

THE  
GARDENS  
TRUST

GT news 5

Autumn 2017

Research • Conserve • Campaign



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**Copy deadline for Spring issue 6: 14 February  
for distribution mid March 2018**

Our cover shows Humphry Repton's original 1790s watercolour of 'A scene at Mulgrave Castle' (see p39), reproduced at about twice the original size.

## Membership Application

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Lavenham, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 9RN, UK**

## Vulnerability Brown: a new Gardens Trust report

Dr Marion Harney, Chair of the Gardens Trust Conservation Committee

The Gardens Trust successfully launched our new report 'Vulnerability Brown: Capability Brown Landscapes at risk' at the Landscape Institute AGM, Bristol on the 2 November 2017.

The report is a follow up to the CB300 tercentenary celebrations held last year which was project managed, supported and coordinated by the Landscape Institute; so it is very fitting that we announced this legacy through their good auspices.

The report is intended to draw public and professional attention to the ongoing threats to Brown landscapes across the country.

Its message is, that despite the recognition of last year, many continue to be damaged by ill-informed changes and lack of expert advice.

'Capability' Brown should arguably be regarded as the father of landscape design, and today's landscape architects, designers and managers have a key role to play in the conservation of these great artistic creations.

We all need to enforce the message that a Brown landscape is a work of art in its own right-any intervention needs to respect the overall vision, landscape structure and views.

The report describes how not only built development but poorly informed, incremental and permitted development and management can damage Brown landscapes. It is immensely troubling that well over 1,000 planning applications affecting Brown's nationally important sites were made since 2002, affecting about two thirds of them. This is probably a considerable underestimate of the true number of applications.

Major harm from changes outside development control also have a significant detrimental impact on these landscapes; for example change of use

from grazed parkland to arable, loss of park trees, inappropriate planting, loss of views (or intrusive views) changes to surfaces, fences and other permitted development.

Historic England's Heritage at Risk Register is only the tip of the iceberg; many more sites face risks.

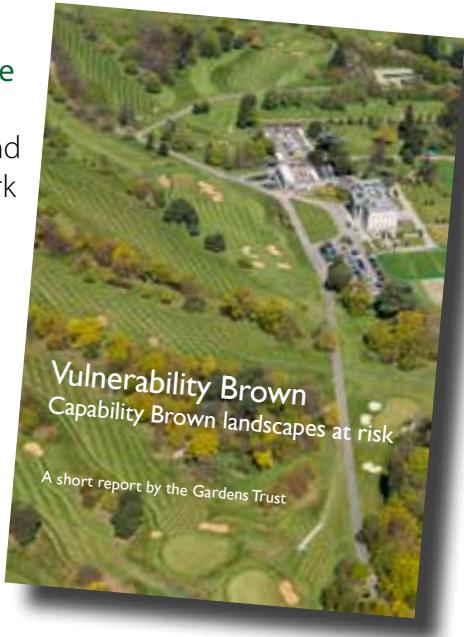
The distinctive qualities of Brown's landscape parks are hard to protect; for example, large lakes and long winding drives, views and setting which are essential to a park's quality.

Change in ownership and subdivision are major risks, so we must use every opportunity to bring owners together for joint working and importantly commission Management Plans that cover the whole of fragmented ownership sites.

We need to remain vigilant and work collaboratively and the Landscape Institute professionals and County Gardens Trusts have a major role to play in protecting these sites for future generations to enjoy.

I would like to extend our gratitude to Historic England for funding this important research report and to thank our authors Sarah Couch and Sarah Rutherford. Finally I would like to particularly thank David Lambert for his expert input, advice and guidance in compiling the report.

The report is downloadable from our website and the Landscape Institute website.



## Cheerleading, Championing, Celebration: Repton 200

Linden Groves, the Gardens Trust Strategic Development Officer

The coming year, 2018, marks the bicentenary of the death of landscape designer and Red Book creator **Humphry Repton**, and the Gardens Trust is leading an exciting effort to do him proud with a joyous and productive celebration of his life, from which our

Regency hero squeezed every last drop of potential.

We have spent a busy summer and autumn (thanks to £10,000 of Historic England funding) to create a structure



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The enthusiastic crowd at our Repton 200 meeting on 10 October 2017

through which the myriad of diverse Reptonian initiatives being independently planned can dovetail, cooperate, and present themselves as a united front to the public. We have gathered a growing mailing list of 180 folk from County Gardens Trusts, organisations from the Georgian Group to Heritage Open Days, and Repton sites from Wicksteed Park to Woburn Abbey, and are delighted to be working collaboratively to make sure that 2018 will be a really vibrant year.

The Gardens Trust's new Communications Adviser, **Susannah Charlton** (see opposite), has set up Repton social media and other communications tools: [susannahcharlton@thegardentrust.org](mailto:susannahcharlton@thegardentrust.org); **Kate Harwood** has kindly agreed to act as CGT Repton research coordinator: [kateharwood@thegardentrust.org](mailto:kateharwood@thegardentrust.org);

**Alison Allighan** has added to her Conservation Casework Manager workload to wrangle the Repton administration: [repton@thegardentrust.org](mailto:repton@thegardentrust.org); whilst I have just done my best to ride the astonishing tidal wave of enthusiasm and support for this adventure.

Between us all, there will be plenty of research, exhibitions, study days and conferences going on, and we are encouraging organisers to consider new activities too that may bring in different audiences to our subject.

Do please take a look at our growing Repton web pages to find out more about the support available if you would like to participate, or to see the growing list of activities on offer for us all to enjoy.

I would love to hear your ideas at: [lindengroves@thegardentrust.org](mailto:lindengroves@thegardentrust.org)

## Launch of Repton 200 celebrations

Aylsham in Norfolk will host the official launch of Repton 200, the year of nationwide celebrations coordinated by the Gardens Trust marking the bicentenary of the death of Humphry Repton, who succeeded Capability Brown as Britain's greatest landscape gardener.

Norfolk is where Repton first worked as a landscape gardener, at Catton Park, and where he was buried, at St Michael and All Angels Church in Aylsham, in March 1818. To mark the bicentenary of his death, a programme of events celebrating his life and work have been planned in Norfolk and around the country.

Humphry Repton, whose works include Tatton Park and Woburn Abbey, was of course the

successor to Capability Brown and the first to coin the term 'landscape gardening'.



Nigel Temple collection, GT

Repton's 1792 image of Catton Park, Norfolk, for Peacock's *Polite Repository*

Born in Bury St Edmunds in April 1752, he attended Norwich Grammar School and trained to work in the textile business but was not successful in the industry.

After trying his hand at a number of careers, including dramatist, artist, journalist and secretary, Repton set himself up as a landscape gardener, and gained work through his social contacts. He went on to work on estates across the country, producing his famous Red Books which showed his clients 'before' and 'after' views of how he would improve their land.

The Gardens Trust is co-ordinating the national celebrations, which start in March 2018, and include the Repton Season organised by Aylsham and District Team Ministry, Aylsham Town Council, community groups and Broadland District Council.

Events in Norfolk include a history workshop with Dr Tom Williamson, professor of landscape history and archaeology at the University of East Anglia, a Repton 200 Memorial Choral Evensong, a Humphry Repton Memorial Lecture with Professor Stephen Daniels of the University of Nottingham and a Red Book competition involving pupils from local

schools, as well as our own event in June.

Councillor Karen Vincent, Member Champion for Heritage at Broadland District Council, said: "We are lucky as a district to have links to such an important and fascinating figure. Repton's work remains on show throughout the country, with his first work being here in Broadland at Catton Park.

We would encourage anyone interested in one of the country's most important landscape gardeners to come and help us celebrate his achievements in the spring."

Dr James Bartos, Chairman of the Gardens Trust, said: "Humphry Repton designed around 400 landscapes across the country, many of which remain much-loved historic gardens.

His picturesque designs featured terraces, gravel walks and flower beds around the house, as well as themed flower gardens.

Next year will see a host of events celebrating his enduring influence, and drawing attention to gardens which need help to survive."

For more information about Repton events in 2018 visit [www.humphryrepton.org](http://www.humphryrepton.org) or follow [#Repton200](#) on Twitter.

