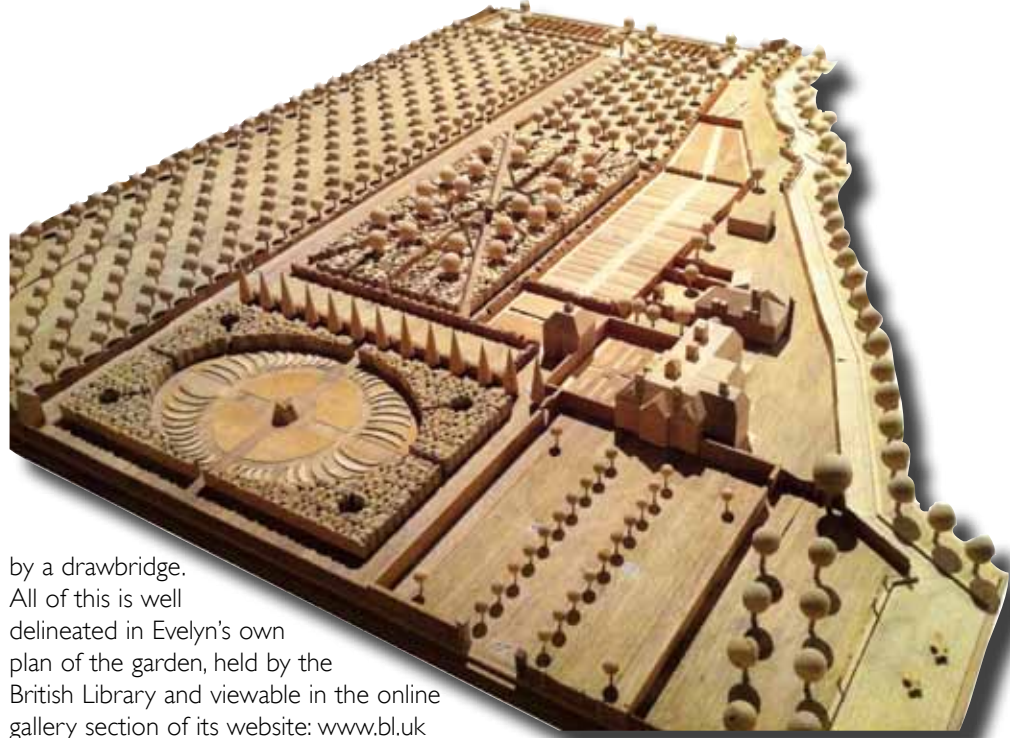


Site of John Evelyn's Deptford garden under threat

The site of the house and garden at Sayes Court — John Evelyn's London residence by the then Royal Dockyard at Deptford — is currently subject to a planning application from a property developer which would see the site of the garden built over. A small group of concerned locals has mounted a campaign to conserve the site with a view to seeing it re-emerge as a public garden or park, integral to the riverfront residential development envisaged by the developers. At present, the entirety of the Sayes Court estate lies under an apron of concrete, but it is believed that garden archaeology could reveal much of its layout; the cellars of Evelyn's house survive and have already been subject to some archaeological investigation. The site of Sayes Court takes up about one-sixth of the area to be developed, now known as Convoys Wharf. The proposal from developers Hutchison-Whampoa is for 3,514 residential units, 80% of them one- and two-bedroom flats, in three tall blocks of 32-, 38- and 46- storeys, plus a variety of smaller blocks typically between 8–18 storeys; one of the blocks is directly over the site of the principal parterre of the garden.

The GHS supports this campaign and is adding its voice to those suggesting that Lewisham Council looks favourably on the idea of conserving the site of Sayes Court as part of an overall development plan when the application is considered by Lewisham's planning committee in either January or April. A revised plan would potentially mean the construction of approximately half the number of residential units, with a greater mix of commercial, community, artistic and other uses at the site, as well as the integration of green space on the footprint of the old garden.

The garden at Sayes Court (see *Garden History* 25:2, Winter 1997) was laid out by Evelyn from 1653 and included an oval garden, a terrace walk or mount, an orchard and the grove, which contained more than 500 specimens of standard oak, ash, elm, service, beech and chestnut. Numerous unusual and exotic spice and citrus plants were grown here (the proximity of the docks playing its part) and there was also a substantial kitchen garden of 38 beds laid out systematically. Other attractions included a banqueting house and an island reached



by a drawbridge. All of this is well delineated in Evelyn's own plan of the garden, held by the British Library and viewable in the online gallery section of its website: www.bl.uk

Charles II visited the garden on several occasions, though the most celebrated story was the time when Peter the Great of Russia, who leased the house for a period, ruined some of Evelyn's prized holly hedges having been pushed around the garden in a wheelbarrow for fun.

