (single): £35 (UK), £40 (Europe), £43 (Rest of world)
- Ordinary member (joint): £43 (UK), £48 (Europe), £51 (Rest of world)
- Young (24 or under)/Student members : £10
- Library or Corporate member: £75 (UK), £80 (Europe), £85 (Rest of world)
- Life member (single): £700, (joint): £1,000

Our Website

A debate has broken out on our website under the title 'Embrace the future or stagnate' with another strand on Toby Musgrave's excellent gardenhistorymatters.com

The gist seems to be that we, the GHS, are looking our age, and not appealing to younger garden historians and others who might be interested.

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

The Society gratefully acknowledges the support of Alan Baxter and Associates

Our cover shows the 300 year old Northern Avenue at Hartwell, to be 'improved' by HS2, see p5. Photo by Charles Boot

A more worrying comment is on the subject of our journal which is thought not to appeal to younger students; is that the content, more readable than most, or its look?

I could draw their attention to the fact that membership, for them, only costs £10 (can you get a month's mobile access for that?) and for that they get two copies of *Garden History*, two *news*, two *micro-news*, two libraries, access to all our *events*, an Essay Prize, a Graduate Symposium and all our expertise; even a free lecture, brought to their doorstep.

By coincidence, or perhaps not, we are already looking to update our web presence as our existing site has probably out-stayed its welcome. If you have any comments or suggestions please do add them or send them to me directly: news@gardenhistorysociety.org. Hopefully we will have something fresh to say by the summer.

As I hit my 50th birthday last Christmas, a couple of years before the Society hits its own, perhaps I need to consider my, never rescinded, Honorary Youngest Member hat. *ebay* anyone?

Charles Boot

GHS Library at University of Bath

The Garden History Society library, comprising over 1,200 books, plus additional guidebooks, documents and slides are all available for use by University of Bath staff and students and members of the GHS on a reference only basis, and are currently being added to the Library catalogue by Faculty Librarian Hannah South. At present records for over 430 of these books are included.

We would especially like to mention the very recent gift of books and pamphlets from Carolyn Keep, 'on gardens and architecture, with a particular emphasis on women garden writers, particularly those texts from between the wars and just after WWII that have now almost disappeared from view.' As usual this gift will be marked with a special individual book plate.

Our library at the **King's Manor, York**, continues with similar arrangements to serve members in the north of England, and we are happy to recommend the RHS Lindley Library to members based around London, whose opening hours can be found in the final section of this *news*.

If you would like to discuss giving books to the GHS libraries please contact **Charles Boot**, the Society's Honorary Librarian; contact details appear above, or at the base of the back cover:

College Lectures 2013

Getting our message out to a new, and younger, audience. Underlining our continuing commitment to education and to spreading the word on the fascinating topic of garden history, the GHS is pleased to offer a further series of free College Lectures.

For students of horticulture, landscape architecture, garden design, conservation and garden history, specialist speakers are available to give a lecture on a wide range of issues free of charge in a bona fide educational establishment.

Previous lectures have been given by experts such as Kim Wilkie, Brian Dix, and Dominic Cole among others. Hadlow, Pershore, Plumpton, Writtle, Leeds Metropolitan University and more have taken up this exclusive opportunity in the past. Contact our Administrator, Lou Cooper: enquiries@gardenhistorysociety.org for further details or to arrange a date?

9th GHS Annual Essay Prize

Entries for the Society's Annual Essay Prize 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. The GHS is delighted to receive entries from related departments such as geography, art history, history, architecture and archaeology.

Submissions should be around 5,000 to 6,000 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 the winning entries.

The prize includes an award of £250, free membership of the Society for a year and consideration for publication in our 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; several entries from previous year's competitions are currently in preparation for publication in forthcoming issues, or have already been published.

For full conditions and submission details look at the website or contact: enquiries@gardenhistorysociety.org

The Essay Prize is supported by NFU Mutual

Katie Campbell

GHS events

3rd Graduate Symposium

10.30am, Friday 12 July

This year our Graduate Symposium will be held, once again, at London's Garden Museum, next door to Lambeth Palace.

In a change to last year's programme, the Symposium will now be held in the morning, and

followed by lunch at which there will be a further opportunity to talk to the speakers. Full details of the programme appear in the **GHS events** section, p7. Our AGM will follow in the afternoon, and the day will conclude with a drinks party in the Museum's gardens.

Patrick Eyres

GHS events 2013

Booking Forms for most events appear on our website



minoo713: The Beautiful Myanmar

London Lecture by Dr David Marsh *A little bit of Surrey in the sun? A hundred years of the national botanic gardens of Burma*

The Gallery, 70 Cowcross Street
6.30pm, Wednesday 6 March

Maymyo was a poor relation in the family of Kew-inspired tropical botanic gardens. Established late in colonial rule by 'amateurs', it quickly suffered from staff turnover and uncertainty as to its role. After the war and independence it fell further into decline but has recently been 'privatized' by the government. Uncovering its story has been difficult but offers a different perspective on the history and political role of botanic gardens and their possible future in the developing world.

£10 on the door, £8 in advance

GHSS Lecture by Kristina Taylor *Passion, Plants and Patronage: Three Hundred years of the Bute Family Landscapes*

The Royal Botanical Garden of Edinburgh
7pm for 7.30pm, Thursday 14 March

Several generations of the Bute family have

been intimately involved in the development and maintenance of landscapes in Scotland, England and Wales. This talk will link the personalities and landscapes, with particular reference to the two most prominent family members in the field of parks and gardens, the 3rd Earl in C18 and the 3rd Marquess in C19, and discuss the happy condition of these landscapes today.

Tickets on the door: £5, non-members £7.50.



Charles Boot

Hiding in plain sight: a former Bute family garden at St John's Lodge, Regents Park. Hylas and the Nymph replaced John Patrick's original fountain head, of John the Baptist, in 2007

London Lecture by Robert Peel & Kristina Taylor *Passion, Plants and Patronage*

The Gallery, 70 Cowcross Street
6.30pm, Wednesday 20 March

Both of the authors of *Passion Plants and Patronage* will give our lecture. See above for more.

£10 on the door, £8 in advance



Study Tour: Landscapes of California

Sunday 14 to Thursday 25 April

FULLY BOOKED

GHS in Scotland AGM & Lecture

AGM at 6pm, lecture at 7.15pm, Wednesday 15 May

The Orwell Room, Riddle's Court,
322 Lawnmarket, Edinburgh, EH1 2PG

Following our AGM **Dr Peter Burman**, Chairman GHSS, Arts & Heritage Consultant, Archivist of Hopetoun House, will give the AGM lecture on *Spirit of Place: The Intangible in Garden & Landscape Design*. Peter will argue that intangible aspects of gardens, whether historic or recent, are as important as the more tangible ones but require a little more detective work and patience to unravel.

Doors open at 5.30pm. Whilst the AGM is free, a charge of £7 will be made for the lecture.

Chelsea Fringe event

Saturday 19 May

As part of the activities of Chelsea Fringe, the GHS is arranging a walking tour on the afternoon of Saturday 19 May, around some of central London's green spaces. Sally Williams, compiler of the London Parks and Gardens Trust *Inventory* (see p35) will lead it; her knowledge of their history will ensure the itinerary will be intriguing, although it has yet to be revealed. Everyone will be welcome on this free tour which will function as a recruitment for garden history, so please bring friends who are not yet members.

For further information about the route and its starting point, please consult the website or contact Robert Peel: rma.peel@btopenworld.com

Gardening Scotland Show, Edinburgh Call for Volunteers

Friday 31 May to Sunday 2 June

This is our main chance to show the Scottish gardening public the work of the GHSS; in particular the researches of the Regional Groups and our events for 2013. We have morning and afternoon shifts on all 3 days; free entry tickets will be provided, and you will be free to see the rest of the show when not on duty. There is a shuttle bus from the centre of the city to the show ground. Please let Grace Ellis know if you can help.

Contact Grace, our GHSS Gardening Scotland Co-ordinator: Graceellis@virgin.net or phone: 0131 447 4124

Gardens and Art

GHS/OUCE Weekend School,

at Rewley House, Oxford

Friday 7 to Sunday 9 June

Our annual weekend school will be concerned primarily with how gardens have been portrayed in art, though the influence of art on garden design will also be considered. We will visit **Worcester College garden** and the **Ashmolean Museum**.



Buckinghamshire County Museum, Aylesbury

Bathazar Nebot's 1738 view of the Northern Avenue at Hartwell, with the intended route of HS2 shown in red

Our speakers are: **Dr Sally Jeffery** on *Images of the gardens at Versailles*; **Richard Wheeler** on *Reading the landscape – Bathazar Nebot's paintings of Hartwell in Buckinghamshire*; **Dr John Whiteley** on *The Claudian Garden*; **Michael Symes** on *Worcester College and the Picturesque*; **Winnie Chan** on *Gardens in Chinese art*; **Christine Lalumia** on *Eden or gilded cage? The representation of women in the domestic garden, 1850–1939*; **Professor Clare Willsdon** on *Garden of water and fire: Monet at Giverny*.

Cost; £305 residential, from £120 tuition only. For further information contact Rewley House: ppdayweek@conted.ox.ac.uk or: 01865 270 380

Lowther Castle: A Noble Prospect

Lowther Castle and Gardens, Penrith, Cumbria

Research and Recording Study Day

AGT and Lancashire Gardens Trust, in association

with Cumbria Gardens Trust and The GHS

10am to 4pm, Wednesday 19 June

FULLY BOOKED, as we went to Press

The first documented building at Lowther was a 12th-century pele tower, but Bronze Age implements have been found from previous

GHS events

settlements. The present estate runs to 75,000 acres, the North Park to 140 acres, the South Park to 3,000 acres and the gardens and grounds to 130 acres, so there is an enormous amount to see, understand and uncover.

The two main phases of development in the 400-year-old gardens history begin in the 1690s when Sir John Lowther laid out massive elaborate gardens in the French baroque style together with areas of the garden full of fruit and vegetables.



Lowther Castle

The Fifth Earl of Lonsdale took over the castle and gardens in 1882 and he set about a major reworking of the gardens with the help of Thomas Mawson. First the rose garden was planted then came a massive new rock garden, Japanese garden, alpine garden and iris garden to name just a few. Although the Fifth Earl added many new features to the gardens he respected and kept the earlier structural layout.

The latest exciting chapter is happening now with a £9 million restoration programme.

Lecturers are **The Hon. Jim Lowther** on *Fortunes and Fashions: An introduction to Lowther Castle and gardens*; **Bryan Gray**, Chairman of Lowther Castle and Gardens Trust on *Restoration and Revelation: The Lowther project*; **Dominic Cole**, Consultant Landscape Architect & GHS Chairman on *Sir John's Baroque Terraces: The legacy of four hundred years of history*; **Dan Pearson**, Landscape Designer on *Spirit of Place: Inspirational new designs for the Lowther gardens*. They will be followed by lunch and a tour of the gardens at 2pm, with **Steve Lannin**, Lowther's head gardener, and his team.

Cost: £44, including entry fee, tea and coffee, lunch and a guided tour of the gardens. Contact **Teresa**, the AGT Co-ordinator: gardenstrusts@agt.org.uk or phone 020 7251 2610.

Lowther Castle additional visits

Tuesday 18 June to Thursday 20 June

Although the Study Day is now full, the programme of extra visits is still open

More glorious gardens, all displaying *A Noble Prospect*, calling in the natural landscape around them, hills, river and sea. Accommodation is at the **Netherwood Hotel**, situated on the hillside overlooking Morecambe Bay, in Grange-over-Sands, north of Lancaster. Grange station connects well with London Euston. The programme begins with lunch on Tuesday and ends after lunch on Thursday, and includes transport to Lowther Castle on the Study Day, which you are welcome to visit.



Arabella Lennox-Boyd's garden at Gresgarth Hall

Visits will be to **Gresgarth Hall**, on Tuesday afternoon: Arabella Lennox-Boyd creates garden designs in English country-house style, interpreting classical forms and furnishing them with lush, contemporary planting. Her Chelsea gardens have won many Gold Medals. Her own large garden displays many of her favourite features, and lies in a romantic valley setting beside a tributary of the river Lune.

Levens Hall, on Wednesday evening: this world famous topiary garden was laid out from 1690 onwards by Guillaume Beaumont who had worked at Hampton Court. Today the yew and box shapes assume fantastical identities, whilst the parterre seen from above resembles a Cubist painting. Its beds are planted in blocks of vivid colour.



Levens Hall renowned for its 'ancient' yew topiary

Holker Hall, on Thursday morning: Hugh, Lord Cavendish and his wife Grania, painter and photographer, garden on a site which is much blessed, by the mild influence of the Bay and by the cradle of the distant hills. They have built on the legacy of previous generations, and refreshed and extended the plant collections within an elegant framework, over 25 acres. Kim Wilkie has added the newest feature.

Cost (including accommodation and transport), £290, shared room, £310 single. Non-residential: £130. Contact: Mrs Mary Bishop, 497 Chorley New Road, Heaton, Bolton BL1 5DQ, email: mary.bishop1@btinternet.com. or phone: 01204 494 525. Booking closes 30 April.

**Myddleton House and Forty Hall, Enfield
With the London Parks & Gardens Trust
10.45am, Tuesday 2 July**

A visit to Myddleton House and Forty Hall to the north of London in Enfield Borough will take place in early July in association with London Parks and Gardens Trust. Myddelton House, Bulls Cross, Enfield, was built for H. C. Bowles in 1818 on the site of an earlier house. The well-known plantsman **E. A. Bowles** made a famous garden there c1900, which has recently been restored.

We will have a guided tour of the garden, to be followed by lunch and a visit to nearby Forty Hall, built for Sir Nicholas Raynton in 1629. The extensive grounds, which include the site of the Tudor Elsynghe Palace and water-gardens, were formally laid out at the end of the 17th century and subsequently landscaped. Funding has been granted for the restoration of many of the historic features, and we will be taken round the grounds

by Sally Prothero and Chris Laine of LDA, who have drawn up the management plan.

Price: £30, to include lunch and coffee/tea on arrival. For further information, or to receive a booking form, please contact Robert Peel: rma.peel@btopenworld.com or phone him, after 6 March: 020 7121 8938.