### **Introducing Susannah Charlton**

Susannah Charlton is now working for the Gardens Trust as a consultant **Communications Adviser**. Her role is to ensure that news about our work and campaigns reach as wide an audience as possible, starting with the forthcoming celebrations of Humphry Repton's bicentenary.

She is also reviewing the organisation's communications strategy and working with the Trust's staff and volunteers to promote events and increase the audience of our website and social media like Facebook and Twitter.

Susannah's experience includes working for the Twentieth Century Society, Landscape Institute, Royal Horticultural Society and English Heritage managing publications, e-communications, social media, event marketing and websites.



Contact Susannah at:  
[susannahcharlton@thegardenstrust.org](mailto:susannahcharlton@thegardenstrust.org)

## **Compiling The Record: update and deadline extended**

Since launching our recording campaign in June we have received over seventy nominations

of designed C20 landscapes that you think warrant consideration for registration on the

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National Heritage List for England (NHLE). Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to make the nominations. The sites proposed cover all landscape typologies, though civic spaces, country parks, housing, sports sites and institutions (particularly hospitals, prisons and schools) are under-represented. Geographically they are spread throughout all regions but with less from the North West, North East and the West Midlands. To give an opportunity to broaden the list **the deadline for nominations has been extended to 31 December 2017**. So please do spread the word and continue to nominate any suitable site, especially in the under represented typologies and regions. A reminder of how to nominate is reproduced below.

### Mid to late C20 designed landscapes: Overlooked, undervalued and at risk?

Speakers at our springboard Conference in June [see p33] highlighted a vast number of potential landscapes of this period but brought especially to our attention these 'public' typologies such as housing estates, universities, institutional sites of hospitals, industrial and infrastructure complexes like airports, reservoirs and pumping stations, as being particularly vulnerable to being misunderstood and unappreciated as designed landscape and consequently suffering undeserved neglect, poor management and, on

The screenshot shows the homepage of The Gardens Trust. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links for 'Discover', 'Research', 'Press & Campaigns', 'Events', 'Publications', 'About us', and 'Support us'. Below the navigation, there's a search bar. The main content area features a large image of a sunlit garden with trees and a path. Below this image, the text reads 'Mid to Late C20 designed landscapes: Overlooked, undervalued and at risk?' followed by a link 'Compiling the Record'. There are two smaller images: one showing a landscape with a path and trees, and another showing a formal garden with geometric plantings and paths. At the bottom of the page, there's a copyright notice: '© The Gardens Trust 2017 - Hemel Hempstead Water Gardens - All rights reserved. This material is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution Non-Commercial-ShareAlike 4.0 International License.'

occasion, complete loss. As garden historians you might well have encountered some of these landscapes on your travels. Can you take five minutes to nominate one to the Campaign?

The landscapes most likely to make the grade should have:



Copyright MERL/LI



HTA Design LLP



HTA Design LLP

Three eras of the Sir Geoffrey & Susan Jellicoe designed Hemel Hempstead Water Gardens: built 1962; decline 2012; restored 2017. Currently a Grade II registered C20 designed landscape.

- A strong design element
- A good level of survival (although they may be in a poor condition)
- Probably, but not necessarily, be the work of an eminent designer
- Have a layer of design from c1960–1990, although this may be part of an older landscape.

How to take part: it's really easy, there is an on-line form on our website, [Compiling the Record](#) for you to provide the basic information we need to know:

- the name and address of the site
- what it is; to help you decide a list of **categories** or **typologies** is provided on our website
- the designer, if you know the name
- the date of design, if you have this information

- a short summary of why you think it is, or might be, important
- Maps or photos are **not** required at this stage.  
**The new deadline for submitting your form(s) is Sunday 31 December 2017.**

The Gardens Trust and Historic England will review the sites, compile a shortlist and establish a panel of experts to assess their potential for registration. Further research will be undertaken on those with such potential. These landscapes do not need to be set in aspic; they can incorporate change through carefully considered and constructive conservation, but important sites do need to be recorded.

You will find more details on the Gardens Trust website at [Compiling the Record](#)

**Karen Fitzsimon**

## **The GT Historic Landscape Project: gearing up for a busy winter!**

Tamsin McMillan, Historic Landscape Project Officer

As you know, the Historic Landscape Project is the Gardens Trust's capacity building project for County Gardens Trusts, with funding from Historic England. Over the summer, we've been busy planning a suite of stimulating networking and training events for CGT and GT volunteers and we hope that many of you will be able to come along and be inspired, as we are, by each other's recent projects, and to become an even more valuable cog in the national historic landscape conservation wheel (see the listings page 17).

### **GT Annual Conference and AGM, Plymouth**

First of all, I must say how good it was to see some of you at this year's Annual Conference in Plymouth, which was so fantastically organised by the GT's Events Committee with Dianne Long and her team from Devon Gardens Trust. What a wonderful and varied programme of talks and visits, including a beautifully sunny boat trip around Plymouth Sound and over to Mount Edgcumbe. It was great to be able to present the HLP's aims and progress during the AGM.

We were all really delighted to see the GT's own Charles Boot receive the Gilly Drummond Volunteer of the Year Award; a much-deserved acknowledgement of his dedication to the GT's publications [aw shucks, ed].

### **Historic Environment Forums: we need you!**

HEFs, regional networking meetings organised by Historic England, offer CGTs an opportunity to engage with other heritage organisations in their district. It's great to hear that four out of nine regional HEFs already have a regular attendee from a CGT, but we'd really like to encourage CGTs to send representatives to the other five.

HLPO Margie Hoffnung has recently attended the South-West HEF, at Cleeve Abbey in Somerset, and is hoping to take CGT representatives from



Tamsin McMillan

Admiring the astonishing views of Plymouth, from Mount Edgcumbe

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the region to the next one, in Chippenham in December. I'll be at the East Midlands HEF, in Nottingham, on 8 November. Please do let us know if you might be able to attend HEFs in your region. Consistent representation at all the HEFs (about four per year in each region) would be so beneficial, both to your CGTs and to other heritage organisations, helping your CGT to have a greater input into regional heritage conservation and management decisions.

Please do email me or Margie if you can spare a few days a year to get involved, or to find out more.

### Training Days

We're now planning the last of our HE-funded training events for this financial year and looking to a more sustainable future for the HLP, in which alternative funding sources will allow us to repeat our much-requested training days and packages across the country.

The final part of our three part **Planning Application Training Package**, the 'Full Monty', will be held at the Goods Shed in Tetbury, Gloucestershire, on 2 March 2018. This session will be most suitable for those who already have some experience of responding to planning applications and will include **Victoria Thomson**, Head of Planning Advice at HE, on significance and planning policy; and **Chris Gallagher**, Historic Landscape Consultant, on dealing with planning appeals. We guarantee that you will leave this session knowing all you ever wanted to (and more!) about the UK planning process and armed with all the tools you need to protect vulnerable landscapes. This is a free event and you can email me to reserve a space.

A **Public Parks Crisis Training Day** will be held in the East Midlands, in April 2018 (date and venue tbc). Public Parks are suffering due to severe funding cuts during this period of austerity. Join us to learn how the crisis came about, how parks have been affected and what your CGT can do to help to protect your local parks. Speakers will include **David Lambert**, director of the Parks Agency and Gardens Trust Board Member; and **Katy Layton-Jones**, of the University of Leicester. Together, David and Katy have provided evidence to the House of Commons Select Committee inquiry into the future of public parks and produced the Gardens Trust's accompanying report, ***Uncertain Prospects***.



Tickets will be free for CGT/Gardens Trust members, via Eventbrite, with a suggested donation of £7 towards lunchtime catering; £40 for non-members (with one year's membership of the Gardens Trust included), payable at event registration, please email me to reserve a place: [tamsinmcmillan@thegardenstrust.org](mailto:tamsinmcmillan@thegardenstrust.org)

### Updates and Online Support

Please let me know if you would like to be added to the HLP's quarterly mailing list. Our email updates include news of previous and upcoming HLP training and networking events; information about Gardens Trust conservation campaigns, with which CGTs might like to be involved; updates on information-sharing platforms, including our Resource Hub; and news from external landscape heritage organisations, which is of relevance to the work of the CGTs. Although aimed principally at those who are actively volunteering for their CGT in some way, we are more than happy for the email updates to have a wider audience, so do sign up and then forward the email to anyone who might have an interest.