After Evelyn's death in 1706 Sayes Court was used as a poor-house for 125 years. By the end of the 19th century both the house and garden were in disrepair. The old dockyard was transformed into the Foreign Cattle Market, leading to the conversion of a great double-arched slipway cover into cattle sheds. This is now a Grade II listed structure and must remain as part of any future development. The house itself was slightly damaged during the Second World War by a V1 rocket and was subsequently demolished. The local activists suggest that the great arched structure could be used again as a boatyard for the construction of historic wooden ships, and to that end they have teamed up with historic ship experts who have submitted their own detailed proposals based on other schemes which have been successful, not least as tourist attractions, in France and the Netherlands.

Today the surrounding local area is taken up by light-industrial units and low-rise residential blocks, but John Evelyn and the garden at Sayes Court is commemorated in

Wooden model of Sayes Court made by George Carter in 1988, for the V&A Garden exhibition. The (originally) Thames side walk to the right of the model can still be detected on aerial photos of the site today.

local street names and remains very much a part of the folk memory of Deptford. Sayes Court has even been 'saved' on one previous occasion, when a descendant of John Evelyn mounted a campaign in the 1880s with the help of Octavia Hill (prior to her creation of the National Trust) to turn it into a public park. The campaign was successful and Sayes Court Park remained a public amenity until the First World War, when 3/4 of the park was absorbed into the Dockyard and never returned. The remainder of the park was remodelled in the 1950s.

In 2000 Lewisham Council commissioned a report on Sayes Court, its significance and the impact of development. Prof Burdett's report recommended the reinstatement of the complete area of John Evelyn's garden as part of the scheme and highlighted the role of the wharf area as a historically important site in terms of both ship-building and horticulture.

For more information see: www.sayescourtgarden.com and londonstlostgarden.wordpress.com

See p3 for April 2012 Study Day info.

Important Update

We wanted to keep Members informed of important developments following our AGM in July at Keele, and that of the Association of Gardens Trusts at Oxford in September:

Working Together

The **Working Together Feasibility Study Group**, comprising **GHS, AGT, the Garden Museum** and the **Parks & Gardens database (P&GUK)**, continues to discuss a possible way forward towards closer co-operation between its members.

A prime motive for undertaking this study, which has strong support from English Heritage, is the prospect of reduced Government funding for historic parks and gardens, and particularly the likelihood of a reduction in financial support from English Heritage for our work in 2012–13.

Facing the prospect of reduced public funding as well as potentially harmful changes in national planning policy, we know that our current individual resources will not be sufficient to address threats to the parks and gardens about which we all care.

As part of the Study, each organisation has also undertaken a thorough review of its activities and the way in which each organisation operates. This has included a critical analysis of each others' operations. The conversation has been wide-ranging and occasionally challenging, but also stimulating.

It is already impossible for the GHS alone to respond to all planning threats to our parks and gardens. Collectively, and by building on our respective strengths and expertise, we stand a much better chance of making our views known to, and understood by, national and local government.

The Study Group has concluded that uniting our skills and resources will give us a more effective voice and avoid confusion as to which body is giving what advice. Giving County Gardens Trusts' membership more ability to get involved with direct conservation action underpins this thinking. These conclusions have been welcomed by English Heritage.

Future GHS Conservation Activity

During October, following recommendations from the Conservation Committee, GHS Council decided to implement a reorganisation of conservation practice within the GHS.

Jonathan Lovie will remain as Principal Conservation Officer and Policy Adviser in England; Linden Grove's role as Casework Manager (England), and the Casework Log are unaffected by this reorganisation. In Scotland, Alison Allighan remains as Conservation Officer; and a Casework Log, similar to that operating in England, will also now be created and maintained. As part of this process, three of our existing Conservation Officers in England will be redundant from 4 April 2012.