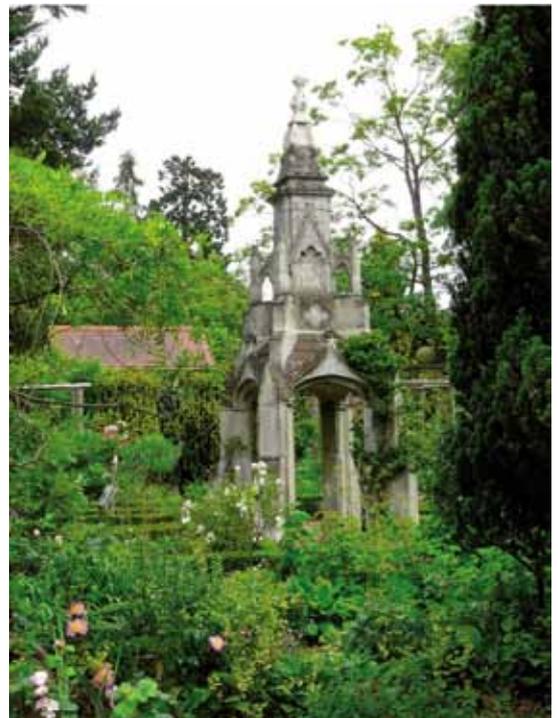
**3rd GHS Graduate Symposium
and Annual General Meeting**

The Garden Museum, London
Symposium at 10.30am, AGM at 3pm
Friday 12 July

Since we are promoting the Annual Conference of the Association of Garden Truats this year instead of holding one of our own, our AGM will be at the Garden Museum in central London.

The day starts at 10.30 in the morning, with our third Graduate Symposium at which five speakers, with an international range of subjects, will be presenting their unpublished papers on aspects of garden history.

Our speakers are: **Dr Paolo Cornaglia**, Assistant Professor, Turin Polytechnic, Department of Architecture and Design, on *French gardens and gardening families in Piedmont in the 17th and 18th*



In the Rose Garden at Myddleton House

GHS events

centuries; **Jessica Tipton**, PhD Candidate, University of Bristol, on *An 18th-century Russian visitor's impressions of English gardening*; **Diane James**, PhD Candidate, University of Warwick, on *An endless variety of forms and proportions: Indian Influence on British Gardens and Garden Architecture*; **Michal Bitton**, PhD Candidate, The Hebrew University, Jerusalem, on *The Garden as Sacred Nature and the Garden as a Church: Transitions of Design and Function in the Garden of Gethsemane, 1800–1959*; **Alison Wear**, MA Garden History, University of Bristol, on *Roberto Burle Marx, 1909–94: Painting with Nature*.

After lunch, the AGM, at 3pm, will be followed, in the late afternoon by drinks in the garden of the Museum. Our **Annual Report** and Voting Papers will be distributed, as usual, with our June mailing.

As you will see from the enclosed **Booking Form**, we should like to know in advance how many will be attending the Symposium and how many the Annual General Meeting.

We need to receive payment in advance from those who would like to order lunch between the Symposium and the AGM, and from those who would like to stay on for the drinks party in the museum's garden afterwards.

All details are provided on the **Booking Form**, which we request is returned to us by **4 July** at the latest, but preferably much sooner than that.

Eastern Promise: Transforming London's Landscapes, from Abercrombie to the Olympics AGT Annual Conference Queen Mary College, University of London, Mile End, London Friday 6 to Sunday 8 September

The Conference will explore how East London's landscapes have been reshaped over the last 60 years, culminating in the transformation of Stratford for the 2012 London Olympics. The Conference is organised by the London Parks & Gardens Trust and details of many of the sites to be visited can be found on the Trust's website: www.londongardensonline.org

Friday's programme begins at 1.15pm with a **seminar on Open Garden Squares Weekend** – the London Parks & Gardens Trust's hugely successful annual event, now being taken up by cities worldwide. This will be followed by the Association of Gardens Trusts' AGM and Business



Katy Myers

The rebuilt Pagoda in Victoria Park

Meeting and a party to celebrate the Association's 20th birthday.

For those not taking part in the meetings there will be a visit to **Victoria Park**, one of the most popular parks in East London, which opened in 1845 as a 'Memorial to the Sovereign'. The tour will be led by **Sally Protheroe** project manager of the recent Heritage Lottery Fund £12million refurbishment, which has restored many of its historic features. The evening will conclude with an introduction to the themes of the weekend by **Professor Ken Worpole**, one of Britain's most influential writers on architecture and landscape.

Saturday kicks off with **Dr Alan Powers** of Greenwich University and former Chairman of the Twentieth Century Society, on *The development of the innovative Lansbury community neighbourhood as part of the Festival of Britain*. This will be followed by a visit to **Mile End Park**, lead by park manager **Mike Rowan**. The park was proposed in Patrick Abercrombie's 1944 London Plan, and completed in 1995 with Millennium Commission regeneration funding, including its much admired green bridge.

We then visit the dazzling **Thames Barrier Park** led by LPGT's own expert **Chris Sumner**. Created on industrial wasteland in 1998, by Provost and Cousseran, designers of the Parc Andre Citroen



Sally Williams

Jubilee Park, Canary Wharf

in Paris, this was the first public park along the Thames riverfront for nearly 50 years. Saturday evening's Conference dinner in the dramatic surroundings of **Canary Wharf**, will be preceded by a visit to this iconic urban regeneration led by LPGT's Keeper of the Inventory **Sally Williams**. 40 hectares of East London's former docklands have been transformed with parks, plazas, trees, flowering plants and a vast public art collection.

Sunday is devoted to the **Queen Elizabeth**



The familiar roofline of the Velodrome, Olympic Park

Olympic Park. The new 100-hectare park is one of the largest to be created in Europe for over a century. The visit will be introduced and led by **Andrew Harland**, senior partner with landscape practice LDA Design; he jointly led the team responsible for the design of the Olympic Park and its transformation into the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. He will be joined by **Sarah Price**, one of the designers of the internationally acclaimed 2012 Olympic Gardens.

The Conference base is Queen Mary College,

which evolved from the 1886 People's Palace in Mile End Road. The current College buildings span the whole of the twentieth century, but the site also includes the remnant of the New Sephardi Jewish Cemetery founded in 1733. The prize winning residential student village, completed in 2004, sensitively marries architecture and landscape, incorporating views across the Regent's Canal to Mile End Park.

Delegates may wish to extend their stay at Queen Mary College before or after the Conference. For enquiries please contact the London Parks & Gardens Trust: office@londongardenstrust.org or phone: 02078393969.

There is limited parking at the College and those wishing to bring cars should contact the Trust as above.

Final details of the Conference, further information about travel and registration arrangements and visits to other suggested sites nearby in London, will be contained in the Conference joining pack, which will be made available to delegates in August.

Cost: Twin shared room, £296 per person, single room, £312. Non-residential rates, £213.50. Download a Booking Form and make payment to: London Parks & Gardens Trust, Duck Island Cottage, St James's Park, London, SW1A 2BJ. Contact: office@londongardenstrust.org or phone: 0207 8393 969.

Bohemia/Silesia/Saxony Study Tour
 Saturday 21 to Friday 27 September
FULLY BOOKED

Alicia Amherst
 Autumn Study Day
 Friends House, Euston,
 London
 Saturday 9 November

Alicia Amherst, the founding mother of garden history in England, was not only an author with access to the great gardens of late-19th-century Britain but was also active in finding jobs for British women gardeners abroad.

For further information please contact Gwenneth Raybould: garden@gbz.demon.co.uk



conservation notes

we invite contributions from the county gardens trusts...

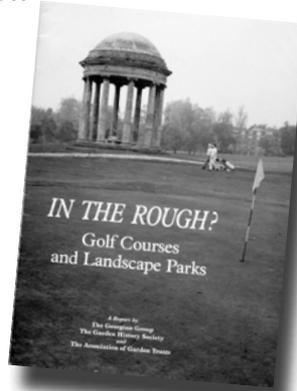
Out of the rough revisited... A tale of two golf courses (at Stowe)

Sarah Rutherford, of Bucks Gardens Trust

This is a tale of two golf courses and what exemplary restoration can be achieved in a great landscape garden with the generosity of an anonymous benefactor. It is a good news story, one which was unimaginable some twenty years ago when as an aspiring conservation professional I sent for a copy of *In the Rough*. Longstanding members will recall that this was not some investigation into the seamier side of urban life by Ian Sinclair, but a hard-hitting report commissioned by The GHS, The Georgian Group, and then newly-formed Association of Gardens Trusts to examine the effect of golf courses in landscape parks.

In the Rough set out the basic incompatibility of landscape parks and golf courses as they were being designed at the time, and tried to suggest solutions. The front cover was illustrated by one of the more notorious examples of a golf course in a landscape garden, the Stowe School golf course in Lord Cobham's seminal Home Park at Stowe, arguably the greatest landscape garden of the lot. The image showed one of the earliest and most influential garden rotundas (Vanbrugh, c1721) juxtaposed with the paraphernalia of a golf course. The National Trust bizarrely used a very similar image in their latest magazine to illustrate Stowe's place as a favourite garden; of all the images of the beautifully restored Stowe they might have picked!

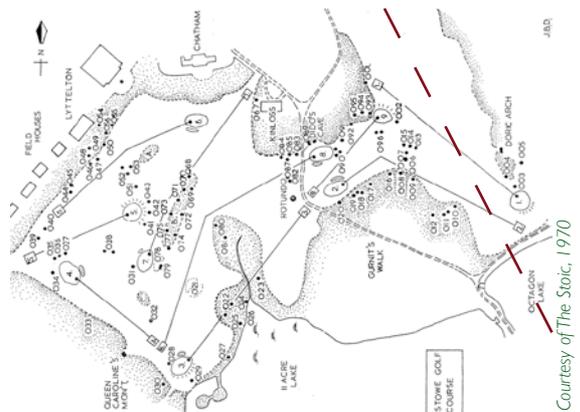
Golf quickly became a key part of school life after the core of the Stowe estate was rescued in 1922 for use as a great new public school in rural north Bucks, in a pioneering conversion by the architect of Portmeirion, Clough Williams-Ellis. Outdoor activities were and remain a key part of the school ethos. The school golf course was set up around the palatial mansion. *The Stoic*, the school's magazine, in 1924 asked, 'What happens to golf balls played into the Headmaster's garden [on the south front of the mansion]? The peacocks who eat the bulbs there daily are suspected of having some guilty knowledge on this matter: What happens to the player is of course a different question.' The 9-hole course now occupies the



Home Park and the great south vista and remains part of the school facilities.

The Stowe golf course illustrates well the key difficulties of constructing a golf course in a landscape park or garden without damaging the landscape character, which have of course been rehearsed over the years by various Conservation Officers in this very GHS organ. These chiefly relate to the remodelling of the ground for greens, tees, bunkers and hazards, planting of alien vegetation in lines to define fairways, and the alien appearance of golfing features, equipment and turf management regimes. When the pioneering Stowe Framework Conservation Plan was drawn up by Inskip and Jenkins for the National Trust and Stowe School in 1999 it highlighted the damage done by the golf course to one of the earliest parts of the landscape garden and firmly called for its removal at the earliest opportunity (which seemed unlikely ever to happen).

The dilemma was, how to do this? The school did not wish to give up its golf facility, with a small private club attached, but was aware of the incongruous nature of a golf course in this uber-sensitive position for the garden and mansion. The National Trust were also keen to see it go



Plan showing how the 1st and 2nd fairways run along the main Vista from the Mansion to the Octagon Lake



Howard's map of 1843, showing Lampport village, middle, with the Bourbon Tower above, encircled by 8 oak clumps planted by the French Royal family when its exiled members visited in 1808

from here but had no means of facilitating this. The solution came recently in the form of an anonymous benefactor who, keenly aware of the issues, philanthropically offered to pay for the re-siting of the golf course in a less sensitive area of the Grade I registered Stowe landscape, if one could be found. This almost unimaginable scenario was applauded by both the National Trust and

Stowe School, who jointly set about locating a suitable site. This turned out to be centred on a convenient piece of relict agricultural land around Lampport village which Lord Cobham and Earl Temple had never been able to acquire for their park. Instead they had turned their backs upon it and screened both village and fields from their Arcadian landscape garden. How convenient!

conservation notes



Sarah Rutherford

The currently unrestored Bourbon Tower lies at the heart of the new golf course

The land chosen is owned by both bodies and wraps around the earthwork remains of Lamport village and two surviving, privately-owned, village houses (largely rebuilt). This core area links the Deer Park to the north, containing Lord Cobham and Gibbs's Bourbon Tower (c1740) with Bridgeman's 1720s Bycell Riding in agricultural land to the south next to Gibbs's Stowe Castle (c1740). A landscape analysis highlighted the significances of the various areas and the restoration required to reinstate the historic landscape. This formed the basis for the next stage which was to set out a 9-hole layout taking into account all the constraints, particularly the grade I registered landscape, archaeological features, the concerns of other owners, public rights of way and wildlife. Here was a marvellous opportunity for an exemplar golf course design, minimizing the visual and physical effects on the historic environment while creating a testing golf course which would suit learners and experienced golfers alike, and restoring much of the historic landscape in which it was to sit.

The genial gentlemen of the Sports Turf Research Institute (STRI) who were commissioned to design the course initially were pretty relaxed about fitting the golf course into the area chosen,

thinking that it was generous for the needs of a 9-hole course. By the time they had been apprised of all these constraints they were scratching their head, it was quite a test to fit it in and still provide a good playing facility. They had not dealt with golf in historic parks, nor their demanding champions, before, but quickly got the message and responded with aplomb.

But what about access to the course, car parking, and where to site the club house, at present essentially a garden shed next to the remains of the pyramid near the East Boycott Pavilion? Could the club house be picked up with a crane and dropped onto the new course, a mile or so away? Would a new one have to be built in the C18 landscape and if so where and how could its visual impact be minimised? Conveniently the north end of the chosen site bordered the school's playing fields and changing rooms, already largely screened from the C18 landscape and containing car parking. A new club house could be sited here with the first tee adjacent and the last hole nearby, well screened from the C18 landscape and with access, services and parking established.



Sarah Rutherford

The ancient 'Fairy Oak' another 'heritage asset' on the new golf course, most probably named after a Mr Fairy

Planning permission was applied for with all the necessary information to support the siting and layout of the course, and was granted in April 2012. The GHS, which had been consulted at an early stage of the design, warmly applauded this proposal and endorsed it as an exemplary approach to such a case. English Heritage had concerns about ensuring that the old golf course would be shut and the Home Park and its surrounding wildernesses restored, but the National Trust

was delighted to agree to take on the area, and undertake the restoration of the final piece in the jigsaw of Stowe Landscape Garden on the basis of an updated conservation management plan.

So what next? Work on the new golf course and the restoration of its historic environment will take place in 2014, and it has to be allowed to mature for a year before it can be played on. This takes us to the autumn of 2015 for the opening of

the new course and closing of the old one, with the restoration of the Home Park following on from this. We can only be grateful for anonymous benefactors, without whom the renaissance of many examples of Britain's greatest contribution to the visual arts would not be possible.