You can also download previous email updates from our Resource Hub, on the Gardens Trust website at:

[thegardenstrust.org/conservation/hlp-hub/](http://thegardenstrust.org/conservation/hlp-hub/)

Here, you can find presentations and handouts from all our training and networking days, as well as up to date guidance by both the GT and external heritage organisations, on all aspects of designed landscape research, conservation and education.

Recent additions include:

- GT support materials for CGTs planning Repton bicentenary events, see **Campaigns and Celebrations / Humphry Repton 2018 Materials**
- Weekly lists of planning applications affecting historic designed landscapes, **Guidance / Conservation Casework Log**
- Additions to the 'Training' section, including presentations and handouts from our research and recording training day at Hodsock Priory, Nottinghamshire, this year.

Please get in touch if you would like me to add any materials from your CGT to the Hub. This is a great way to share your knowledge and experience with others.

We need as many people as possible to register

and use the Gardens Trust's new online Forum for CGTs, in order to make it a really useful platform for sharing knowledge and discussing problems. You can find a link to the Forum on the home page of the website, or [conservation/ forum/](#). Don't forget to check the Forum every now and then and to seriously consider it as a means of sharing your CGT-related issues and questions.

### **Conservation Casework Log**

Our Conservation Casework Manager, **Alison Allighan**, has been working hard to make the Conservation Casework Log more accessible to CGTs. An updated and interactive log, comprising over 20,000 cases, dealt with by the GT and CGTs since 2001, has recently gone online and Alison will be giving demonstrations on how to use it, first at the **Historic Landscapes Assembly** in

Birmingham, on 28 November, and then at a couple of workshops around the country.

The weekly list of planning cases affecting historic parks and gardens is now being Tweeted, as [#GTweeklylist](#), which will hugely increase awareness of planning issues, both within CGTs and beyond. The Tweets link to our resource hub, allowing you to easily check for cases which might affect your region (see [Conservation Casework Log](#) in the Guidance section of the Hub).

### **Keep in Touch**

As ever, do let us know how you think the Historic Landscape Project can best help to support your County Gardens Trust.

Email me: [tamsinmcmillan@thegardenstrust.org](mailto:tamsinmcmillan@thegardenstrust.org), Linden: [lindengroves@thegardenstrust.org](mailto:lindengroves@thegardenstrust.org) or Margie: [margiehoffnung@thegardenstrust.org](mailto:margiehoffnung@thegardenstrust.org)

## **Parks & Gardens UK update**

**Philip White, Chief Executive, Hestercombe Gardens Trust**

*From the address by Philip White at our AGM:*  
When I reported to you this time last year I confidently expected that the Hestercombe Gardens Trust would have taken over the Parks and Gardens Database by the end of September 2016. In fact, the final transfer from the Parks and Gardens UK Trust to Hestercombe did not take place until 24 June of this year.

The Parks and Gardens database was set up in 2006 with generous funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund and over its first ten years was populated with data which now encompasses some 9,200 sites of parks, gardens and designed landscapes. Much of this information was submitted by surveyors and researchers from the County Gardens Trusts. Unable to be financially sustainable, the P&GUK Trust ceased trading at the end of September last year. With the benefit of a HLF Transition Funding grant the Hestercombe Gardens Trust has now assumed responsibility for updating the site and trying to make it financially viable.

This was a visionary and hugely ambitious project when it was first conceived. Now after 10 years it needs reassessing, editing and re-energising in order that it fulfils its potential and retains and maintains its position as the leading repository of data on parks, gardens and designed landscapes in the world.

Two days after we took over the site, the server, on which it was hosted, crashed which did not bode well. We have now, after much difficulty, managed to move a copy of the database onto an up to date server and are now working to make this new site fully functional. Once that has been achieved we will be in a position to go out to tender with the intention of completely updating the site and further developing it.

Attributes for the revitalised site which we will expect to incorporate will include the obvious ones of increasing the speed of loading, making it mobile compatible and capable of being fully indexed by Google. We will also be looking to integrate the blog and other social network sites into the website as well as redesigning the research tool, which connects the website to the database, to ensure much greater search accuracy, as well as giving it increased functionality.

We will also be looking at:

- The possibility of incorporating a Wiki type engine which will enable volunteers and users from around the world to collaboratively modify the database content and structure, directly from their web browser.
- Incorporating a discussion forum for the public and/or members only for all things parks and gardens. One benefit will be to free staff from

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having to answer questions from the public.

- We will also investigate the possibility of launching a community photo database for discovering and sharing high quality Parks and Gardens photography with the best being incorporated into the database.

Unfortunately, and to a large extent due to financial constraints, P&GUK has been drifting for the last few years and, as a result, a number of CGTs have been starting to consider whether they should create their own databases. Although understandable under the circumstances, this would clearly be highly detrimental to the original vision of creating a publicly available national database of designed landscapes.

HGT completely understands the frustration that has led to several CGTs considering this option but would wish to clearly state our determination to realise the original ambition of the website and its desire to work with CGTs to develop a model that is not only of national standing but also reflects and caters for each individual county's needs and aspirations.

It will probably be a year before the new look Parks and Gardens site is fully functional. But while this work is being undertaken it is our intention that we will contact all County Gardens Trusts either directly or through the Historic Landscape Project and organise a series of workshops to determine

the best way forward for the website and to reconnect with CGT recorders and surveyors.

The P&GUK database has been costing £22,000/year to maintain and manage and these costs are likely to rise with the introduction of improved and expanded data inputting and provision. In order to maintain free access to the information on the P&GUK it is planned to introduce limited and appropriate advertising to the website. Amongst other options, we will also be considering developing a premium listing for gardens open to the public to generate the income required to ensure that the database is sustainable into the future.

The good news is that the original site continues to function and I am very pleased to be able to announce that we are once again in a position to start accepting and uploading data from County Gardens Trust members. We will be looking to re-establish the expert review panel to help with mediating submissions and guiding research. We are excited about receiving your latest research and updates. Please use the Research Recording Form on the site and preferably submit your research electronically.

Dr Barbara Simms, former Chair of P&GUK, said that 'the Trustees of P&GUK were delighted that Philip White and Hestercombe had taken on the Database and are developing it into a vibrant and thriving website.'

## The Gilly Drummond Volunteer of the Year Award 2017

Mike Dawson, Vice Chairman the Gardens Trust

Our annual Volunteer of the Year Award celebrates the efforts of people who have contributed to the work of the Gardens Trust, their County or Country Gardens Trust, thereby greatly adding to the enjoyment, learning and conservation of designed gardens, parks and landscapes.

Areas of voluntary contributions from our members that qualified for consideration included various elements of administration, communications, publications, conservation, education, events, projects and research.

Now in its fifth year, there were two differences in approach for 2017: nominations from both CGTs and individual members of the Gardens Trust were invited (Directors of the Gardens Trust were not eligible for nomination) and a panel of judges decided on the winner. The panel

comprised: Dr Patrick Eyres; Maureen Nolan; and Steffie Shields, who chaired the panel and originated the Award.

The nominees were:

**Sally Bate**, Norfolk Gardens Trust

**Charles Boot**, The Gardens Trust

**Mary ter Braak**, Somerset Gardens Trust

**Claire de Carle**, Buckinghamshire Gardens Trust

**Dr Clare Greener**, Devon Gardens Trust

**Karen Fitzsimon**, The Gardens Trust

**Elaine Taylor**, Lancashire Gardens Trust

**Dr Hugh Vaux**, Kent Gardens Trust

**Ben Viljoen**, Berkshire Gardens Trust

**Colin Wing**, London Parks and Gardens Trust

The judging panel commented as follows:

Every single nominee has been recognised for volunteering countless hours of service to garden



Linden Groves

Charles Boot being presented the award by GT President, Dominic Cole at our Plymouth AGM

conservation and planning, to garden history research and publications, to promoting their Trust/Society events and to supporting their fellow members most generously. The judges consider every single nominee is deserving of this national award and offer their warmest congratulations for being nominated. However, there can be only one overall winner and the recipient of the 2017 Gilly Drummond Volunteer of the Year Award is Charles Boot, the GT's honorary librarian and newsletter editor, and founder member of Bucks GT.

