

From the Chairman

We are in the middle of the 'Working Together Feasibility Study', along with our partners, the Association of Gardens Trusts, Parks and Gardens Database Services & the Garden Museum, addressing the likely reduced public funding available for Conservation and the Heritage Industry. It is really interesting and positive to be working closely with like-minded people who are determined to ensure that the care of Historic Parks and Gardens is kept high on the government's agenda.

Dominic Cole

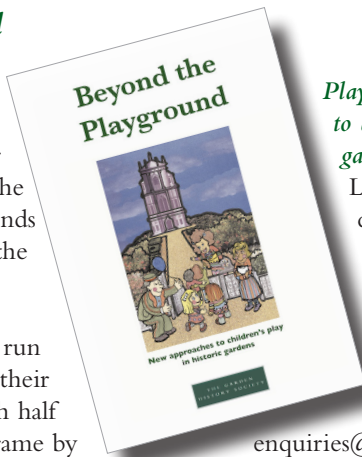
Beyond the Playground

We all **know** that the younger generation needs to be persuaded of the delights of our historic parks and gardens, but the younger visitor all too often spends an unhappy afternoon fighting the urge to roll down banks, dabble in the fountain, clamber in the shrubbery, balance on walls and run across the lawn. If they manage their task then they are rewarded with half an hour on the ugly climbing frame by the car park, an ice-cream and a souvenir pencil sharpener as an affirmation that they enjoyed their day out in a historic garden.

As a result of an often formulaic approach to provision for children, the Society's conservation officers have long been accustomed to considering the impact of new play facilities within historic landscapes. In urban public parks, playgrounds are perfectly valid and chime well with the site's historic *raison d'être*, but in gardens with a history of being private homes, off-the-shelf proposals can sit uncomfortably with the site, its history, and its aim to have a relevance in today's society.

By thinking a little more imaginatively, we may realise that many historic gardens are inherently suited to children's play and engagement and suddenly it may no longer seem so necessary to spend those thousands of pounds on some new brightly-coloured play equipment. We may notice a fountain that would be perfect for sailing boats in, if only a little stash of them was left ready on the edge; a Broad Walk that is calling to have a hoop rolled along it; a pond perfect for fishing were there a row of nets; a hill on which a kite could be flown; a Hermitage that would be a thousand times more entertaining were there a hermit in it...

To tackle some of these issues and to generate fresh energy, inspiration and imagination in thinking about children's play, the GHS has published a beautifully illustrated free leaflet called *Beyond the*



Playground: new approaches to children's play in historic gardens, with a text by Linden Groves, our conservation officer for the East of England & London. To receive a copy, please contact Louise Cooper, the Administrator at the GHS office, or: enquiries@gardenhistorysociety.org

Seventh Annual Essay Prize

This year entries can be submitted up to and including **30 April 2011**, to enable students to work on their submissions over the Easter holidays. The prize is open to any current student, or indeed any student who has graduated in the past twelve months.

The prize includes a cheque for £250, free membership of the Society for a year, and consideration for publication in *Garden History*. Application forms can be downloaded from the Society's website.

Call for Papers:
new research in garden history
Graduate Symposium at Keele University
9.30am, Friday 22 July 2011

The Society is hosting a symposium for scholars who are unpublished in the field; scholars in all disciplines are being encouraged to submit. We are looking for papers ranging from detailed explorations of little known gardens to relevant aspects of botany, ecology, archaeology, social history or horticulture...

Applicants must submit a 200-word abstract to: administrator@gardenhistorysociety.org by 10 January 2011. The selected entrants will be invited to present a 20-minute, 2,000 to 2,500 word, illustrated paper on Friday 22 July, the first day of the Society's annual conference, see the website for more.

Christmas office closure

Our offices in London and Edinburgh will close on Friday 17 December 2010, reopening on Wednesday 5 January 2011

Events 2010 & 2011

www.gardenhistorysociety.org/events

GHSS Winter lecture

Paradise of Exiles: The Anglo-American Gardens of Florence

Katie Campbell (note change of speaker)
Royal Botanic Garden of Edinburgh
7pm for 7.30pm, Thursday 9 December

Combining social history with horticulture Katie Campbell explores the eccentric community of English and American expatriates that gathered in Florence at the end of the nineteenth century.

Members £7.50, non-members £10.
Tickets on the door

Events for 2011

Visit to Chippenham Park, Essex
10.45am, Wednesday 9 February

Essex Gardens Trust invite GHS members to join them at their own members' rate, £10, for a visit to Chippenham Park, just north of Newmarket in Cambridgeshire. A tour of the water gardens with the owner, Anne Crawley, will be followed after a lunch of soup and roll by a self-guided walk amongst the carpets of snowdrops. For further details and a booking form please contact Michele Freeman: michelefreeman@tiscali.co.uk

Study Day on The Water Gardens of Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe
with Hertfordshire Gardens Trust
Saturday 9 April

To be held at Lockers Park School, Hemel Hempstead, followed by a walk to the **Hemel Hempstead Water Garden** where we shall have a guided tour and discuss its possible future.