A version of this article appeared in *The Bucks Gardener* 33, Spring 2013, newsletter of the Bucks Gardens Trust.

Bibliography of Conservation Management Plans looks set to be a big hit...

Readers will remember that Linden Groves is busy carrying out an English Heritage funded project for Society to produce a readily available reference list of Conservation Management Plans (CMPs) relating to historic landscapes in the UK, and where to access them. Good news, we now have well over 400 entries, with contributors ranging from 'big name' landscape practices, to small one-man bands, as well as County Gardens Trusts and national heritage organisations. The landscapes themselves are a fabulous mix of 18th-century park, municipal urban recreation space, private garden, interesting cemeteries and much more.

For a small sample of entries already received, please look at: www.gardenhistorysociety.org/conservation/conservation-management-plan-project/cmp-sample-details/attachment/cmp-samples-4/

It is hoped that we can keep the list updated in future but the first stage will see publication later this spring, a milestone which is expected to be of great use to researchers.

Dr Marion Harney, Director of Studies running the MSc Conservation of Historic Gardens and Cultural Landscapes (University of Bath) has commented that, 'A huge amount of research is needed to prepare a plan and many heritage assets have a long history of reports, historical or scientific accounts, or other documentation including collections and archives which are all brought together during the CMP process.

In order to understand the heritage asset CMPs describe how it has changed over time, from the earliest period to the present day using documentary research, archival information, historical maps and plans, archaeological information, oral history and field observations. These include published or unpublished sources, guidebooks or reports and the location of



Linden Groves at the Landscape Institute Awards in November, to publicise the Society's CMP project

important sources of information, making them an invaluable resource to students, researchers and all those interested in understanding why our heritage is important and to whom it matters.

This exciting project to make CMPs available and accessible will enable everyone interested in their heritage to participate in looking after our heritage assets for future generations and is worthy of the support of us all!

We are continuing to welcome entries up until the end of March 2013 so, whether you are a CMP author, a property owner, or just happen to have one sitting on your shelf, do please contact Linden: cmp@gardenhistorysociety.org

Arthur Markham Nesfield Remembered

Dr Shirley Evans

In *micro-news* 90a Winter 2012 I discussed the Nesfields' involvement at Regent's Park, London and drew attention to the work of Arthur Markham Nesfield (1841–74).¹ Little has been written about this landscape designer's contribution to the genre but from the 1860s, when he virtually took over the family landscape design business from his father, until his early untimely death his reputation steadily increased. It being said of him that, 'he briefly enjoyed the largest reputation of any designer of his generation.'² Markham was the second son of William Andrews Nesfield (1794–1881), who had been an officer in the military, a professional watercolour painter of rural, picturesque scenery and finally, for almost forty years in the middle of Queen Victoria's reign, a landscape designer to some of the most influential and wealthy landowners in the British Isles. Markham was born in Eton and he and his three brothers were educated at Eton College. The family later moved to 3 York Terrace in the Regent's Park area of London, in order that his father could have better access to the growing railway system, and to his clients when they were in Town.

In 1862 in order to prepare himself to follow in his father's footsteps, Markham travelled to the Continent, but before doing so he paid a visit to the Horticultural Society and: 'got a great deal of information about Dutch gardens and 4–5 useful recommendations and had a friendly jaw with Dr. Lindley.' Armed with this information he set off, firstly to Paris where he made many drawings of gardens, and noted that lime and yew were best for high hedges and hornbeam and box for low. On 14 September he recalled that he had a great day at St. Cloud where he 'just got in as the cascade of the great canal was coming to a close — it is nothing extraordinary after all & this seemingly applies to the place generally — its neither geometric or picturesque & looks as if its author had been divided between two opinions and died before he had made up his mind — a chaos is the result. The grand jet looks

like a renovated horsepond.' From there he went by boat to Liege, and visited several nurseries. Makon, the first nursery he visited in Belgium, had names in the Visitors Book which he recognised, Dr Lindley, Lee and Veitch. He departed with a very favourable impression of Belgian nurseries and he only wished there were more of them to visit. From there he moved on to Aix-le-Chapelle which he thought the guidebooks 'puff up rather unnecessarily, it is not a fine town'.

He moved on to Cologne travelling past 'several fine woods, whole plantations of birch, forests of beech & oak. Large tracts of land fresh planted with spruce and Scotch Fir.' From Cologne he went to Dusseldorf by train, and on to Amsterdam, where he saw, 'bays and hampers of bulbs being packed for England, narcissus being raised in a hot bed sufficient to heat an iron to an almost unbearable heat — mostly composed of bark in strips to a depth of 3 feet.' He learnt a lesson in planting bulbs, saying, 'the beds although entirely sandy were intersected about every 8 or 9 feet by open drains 11 inches deep, and 14 inches to 15 inches wide at the top these communicated with a circumscribing drain, a trifle deeper than the rest. The water thus accumulated is left to find its way through the porous earth the best way it can.' He moved on from there to Haarlam where they had lots of formal plants, hollies, yew, box, yuccas, aloes, etc. Then to Leiden which he described as a town of great historical interest thence, to the Hague and home.

On 28 September 1864 he took a month return ticket to Paris via Newhaven and Dieppe where he met an American Southerner and they chummed up, occupying a room together at the Hotel de France the most central place in Paris. He went to see the foliage plants at the end of Prince Eugene Avenue, which he said was the grandest show he ever saw and spent the rest of the day in the Bois de Bologne especially at the gardens where he made many notes. Whilst he was away on this trip he received a letter from the editor of the *Gardeners' Chronicle* asking him if he would find time to write for the magazine. He completed this working visit by sketching some gardens in Paris.

¹ Correction from *micro-news* 90a

² Brent Elliott, *Victorian Gardens*: Batsford Limited, 1986, p144

By 1866 Markham had his own clerk and surveyor and it is from July of that year that his *Notebook of Travelling Expenses* survives, an ongoing account which covers seven years from 1867 until 1873, just a few months before his untimely death. He was thrown from his horse when riding from his home in Dorset Square towards Regent's Park and when near Hanover Gate he was thrown and killed almost instantaneously. A blow both to his father and his wife Fanny Katherine Powell (Kate), as by that time the couple had produced five children, three of whom survived into adulthood. Although Markham was only in his early 30s when he died his *Notebook* demonstrates the extent of his landscape design work and that, like his father, he was far from being solely a designer of pleasure grounds but could advise on all aspects of the landscape. He had no difficulty in obtaining commissions, undoubtedly helped by the fact that his father had paved the way for him through recommendations to his own wealthy and influential clients. Indeed, the 1860s were to be a productive and successful time for all three Nesfields, as Markham's elder brother William Eden (1835–88), a successful architect, lived in the family home in York Terrace. Therefore, it is not difficult to imagine the interplay of ideas which would have taken place between the three of them, especially as both Markham and Eden enjoyed working on estates where their father was well-known and respected.

There are no plans or planting schemes relating to the properties discussed in the *Notebook*, its sole purpose being to act as a reminder to Markham of the expenses he had incurred when travelling back and forth to the estates of his clients, and of the work he had carried out during these visits. They also demonstrate just how time consuming, repetitive and mundane the work of a professional landscape designer could be, with repeated visits to ensure that his plans were followed out correctly by the gardeners left to get on with things in between his visits. However, from them we gain an insight into the day-to-day business activities of a successful landscape designer in the middle of the nineteenth century, relying on the railway network to ensure that he was able to travel fairly comfortably around the British Isles.

His *Notebook* shows that his commissions took him to estates in Shropshire, Kent, Hertfordshire, Warwickshire, Cornwall, Ireland, Norfolk,

Herefordshire, Lancashire, Berkshire, Sussex, Surrey and North Wales and the following records, from the Nesfield Archives, give an idea of what being a landscape designer involved then:

Hampton-in-Arden, Warwickshire

For the Rt Hon. Frederick Peel. Both Markham and his brother Eden worked here, Eden designing new estate cottages and a lodge house and restoring the manor house and church.

25 February 1867: *Left Euston Square by the 6.15 for Hampton departed late and did not arrive at Hampton till past 12.*

Went round with Mr. Peel to look at proposed terminal to Y Walk and new position for kitchen garden. Staked out centre line, set M to work. Took note of rhododendron hole to be modified and advised this left as it is. Also alteration to moat by garden house, which I explained to Godfrey.

Plan wanted directly for the termination of Y Walk – outlet by churchyard and hole.

26 *Left by 8.11 in morning for Birmingham.*

28 February 1867: *Surveyor to Hampton-in-Arden.*

26 March 1867: *Left by the 10 o'clock from Paddington for Warwick. After lunch examined site for new ground and alteration of building. Left March 27 by 10.5 from Avenue Road station Leamington. Arrived London 12.45, home at 1 p.m.*

3 May 1867: *Left Euston by the 8.45. Met Mr. Massey at Hampton. Lunched at the Ring of Bells. Mr. Massey to write to me by Tuesday next. Looked over ground by Stables. Returned by 4.23 arrived at London 8.50.*

5 August 1867: *Left by the 6.25 train Euston for Hampton in Arden. Met by Marsh at the station. Staked out central line and Mr. Marsh to take levels. Examined the lines and propose amendments. Looked over the pit hole with Godfrey. Went to the village road but could not stake out exit on account of planting. Returned by 6.3 arrived at 9.30.*

5 October 1867: *Left Euston Square by the 6.15 for Hampton arrived at 9.30. Went over ground of old cottages and the stables etc. New exit to village road, Y walk, pit hole and principal front with Mr. Peel. Afterwards with Godfrey marked sites for standard thorns and for group by approach. Also in pit hole, Walked ground and revised sketch for garden. Returned by 7.30 got home at 11.*

28 July 1868: *Left by 6.15 for Hampton. Found ? and his tutor staying there. Walked over ground by stakes etc. Godfrey had staked out centre line, position of wall and basin. Studied ground for new plantings also*

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ground by line of oak trees. Ought to have returned by 7.45, left by 9.21 waited at Coventry until 5 minutes to 2. Mail to Rugby and from thence limited mail to Town. Arrived a little before 8. Paid 5s. extra on ticket.

24 December 1868: Left by the 6.15 from Euston Square. Looked over grounds and studied line of road and entrance. Walked over new line proposed by Mr. Peel. To send a plan of it. Returned by 6 o'clock train.

16 February 1869: Left by the 6.15 from Euston for Hampton with Marsh went over ground with him and studied plantings shown on plan by Mr. Peel. Lunched at Gilberts and returned by 5.56.

7 February 1870: Left by the 6.15 train from Euston Square to Hampton. Changed at Rugby and Coventry. Mr. F. Peel met me in a fly at the station. Looked over new approach and staked out planting nearer the house with single trees etc. Walked round s. front with Mr. Peel. Returned to town by the 2 p.m. To send a detailed plan for new s. garden and the ground by new approach. Weather very wet. To send Godfrey memorandum for junction with stable Road. Returned by the 5.56 from Hampton arrived at Dorset Square at $\frac{1}{4}$ to 10.

10 October 1870: Left by the 6.15 from Euston Square for Hampton. Met Sir F. Peel walking near the new approach. After breakfast went round by proposed garden stable ground etc. and was asked to study the addition to park and planting beyond the groups on Pool Hill. Went to station road and suggested slight improvement in planting. Sir F. Peel wished me to study a little piece by the road as seen from the station road. Went to new tower where? to Y Walk require shifting. Sir F. Peel left at 12. Worked at new planting behind Pool Hill plantation but had to walk many times backwards and forwards to the terrace and to the new road where it is also seen. Also staked out line of fence for enclosure and arable lane. This could not come to a continuation of hedge as suggested by Sir F. Peel as it would have been seen from the house but worked in pretty well square with the road.

Found it was impossible to get all done that Sir F. Peel requested so stayed the night. Breakfasted at $\frac{1}{2}$ past, out at 8. Studied adjustment to Y walk. Staked out single trees on Pool Hill studying both the terrace and new road points of sight. Studied ground below proposed? a good deal. Valley appears as a line with row of elm trees through opening a little nearer house by plantation. Returned by 2.7 and arrived at Dover Square at $\frac{1}{2}$ past 5.

25 March 1872: Left by the 7.20 train for Hampton

arrived about $\frac{1}{4}$ to 4. Went around new approach which is nearly finished with Sir F. Peel. It looks very well but at present is rather overdone by a great many gates. Staked out a continuation of a walk from the Y walk. Sir F. Peel had begun fencing at the stable road as well as the planting in connection with it. Staked out some planting to old cottage, kitchen garden also behind present planting at end of straight part of road adjoining cottage. To send a sketch of my suggestion for garden on the south front. Returned by the 7.5 train. Reached Dorset Square at about $\frac{1}{4}$ to 11.

27 November 1873: Left by the 8.15 train from Euston for Hampton-in-Arden. Arrived about 2.0 saw works in progress there. The new level has been cut down. Old terrace wall removed and everything ready in the rough for removing old garden. Sir F. Peel wants a bastion thrown out to the left of the wall. The day was fine and held up. Staked out some planting by the Solihull Road.

Glanusk Park, North Wales

For Sir Joseph Bailey

13 September 1871: Left Capel Curig for Betws at $\frac{1}{4}$ past 11. Took coach from Betws to Corwen via Ruabon to Shrewsbury where I arrived at $\frac{1}{4}$ to 7. Stopped at The George. Next morning left by the 11.48 train for Abergavenny via Hereford where I lunched at the refreshment room. Arrived at Glanusk 9 miles from station at $\frac{1}{4}$ to 6. Walked round grounds with Sir J. Bailey.

15th Went round grounds etc. and studied the place, made some proposals and a sketch showing what should be levelled etc. Next morning left by the 11.15 train from Abergavenny for London. Arrived in Town at 6.

31 October 1871: Left by the 10 o'clock from Paddington for Abergavenny. Sir J. Bailey's trap met me and Sir J. Bailey drove me over.

1st Went round grounds with Mr. Fowke, agent, and James, woodman and Sir J.B. staked out etc. Made sketch in afternoon.

2nd Returned by 8 o'clock from Abergavenny leaving Glanusk at $\frac{1}{4}$ to 7. Reached Dorset Square at 3.3.

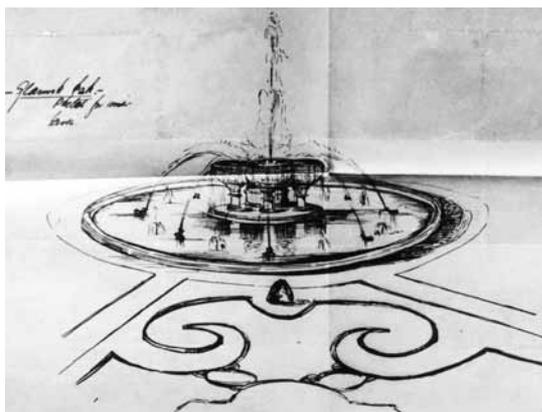
22 January 1872: Left by the 2.20 from Paddington and arrived at Abergavenny at 8.31. The night was very wet. Drove over to Glanusk. Next morning very wet, did nothing till the afternoon. Sir J. Bailey took levels and we studied end of slopes also how to finish drains.