It is appropriate and fitting that Charles should be recipient of this award, now 'open' for the first time to individual members of the Gardens Trust as well as members of County Gardens Trusts. Charles continues to be an outstandingly friendly and stalwart garden historian and conservationist. His 'total enthusiasm' and dedication, his editorial contributions to news publication's including writing obituaries, serving on committees and as librarian, website editor and smooth-running of events over many, many years both for the Garden History Society and more recently, the Gardens Trust, and also, for 17 years(!) as Chairman of the Buckinghamshire Gardens Trust, are quite simply 'inestimable, always going the extra mile'.

Not often at a loss for words, Charles was slightly overcome at his recognition by his peers, and friends. He acknowledged his welcome to the garden history world by the late John Anthony, and such luminaries as Professor William Stearn and, of course, Mavis Batey. He (belatedly) also thanked Gilly for suggesting he ought to found the Bucks GT, now celebrating its twentieth year of existence and running a flourishing Research and Recording project under the leadership of his fellow nominee Claire de Carle.

## CALL FOR PAPERS 2018

### 8th Annual New Research Symposium at Highbury, Birmingham (see p24) Sunday 2 September 2018

The New Research Symposium is a stimulating extra dimension to the Annual General Meeting weekend. It is open to all researchers and scholars, regardless of whether they are independent or attached to an academic institution. Launched in 2011, the seven symposia have now hosted papers from 30 researchers, many of whom are also members of County Gardens Trusts, but we also warmly welcome scholars from overseas.

Researchers in all fields of activity are encouraged to submit a 200-word proposal for a paper whose subject is as yet unpublished. Any subject relating to Garden History will be considered, from explorations of little known gardens to aspects of botany, ecology,

horticulture, archaeology, social history, architecture, design or sculpture. The paper will be no longer than 20 minutes (approximately 2,000 to 2,500 words) and illustrated with a PowerPoint (or similar) slide presentation.

Applicants are asked to identify their status as an independent researcher and/or member of a County Gardens Trust, or their institutional affiliation, the academic programme of study and the award outcome; or both, where appropriate.

Our Conference weekend provides an informal opportunity to meet the other speakers as well as members of the GT's committees and Board, and provides an attentive audience eager to learn more about your field of research.

**Researchers who are interested but who have queries are invited to contact Dr Patrick Eyres for clarification: patrickjeyres@gmail.com**  
**Proposals should be sent by Wednesday 2 May 2018, to:**  
**newresearchsymposium@thegardenstrust.org**

# Reports from the Gardens Trust Annual General Meeting 2017

at the University of Plymouth, 2 September 2017

## HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT

### Maureen Nolan

The Garden Trust's third AGM was held at the University of Plymouth on 2 September 2017. There were eighty nine attendees and thirty four apologies for absence.

Thanks were recorded to Devon Gardens Trust for its help with the Conference and AGM, and for arranging many interesting and varied visits to notable local historic sites and gardens.

The Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2016 were laid before the members and Averillo & Associates were re-appointed as Independent Examiners.

Under the Trust's Articles of Association, four Directors (one third of the total number of Directors) were required to stand down and offer themselves for re-election. James Bartos, Mike Dawson, Sarah Dickinson and Lisa Watson (chosen by lot) stood down and were re-elected for a further three year term. Anne Richards was re-elected as Vice President for a further term of five years.

Reports on activities during the year from the Chairman, Honorary Treasurer, Committee Chairs, the Historic Landscape Project and the Celebrating Repton Project are provided below. There is also a report on this year's Gilly Drummond Volunteer of the Year Award [see previous pages].

These Reports can also be found on the Gardens Trust website: [www.thegardenstrust.org](http://www.thegardenstrust.org)

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

### Dr James Bartos

In its first full year, 2016, the Gardens Trust had a very successful year, and this success continues. This has been due to the hard work of our staff and of our volunteer Board and Committee members and our vital links with the County Gardens Trusts (CGTs) and CGT members, particularly in relation to planning responses. It is also due to the broad support from members, CGTs and supporters of the Trust. All our activities have been operating at a high level of energy and have been going from strength to strength, as described in the Reports below.

We have an increasing public profile, as evidenced by the fact that we are increasingly

asked our view in relation to heritage and policy matters, we receive a significantly larger number of planning applications sent in by planning officers nationally and we have been asked to support the development projects of major organisations. In short, people are increasingly asking "what does the Gardens Trust think"?

Since the last Annual General Meeting, we have recently appointed Linden Groves to a new role as Strategic Development Officer. In this role Linden will continue to support the Historic Landscape Project strategically and will also support strategic initiatives across the Trust. Tamsin McMillan becomes the Historic Landscape Officer delivering the activities of the Historic Landscape Project (HLP), ably assisted by Margie Hoffnung, who also separately acts as the Trust's Conservation Officer. Linden's initial project in her new role is spearheading the Trust's 2018 Repton project, which will put the Gardens Trust front and centre in co-ordinating celebratory activities in the Repton year. We have also engaged Susannah Charlton as Communications Adviser a new role for us. Susannah will assist Linden on the Repton project and generally help the Trust achieve more efficient and effective external communications.

Also since the last AGM, the new website was launched, which both looks great and has a very high level of functionality and of substantive material and information on it. It also has an interactive Forum capability. The Board early on decided that it wanted the Gardens Trust to be more of a campaigning organisation than its predecessor organisations, and this has borne fruit. The Campaigns are highlighted in a dedicated section of the website.

As described in the Treasurer's Report, there was a funding gap for 2016 before taking into account net gains from investments. The financial picture was also complicated by a mis-match of funding and spending between 2015 and 2016. We expect that 2017, the second full year for the Trust, should show a much clearer financial picture.

Lastly, the Trust depends on its individual membership (the former Garden History Society membership) for its largest and most dependable revenue stream. Revenue from individual memberships is about four times the total revenue from CGT subscriptions. We need

this outside revenue in order to fund our grants from Historic England as well as other uses; without our proportionate contributions, we would not receive Historic England funding. Yet over a number of years, individual membership has steadily declined, both under the GHS and the Trust. We intend as a strategic initiative, working with Linden, to reach out to various communities to attempt to grow our membership in order to support the range of our charitable activities. This will include an outreach to CGT members, to professional landscape architects, to the professional planning community and to members of our fellow statutory consultees, such as the Georgian Group, the Victorian Society and the Twentieth Century Society.

In the meantime, we are looking forward to a very exciting and high level of activity for the remainder of 2017 and into 2018.

## **HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT**

### **Lisa Watson**

The second set of accounts for the Gardens Trust show that the various efficiency measures are significantly reducing the operating costs. On the face of it, the accounts for the year to 31 December 2016 show that expenditure exceeded income for the year by £32,212. This figure was reduced by the net gains on investments of £13,833 so that the negative net outcome shown amounted to £18,379.

However, from a layman's perspective not all is as it seems because last year we carried forward unspent restricted income of £27,488, which we planned to spend in 2016. Taking this into account reduces the actual operating loss to £4,724, which is a considerable improvement on the equivalent figure for the previous year (in the region of £17,600). The presentation of the financial statements has been improved to make them easier to follow and the financial statements for 2017 will build on the order now achieved.

Publication income has benefitted from the Publishers Licensing Society catching up with royalties due over several years, with a payment of £7,230. Future modest sums are expected on a regular basis. A further £7.9k was added to the £15,000 accrued from 2015 to develop the new website, which has been a great success.

As ever we are grateful to Historic England for their continuing support under their National

Capacity Building Programme with grants for Statutory Casework, and also for Localism, which covers the Historic Landscape Project and support of the County Gardens Trusts.

The Conservation restructuring resulted in slightly higher salary costs, but the efficiencies achieved should show reduced spending in 2017. Office management costs and other support costs decreased significantly, as did legal fees which were more to do with restructuring and personnel matters rather than to do with the merger.

In summary, the new administrative systems, replacing the source of GHS insurance cover with cover from the AGT brokers, bringing the previously out-sourced bookkeeping in-house, and bringing the two offices together reducing the work-spaces from three to two have all played their part in reducing our costs and these savings have begun to show in the 2016 accounts. 2017 will take us even closer to 'living within our means' and will be a very exciting year.