The way forward

Under the Principal Conservation Officer, a new post of Deputy Conservation Officer (England) has been created; you

will see below an advertisement for this post, and an invitation for expressions of interest from individuals wishing to be Conservation Consultants in England. The freelance Consultants will be commissioned to deal with specific conservation cases, complementing the work of the Principal and Deputy Conservation Officers in England. Our current Conservation Officers may, of course, apply for both the advertised roles.

Planned changes to the Society's conservation operation include:

- Moving away from a geographical structure for responding to consultations.
- Reinvigorating the Society's role as a campaigner for Parks and Gardens.
- Providing support and training for county gardens trusts and others to engage in more conservation work, especially where this affects sites on which they are the undoubted experts.
- Ensuring, with the help of the Society's colleagues in the CGTs, that local government recognises the importance of Parks and Gardens when drafting local plan policies.

The Society also intends to concentrate resources on responding to changes in Government policy affecting Parks and Gardens; and responding to the major cases and generic threats which face Parks and Gardens.

NEW CONSERVATION WORK OPPORTUNITIES WITH THE SOCIETY

DEPUTY CONSERVATION OFFICER (ENGLAND)

As part of the reorganisation of the Society's conservation and planning work, we wish to appoint a part-time Deputy Conservation Officer for England.

The Deputy Conservation Officer will work in close association with the Principal Conservation Officer and the Conservation Casework Manager in planning casework.

The Deputy Conservation Officer will

also be involved in developing and updating the Society's generic conservation advice (known as Planning and Conservation Advice Notes), and will be closely involved in training and support for county gardens trusts and other local and national amenity societies who are undertaking conservation and planning work.

Details of this part-time post are available from the Society's office, by emailing a request to: enquiries@gardenhistorysociety.org or if writing for details, please address to Administrator (address overleaf) and enclose an SAE. Closing date: Friday 13th January 2012. **The Society's offices are closed over the Christmas and New Year period.**

CONSERVATION CONSULTANTS (ENGLAND)

We are also looking to appoint a panel of appropriately experienced and qualified Consultants upon whom the Society can call to deal with specific conservation cases. Consultants should be members of the Society, but Trustees are ineligible for this role. This freelance work would be undertaken on the basis of a standard inclusive case fee.

A Brief may be obtained from the GHS Office (as above). Expressions of interest in covering letter and c.v. may be lodged at any time to enquiries@gardenhistorysociety.org

GHS Events

for more details of our events please see **GHS news 88** or: gardenhistorysociety.org/events

Paradise of Exiles Katie Campbell

Royal Botanical Garden of Edinburgh
7pm for 7.30pm, Thursday 8 December
£3 for members. £5 for non-members.
Contact: 0131 552 5339, tickets on door.

Study Day: Claude Lorraine 'The Enchanted Landscape'

at the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford
11am to 3.30pm Friday 16 December
By kind invitation of the Ashmolean Museum the Society is holding a Study

Day to coincide with the major exhibition of paintings and graphic works of Claude Lorrain which had such a huge influence on the landscape designers of the 18th century. By uniting 'pairs' of Claude's paintings and making a comprehensive survey of his work in different media, the exhibition brings new research to bear on his working methods, to reveal an unconventional side to Claude which has been little known.



The York Project

Aeneas in Delos Claude Lorraine, 1761/2

In the morning there will be a special conducted tour of the exhibition by the Curator, **Dr Jon Whiteley**. In the afternoon **John Phibbs** will speak on 'The legacy of Claude Lorrain in the historic designed landscape', followed by a discussion.

The ticket price: £35, includes coffee/tea in the morning and afternoon, a light sandwich lunch, the guided tour and lecture. It does not, however, include the entrance price of the exhibition, since this varies, see the enclosed Booking Form for full details. Advance booking by post only as the number of places is limited. Contact: David Foreman 020 8947 4546; dforeman123@gmail.com or: 40 Richmond Rd, West Wimbledon, London SW20 0PQ

Events in 2012

Winter Lecture Series 2012

Please see the enclosed **Programme and Booking Form** for full details.

Study Day on John Evelyn and the Sayes Court site April (to be confirmed)

The Society, with London Parks and Gardens Trust, is planning an event to be held at Sayes Court, Deptford.

Commemorating its former use and famous occupant would serve to highlight the threat that John Evelyn's garden faces if the current outline planning application is approved for high density residential development, leading to further loss of vestiges of the site. Events are moving quickly but the Society could, by its preparation for such an event, bring attention to the planning authority that the site is held to be of national significance. Because of the short lead-in time, members

Did you receive notice of the Lorrain Study Day by email?