24th Studied new levels of garden and proposed new terrace at end of garden. Sir J.B. to send money. Left by the 3.25 got in 10.40.

17 April 1873: Left by the 15 minutes past 2 train for Abergavenny oil valve of the engine broke

down near Evesham but we contrived to crawl on after some delay to Worcester. Arrived at 8.29 at Abergavenny and drove over to Glanusk.

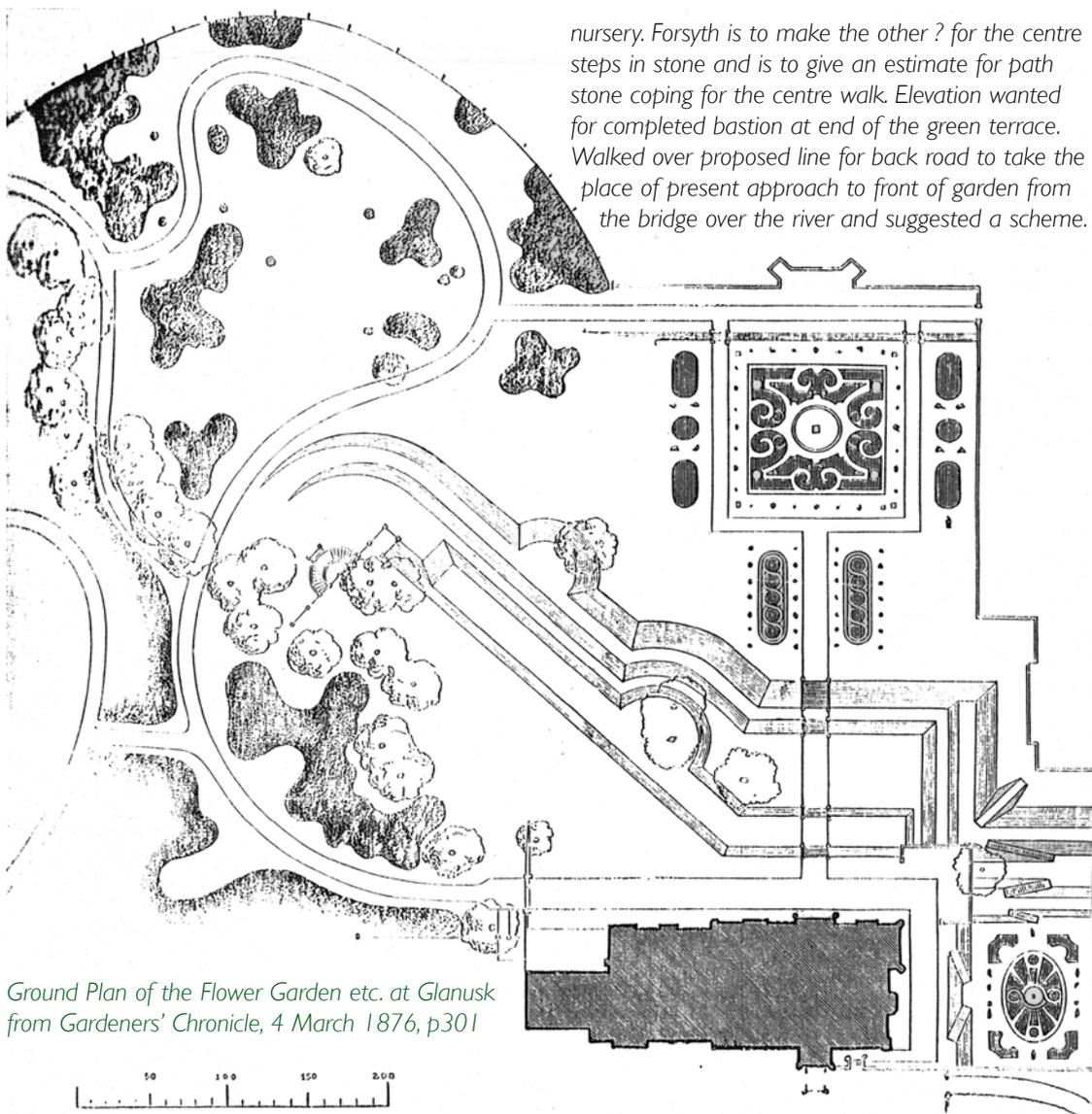
18th Looked round works after breakfast. The grass terrace looked very well. The centre steps have been badly bedded and left in single stones. The joints, which are very rough and unequal shook very much and are not always level. The coping for the fountain looks well but there are a good many marks in the stone. Had a wooden buttress erected at the angle of the ? very fine, also a wooden model of a pier which looked big and some other wooden buttresses. The earthworks for the mount is progressing. Marked a few trees and looked at some specimen plants in a



Nesfield Archives

Sketch for the Inner Basin fountain at Glanusk Park

nursery. Forsyth is to make the other ? for the centre steps in stone and is to give an estimate for path stone coping for the centre walk. Elevation wanted for completed bastion at end of the green terrace. Walked over proposed line for back road to take the place of present approach to front of garden from the bridge over the river and suggested a scheme.



Ground Plan of the Flower Garden etc. at Glanusk from *Gardeners' Chronicle*, 4 March 1876, p301

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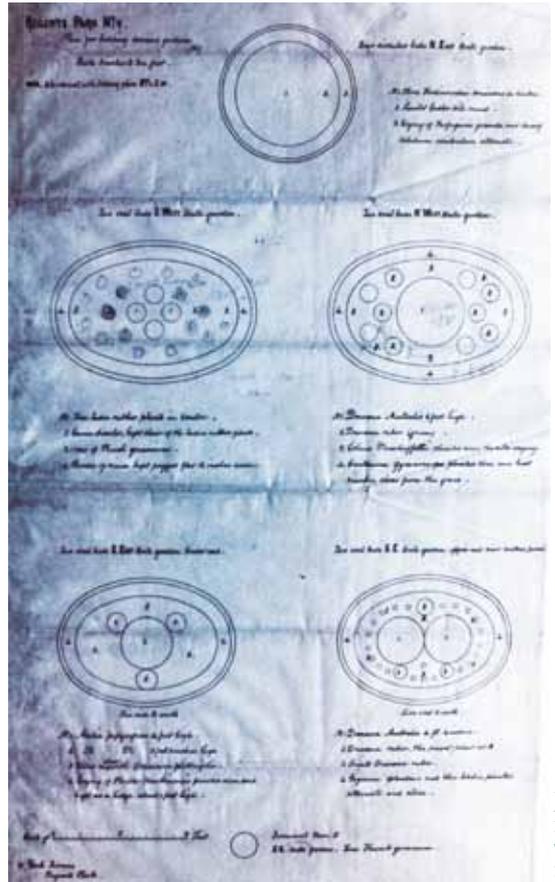
19th Looked at a wooden buttress made for wall by carriage road. Left by the 11.18 train reached London at 10 minutes to 7.

Apart from his private clients Markham also worked on a number of public commissions. One of which was for the landscaping of a new cemetery in Ramsgate where he was instrumental in suggesting the best one out of three sites and supervising the staking and laying out of the ground.

He also acted as Adjudicator at Sefton Park in Liverpool in a competition where Edouard André, who had designed parks in Paris, was collaborating with a local architect Lewis Hornblower. His first visit to Sefton was on 20 April 1867 when he went around the gardens in a Hansom Cab and then saw the drawings before meeting the Chairman and Committee in the evening, when his health was drunk. The following year in September he dined with Hornblower together with a Belgian pupil and the Committee and considered André's planting list.

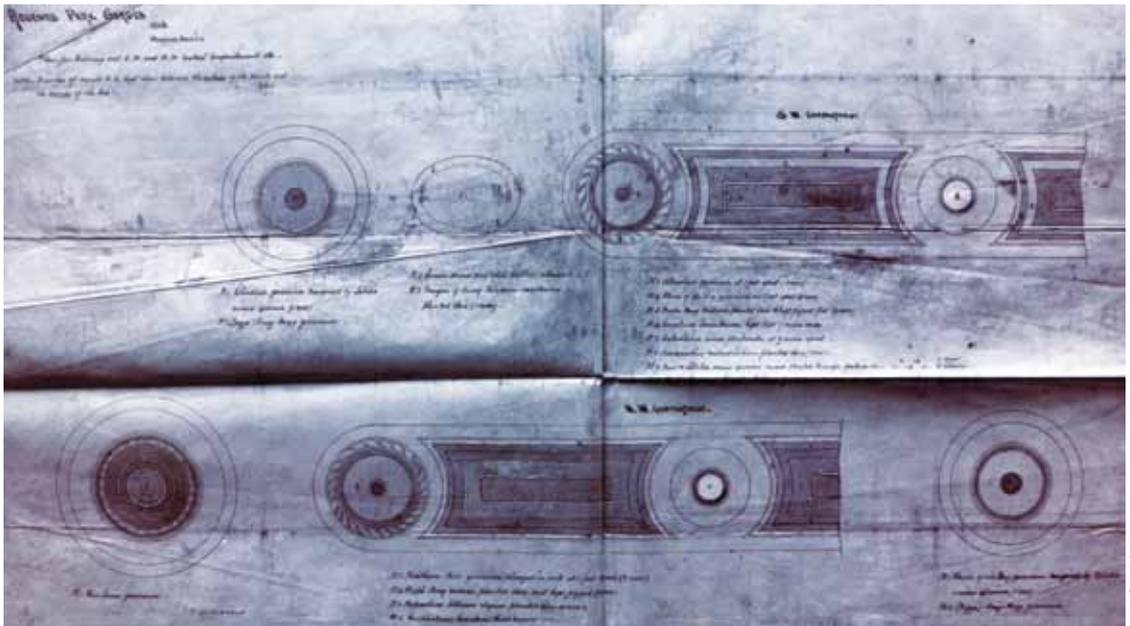
Although not referred to in his Notebook Markham's most public commission, which helped to launch his career, was undoubtedly at Regent's Park. Here he not only worked with his father but with his elder brother, who designed a lodge house in the English Revival style at the south end of the gardens.

In addition to preparing the planting plans in successive years for the Avenue Gardens, two



Planting plan for the Avenue Gardens, 1867

Nesfield Archives



Planting plan for the Avenue Gardens, Regent's Park 1868

Nesfield Archives



Nesfield Archives

Planting plan for the Coliseum Garden, Regent's Park

years after the completion of the Avenue Gardens Markham also designed the Coliseum Garden to compliment them. The first intimation that these gardens were to be laid out was in a letter in August 1865 from the Office of Works to the contractor Joseph Meston, asking for an estimate for alterations to the walks in the shrubbery east of the avenue and for erecting mounds and planting on them in accordance with Markham's plan dated November 1865, in which he quoted £678 for the work. The tenders from Meston and the nurseryman James Veitch, who supplied the plants, were accepted in June 1867 and work started immediately. Here Markham introduced over 150 types of plant, both evergreen and deciduous, together with a water garden. His use of exotic shrubs, trees and native specimens, viewed from circular walks, was one way of defining the term 'picturesque'. It was, however, a different interpretation from the one his father and his contemporaries at the Watercolour Society would have understood by the term, as they travelled the countryside, painting and sketching the rural landscapes of the British Isles.

Whilst Markham was travelling on the Continent he became aware of the work of Jean-Pierre Barillet-Deschamps, 1824–75, who introduced exotic specimens into his designs. Barillet was the architect and landscaper who designed the Bois de Vincennes in the Champ Elysses, the Park Monceau and provided plans for the Bois de Boulogne and the Paris Exhibition of 1867. The caption on Markham's Sketch Plan for the Coliseum Shrubbery reads:

No.1 Concentrated display of all new foliage plants as they are brought out by Mr. Barillet:

No.2 Evergreen and Deciduous plantings as *Arbutus*, *Rhododendron*, *Laurestinus*, *Ilex*, *Mahonia*, *Colutea* and *Aucuca* yellow and green, etc. *Snowdrop* Tree,

Sophora, *Cotoneasta*, *Thorn*, *Acacia*, *Laburnum*, *Apple*, *Pear* and *Plum* Trees etc. etc.

No.3 Water Garden — sides walled with osier work and stones on its north side near termination of Mound to be filled with waterlilies, Bull Rush, Egyptian Rush etc. and all common weeds, with ferns, forget-me-not and wood ivy and periwinkle, etc. margining the banks. [N.B. All water plants to be grown in it].

No.4 Large Mound to give an undulation of the surface to relieve the monotony.

N.B. This Shrubbery and Mound will act like a kitchen garden wall in stopping the draughts thro the Avenue Gardens.

The question remains where would Markham's undoubted talents have taken him if he had not died in 1874? He was still a young man and if he had been anything like his father he could have gone on in his chosen profession for another 40 years. In 1883 William Robinson's *The English Flower Garden* was published and if Markham had lived he would have been in the middle of the great debate on the formal versus the naturalistic and the Arts and Crafts Movement, of which Eden was an exponent. Unfortunately Eden too was dead by 1888 and what could have been an interesting collaboration between the two men, which could have taken them into the early years of the twentieth century was not to be.

There was already a hint during Markham's lifetime that as far as the 'pleasure garden' was concerned, he was moving away from his father's rigid adherence to the strictly formal parterre in the flower garden, as the plan and planting for the Coliseum Garden demonstrates. Unfortunately now we can only speculate on where his career might have taken him.



David Andrews

The Tudor garden at Cressing Temple, Essex

A Friends Group about to be formed

David Andrews

The great medieval barns at Cressing Temple have been dominant features of the landscape of this part of central Essex for 800 years. This was one of the most valuable manors of the Knights Templar, and later the Hospitallers when the Templars were suppressed in 1312, and the barns are witness to their agricultural enterprise and the technical skill of their carpenters. It was here that Cecil Hewett carried out some of his early studies on medieval carpentry, and argued that they were much older than previously thought. His theories have been supported by tree-ring dating, which shows the Barley Barn to be the oldest known timber barn, built between 1235–50.

The importance of the barns was the motivation for Essex County Council to buy them when the estate was sold in 1987. But the county acquired much more than just the barns. There was a farmhouse, farm buildings and a walled garden. The two initial tasks were to understand and research what they now owned, and to carry out necessary

repairs. The third was to explain and display the site as a heritage attraction for the people of Essex. When in their turn the Hospitallers in England were dissolved at the Reformation, the manor was acquired by Sir John Smyth and remained in his family until 1657. The Smyths replaced the Templars timber hall and stone chambers with a great brick mansion of the sort typical of the Tudor period. In the 18th century, a later non-resident owner rented the estate to a farmer and the house was taken down brick by brick and has totally disappeared, though its site has been excavated.