## **ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**

### **Report from Mike Dawson, Chair**

We inherited from the GHS and the AGT two separate and different administrative systems and it has required much painstaking work of a number of people to evolve new, appropriate, up-to-date systems. Lisa Watson and Teresa Forey-Harrison sorted out and rationalised eight bank accounts, new online accounting systems and new insurance arrangements. Louise Cooper, Jeremy Garnett and Maureen Nolan developed new governance arrangements. Both Teresa and Lou have new roles, and all staff have new contracts.

New membership and legacy leaflets have been produced and it is proposed to undertake a survey of members' views and concerns during the year.

Linden Groves, the Strategic Development Officer and Susannah Charlton, the Gardens Trust's new Communications Adviser, will be involved in reviewing our membership arrangements.

## **CONSERVATION COMMITTEE**

### **Report from Dr Marion Harney, Chair**

The Conservation Committee, working closely with the County Gardens Trusts, has functioned with great success during the year, with some notable successes, and inevitably some failures too.

Our new working partnership continues to develop and improve and has proved to be both

## AGM reports 2017

productive and stimulating. Margie Hoffnung has enabled us to foster much closer links with many CGTs and the personal contact, attention and encouragement that she and our Casework Manager, Alison Allighan, have been able to give members of CGTs undertaking conservation work is greatly appreciated.

During the year we updated and improved the Conservation Casework Log which is now working fully. We have launched a pilot scheme with CGTs to 'test' it with the ambition that all CGTs will have direct access in the coming year.

We published an important new guidance leaflet on *The Planning System in England and the Protection of Historic Parks and Gardens* in August 2016 which explains the place of historic designed landscapes in the planning system, the importance of assessing significance, the statutory consultation obligations, and the role of the Gardens Trust and the County Gardens Trusts. This is freely available and downloadable on our website which includes a re-structured and updated conservation Resource Hub.

In response to the damage that austerity cuts are having on Public Parks we also commissioned a report: *Uncertain Prospects*, from University of Leicester academic Dr Katy Layton-Jones, and submitted a memorandum to the House of Commons Select Committee for the Public Parks Inquiry. The report was published in November 2016 following Dr Layton-Jones' appearance for the Gardens Trust at the Select Committee and it was subsequently submitted to members of the Committee as supplementary evidence. This report is also available to download from our Resource Hub.

In addition to specific consultations, the Conservation Officers and Committee members have continued to handle an ever-increasing number of email enquiries from members and the public; responded to consultations from Government on public parks, responded to Historic England's survey on effects of NPPF on the historic environment; responded to Historic England's proposals to update its *Good Practice Advice GPA3 'The Setting of Heritage Assets'* in the light of recent planning cases and to provide further advice on views. We also responded to the Heritage Alliance's request for views regarding Brexit.

### 'Capability' Brown Legacy Project

Finally, following the success of the Capability Brown festival in bringing his landscapes to

public attention, we will be launching a new Gardens Trust Report, funded by Historic England, in November: '*Vulnerability' Brown* [see p3] highlights risks and threats to these landscapes which have been affected by planning proposals, identifying those sites likely to be vulnerable, or becoming vulnerable to significant damaging change/decay and which aspects are most at risk. We are seeking contributions of case studies from members of the Landscape Institute to incorporate in the final report which will be launched at the Landscape Institute's AGM in Bristol in early November. This will be followed up with a second launch at the Historic Landscape Assembly in Birmingham on the 28 November [see p17].

## EDUCATION, PUBLICATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

### Report from Dr David Marsh, Chair

I want to thank Charles Boot for another year of hard work and, amongst other things, producing the Trust's newsletter. He has absorbed the demands of our relatively new organisation, working to new deadlines and schedules and done so with good humour and tenacity. Charles always manages to secure interesting pieces to inform and entertain, although I know he would welcome more contributions from County Gardens Trusts across the country to showcase what you are doing to a wider audience.

Our journal, *Garden History*, too has carried on its sterling work under the editorship of Barbara Simms and the technical input of Cris Ratti. It is an expensive undertaking, with a relatively low print run, GT members receive it as part of their subscriptions and it is bought by some academic libraries and institutions, but it continues to be the major academic vehicle for research into the history of gardens and designed landscapes across the world, and all of us in the GT are rightly very proud of its intellectual rigour and standing.

Equally steadily, the annual Mavis Batey Essay Prize, now in its 14th year, produced a crop of interesting new research, as does our New Research Symposium [see p11]. We are always looking for ways to widen the pool of potential entrants for both competitions and increase the audience for appreciating and using their research. I would be happy to talk to any researcher, and not necessarily academics, about how they might best put their work forward.

Another event that has carried on steadily and regularly is the Garden History annual conference organised by the FCE at Oxford University, in association with The Gardens Trust. I would like to pay tribute to Michael Symes as one of my mentors in Garden History for all his hard work with the Oxford conference over that time, as he is standing down after next year's weekend on **Science and the Garden in the C17**. The GT is committed to continuing to support the conference and to try and increase its appeal and I am delighted that Oliver Cox will be the Trust's representative in our partnership with Oxford.

But the Gardens Trust cannot stand still. One way forward is to work in partnership with others and that is something that the EPC committee is trying to do across the board. Last year when I was first elected a Trustee and later Chair of the EPC, I outlined a network called Grapevine I had been working on with other horticultural and heritage organisations to promote garden history courses and education more generally, and in partnership with other groups and places wherever possible. I am pleased to say that this has begun to pay off.

On a professional level, the RHS has formally included small elements of Garden History in the training of its apprentices and we hope soon for its more senior staff. The National Trust and Historic England have done the same, and the National Trust has also incorporated a small amount of garden history input in in-service training for its Head gardeners. Although it's only a small step, it is an optimistic one.

On an 'amateur' level, Grapevine has been running regular courses at the Institute of Historical Research in London [see p25], both at an introductory and a more advanced level. They have also run three introductory courses at the RHS Lindley Library, London. The result is that Grapevine is now working in partnership with the Gardens Trust and we hope there will be profit from it for the Trust. Better than that is the fact that such courses are now being offered outside London. We, as the Trust, are working in partnership with Winterbourne Botanic Garden and the Highbury Chamberlain Project in Birmingham and will be running courses at both venues this autumn. We are also discussing other projects in partnership with Grapevine at several historic sites in the south-east and would be

happy to hear of other potential venues.

Discussions are already underway with two County Gardens Trusts about extending this to other parts of the country, and we welcome discussions with other CGTs. One of our longer-term aims is to make this available digitally and in modular form, so that CGTs can adapt and make it much more specific to their area.

It will not come as a surprise to any of you that we do not have many younger members and we need to find ways of appealing to a wider audience, increase membership and improve public knowledge and understanding of historic gardens and landscapes. But there is always a danger in this that organisations, in their desperate search for the mythical new audience, forget or ignore their existing supporters. We are determined that will not happen within the GT. We need to find better ways of communicating within the Trust and our existing membership and component parts. With rapidly increasing postal charges we are looking at email newsletters and blogs as possible ways of keeping both our national members and our membership across all the County Gardens Trusts informed, entertained and up-to-date with what is going on. Watch this space.

## EVENTS COMMITTEE

### Report from Virginia Hinze, Chair

The Gardens Trust's events in 2017 more than fulfilled their role, as set out in last year's report, to 'offer a range of academic and popular events which illuminate past and new research in garden history, showcase the GT and CGT's conservation work and campaigns of national importance throughout the UK and raise some income to support these activities'.

A few general points, however, are germane to the delivery of events in future years.

As the GT's events contribute to the Trust's delivery of both its education and conservation activity it is essential that the Events Committee thinks and acts in a 'joined up' way with Education, Publications and Communications (EPC) committee. Events will therefore be trialling a joint committee meeting with EPC in September and a forward planning session with Linden Groves to ensure future GT 'offers' are complementary and responsive to our educational aims.

The GT will partner events, wherever possible, with County Gardens Trusts especially but also

## AGM reports 2017

with other heritage organisations, to raise the GT's profile, encourage new members and share knowledge and even campaigns. We will also continue to expand events outside London to counter the perceived London bias.

Events Committee would like more communication with GT members and, particularly with CGTs, to identify regional interests that could form a GT event of national interest. Feedback from members would be welcomed. The GT now has its own Mailchimp account which we can use to remind you of imminent events and the Forum on the website is available for conversations and comments.

In response to members requesting the same price for events to both GT and CGT members we will now do so. Non-members will pay significantly more or be offered a year's membership instead.