If NOT, but you do have email, the Society must have an incorrect or out-dated address for you. When lead-in times for an event such as this are short, or as a friendly reminder for your diary, we should like to be able to alert our members by email. If you agree, please send your email address, supported by your full name and postal address, to: enquiries@gardenhistorysociety.org

Please note that email addresses will not be passed to any other organisation.

are requested to keep an eye on our website and should expect to be notified by email (see box above), in the expectation that the spring newsletter will not be able to give much notice of the event.

Study Day at Studley Royal in association with the AGT, Yorks GT & NT 9.45am to 4.30pm, Saturday 3 May

Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal Water Gardens is a World Heritage Site. It is a landscape that many will be familiar with, but 'improvement' was not, and is not, a process with a finite end point. The importance of the gardens and park means that work of all kinds is on-going: research, archaeological excavations, restoration, conservation, management, interpretation. However well you think you know Studley, you will almost certainly discover something new during this study day. Morning talks will take place in the Aislabie Conference Suite in the Visitor Centre; after lunch, there will be guided tours of the water gardens.

Speakers are **Mark Newman**, Archaeological Consultant, Yorkshire & the North-East, National Trust, on *Digging in a garden: public archaeology, visitors and conservation at the Quebec*; **Michael Ridsdale**, Head of Landscape at Studley, NT, on the practical implications of research, investigations and excavations (including the Quebec site) for management of the landscape; **Dr Patrick Eyres**, director of the *New Arcadian Press*, will reflect on the Quebec Monument and Neptune statue at Studley Royal and will consider the Georgian fashion for military and naval memorials as realised in Yorkshire gardens.

Cost: £39, including tea/coffee, sandwich lunch and guided tour of the water gardens.

To book a place please complete the Booking Form available on AGT and GHS websites, and from AGT office: co-ordinator@agt.org.uk or: 020 7251 2610.

GHS Annual Summer Garden Party Tuesday 15 May

Further details in the spring edition.

Gardens and Literature

Rewley House, GHS/OCE Study Weekend, Friday 25 to Sunday 27 May

Our annual Oxford weekend will investigate the interconnections of gardens and literature over a wide timescale, with consideration of how gardens are represented in literature and used as symbols and of how literature took form in, or influenced, gardens. A visit will be included.

Details from the Short Courses Administrator, OUDCE, 1 Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JA or: 01865 270 380 or email: ppsdayweek@conted.ox.ac.uk

Study Tour of Gardens in Bohemia and Moravia

Saturday 26 May to Saturday 2 June

Our tour is to be led by Czech gardens expert Harriet Landseer.



Jaromerice nad Rokytnou Castle, South Moravia

The GHS now has the opportunity to offer its members more places on this tour. With such a knowledgeable organiser and guide as Harriet, it is a trip not to be missed.

For more information, please contact Robert Peel: rma.peel@btopenworld.com, or: 020 7121 8938 (before 21 December).

AGM & Summer Conference 2012 at the University of Reading

Friday 13 to Sunday 15 July

There will be a 2nd Graduate Seminar on the Friday morning before the afternoon AGM. There will also be an optional extra garden visit on the Thursday afternoon.

There will be a tour of the University of Reading's Whiteknights campus as well as visits to a variety of gardens in the area. Full details and programme will appear in the spring edition of the newsletter.

Study day at Yorkshire Sculpture Park: Bretton Hall estate, C18-C21 AGT and Yorkshire Gardens Trust Study Day, in association with YSP and GHS Friday 21 September

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

2nd GHS Graduate Symposium

Call for papers:

New Research in Garden History

The Society is hosting a second Symposium for **six** new scholars, previously unpublished in the field, at Reading University on Friday 13 July 2012. The aim: to present a 20 minute, 2,000–2,500 word paper to an audience of GHS members and peers. Scholars in all disciplines are encouraged to submit, and any subject relating to garden history will be considered: from detailed explorations of little known gardens to relevant aspects of botany, ecology, archaeology, social history or horticulture.

Applicants must submit a 200 word abstract to: enquiries@gardenhistorysociety.org

by 10 January 2012. Successful candidates will then be invited to prepare their presentations.