All that remains of this period of Tudor splendour is the walled garden which stood behind the mansion. Originally a pleasure garden, it had later been used as a kitchen garden. This was an asset that cried out for something to be made of it, and so the idea was born of creating a new Tudor garden which would become one of the attractions of the site. An archaeological excavation

to identify any remains of the original garden was not very informative, but did show that there had been a raised brick terrace along one side of it, and brick paving round parts of its perimeter.

The new garden was designed by John Hunter and Martin Wakelin, both sadly no longer with us. It was based on an accurate study of gardens of the period, and included no features or plants which would have been introduced after 1600. A timber viewing platform on one side partially reconstructed the original brick terrace. It looks out over a knot garden, towards the focal structure of the garden, the brick fountain with four spouts representing the four rivers of paradise. From the fountain a rill leads to a still pool. To one side of the knot garden is the arbour or covered walkway covered with climbing plants. The rest of the garden is divided into compartments typical of the period, including a nosegay garden with scented plants, beds with medicinal herbs, a potager or formal vegetable garden, and a flowery mead.

The garden was a considerable achievement, unique in the county and probably East Anglia, and has been popular with the public. However, in the straitened economic circumstances of the last few years, maintenance has become an issue, prompting an initiative, sponsored by the Essex Gardens Trust, to set up a Friends Group. The County Council has welcomed this development and approved a constitution, which envisages the group working to promote the gardens, to generate funds, and provide practical help through volunteering. The initial response from local people has been encouraging, and the inaugural meeting will be held at Cressing Temple at 7pm on Wednesday 27 March.

For more information about Cressing Temple, please see: www.cressingtemple.co.uk

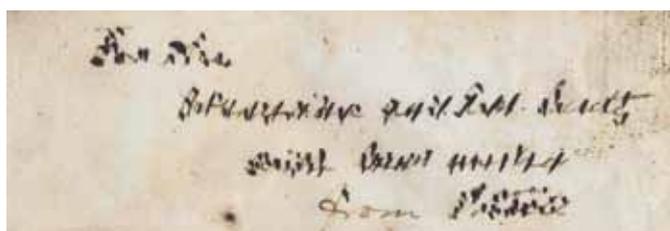
For further information about the Friends of Cressing Temple Gardens, contact David Andrews: dormerandrews@gmail.com or Christine Barrett: crbarrett@blueyonder.co.uk

A Short Detective Story

Christopher Dingwall

I was recently fortunate enough to acquire a copy of a book entitled *On Scottish Gardens and Orchards* for my personal library. This vanishingly rare title takes the form of a report made in 1813 to the then UK Board of Agriculture by the Scottish naturalist and horticulturist Patrick Neill (1776–1851). Neill (right) was also the owner of a printing business, so was presumably responsible for producing what was essentially a private publication, in a limited edition. Neill served for many years as secretary to the Caledonian Horticultural Society, founded in 1809, so was well placed to report on the subject of horticulture in Scotland.

On receiving the book, an invaluable source of information for Scottish garden historians, I was intrigued by an inscription on the title page that had been deliberately obliterated in brown ink (below). In spite of the care taken to obscure the inscription, I eventually succeeded in deciphering this with the



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help of archivist Leonie Paterson, from the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh. The book turned out to be a presentation copy 'For the Wernerian Nat. Hist. Society with best wishes from P. Neill', another Edinburgh Society of which Neill was Secretary. Consequently, it can be assumed that the book became part of the Wernerian Society's library.

And so the question arises, why was so much trouble taken to deface and conceal the inscription?

Fortunately, the minute book of the Wernerian Society survives, allowing some further insight on the story. On the winding up of the Wernerian Society in 1858, it is clear from the minute book that its assets, including its library, were dispersed

to other kindred bodies such as the Royal Physical Society, Edinburgh University and the Botanical Society of Edinburgh. That said, it is noteworthy that Neill's book was not listed among those donated to the Botanical Society, as might have been expected. This leads one to the inevitable conclusion that the book had been removed prior to the library's dispersal, and that the person responsible for its removal (theft ?) sought to cover up their action by obliterating the original dedication. Sad to say, there is no evidence to suggest who may have been responsible for this act, or where the book has been in the more than 150 years that has passed since then.

Brenda Colvin at Stowe

Michael Bevington

A garden at Stowe by the famous landscape architect Brenda Colvin, CBE (1897–1981), has been identified. According to Trish Gibson's recent book, one of her first commissions was 'Mr Roxburgh's garden'. Stowe School opened on 11 May 1923 with J.F. Roxburgh as Headmaster. His living quarters adjoined the Gothic Library, so his garden would have been outside, on the east parterre behind the balustrade.

Colvin's *Notebook* lists her commissions from 1922, when she was aged 25, with J.F.'s garden as No. 7, 'through Joy Coupley'. Typical of her designs, it featured a square of rough flagstones, with paths stretching out on either side delineated by rectangular flowerbeds, an elegant solution in this elongated rectangular space. In December 1923 *The Stoic* reported, 'The eastern half of the

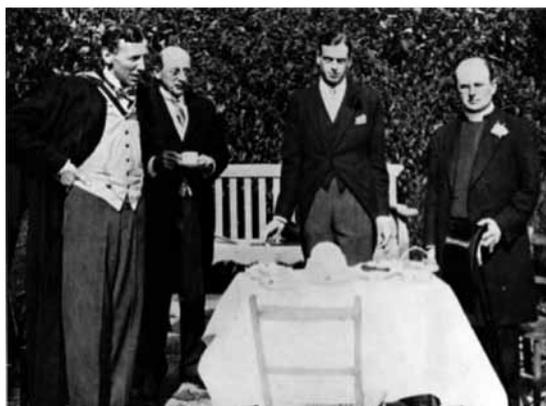
Headmaster's garden has now been laid out. The disadvantages of sowing grass two months too late are admirably illustrated by the condition of the 'lawns'. *The Stoic* of April 1924 noted that the west parterre had been sown for the Head's grass tennis lawn. In 1927 Queen Mary received school guests in the Headmaster's garden and in 1929 H.R.H. Prince George took tea at its east end, where there was a paved area with a wooden seat sheltered by bushes.

At about this time Colvin wrote that her work also included 'restoring landscape at Stowe', making her the first of many restorers in recent years. Of equal interest is No. 55 in her *Notebook*, dated 1924: 'Roxburgh — Stowe (New House)'. This was presumably Chatham House, designed by Sir Clough Williams-Ellis. She may have introduced the



Stowe School

The Headmaster's garden on the East Parterre, at Stowe, in the 1930s



Stowe School

From the left: J.F. Roxborough, Lord Gisborough, HRH Prince George, who had just opened Stowe Chapel, and Rev. Percy Warrington, at the east end of Colvin's garden, 11 July 1929



Stowe School

A view up the Headmaster's maturing garden, 1926

path, bank and formal fencing to the south and the pair of trees flanking the portico.

She doubtless also advised on the siting of Chatham, the school's first major detached building, perhaps because Williams-Ellis' Sanatorium and old Gymnasium appeared unrelated to existing buildings. Chatham, 'set with its back to the belt of great trees and overlooking the lake', and the old Hostel were, however, aligned with the nearby Temple of Bacchus; they thus re-created the anachronistic east-west alignment of the former Great Cross Walk, long obliterated.

Two years later, in 1926, to provide space for a chapel, Sir Reginald Blomfield proposed extending the western axis of the main House, replacing

the Temple of Bacchus with the Chapel. This then created the clash of angles with Chatham.

Brenda Colvin, Sylvia Crowe and Geoffrey Jellicoe formed a 'landscape triumvirate', regarded as a major influence on 20th-century landscape design in the UK. Colvin's work at Stowe, perhaps her first commission for an institution, formed an early but significant part in her visionary contribution both to landscape and to female professionalism in the UK and internationally. Following the magnificent restoration of Stowe's South Front, Colvin's Headmaster's garden could now be re-instated as a fitting tribute to a key moment in Stowe's development.

First published in *The Corinthian*, Stowe 2012

Gardens and Literature

The GHS/OU DCE Weekend School, at Rewley House, Oxford, May 2012

Report by Marcus Batty

At the Society's May Weekend School, the talks focused on particular authors and poets, or picked up on themes, the concept of the *sacro bosco*, the Victorian craze for ferneries and the tantalisingly named *Gardens of Disgrace*. The literary standpoint provided a reminder that non-gardeners perceive gardens differently, that gardens in literature provide inspiration, ritual context, a backdrop for the playing out of love, social comedy and just life. They are not the subject matter of design or historical analysis, nor are they fertile ground for expert plant investigation. This refreshing slant and

the diversity of the talks contributed much to the enjoyment of the weekend.

Drawing first on Adam and Eve, Gilgamesh, Gethsemane, Hansel and Gretel, *The Golden Bough*, 'roots digging deep, canopies blocking light', Katie Campbell took us into the idea of the *sacro bosco* and its recurrence over history. Dante's perception of woods as places of danger and confrontation was contrasted with the arcadia of the Forest of Arden, the Eden of Robin Hood. It is difficult to do her talk justice, consisting as it did of a progression, from example to example, but each reinforced

agenda

the enduring appeal of the wood as symbolic, allegorical, and as food for the imagination. Her examples brought out not only the spirituality of woods, stressed by John Evelyn in 1617 in relation to 'shady arbours' and present in the druidical culture, but also the contrast between savage and civilised, wild and tame. Thus we were taken to Cetinale near Siena and its *sancta scala* of 200 steps up to a hermitage in the woods; to Ray Wood at Castle Howard, the subject of an 18th-century poem by Anne Ingram, the daughter of Charles Howard, Earl of Carlisle; through the classical paintings of the 19th century, to David Hockney, and finally on to the aisle of trees at the recent royal wedding. Quite a range.

In the talk that followed Katherine Myers explored the poet, William Wordsworth's relationship with Uvedale Price, his taste for the picturesque and thus his dislike of 'Capability' Brown; and also his hand in designing the winter garden at Coleorton.

Michael Symes then examined one of the 18th-century 'Graveyard Poets', Thomas Gray, in the context of the build-up to the Picturesque movement. Whilst Gray's contemporary, Gilpin, was a sketcher and a visualist, Gray, famous for his *Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard*, was a literary man who recognised the power of landscape over the mind to release the imagination and was a close and spontaneous observer of nature.

He travelled abroad with his friend Horace Walpole, and also around much of Britain, touring the Lakes in 1769 and down the Wye in 1770, with his version of the Claude Glass. The new gardens of the time, the Leasowes, Hagley, Enville, Stourhead, reflected the concepts of the sublime and the picturesque, and encouraged a discriminating sensibility.

Dr Nuala Hancock, writer and lecturer, took as her subject Virginia Woolf. No gardener herself, nonetheless the gardens in her writing are resonant and highly charged, nature providing much of her imagery. Of two formative gardens, Talland House at St Ives was associated with her mother and 'an encircling sensorium of warmth and light'; but this 'emotionally charged terrain' became diffused with 'with plenitude and loss' after her mother's death in 1895. This is the garden described in *To the Lighthouse*, although placed in Skye. Kensington Gardens were associated with walks with her father and Dr Hancock observed

that the cadences of walking are audible in Woolf's writing. When the Woolfs moved into Monks House in Sussex, Virginia was inspired by the 'vegetal immersion' and the relationship between the garden and the Downland landscape; and this perhaps initiated a shift from being a witness of, to a participant in, nature. This talk was full of enthusiastic phraseology, as attuned to Virginia's writing as Virginia was attuned to nature, 'rise and fall and fall and rise again'.

A sunny afternoon was spent visiting Nuneham Courtenay, the Palladian villa overlooking the Thames valley and surrounded by a landscaped park originally laid out in 1756 (involving the re-siting of the local village) but reshaped by Capability Brown in 1779–82. Near the house is a church designed by Athenian Stuart behind which is William Mason's flower garden of 1771–72, containing a grotto and rockery, and considered very influential in its day.

Later W. S. Gilpin was responsible for the pinetum and for modifying the flower garden. Of literary interest, the second Earl, Gilpin's patron, wrote a guidebook to his park on picturesque principles. Oliver Goldsmith's poem, *The Deserted*



Frontispiece for the illustrated 1753 edition of Gray's Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard, illustration by Richard Bentley

Village, which is critical of the replacement of productive countryside by landscapes designed for pleasure, may well have been prompted by the demolition of the old village.

Dr Sarah Whittingham introduced us to *Fern Fever*, her study of the Victorian fern craze in literature which lasted up to the First World War. This craze fell into three phases, collection, cultivation and finally display in public ferneries, often in winter gardens. Arguably it can be compared with the Dutch *tulipomania* of the early-17th century.

What gave the talk spice were the descriptions both of the fervour with which individuals pursued collection in the wild, which often involved long journeys, and of the endless opportunities it provided for flirtation between the sexes. Naturally the conservatory provided further possibilities

for amorous encounter as collections were admired. Dr Whittingham provided an extensive bibliography, factual and fictional.

An elegant talk on *Gardens of Disgrace: temptation, punishment and boredom in the early eighteenth century*, by Dr Stephen Bending of Southampton University, played with the concept of gardens as places of pleasure, temptation and ultimately seduction, drawing on the literature of the 18th century to support his arguments. Stephen provided many examples to show how attitudes to gardens varied from the pious and moralistic to the erotic. That considerable research had taken place was very evident but the exercise seemed somewhat academic and no clear conclusion emerged.

First published in *The Sussex Gardens Trust Newsletter* 54, Autumn 2012, p2.

Polite Society

The Association of Garden Truſts AGM and Annual Conference, Bath, September 2012

Report by Marcus Batty

This was Sally Walker's final meeting as Chair of the Association. The formal proceedings of the AGM were followed by discussions around Parks and Gardens, the Heritage Campaign and Good Practice among other issues. After the launch of Michael Symes' book, *The Picturesque and the Later Georgian Garden*, we were treated to an evening lecture on the pleasure grounds of Bath by building historian, Kay Ross. Using old maps, plans and drawings Kay described their evolution through the 18th century, reading excerpts from Parson Penrose's diary and showing us advertising bills to illustrate further the social diversions of the day. Bath was fast becoming England's premier spa, providing considerable opportunities for those who addressed the leisure needs of fashionable society for whom a priority was being seen in the right company. Public pleasure grounds were key social hubs. Kay began with Harrison's Walk, exclusive gardens for subscribers of 'rank and fortune', which lay between the Abbey and the River by Harrison's Assembly Rooms, as did Orange Grove, landscaped in the 1730s, with gravel walks and formal planting. The 1750s saw the opening of Spring Gardens across the river where the Bath Rugby Ground now lies; followed later by Lyncomb Spa Pleasure Gardens, Villa

Gardens in 1787, and the ill-fated, grandiose, Grosvenor Gardens scheme in the early 1790s, which failed with the local banking crash of 1793. The interweaving of a study of urban spaces and of social history was a theme picked up by Matthew Winterbottom of the Holburne Museum on the following afternoon.