Events Committee comprises a very small group, which affects how much we can deliver and still keep our high standards. As last year, we appeal for a couple of additional members with regional perspectives, prepared to organise events and contribute to programme planning -

Highlights of a few events from the past year and into 2018:

Our Conference 'Mid to late C20 Designed Landscapes: Overlooked, undervalued and at risk?' at the newly re-opened Garden Museum on 5 June was immensely popular and a sell-out. Its aim, to promote the understanding and significance of mid to late C20 designed landscapes and review how they might be better recognised and conserved, attracted a significant number of professional delegates (for CPD), raising the GT profile with bodies such as the Landscape Institute and Historic England (HE).

The event kick-started a partnership campaign with HE, 'Compiling the Record' [see p5], which invites anyone to nominate C20 sites on the GT website that might be candidates for the National Heritage List for England. The GT and HE are working together on this on-going project; the HE website is publicising the partnership, and the Campaign was featured in Waitrose's Weekend newspaper in July.

A day visit to Chipping Camden successfully partnered the GT with the Landmark Trust with more such days planned in the future.

Two highly successful tours to Sicily in April

and NE Scotland in early July brought the GT a substantial donation to income from each, thanks to Robert Peel and Kristina Taylor.

Late 2017 offers a further partnership event, with Sheffield University's Landscape Department, with a two-day conference in October on New Research on the History of Chinese Gardens and Landscapes at which a selection of the most recent international and British research will be presented.

The usual London lecture series will run from January to March 2018 but building on the enthusiasm generated by the one in Birmingham last year, members will have the chance to hear some of the London lectures locally: two in Birmingham and one in Bath, in partnership with the Museum of Bath Architecture. Please support this initiative, get your friends to come and tell us what you think on the Gardens Trust Forum.

As part of the 2018 Repton Celebrations, the GT is partnering Norfolk CGT to offer a two-day conference in Norfolk featuring lectures and visits to sites with Red books, with a lively interpretation of Repton's work on the page and on the ground from experts.

Income-raising tours in 2018 comprise Denmark in early June and Northern Ireland in August.

The Annual Conference, AGM and New Research Symposium (NRS):

While this year's Conference is turning out to be a great success in terms of programme and organisation, this has depended on the services of a paid organiser, plus the significant voluntary contribution of the chair of Devon CGT and its volunteers. Both the GT's staff and the Events committee volunteer resources are extremely limited.

**Post AGM note:** Next year the AGM and NRS will comprise a two-day event in Birmingham, complementing the new courses in garden history being offered through 2017 and 2018 at Winterbourne House and Garden and Highbury.

**Further details are set out on p24.**

## HISTORIC LANDSCAPE PROJECT

Report from Tamsin McMillan, HLP Officer

### Project Aims

The Historic Landscape Project (HLP) is the Garden Trust's capacity building programme, working to support Gardens Trust and County Gardens Trust volunteers to enable them to engage more effectively in proactive conservation management **continues on p.25**

# Gardens Trust events for 2017 and 2018

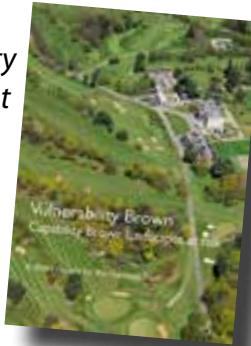
also on our website [www.thegardenstrust.org](http://www.thegardenstrust.org)

## Gardens Trust Historic Landscapes Assembly at The Birmingham and Midland Institute 10am, Tuesday 28 November

Our second, annual Assembly from the Gardens Trust, providing an opportunity for all those with a stake in historic designed landscapes and their conservation to meet and discuss current issues.

Speakers include representatives from the Gardens Trust, Historic England, Natural England, Parks and Gardens UK, the Repton 2018 Celebrations team, and we will also be treated to case studies from County Gardens Trusts. **David Lambert** will be discussing our new report *Vulnerability Brown: Capability Brown landscapes at risk* [see p3]. We will also reflect on the legacy of the Great Storm, 1987, with a presentation from **Dominic Cole**, President of the Gardens Trust and an evening lecture and book-signing by **Tamsin Trevor-Jones**, author of 'Windblown: Landscape, Legacy and Loss, The Great Storm of 1987'.

**Cost:** £12. Full details of the day's programme are available on the website.



## Members' Meet-Up, Lancaster at the Quaker's Meeting House, Lancaster 10.30am, Friday 1 December

Another opportunity for Gardens Trust and

County Gardens Trust members in the north to meet each other and discuss ideas, skills and questions.

The Agenda will allow for discussions on CGT experiences of Conservation, Education and Research & Recording. Highlights include Lancashire Gardens Trust's research on **Thomas Mawson**'s landscapes.

**Free event, with a suggested donation of £7 towards lunchtime catering. Please email: [tamsinmcmillan@thegardenstrust.org](mailto:tamsinmcmillan@thegardenstrust.org) for more information or to book a place.**

## Members' Meet-Up, Cambridge at Cambridge Botanic Garden 10.30am, Monday 22 January

An opportunity for Gardens Trust and County Gardens Trust members in the mid and eastern counties to meet each other and discuss ideas, skills and questions.

The Agenda will allow for discussions on CGT experiences of Conservation, Education and Research & Recording. Highlights include Norfolk Gardens Trust's experience of researching and publishing their new book on '*Capability Brown in Norfolk*', edited by **Sally Bate**.

**Free event, with a suggested donation of £7 towards lunchtime catering. Please email: [tamsinmcmillan@thegardenstrust.org](mailto:tamsinmcmillan@thegardenstrust.org) for more information or to book a place.**

## The Gardens Trust 2018 Lecture Series in London, Bath and Birmingham see the back cover for full diary listings

Following our successful series of lectures held earlier this year, which included two in Birmingham, we are delighted to announce that our Lecture Series 2018 will include not only the usual five in London but also three in venues elsewhere.

Our **London Winter lectures** will be held as usual on Wednesday evenings at **The Gallery**, Cowcross Street, London EC1 during January, February and March.

The London series will start on **Wednesday 24 January** with **Pete Smith** speaking on *The history of the gardens of Wollaton Hall, Notts, from Robert Smythson's initial plan in 1580 to the present day*.

To commemorate the bicentenary of Humphry Repton, **Professor Stephen Daniels** will give a

talk on **31 January** entitled *Revealing Repton: approaches to the Art of Landscape Gardening*. Stephen will be speaking about his long-standing interest in Humphry Repton and discuss new approaches to understanding and communicating the art of landscape gardening, and imaginative ways to commemorate the cultural significance of Repton's work and its legacy.

**Shirley Evans's** talk on **14 February** will be on *The life and work of William Andrews Nesfield*.

**Susan Campbell**, a Vice-President of the Gardens Trust, will speak about *Queen Victoria's*



## Gardens Trust events 2018



Susan Campbell

*Kitchen Garden at Windsor on 28 February [above].*

On 14 March Maria Luczak will speak on *The collaboration of Lord Leverhulme and Thomas Mawson in the creation of Rivington Terraced Gardens* near Bolton, Greater Manchester, and their recent restoration. Booking is available online or by post, see below for all details.

Our first **Gardens Trust Winter Lecture in Bath**, organised in association with the Museum of Bath Architecture, will be given by **Professor Stephen Daniels**, who will give his lecture on *Revealing Repton: approaches to the Art of Landscape Gardening* at the Museum on 15 March. Booking is online or through the Museum of Bath Architecture.

The **Gardens Trust West Midlands Spring and Autumn Lectures 2018** will be held at the Birmingham & Midland Institute, the Spring one will be on 18 April, given by **Maria Luczak**, on the *Rivington Terraced Gardens*. The autumn lecture will be given by **Stephen Daniels** on *Revealing Repton...* and will be held on 26 September.

Full details are available on **The Gardens Trust website** and booking is open now. Online booking is slightly different this year. There are separate items on the website for each lecture, as well as one for a London season ticket. There is no printed booking form, but if you wish to book by post, please contact Sally Jeffery for the London lectures: [sally.jeffery2@gmail.com](mailto:sally.jeffery2@gmail.com), or phone: 07817 128 147; Sarah Fitzgerald for the Bath lecture; [fitzgeraldatpen@aol.com](mailto:fitzgeraldatpen@aol.com), or phone: 01747 840 895 and Advolly Richmond for the Birmingham lectures: [ilex@advolly.co.uk](mailto:ilex@advolly.co.uk)

### **Members' Meet-Up, Dorset at The Butterfly House, Castle Gardens, Sherborne**

**10.30am, Thursday 15 February**

Another opportunity for Gardens Trust and County Gardens Trust members to meet each other and discuss ideas, skills and questions.