Cost: £35 for members, £39 for non-members, to include lunch. For further information and booking forms, please contact Robert Peel: rma.peel@bopenworld.com or: 020 7121 8938

The AGM of the GHSS
at the Glasite Meeting House,
Barony Street, Edinburgh
11am, Saturday 9 April

A sandwich lunch will be provided after the meeting. In the afternoon **Christopher Dingwall** will lead a walking-tour of several small gardens in the vicinity of the Royal Mile. A booking form for this event will be included in the GHSS members' mailing early in 2011.

Study Tour to Turin
Tuesday 17 to Sunday 22 May

The trip aims to embrace many of the Savoy family properties both in and surrounding the city; **Venaria Reale**, **Villa Madama**, **Villa Reale**, **Racconigi**, **Stupinigi**, and **Moncalieri**, also the parks of **Castello d' Aglie** and of **La Burcina** at Biella some distance north of Turin, as well as two **Russell Page** designed gardens in private hands and two contemporary private gardens designed by **Paolo Pejrone**. We will stay in the city centre in a comfortable 3* hotel. The cost will be £760 per person sharing a room with a single room supplement of £150 (£200 for twin room for single use). This includes transport in and around Turin, entry to sites, most lunches and a group dinner. It does not include the journey to and from Turin. The itinerary will be fixed to the BA timetable of flights between Gatwick and Turin but Easyjet also serves Turin, many companies serve Milan which is an easy train journey away, and the Artesia train runs twice a day between Paris and Turin. Robert has already received a lot of interest so may run a repeat in 2012 if more interest continues to flow in. Contact Robert Peel: rma.peel@btopenworld.com or 020 7121 8938 for further information.

Study Day at Wilton House:
The Tudor and Stuart Gardens
9.45am to 5pm, Friday 10 June

The latest research on the iconic gardens of Wilton in the 16th and 17th centuries presented by specialist lecturers, and a privileged view of the surviving features from the period, all of which are in the private gardens, not normally accessible to visitors. Talks by Dr **Paula Henderson**, Dr **Paige Johnson** and Dr **Sally Jeffery** will be followed by an opportunity to view paintings and engravings in the house. We will then visit several private areas of the gardens to view fountains, reliefs and fragments from the early gardens, the **Holbein Porch**, the **School House** (created from fragments of the **Grotto**) and the **Isaac de Caus** designed **Stables**.

Volunteer wanted:
Honorary Treasurer

Do you have some hours per week to spare?
Do you have accounting experience?
Do you operate email?
We are looking for a replacement Treasurer when Colin Ellis retires at the end of this calendar year.
If interested, please contact our administrator for further details: enquiries@gardenhistorysociety.org or by post: GHS Head Office, 70 Cowcross Street, London EC1M 6EJ

At the Old Riding School, Wilton House. Cost: £75 includes coffee, sandwich lunch, and tea. This event will not be repeated and the number of places is limited to 50; early booking is advisable. Contact Chloe Bennett, with SAE: Dove House, 5 The Street, Thornham Magna, Eye, Suffolk, IP23 8HB or: chloe.bennett1@btinternet.com

Visit to Selborne
Tuesday 21 June

A study visit to the village of Selborne to explore **Gilbert White's House** and Garden, his connections with the village and Selborne Common.
For further information please email: events@gardenhistorysociety.org, or send an SAE to The Garden History Society, 70 Cowcross Street, London EC1M 6EJ, marked 'Gilbert White'.

A Celebration of Thomas Wright (1711–1786):
Eighteenth-century Polymath
9.30am, Saturday 25 June

Institute for Garden and Landscape History one-day conference at the University of Bristol. See: www.gardenhistoryinstitute.co.uk/events.html for registration details and associated site visits or email: jp4653@bristol.ac.uk

The Garden History Society
Summer Conference
at Keele University, Staffordshire
Friday 22 July to Sunday 24 July

For further details please contact Mrs Anne Richards, 5 The Knoll, Hereford HR1 1RU with SAE or email Chloe Bennett: chloe.bennett1@btinternet.com

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

Itinerary in *NEWS* 86, Summer 2010. The cost for the weekend is £180,

accommodation not included. Contact Anne Richards as above.

Study Tour to Mexico
featuring the gardens of Luis Barragán
Friday 14 to Thursday 25 October

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

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

The tour will be led by Jeff Sainsbury, with help from Robert Peel and local guides and experts, including Dr Anibal Figueroa, who will accompany us for part of the tour and give an informal lecture on the life and work of Barragan. The cost (without flight) is £1,850 per person sharing (£405 single supplement). This includes ten nights accommodation in comfortable hotels with private bathrooms, all breakfasts and some other group meals, coach transportation throughout, and entries as per the itinerary. The price does not include flights to and from Mexico. The itinerary has been designed around BA's direct flight between Heathrow and Mexico City, though other flight options exist. For full details, including a day-by-day itinerary and application form, email Robert Peel: rma.peel@btopenworld.com or phone: 020 7121 8938.

Contact us
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Correspondence and items to the GHS Head Office, or email the Editor: news@gardenhistorysociety.org
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