Matthew took us forward into the 19th century with an introduction to the adjacent Sydney Gardens. In its opening advertisement in 1795 the proprietor, Mr Gale, 'respectfully acquaints the Publick that he is determined to conduct it with the utmost spirit and liberality'. There were to be 'a Capital Swing of Merlin's construction ... erected in the Labyrinth', supper boxes, a 'Moveable Orchestra' and a Ssham Castle as well as other features. It is uncertain what a Merlin Swing is; the only contemporaneous illustration showing a boat swing does not attribute a name; but later plans of the garden show that all these features were built. On 4 June 1799 there was a grand gala, in the course of which 'Mr Nindroide will give his wonderful Imitation of the Birds', and 'a Capital Display of Fireworks by Signor Invetto', a leading firework-master of the day. Jane Austen reported, in a letter to her sister Cassandra, of 19 June 1799, that the 'Fire-Works ... were really beautiful and

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surpassing my expectations — the illuminations too were very pretty'. The gardens were open to anyone who could pay the entrance fee and a public breakfast was held every Tuesday morning, tickets two shillings each. As an aside Matthew informed us that the maze at Glendurgan is a replica of the labyrinth.

Avon Gardens Trust, our host, had organised three other 'Delightful Visits', to the private grounds of Ducal Badminton, the almost intimate Dyrham Park of the courtier, William Blathwayt, and the commanding Prior Park, created by the Bath entrepreneur, Ralph Allen.



Charles Boot



Charles Boot

John Harris (above) introduced Badminton. Many will know the early Knyff print engraved by Kip which shows an extraordinarily extensive garden with vast parterres and numerous radiating avenues, possibly one of the grandest in England at the time. Unfortunately all the documents belonging to this period were taken to London by the first Duchess and were lost. Thomas Wright, the 'Wizard of Durham', was almost certainly responsible for many of the buildings on the estate in the eighteenth century. The sole surviving legacy of William Kent's work there is a theatrical dining pavilion, a distant punctuation point at the end of one the avenues. 'Capability' Brown visited, submitted a bill for £47.5s, and left.

What exists now is, however, a very different, more intimate, 20th-century garden at the rear of the mansion. Here informality echoes the relative domesticity of the South and East facades of the house, and the delicate flow of garden out in to the wider landscape is an attractive feature. François Goffinet designed the lovely compartmented South Garden, which leads

easily from the house and is bounded on three sides by two wings of the house and the church (above). To the east, a formal, round swimming pool with a central fountain, is sited in front of the 19th-century conservatory. The East Garden and lawn is Russell Page's work. Beyond, the garden opens to the south-east and the park. The expected walled garden is well to the west of the house, impressively productive and filled with fruit, vegetables and flowers.

Dyrham Park, built around 1700–04 in its current form, is interesting for a number of reasons. It is a hidden house at the bottom of a valley and commands no extensive views of the surrounding countryside. Its front facade has been turned round so that what was the back is now the front. The ground level of the current front facade was originally lower so that one mounted five great steps into the house. The proportions, particularly of the Orangery, appear therefore heavier than they would have had the original ground level been preserved. The gardens were planned by George London (1640–1714), who had designed Hampton Court for William of Orange, in the Franco-Dutch baroque fashion with avenues radiating out into the wider landscape. Again, there is a Kip engraving of this.

Adjacent to the house, to the north, on a steep, now shady, bank, London placed a fountain with a statue of Iris, the goddess of rainbows, the intention being that the sun would catch the mist from the fountain creating rainbows and enlivening an otherwise dull view.

The dominant feature of the original garden, though, was the dramatic cascade above the current entrance façade, 'second only to Chatsworth'. This was centred on, and passed underneath, the Orangery to the south of the

house (possibly as a homage to William of Orange), feeding into cataracts and ponds below; but sadly it is now lost, leaving only the statue of Neptune at its head.

By the beginning of the 19th century the gardens captured by Kip, and validated by Switzer, had been swept away and replaced by a landscape park which came right up to the eastern (now front) facade of the house without the benefit of a protective ha-ha. There is a diary entry of a sheep actually entering the house.



Leticia Yérrnan

The new work at what is now the back of the house (the western facade) engendered considerable debate. Dale Dennehy (above left in picture), National Trust gardens manager of this and other sites, enthusiastically explained the rationale, to be faithful to the original 17th-century design on the raised section of garden closest to the house but to maintain a Victorian feel round the ponds. Some delegates disagreed with that decision, questioning the 'restoration' priorities given Dyrham Park's reputation as one of the most elaborate Baroque gardens of its day and mindful of its unique cascade. Should sufficient money become available in the future, surely the gardens should



Leticia Yérrnan

be returned in full to their original baroque state, apart from anything to contrast with our next visit.

Our final visit was to Prior Park (above), created by Ralph Allen in the mid 1700s. The house, built with local stone, occupies a commanding site at the head of a steep valley overlooking Bath and would have been a splendid advertisement for Allen's stone mines. The principal feature of the park is the 'Palladian' Bridge, one of only four left in the world, but the main historical interest lies in the fact that the park has remained virtually unchanged. Alexander Pope was responsible for introducing the Rococo Grotto, Gothic Temple, Sham Bridge and Cascades; 'Capability' Brown is believed to have been involved in simplifying the layout of the park in the mid-18th century. Restoration is being undertaken by the National Trust.

This account can only provide a brief and subjective summary of the weekend organised by Avon Gardens Trust. The weather was excellent' and the baying of the Badminton hounds as we walked round the walled garden evoked another era, drawing us back to the title of the weekend, the *Pollite Society*.

First published in *The Sussex Gardens Trust Newsletter* 54, Autumn 2012, p3.

UK Public Parks Summit at the Royal Geographical Society, October 2012

Report by David Foreman

Hosted by the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Big Lottery Fund, the day commenced with the good news from Dame Jenny Abramsky, Chair HLF, and Peter Ainsworth, Chair BLF, that the two bodies would be jointly committing £100 million over the next three years to public parks and open spaces in the UK.

The very full day divided into four parts. **Park Life:** taking stock of the current context. Two presentations set the scene with Professor Ken Warpole on *Parklife Revisited*, and Peter Harnik, Director of the Center for City Park Excellence, US Trust for Public Land, on *City Park Excellence*.

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Ken Warpole delivered some interesting statistics and facts including that:

- No local authority had a clue about how many people used their parks or how they used them.
- UK spending on urban parks had dropped from 44% of local authority environment and leisure budgets in 1976/77 to 31% today, some of the drop caused by spending being transferred to indoor fitness centres, 80% of the people using these drive there.
- People assess the competence of their local authority by the condition of their local park.

Peter Harnik then spoke about the decline of parks in the US, until an urban renaissance arrived in the mid-1990's. His agency is gathering information so that they can assess the economic benefit of parks, which includes \$65 million in health benefits (reduced visits to the Doctor), and \$30 million in increased property values. He emphasised the need to know your facts, 'if you don't count, you don't count'.

In the discussion that followed, Ken Warpole stated the need for a national organisation to coordinate the kind of work that Peter Harnik's organisation is doing (CABE Space used to do this).

Park Investment: promoting values benefits, tools and resources

A panel presentation, with Julie Proctor, of Greenspace Scotland, stating that the use of urban green space had dropped from 64% in 2009 to 54% in 2011, because of perceived poorer maintenance. Paul Bramhill of Greenspace outlined possible funding models including Parks Trusts emphasising that it is essential that these are acceptable to the local community and not just an excuse for passing over responsibility. Matthew Bradbury of The Land Trust explained the Green Space Income Toolkit to be launched in the New Year and its use to landowners, local authorities and community groups. Dr Julia Sas, Project Manager for the Bute Park restoration in Cardiff, spoke about this very successful project and the importance of the active 'Friends' group.

Park Innovation: learning from leadership and good practice

The session commenced with an address from the Rt Hon Don Foster MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Department of Communities and Local Government, who announced that the Green Flag scheme would be continued for the next five years with 'Keep Britain Tidy' in

charge, and that the government had a vision for promoting localism so that local communities will take a much greater involvement in their local parks and other green spaces.

The subject of the next speaker, Jon Pape, Director of Parks and Nature, City of Copenhagen, was *Public Parks at the Heart of Sustainable Cities*. Jon spoke about his sustainable goals for 2015: that twice as many visitors should stay twice as long, that 90% of the population should be within a 15-minute walk to a park, and the creation of a new 300ha 'nature park' within 2 km of the city centre (it already has a population of nightingales), all to be done with a reducing budget. John Kingsbury, Programme Director, NESTA, spoke about *Rethinking Parks: Innovation beyond the buzzword*. John explained that NESTA, a charity promoting innovation could support people to come up with good ideas and make them better, finding out what works, and what doesn't, and focussing on sustainable business models.

Park Futures: Key challenges and ingredients for success

The final session started with a presentation on *Political and Financial Priorities for Public Parks* by Cllr Phil Davies, Leader, Wirral Borough Council and Mary Bagley, Parks and Green Spaces Manager, WBC. Phil stated that his authority's Discretionary Spend Budget, which covers parks maintenance, would be reduced by one third over the next 3 years therefore some very difficult choices will have to be made which will force them into re-thinking the whole concept of local government with new models for service delivery. Mary emphasised the importance of partnership working, involving volunteers to enhance value and not reduce value. Finally, Mark Camley, Director of Olympic Park Operations, London Legacy Development Corporation, reiterated the promise that the recent London Olympics would aid the regeneration of the community. The LLDC would be responsible for most of the former area and he described the challenges and the funding model.

The day came to a close with a short question and answers session which included the question, 'Is it possible to change the lottery funding criteria to allow maintenance costs to be included?' The response, 'We are required to be funders, and we require Local Authorities to fund maintenance for 10 years.'

Innovative solutions required, my words!

In the forthcoming issue of **Garden History** 40:1

Michael Cousins on *Ditchley Park: from Park to Pleasure Ground*

Jill Francis on 'My Little Gardine at Dasset Paled': Sir Thomas Temple and his garden at Burton Dasset in Warwickshire, c1630

Katherine Myers on *The Uses of Enchantment: Addison, 'Ideas' and the Early Landscape Garden*

Michael Pearson on *Austwick Hall near Settle, Yorkshire: a Victorian Gentleman's Garden*

Jill Sinclair on 'Recollections and Hopes': people's perception over time of the gardens at Vaux le Vicomte

Jan Woudstra on *The influence on Robert Marnock on Bretton Hall, 1825–1834*

With a note by Salley Jeffrey on *The Temple of Bacchus at Painshill Park: its style and precedents*

garden history hero

Philip White, MBE

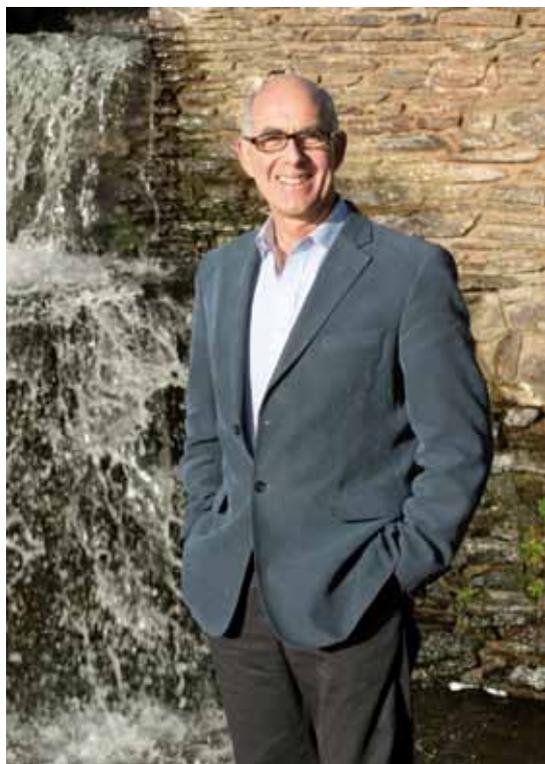
Philip White, Chief Executive of the Hestercombe Gardens Trust has been honoured with an MBE for his remarkable services to historic garden restoration in the 2013 New Year's Honours list. He was delighted with the news:

'This has come as a great surprise, but it's been a great privilege to be able to restore Hestercombe's extraordinary historic landscape. I have been associated with the gardens since 1992 when I first realised that hidden beneath the coniferous woodland and brambles in the valley behind Hestercombe House, were the remains of a once beautiful, eighteenth-century landscape garden complete with lakes, cascades, garden buildings and stunning vistas. You could say, it then became my life's mission to restore it!'

Hestercombe already boasted the grade I listed formal Edwardian garden, designed by architect Edwin Lutyens with planting plans by Gertrude Jekyll, which had initially undergone restoration in the 1970's, but it was Philip White's determination to uncover the landscape garden that transformed the whole site into the acclaimed attraction it is today, listed amongst the top 20 gardens in Britain, and the most visited garden in Somerset.

GHS members, who have had a long interest in the restoration of Hestercombe, may well remember the enthusiasm with which Philip pushed open the door at the back of Lutyen and Jekyll's Dutch Garden and led us out into a whole 'new' Hestercombe landscape, way back in the mid-1990s.

A former dairy farmer and wildlife conservationist, Philip's achievement is one



Richard Sainsbury

of sheer determination and endeavour which involved mortgaging his house to fund the initial felling of hundreds of trees and removing 17,000 tonnes of silt from the choked up lakes. Securing a grant from the Countryside Commission in 1993 for a historical survey of the site provided the information that allowed the restoration to move forward and armed with a water colour of the garden by its original 18th-century creator;

garden history hero

Coplestone Warre Bampfylde, Philip White was able to start to reveal the structure of the garden; the Mausoleum and Temple were rebuilt and the Great Cascade flowed again. After that first lot of trees were cleared a magnificent vista appeared, lit up by many thousands of foxgloves that had been waiting to show off with an intense burst of colour.

Ten years later, a Heritage Lottery grant of £3.7 million towards the total £4.9 million cost of the next stage of restoration and development enabled the Coach House and Stables to be converted into a state of the art visitor centre as well as continuing the restoration of the landscape and formal gardens. Complex ownership and management arrangements involving a range of bodies, were ironed out and the Hestercombe Gardens Trust was established, with Philip White as its Chief Executive.