The Agenda will allow for discussions on CGT experiences of Conservation, Education and Research & Recording. Highlights include researching and conserving public parks in Southampton and Gloucestershire, and an update on **P&GUK** from **Philip White**, CEO of Hestercombe Gardens Trust.

A free event, with a suggested donation of £7 towards lunchtime catering.

Please email [tamsinmcmillan@thegardenstrust.org](mailto:tamsinmcmillan@thegardenstrust.org) for more information or to book a place.

### **Members' Meet-Up, London at The Gallery, Cowcross Street March, to be confirmed**

There will be a final **Members' Meet-Up** in March at The Gallery, Cowcross Sreet, to which all members and CGTs will be welcome. Again contact Tamsin for further information, as above.

### **Rivington Terraced Gardens the lost garden of Lancashire, a Mawson or a Leverhulme masterpiece? 11am to 4pm, Saturday 12 May**

With your appetites whetted by **Maria Luczak's forthcoming lectures** (in London on 14 March and Birmingham on 18 April, see left column) the GT is organising a visit to **Rivington Terraced Gardens** near Bolton, Lancashire. These historic gardens (grade II) laid out on the very edge of the West Pennine Moors, with fine and extensive views, were originally created for soap magnate Lord Leverhulme as a spectacular venue for him to relax in and entertain friends and family.

Situated on the **steep** hillside below Rivington Pike, the Gardens were designed by landscape architect Thomas Mawson and his son between 1905 and 1922. Following Leverhulme's death in 1925 they fell into a state of extreme decay and have been cherished locally in their ruinous state for decades since. Now with a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund they are undergoing a three-year major programme of work by heritage professionals aided by enthusiastic volunteers to repair, stabilise and consolidate the extraordinary array of eleven listed buildings, structures and landscape features.

Guided tours will be led by Liam Roche, the site manager for Groundwork's contractors and Elaine Taylor (Lancashire Gardens Trust), who has



One of Mawson's presentation plans for Rivington

researched both Rivington and other Mawson gardens in Lancashire.

The Gardens, known in their early days as Royton Cottage (Lever's first house on the site, destroyed in an arson attack by the suffragette Edith Rigby), are the result of a highly personal collaboration between Mawson, and later his son, and Lord Leverhulme. They were, in their hey-day, a foremost example of the Arts and Crafts style. The 'Cottage' and its replacement house have long disappeared along with most of Mawson's experimental ornamental shrub planting but there's still much to admire in the stonework of several surviving summerhouses, the monumental and magnificent 'Seven Arched Bridge' and the Pigeon Tower. The latter, designed on three floors as a lookout tower, contains Lady Leverhulme's sewing room on the top floor.



The Japanese Garden designed by Mawson in 1922 [above] was inspired by Lord and Lady Lever's trip to Japan; its rockwork, lake, two waterfalls, lanterns and a tea houses were the work of James Pulham and Son.

Did we mention that the site includes steep slopes, hence its drama? Please be advised that there may be accessibility issues on some parts of this extensive visit.

Booking and venue details including ticket price will follow in our March Newsletter and on the GT website; bookings will be made through Eventbrite via the Gardens Trust website. Contact Claire de Carle: claire@decarle.plus.com

### **Japan Gardens Study Tour**

**based in Osaka, visiting Hiroshima and beyond  
Monday 26 March to Sunday 8 April**

**Now fully booked**

Japanese gardens reflect the philosophy of their people who live close to nature and combine their ancient spiritual beliefs in Shinto with their particular form of Buddhism, developed there from the seventh century onwards. This 'Cherry Blossom Spring Tour' is based initially in Kyoto, with visits to Nara, Hiroshima and beyond. We will look at gardens ranging from the earliest archaeological reconstructions in Nara from 750 AD to the 20th century gardens of Shigemori Mirei, who both restored historic gardens and designed new ones.

**Although fully boooked, places may become available. The full itinerary and cost details, as well as an application form are on our website, contact Kristina Taylor: [wokristina@hotmail.com](mailto:wokristina@hotmail.com) or: 07972 702 061.**

### **The Prophet in his own Country: 3 Repton gardens in Norfolk A GT Repton Festival Event Friday 1 & Saturday 2 June**

To mark the bi-centenary of the death of Humphry Repton, the Norfolk Gardens Trust in association with The Gardens Trust is offering a two-day conference focused on **Sheringham Hall** and Park, **Barningham Hall** and **Honing Hall**, based at the Links Country Park Hotel in Cromer.

We shall be visiting three of Repton's surviving landscapes, two of which, Sheringham Hall and Barningham Hall, were commissions to both Humphry Repton and his architect son, John Adey Repton. At Sheringham this was for a new house and at Barningham a remodelling.

Red Books were prepared for all three, but only two, those for Sheringham Hall and Honing Hall, survive complete.



## Gardens Trust events 2018

At Barningham Hall, Thomas Mott commissioned both Humphry Repton and John Adey Repton in 1805 to remodel the Hall. A number of watercolours have survived from the Red Book (private collection) which suggest that Humphry was also involved in the design of the park and gardens.

### Programme

We begin at 9.30 on Friday morning with registration followed by talks from Professor **Tom Williamson**, Dr **Jon Finch** and GT President **Dominic Cole**. After lunch, we visit **Sheringham** (own transport) for a guided tour of the park and an opportunity to view Repton's Red Book in the Hall's library. A conference dinner and after-dinner talk concludes the day.

On Saturday morning we take a coach to **Aylsham** and the parish church where Repton is buried. A picnic lunch follows in the park at **Honing Hall** (weather permitting) and thence on to **Barningham Hall**, returning to the Links Hotel for 5pm.

#### **Only a few places remaining, so act fast...**

**Cost of the two-day conference (excluding accommodation)** is £125 for County Garden Trust and The Garden Trust members, and £150 for non-members. You will need to book their own accommodation at the Conference hotel: The Links Country Park Hotel in Cromer NR27 9QH: [www.links-hotel.co.uk/](http://www.links-hotel.co.uk/) or phone: 01263 838383, please state you are with the Norfolk Gardens Trust Group. Rates are, for double rooms: £150 per room per night to include breakfast; single occupancy (in a double room) rate is £95 per person. **The hotel rooms are reserved only until 31 December 2017.**

Please contact Karen Moore: Karen Moore, Norfolk Gardens Trust Organiser, Point House, Back Street, Litcham, Norfolk PE32 2PA, or: [moore.karen@icloud.com](mailto:moore.karen@icloud.com) or phone: 01328 700 313

### **Wonders & Marvels: Water, the intellect & science in the 17th-century British garden Annual Oxford Rewley House weekend Friday 1 to Sunday 3 June**

Seventeenth-century gardens were not only designed to delight and entertain, but also to foster intellectual activity ranging from quiet Puritan contemplation to cutting-edge scientific enquiry. The owners of several gardens near Oxford had social and professional connections with the emerging scientific community of the

University, and also with the founders of the Royal Society. This weekend will explore different types and functions of gardens, from the frivolous to the scientific, and set a number of Oxfordshire gardens in a wider British context.

There will be a coach trip which will include an extended visit to **Hanwell Castle** on the Saturday afternoon. There will be some standing and walking over rough and potentially muddy ground. Please bring boots or stout shoes and be prepared for all weathers. There will also be an exhibition centred on the results of excavations in the park over the past seven years including many of the finds that have been made.

Dinner and registration from 6pm on Friday evening will be followed by a talk by **David Jacques** on *Seventeenth-Century gardens and their context*.

Saturday starts, following breakfast, with a talk by **Christopher Dingwall**, on *Edzell Castle: 'Ane excellent dwelling, a great hous and a delicat gardine'*; **Elisabeth Whittle** on *The marvels of Raglan Castle, Wales: the water parterre and Edward Somerset's 'water commanding engine'*; and again on *The formal water garden at Tackley, Oxfordshire*. We then depart for an extended trip to Hanwell castle, and its excavations, before returning for dinner and an evening talk by **Stephen Wass** on *The Enstone Marvels: rediscovered and redefined*.