8th GHS Annual Essay Prize

The Garden History Society has now launched its Eighth Annual Essay Prize. Entries can be submitted up to and including 30 April 2012, full submission details on our website.

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.

With the recent demise of so many post-graduate garden history courses the GHS is delighted, as it always has been, to

receive entries from related departments such as geography, art history, history, architecture and archaeology.

Submissions should be 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.

The Essay Prize is supported by NFU Mutual and includes a cheque for £250, free membership of the society for a year and consideration for publication in **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.

and restore both natural and built features, has been embarked upon in 2011.

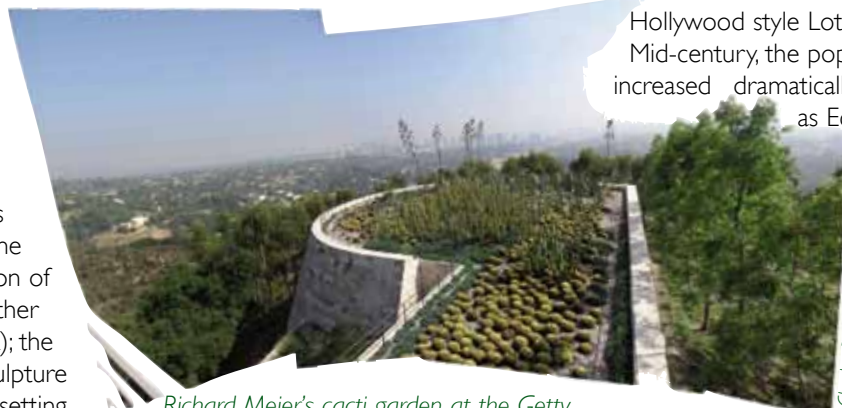
The Study Day will trace the history of Bretton Hall, focussing on the major landscaping of the park in the mid- to late 1700s by Sir Thomas Wentworth (with Richard Woods); the period of Diana Beaumont's expansion of the gardens in the early 1800s (together with head gardener Robert Marnock); the establishment in the 1970s of the sculpture park; and the historic landscape as a setting for contemporary sculpture.

Talks in the morning will be followed by guided walks around the landscape after lunch. See www.ysp.co.uk for more information about the sculpture park.

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

Study Tour to the Landscapes of California Autumn 2012

California contains some of the most beautiful and exciting gardens of the world. The influences are Mission, Spanish, Italian, modernist and, most recently, sustainability, but they are all quintessentially Californian, reflecting the diverse climates and



Richard Meier's cacti garden at the Getty Centre, LA, reflects the form of the city beyond

landscapes of ocean, mountain and desert.

California has always been a designers' paradise. Frederick Law Olmsted worked at the Universities of Stanford and Berkeley. After the first world war, the son of a gold rush speculator built Filoli in Beaux Art style.

In the 1920-30's, Lockwood de Forest, Florence Yoch and others designed Mediterranean style estates in Santa Barbara, while Julia Morgan created swimming pools and cascades at the magnificent Hearst Castle.

In the 1940's, Thomas Church was designing iconic modernist influenced gardens in San Francisco and Sonoma, while Ganna Walska began work on her

approval for cheque payments.

Please write to, or email, The Chairman at the Society's Office, with expressions of interest.

HONORARY SECRETARY

Elizabeth Cairns intends to retire as Honorary Secretary of the Society having completed eight years in office. Would anyone who is interested in taking over this role please contact her: elizabeth.cairns@btinternet.com or the Society's Administrator, at Cowcross Street.

Hollywood style Lotusland.

Mid-century, the population of California increased dramatically, and designers such as Eckbo, Halprin, Kiley and Royston, responded with innovative, modern designs for parks, campuses, and housing.

In recent years, a new generation of designers, mindful of the changing balance between urban and wild needs, has created public landscapes and private gardens both cutting edge and ecologically sustainable.

This ten-day tour, planned for autumn 2012, will explore California landscapes and gardens, public and private, throughout the C20, edging into C21. To express interest, and receive more information please contact Liz Goodfellow: LIZGZ@aol.com

THE GARDEN
HISTORY SOCIETY

Contact us

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Seasonal office closures

The Society's offices will be closed from Tuesday 20 December; reopening on Wednesday 4 January.

micro-news 88a

Correspondence and items to the GHS Head Office, or email the Editor: news@gardenhistorysociety.org
news 89 copy deadline: **31 January**