All of this has helped to put Hestercombe on a more secure footing. A £1.6 million project to restore the seventeenth-century Mill and Barn complex, and on-going restoration in the Edwardian Garden and Victorian Shrubbery have contributed to Hestercombe's unique status as being the only site in Britain where visitors can explore three centuries of garden history. The

latest exciting project involves Hestercombe House, which is shortly to be gifted to the trust by Somerset County Council when it will be put to a number of uses including becoming the Hestercombe Centre for Young Musicians, part of the Guildhall School of Music and Drama.

A cornerstone of Philip's work has always been attention to detail based on meticulous research involving the very best advisors including garden historians, archaeologists, dendro-archaeologists and architects to name but a few, as well as an army of expert craftsmen and gardeners to carry out the restoration work and ongoing maintenance.

Chairman of the Hestercombe Gardens Trust, Sir Andrew Burns believes Philip White's award is a fitting tribute: 'This is wonderful news, Philip's determination to restore what has become one of the top gardens and tourist destinations in Britain should not be underestimated. He has done a great service to the local area in terms of employment and economic development but more importantly he has saved this extraordinary site for the benefit of future generations.'

All members of the Society will wish to add their congratulations for an award so well earned.

other events

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

Chiswick House Camellia Festival

10am to 4pm, until Sunday 17 March

Celebrating the 200th anniversary of the building of the beautifully restored Chiswick Conservatory.

Cost: £8, under 16s free. See: www.chgt.org.uk for more details.

Floriculture: Flowers, Love and Money at the Garden Museum, Lambeth, London until Sunday 28 April

The exhibition begins in 17th-century Covent Garden: the square built by The Earl of Bedford contained a market for fruit and vegetables. Covent Garden continues to be the heart of the flower trade, whether represented by the Floral Hall, illustrations by Edward Bawden, or iconic films such as Lindsey Anderson's *Everyday Except Christmas*, from the 1950's. The stall-holders, in their current location in Nine Elms, will be the



Ruth Todd

Camellia japonica 'Rubra Plena' at Chiswick

subject of an artist's commission as we seek to record their stories of life at the Flower Market.

Entrance to all exhibitions is included in the Museum admission charge: £7.50 (£6.50 Senior Citizens; £3.00 Students)

**Early Evening Lectures
at RHS Lindley Library,
80 Vincent Square, London**

Clematis: past, present and future

Raymond Evison
6.30pm, Tuesday 26 March

Botanical Art in the Age of Enlightenment

Charlotte Brooks
6.30pm, Tuesday 16 April

The Chelsea Flower Show:

100 years of triumph and tribulation

Brent Elliott
6.30pm, Tuesday 14 May

Urban Beekeeping

Steve Benbow
6.30pm, Tuesday 18 June

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 to Fri) or: www.rhs.org.uk/libraries

Japanese-Style Garden in the British Isles, & Dr Sarah Rutherford on *A Japanese Gem in Hertfordshire: Fanhams Hall*. After lunch, Kate Banister on *The Pulham family* and Kate Harwood on *New discoveries in Hertfordshire: the Japanese gardens at Hanstead House and Felden Lodge*. After a walk round the newly re-discovered Felden Lodge Japanese garden, the day finishes with tea and cake.

Cost £35 (includes lunch). Make cheques to 'Hertfordshire Gardens Trust' and send to Kate Harwood, HGT, 78 Broadstone Road, Harpenden, Hertfordshire, AL5 1RE. Contact Kate: conservation@hertsgardenstrust.org.uk or: 01582 762432



www.chelseafringe.com

The first ever Chelsea Fringe Festival ran from 19 May until 10 June, 2012, with 100 garden-related events and projects spread across London and beyond. Everything from community and guerilla gardening projects, to pop-up restaurants and shops, performances and art installations.

We worked with hundreds of project organisers from this country and abroad, and thousands of people visited Fringe events across the three-week period (we even had a royal visit!) You can read all about what happened at 2012/chelseafringe.com, where all the details are archived.

Volunteer-run and currently unsponsored, the Chelsea Fringe team was delighted at the size and scope of the first year — we never dreamed we would get 100 projects. We are now working on Chelsea Fringe 2013 (Saturday 25 May to Sunday 16 June) and would love to hear from you if you want to get involved either as a project organiser, or as a volunteer with the Fringe itself. We've had a fantastic start and we think our Fringe will grow and grow.

And we're not just going to be around at festival time — we want the Chelsea Fringe to be a

**The Pulhams of Broxbourne
at Epping Forest District Museum,
39 Sun Street Waltham Abbey, EN9 1EL
Continues until Sunday 6 May**

**Rustic Nature & Artistic Rusticity
at the Maison Française, Oxford
Saturday 16 March**

This interdisciplinary seminar will explore the use of rustic materials in gardens, rough textures and weathered decay in art and nature. Speakers: **Edwina Fitzpatrick, Paula Henderson, Marc Jeanson, Isabelle Levêque, David Marsh, Monique Mosser, Angela Palmer, James Stevens Curl, Susan Wilson.**

Maison Française, Norham Road Oxford OX2 6SE. Information can be found on: www.mfo.ac.uk/en/events or contact: laurent.chatel@all.ox.ac.uk

**The Japanese Garden In England
Study Day at Felden Lodge, Hemel Hempstead
10am to 4pm, Friday 19 April**

The day will explore some of the interpretations of Japanese gardens in Britain. Speakers are Dr Jill Raggett on *The Origins and Expression of the*

other events

highlight and platform for 'fringe gardening' events and initiatives which happen all year round, not just in May and June. So get in touch and get involved — let's make the Chelsea Fringe 2013 even better than our first year!

You can reach us at: info@chelseafringe.com

Earth Perfect? Nature, Utopia and the Garden University of Delaware

Thursday 6 to Sunday 9 June

Since time immemorial, gardens have been key in humanity's quest to define an ideal relation to nature. Gardens have been sources of nourishment for the body and the soul, they have been symbols of wealth and power; they have served as barriers against the wild, and much more. This interdisciplinary symposium focuses on the importance and meaning of gardens in the past, present, and the future, and that from a wide range of perspectives.

Speakers include: **Jane Knight**, landscape architect of The Eden Project; **Stephen Forbes**, Director of the Adelaide Botanic Garden; **Emma Marris**, author of *Rambunctious Garden*; **Margaret Morton**, photographer and co-author of *Transitory Gardens, Uprooted Lives*; **Douglas Tallamy**, author of *Bringing Nature Home*.

Based at the University of Delaware the \$250 cost includes seminars and visits to **Longwood Gardens, Chanticleer, Wintherthur, Mount Cuba Center, Delaware Center for Horticulture**. Call for papers and symposium information: www.udel.edu/ihrcl/conference/earthperfect/

London Open Garden Squares Weekend Saturday 8 and Sunday 9 June

A celebration of the work of James Wyatt & Humphry Repton at Ashridge Saturday 27 to Sunday 28 July

A weekend event to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the presentation of the *Red Book* for Ashridge by Humphry Repton to the Seventh Earl of Bridgewater. In parallel with this the 200th anniversary of the death of James Wyatt falls in 2013. Ashridge House was the final house that Wyatt created and was virtually complete by the time of Wyatt's death.

The weekend conference will focus on the work of the foremost architect of his time and other

members of the Wyatt family at Ashridge. Repton's proposals for the garden to complement Wyatt's house and wider landscape at Ashridge will also be considered. Keynote speakers include **John Martin Robinson** on *The work of James Wyatt*; **Professor Tom Williamson** on *The work of Humphry Repton*; **Mick Thompson** on *Humphry Repton at Ashridge*; **Richard Wheeler** on *Gardens in divided ownership: the management of the Ashridge Estate* and include tours of the (enormous) house and stunning garden.

Cost from £120, prices with accommodation on application. Contact: Sally Rouse on: 01442 841 179 or email: sally.rouse@ashridge.org.uk

The historiography of landscape design and management: why is the profession so disengaged?

Call for papers for a Conference at The University of Sheffield
Friday 20 September 2013

All professions are proudly self-aware of their origins and intellectual history. All professions, that is, except landscape architecture. Some practitioners question the relevance of their profession's history and even pride themselves on their ignorance. The context of their profession is often inadequately explained to landscape architecture students, who consider this as stultifying creativity. Landscape architects naively wish their talent to be recognized rather than regard it as a vocation with high principles. Landscape architecture, unlike some other design professions, such as architecture and art, has a paucity of historians from within its own ranks.

It is the intention of the conference in Sheffield to look at ways in which the profession might be more engaged with its historiography, with examples, both from outside and within the discipline of landscape architecture, looking at a range of different methodologies and how they have been, or might be, applied. We would like to explore key principles and ideas, which might help strengthen historiography of landscape architecture and raise its profile in relation to other related topics such as that of art and architecture.

We welcome suggestions for papers, with abstracts of c300 words **by 15 March 2013**.

They may be submitted to Jan Woudstra: j.woudstra@sheffield.ac.uk or to Sally O'Halloran: sallyohal@hotmail.com

Gardens of Association: the Roles and Meanings of Garden Buildings in Eighteenth-Century Landscapes

Painshill Conference

Thursday 10 and Friday 11 October

Chaired by **Tim Richardson**, the two-day conference will explore the different interpretations assigned to garden buildings, and what, if any, impact these associations have on their

restoration and conservation. Speakers include: **Michael Cousins, Oliver Cox, Dr Patrick Eyres, Michael Gove, Dr Sally Jeffery, Linda Keightley, Dr Wendy Monkhouse, Trevor Proudfoot, Dr Sarah Rutherford, Jean Stone, Michael Symes, Richard Wheeler and David Wrightson.**

Full conference cost: £175, students: £160. Early bird booking before 31 March: £160. See website for details and booking: www.painshill.co.uk

other news and views

for news, letters, comments and appeals for information from our members

New courses in Garden History

Janet Waymark, Senior Research Fellow IHR writes:

The short course in **How to Research Garden History** proved to be a great success at the Institute of Historical Research in the autumn term of 2012. The team of experienced lecturers led to the course being oversubscribed, and the unlucky ones were advised to come back next year.

How to Research Garden History will begin again on 3 October 2013, and will last ten weeks. Anyone interested is advised to contact either Dr Simon Trafford at the IHR: simon.trafford@sas.ac.uk or Dr Janet Waymark: janetwaymark@yahoo.co.uk and to return their application form as soon as possible.

As before, the course will be made up of two-hour sessions on Thursday mornings, 11am to 1pm, and will be held in Senate House, or in museums or other historical sites, and will cover garden and landscape history from the early modern world to the present day.

It is planned to start an MA in Garden History at the IHR, and this introductory course will make an excellent beginning.

**Master's in Garden History
The English Garden from the Tudors to the Twentieth Century**

October 2013 to September 2014

Directed by Professor Timothy Mowl, this one-year Master's course surveys the history of English gardens and designed landscapes from the 16th century to the 20th. Teaching is based in central London, and the MA provides a thorough preparation in research techniques and the history of British gardens and designed landscapes from the sixteenth century to the modern period.

Teaching combines one-to-one research supervision, a series of intensive background classes, and a residential weekend, during which students visit major masterpieces of landscape design. There are further study days in the field during the Winter and Spring Terms.

Assessment is by a dissertation of 20,000 words, and the course can also be taken part-time, over two years. Those interested in attending the classes, seminars and dinners, but who do not wish to undertake research for a dissertation, may join the course as Associate Students, at a reduced fee.

For further details: www.buckingham.ac.uk/gardenhistory Course enquiries: timothy.mowl@buckingham.ac.uk

English Heritage Centenary

Jennifer White writes:

This year, 2013, is the centenary of a landmark moment for England's heritage. *The Ancient Monuments Consolidation and Amendments Act* of 1913 recognised for the first time that there are physical remains of the nation's history which are so special that the state has a duty to protect them.

English Heritage's origins stretch back to this Act, which effectively established the National Heritage Collection and created many of the powers used to safeguard the country's unique legacy of historic buildings, monuments and landscapes. In this part of our website, you can find out more about the Act and how we are celebrating its anniversary.

For more information please see: www.english-heritage.org.uk/caring/heritage-centenary/

2013 is also the 25th anniversary of the Register



other news & views

of *Parks and Gardens* and we hope to do a special press release on this anniversary.

Parks & Gardens UK update

Rachael Stamper, Project Manager writes

Parks & Gardens UK has a fresh look and a new website address: www.parksandgardens.org

2012 proved an exciting year with the receipt of a generous grant from The Bulldog Trust which enabled a programme of improvements including a design refresh and the move to our own server and new .org address. This 'new look' also heralds a new phase in the development of Parks & Gardens UK, which will be working to provide a faster, more interactive and informative website for all those interested in visiting, researching and conserving historic parks, gardens and designed landscapes throughout the UK.

Thanks to weekly contributions from garden owners, individual researchers, members of the public and volunteers in gardens trusts, new site records have been added and existing records have been expanded and/or updated which has resulted in a growth of the database records over the last year. The database now has over 6,600 site records and more than 2,100 person records. Additionally, our digital archive of images has jumped to nearly 4,000.

The last few months have seen progress with the Working in Partnership initiative between the Association of Gardens Trusts, The Garden History Society, The Garden Museum and Parks & Gardens UK as the organisations discuss best ways to coordinate efforts and work more closely together on shared initiatives. The partners have agreed to collaborate on one themed event each year, starting in 2013 with Twentieth-Century Landscapes. Parks & Gardens UK will participate by providing articles and educational activities as well as adding database records to support this.

We are also working together with the GHS on the Conservation Management Plan project and will make the compiled list of plans available on our website later this year.

We have a new email address for queries and comments: info@parksandgardens.org

RHS Lindley Library, London

Gaynor Messenger, Library Manager, writes:

The Lindley Library's London reading room is open throughout the week, 10am to 5pm, with a

greater range of journals on open display. Please note that the Research Room operates on a two-week cycle, being open on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays one week, and Tuesday and Friday the next. It is also open on Show days.

Research use of our collections is vitally important to us. To support this research we also need to ensure our extensive collections are sorted, documented and prepared for use. At the same time we must make sure they receive good care and handling. Our staff need time and space to work on these collections, so that in the longer term they may be made more accessible for research and consultation. Our current opening times allow staff time to carry out this work, which will ultimately benefit the collections and all those who use them for research.

Please consult www.rhs.org.uk/About-Us/RHS-Lindley-Library for full opening times, and to book: library.london@rhs.org.uk or phone: 020 7821 3050 giving full details of the material you would like to consult.

The other Lindley Libraries are open to all, and are located at RHS Gardens Wisley and Harlow Carr. We also have small reading rooms at RHS Gardens Hyde Hall and Rosemoor.

Elizabeth Koper, Outreach Librarian adds:

If you would like to bring a group to see particular aspects of the library and its special collections, contact: elizabethkoper@rhs.org.uk or 020 7821 3051.

Canadian Garden Council

Michel Gauthier writes:

The Canadian Garden Council was founded in 2011. Until it is incorporated, the Council operates as a committee of the Canadian Nursery Landscape Association (CNLA).

Our Mission: To be a platform by which garden organizations come together for one common goal of promoting the role and benefits of gardens in our communities as cultural and tourism experiences.

Our Objectives:

- To facilitate, stimulate and encourage *Garden Experience* development within Canada
- To contribute to development and affirmation of the Canadian Garden Culture
- To promote the 'triple bottom line' (social, economic and environmental) impact of the *Garden Experience* in Canada
- To enrich Canada's tourism offering with the many and varied *Garden Experiences* within the

provinces and territories.

- To become the vehicle through which we tell Canadian garden related stories and share them with pride with the world
- To facilitate the collaboration and cooperation between national, provincial, territorial and local garden organizations
- To become the voice of Canada's *Garden Experiences vis-à-vis* the other related sectors & industries e.g. CTC, TIAC, COHA, CNLA, CAC, etc.

Membership to Date:

- Québec Garden Association
- Ontario Garden Tourism Coalition
- BC Garden Tourism Coalition Society
- Communities in Bloom

Maybe it is time for a 'World Garden Council' to regroup all the major country garden organizations to defend, facilitate and promote the values of gardens and to interface with other world and international bodies.

It could be accredited or associated to the United Nations. When you search the United Nations Web site for Garden you get about 10,700 hits, but I can't find any garden element in their structure.

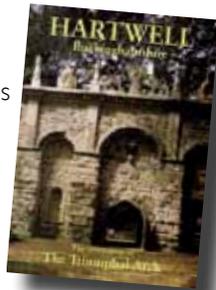
Just a crazy idea, but **why not?** Yes it will require energy and resources but where there is a will there is a way...

Contact Michel: michelgo@magma.ca

Hartwell Histories

Rosemary Jury writes:

The Long Gallery Press publishes *The History of Hartwell House, Buckinghamshire*, restored by the architect Eric Throssell, 1987–90, since when he has researched and compiled the long and interesting lost histories of the house and garden, c1200–2012. In several volumes, they will be of special interest to investigative architectural and garden historians. The volumes contain a treasure trove of carefully detailed measured drawings and reconstructions, hand drawn (no computer); the author must be one of the last of a dying breed. The volumes published to date are:



Volume One, Part I: Joseph Bonomi, Curator of Sir John Soane's Museum 1861–68; his unknown encrypted work deciphered, to produce the lost Gothick Pavilion of Henry Keene and the

unknown Long Gallery panelling.
 Volume One, Part II: His work in Egypt & England.
 Volume Two, Part I: The reconstruction of the Triumphal Arch gateway; utilising the lost Elizabethan cresting stones from the late Elizabethan house of c1590
 Volume Two, Part II: Fragmenta, produces evidence of an Eros & Gryphon trilogies of c1450; the gateway to the walled enclosure; the 1661 map. A lost Madonna and Child, a limestone statue, c1280, concealed by the Hampdens in the earlier house, demolished c1760s
 Volume Three: James Gibbs' formal garden of c1720; the paintings of Balthasar Nebot c1738. Volume Three will be published at the end of 2012. A definitive work including a chapter on Stowe and Hartwell, c1720. Bridgeman & Vanbrugh, parallels with Gibbs' iconic layout.
 See: long-gallery-press.co.uk for full details. To order copies please contact: sales@long-gallery-press.co.uk

More of Harold Peto's Travel Diaries

Robin Whalley writes:

Since Jane Balfour's illuminating article in **GHS news** 89 Spring 2012 announcing the publication of Harold Peto's Travel Diaries: Vol 1 *Italy 1887*, there are now three new titles available. A fascinating account of his trip to America in 1887, a journey to Spain in 1888, including a visit to Tangier for what Peto called 'a peep at the gorgeous East' and then in the autumn of 1888 another excursion to Italy describing in particular his enthusiastic and delightful experience of Venice. This year Cwarelip Press will be publishing *France and Italy 1889* followed by *Greece 1891*; these to appear over the coming months.

The diaries are available from Cwarelip Press, Cwm Oergwm, Llanfrynach, Brecon, Powys, LD3 7LQ. More information from: www.cwarelipress.co.uk

London Gardens Online celebrates more than 8,000 visitors in one week!

Rachel Aked writes:

More information is needed and the boroughs are encouraged to get involved...

If you want to learn more about London's historic green spaces, visit www.londongardensonline.org.uk More than 8,000 people used the site during a single week in November when the total number of hits was over 40,000, with a total

other news & views

session time of 19,200 minutes! The majority of visitors (28%) were from the USA, followed by 21% in Great Britain and 10% in China, clear evidence of the website's world-wide appeal.

London Gardens Online was launched in May 2012 and is the brainchild of the London Parks & Gardens Trust, who, 15 years ago, decided to start the mammoth task of creating an *Inventory* of the capital's parks, gardens, squares, churchyards, cemeteries and other sites of historic interest. It now includes more than 2,500 site entries across all of London's 33 Boroughs. This information is now readily available on the website, which was created with support from English Heritage, The Pilgrim Trust and the J Paul Getty Jnr Charitable Trust.

Nine months on, boroughs are encouraged to look at the historic green spaces represented on www.londongardensonline.org.uk and to add to the information, including pictures, if possible, as the website will be regularly updated. Many of the borough local studies libraries have already helped with providing historical pictures for the website. Criteria for inclusion on the Inventory are those sites whose history dates back at least 30 years and are of significance for their design, landscaping or social history.

Keeper of the *Inventory*, Sally Williams, explains: 'Many of London's parks and gardens, churchyards and squares are very well known but there are legions of hidden secrets only known to their local communities, and tracking these down has been an exciting part of the remit of the Inventory.'

Researching with London Parks & Gardens Trust

Barbara Simms writes

The London Volunteer Research Group has started off 2013 with a number of new and exciting projects. These include researching fascinating but little-known gardens for this year's Open Garden Squares Weekend; scouring the National Archives for information on the Royal Parks during World War I to contribute to an exhibition as part of the 1914–18 commemorations; and researching London sites that were designed, or might have been designed, by 'Capability' Brown as part of the Brown Tercentenary Celebrations in 2016.

Whether you are an experienced researcher, have attended a course and would like to put theory into practice, or would like to learn how to

research a garden's history, then you would enjoy working with this vibrant and active group. There is plenty of support available but you arrange your research times to fit in with your other commitments. We all meet in Central London once every few months to report on findings, attend training days, and discuss common research queries.

We are also looking for more project coordinators to manage small groups of researchers investigating particular topics. Sophie Seifalian, Acting Group Co-ordinator, would also like to hear from anyone interested in taking over her role or working with her to manage this very important aspect of the Trust's activities. If you are interested in joining the group or taking on the role of project or group co-ordinator, please contact Barbara: bs@gardentales.co.uk or Sophie: Sophie.s@btinternet.com for more information.

Sayes Court update

Roo Angell writes:

Sayes Court Garden has been working with Linden Groves, of Outdoor Children, to engage the local community with the history of John Evelyn's garden in Deptford. The first in a series of workshops were held in neighbouring Sayes



Children from Deptford's Sir Francis Drake and Grinling Gibbons primary schools working with Linden Groves

Court Park, with two local primary schools. The children explored the design of Evelyn's garden and worked together to create a plan for the new garden they would like to see on the site of Sayes Court. The workshops finished with a tasting of the various fruit which Evelyn grew, and a re-enactment of Peter the Great's infamous destruction of the holly hedge! The children were very surprised to learn that Deptford was once the home of a famous garden: they embraced Evelyn as a hitherto-unknown local hero, and are eager to reclaim his garden.

Sayes Court Garden will also be taking part in this year's Chelsea Fringe Festival, with a range of events for garden history experts and novices of all ages. Full details will be available soon, on the shortly anticipated relaunch of the website at www.sayescourtgarden.org.uk

Fulham Palace guided walks

Sonia Crutchlow writes:

The Fulham Palace Trust offers garden walks throughout the year and is launching in April a new programme of guided walks of Bishop's



Sonia Crutchlow

The Gothick lodge and moat, Fulham Palace

Park and the Palace Gardens to celebrate their refurbishment, made possible by a grant from the Heritage Lottery Parks For People Fund.

Dates can be found on www.fulhampalace.org or by phone: 020 7610 7164

Redgrave Hall Estate Archive, Suffolk

Tim Holt-Wilson writes:

The Redgrave History Group has now catalogued some 7,000 documents from the Redgrave Hall Estate Archive, Suffolk, spanning mostly the period 1780 to 1860. Among the papers are over 80

invoices from various plantsmen in East Anglia and London for flower, fruit and vegetable varieties.

Are any of your members interested in researching these, as part of understanding the diversity of plant varieties available in the 18th and 19th centuries?

More background information about Redgrave Park at myweb.tiscali.co.uk/redgravehistory/redgravepark.htm. or contact: 01 379 870 411

Richard Woods at Waterperry?

Ruth Todd writes:

I was encouraged a couple of years ago by Fiona Cowell to ask if anyone in the Society has any information that might link Richard Woods to the landscaping of Waterperry House Gardens, Oxon, for John Barnewall Curson c1777–80. Fiona supports my view that he probably was the landscaper for Waterperry, hence this request.

Contact Ruth: abc123rtl@hotmail.com

Oxfordshire's Walled Garden Project

Joanna Matthews, Secretary OGT writes:

Neglect, lack of funding, or future development threatens the existence of many walled kitchen gardens and last April Oxfordshire Gardens Trust was awarded a two-year HLF £50k grant to research the walled gardens of Oxfordshire.

Using volunteers, the project aims to create a detailed database, website, exhibition and booklet to draw attention to the general condition of the



Oxfordshire Gardens Trust

OGT Training session at Heythrop Park Victorian Walled Garden, there's a Georgian one as well, on 1 September with Peter Thoday leading

other news & views



Oxfordshire Gardens Trust

Another OGT Training session at Ruskin College in Headington, Oxford also September. This has recently been massively restored, and the big building to the left is their new Library (casting a permanent shadow on the garden) which is now cultivated by Ruskin College Crinkle-Crankle Club

county's remaining stock, and to promote their future conservation.

Initial research had shown that there were at least 300 walled kitchen gardens in the 1880s. Not a lot is known about most of these so the project's 30 or so trained volunteers are currently actively researching as many as can be found (and, of course, with owners' permission given).

Putto Nero

Christopher Dingwall writes:

The significance of the 'blackamoor' or African figure in British portraiture and painting has been the subject of debate for a number of years. Most recently, the thirtieth anniversary edition of the *New Arcadian Journal* 69/70, 2011, considered the significance of 'The Blackamoor and the Georgian Garden' from a number of different perspectives, focusing in particular on the kneeling figure bearing a sundial on its head, made popular in the late-17th century and early-18th century by the likes of Jan van Nost and John Cheere. In this fascinating publication Patrick Eyres lists twenty-six known versions of the statue, two of them representing Indian, rather than African figures. In this context the figure is often seen as being subservient, and symbolic of the slave trade.

What then are we to make of the stone figure with unmistakably African features, recently seen amongst other more conventional European putti in a Scottish garden? The little chap, of unknown



Christopher Dingwall

date and origin, is seen to be leaning on a tree stump, and is clutching a small object, possibly a pipe, in his right hand. In thirty years of visiting gardens, I am not aware of having seen another example of what I am tempted to describe as a 'putto nero'. I should be interested to know if anyone knows of another example of this statue, or of a similar figure, in the context of British or European gardens.

Please contact me: dingwall@guidelines.demon.co.uk



Rex Whistler Archive

Edward James encore

Charles Boot writes:

Having had our eyes opened by Edward James on the Society's recent Mexico Study Tour, it was good to be reminded of the great surrealist's contribution to British artistic life on seeing the illustrations to his *The Next Volume*, 1932, by Rex Whistler. Recent visitors to Northumberland may feel a sense of *déjà vu*.

**THE GARDEN
HISTORY SOCIETY**

Please consider leaving a Legacy to the Society in your Will

If you are thinking of remembering The Garden History Society in your Will and would like to discuss the proposed legacy, you may wish to advise the Society. If so you can use this form (or a copy) and send it to our head office: The Administrator, The Garden History Society, 70 Cowcross Street, London EC1M 6EJ. We will then contact you.

- I have already included a legacy to The Garden History Society in my Will
- I have instructed my solicitor to include a legacy to The Garden History Society in my Will
- I would like to discuss a legacy to The Garden History Society with you
- I would like to discuss a legacy to The Garden History Society in Scotland (GHSS) with you.

Name:
 Address:

 Postcode: Tel:
 email:

How to leave a gift to the Society

You can choose to leave an amount of cash to the Society or a share of your estate. Such a gift should include the society's name, charity registration number and address.

For example:

I give to The Garden History Society (registered charity number 1053446) of 70 Cowcross Street, London, EC1M 6EJ the sum of £

principal officers

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GHS events diary

- Wednesday 6 March GHS London lecture: David Marsh on *A little bit of Surrey in the sun?*
- Thursday 14 March GHSS Edinburgh lecture:
Kristina Taylor on *Passion, Plants and Patronage: 300 years of Bute family landscapes*
- Wednesday 20 March GHS London lecture: Robert Peel and Kristina Taylor
on *Passion, Plants and Patronage : 300 years of Bute family landscapes*
- 14 to 25 April GHS Study Tour: Landscapes of California
- Wednesday 15 May GHSS AGM and lecture by Peter Burman on *Spirit of Place*, Edinburgh
- Saturday 19 May GHS Chelsea Fringe event
- 31 May to 2 June GHSS Gardening Scotland Show, Edinburgh
- 7 to 9 June GHS/OUDC Weekend School: *Gardens and Art*
- Wednesday 19 June AGT Study Day: *Lowther Castle: A Noble Prospect*
- Tuesday 2 July GHS & LPGT visit to Myddleton House and Forty Hall, Enfield
- Friday 12 July 3rd GHS Graduate Symposium
and GHS AGM at the Garden Museum, London
- 6 to 8 September AGT Annual Conference *Eastern Promise: transforming London's Landscapes*
- 21 to 27 September GHS Study Tour to North Bohemia, Silesia & Saxony
- Saturday 9 November Autumn Study Day: Alicia Amherst

Details and booking information for all these events can be found inside, on pages 4 to 9,
or look at our website: www.gardenhistorysociety.org/events

GHS news correspondence and items to the GHS Head Office,
or email the editor: news@gardenhistorysociety.org

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