On Sunday there are further talks by **Paula Henderson** on *Francis Bacon: the empiricist and the garden*; **David Marsh** on *John Evelyn and the Garden as a Scientific Elysium*; and **Toby Parker** on *The Oxford college gardens in the second half of the seventeenth century*. The course concludes after lunch.

**Costs from:** £153 (tuition only), £363.20 with accommodation and meals. Full details at: [www.conted.ox.ac.uk/courses](http://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/courses). Accommodation for this weekend is at Rewley House, 1 Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JA.  
Contact: [ppdayweek@conted.ox.ac.uk](mailto:ppdayweek@conted.ox.ac.uk) or phone: 01865 270380

### **Danish Landscapes and Gardens Study Tour Monday 4 to Sunday 10 June**

Our six day tour of landscapes and gardens in Denmark will take place in early June. Success Tours, who will be administering the application forms and moneys, have got us rooms in two excellently



Robert Peel

located 4-star hotels; in Odense, a late 19th-century classic for two nights and, in Copenhagen, a larger contemporary hotel for four nights.

From Odense, in the centre of the island of Funen, we will visit the recently restored 18th-century Romantic garden of **Sanderumgaard**; the Renaissance moated castle of **Egeskov** with its roomed gardens designed to respect the historic nature of the site and including one designed by **C Th Sørensen**; a landscape designer's private garden; and the **Hans Christian Andersen garden** in Odense, the birthplace of perhaps the most celebrated Dane in modern history.

The only moderately long coach trip of the visit will take us from Funen across the Storebaelt, spanned by an impressive bridge, to Zealand, the easternmost island. After visiting an historicist garden by **G N Brandt**, the picturesque manor garden of **Liselund** in some of the only hilly country in Denmark, and a restored glasshouse in the grounds of **Gisselfeld**, the Milners' only design in Denmark, we shall arrive in the impressive capital city.

In Copenhagen we will see several royal landscapes, including the baroque garden of **Frederiksberg** [above], the picturesque garden of **Frederiksberg** (confusing!) and the **Kings Garden**

in the centre of Copenhagen; and the **Botanic Gardens** also in the city centre.



Robert Peel

We can't miss the open air sculpture museum of **Louisiana** overlooking the Oresund, that narrow strait between Denmark and Sweden [above]; the unusual **allotment gardens at Naerum** by C Th Sørensen and, hopefully, the garden where his daughter, **Sonja Poll**, still lives; the **garden of G N Brandt** and his most famous cemetery of **Mariebjerg**, and a couple of public parks depending upon time.

A novelty will be a half day on bikes with a landscape architect guide, talking to us about the contemporary landscapes of the capital, as well

## Gardens Trust events 2018

as a boat trip along the canals and harbour to better appreciate some of the city's iconic new designs and carefully conserved historic parts. An alternative will be found for those whose biking days are over, although I would emphasise that 25% of Danes go to work by bike and the safety record is excellent. It is an appropriate and relaxing way to see the city.

**Costs will be around £1500 per person sharing twin accommodation to include bed and breakfast, one other meal a day, all group transport during the trip, site visits and guiding costs but not transport to the hotel in Odense at the start and from Copenhagen airport at the end. Prices per person will depend upon numbers, with 25 participants paying much less than 15 or even 20. We will recommend, in details to be sent out soon, along with booking form and exact prices, flights to Copenhagen and details of connection from the airport to the central railway station and from there to Odense, a journey of just over an hour. For further information please contact Robert Peel: rma.peel@btopenworld.com**

### Gardens Trust Annual Family Picnic Wicksteed Park, Northamptonshire Saturday 30 June

Our 2017 annual family picnic event merrily moved to Wollaton Hall, Nottinghamshire, in November, and who doesn't love a picnic out of season.

Our family picnic in 2018 will be at the fun packed **Wicksteed Park**, Barton Seagrave, with Northamptonshire Gardens Trust, and mentioning the Humphry Repton bicentennial.

**Full details will appear in the next issue.**



### Northern Ireland Gardens Study Tour Sunday 5 to Saturday 11 August

Until recent years Northern Ireland has not been seen as popular destination for garden visiting despite having some of the most interesting in the UK. To remedy this two of our enthusiastic Northern Ireland members, Doreen and Ivan Wilson, are organising a study tour of some of the gardens and historic estates in August 2018 when many will be at their best. The tour will be based in the 4 star **Dunadry Hotel** near Antrim (BT21 4HA), which is conveniently situated for Belfast International Airport.

The study tour will include the **Hillsborough Castle and Gardens** which is undergoing a £16 million restoration, and **Antrim Castle Gardens** which has recently completed a £6 million restoration of its 400 year old landscape. We will also go north to the 17th-century **Benvarden** estate, situated on the banks of the river Bush, and in the ownership of the Montgomery family since 1798 where we will have lunch in the unusual diamond-shaped stable yard and, if time permits, a tour of the mansion house.

At **Clandeboye**, the home of the Marchioness of Dufferin and Ava, the head gardener will take us on a tour of the grounds which contain many rare and exotic shrubs as well as the newer Bee Garden with its collection of Old Irish Heritage apple trees, and a beautiful wild flower meadow which should be at its peak in August. Over the years the Marchioness has embarked on extensive tree planting to augment the existing woodlands as well as breeding pedigree cattle which supply the milk for her award-winning yoghurt sold in Fortnum & Mason.

The National Trust property of **Castleward**, on the shores of Strangford Lough, has been one of the settings for 'The Game of Thrones' but we will be 'extras' visiting the Temple Water, currently also undergoing an ambitious restoration project to reveal the important late 17th-century water garden and walks.



David Foreman

No visit to Northern Ireland would be complete without a visit to **Mount Stewart** [above], another National Trust Property, where the mild climate enables an astonishing range of unusual plants and trees to flourish. We have allowed a whole afternoon for tours and exploration of the Formal

Gardens, the Pleasure Grounds and the House itself, especially interesting for the the fascinating story of Lady Edith Londonderry and her 'set'.

Our visit to **Castlewellan** to the Annesley Arboretum will confirm why it was considered one of the top three arboreta of the UK. Established by the 5th Earl Annesley towards the end of the 19th century many of the specimens have reached maturity including over forty varieties of *Chamaecyparis*. August should see the avenue of late summer flowering *Eucryphia* a mass of white petals.

Visits to several other private estates will include a plant hunter's arboretum at Seaford and a stunning modern garden at the foot of the Mourne, not normally open to the public. On the shores of Strangford Lough we will visit the privately owned **Rosemount** estate, and the adjoining physic garden of the ancient 12th-century Cistercian Grey Abbey.

**Please note you will need to arrive for the night of Sunday 5 August 2018, with a stay of six nights, the study tour commences on Monday morning. As the hotel can only hold reserved rooms until mid-January firm bookings must be made by Wednesday 10 January. The tour will be limited to 28 participants and is likely to be very popular, so early expressions of firm interest should be sent by email to:**

doreenwilson123@btinternet.com

Booking details and a booking form are on

our website, anyone requiring a paper form should write to: Doreen Wilson, Tuffley Lawn, 14 Ballyrogan Park, Newtownards BT23 4SD.

Cost (not including flights) for Gardens Trust members: £760 sharing twin/double; non-members £790; Single room supplement: £150. Cost includes all meals: six breakfasts and six dinners and coffee & lunch every day.

### Celebrating Humphry Repton at Ashridge House, Hertfordshire Friday 10 and Saturday 11 August

A two-day conference based at Ashridge, Hertfordshire to cast new light on the life and works of Humphry Repton and consider his legacy in landscape design. The programme comprises a series of lectures on the first day followed by a **tour of the gardens at Ashridge**. The second day comprises a series of lectures in the morning followed in the afternoon by a **tour of Woburn Abbey gardens** led by Gardens Manager **Martin Towsey**. The conference will finish after the tour of Woburn.

Speakers that have indicated they would be able to speak at the conference include; Professor Tom Williamson on *Contrasting landscapes and commissions: Repton in Norfolk and Hertfordshire*; Professor Stephen Daniels on *Envisioning Landscape: the Art of landscape Gardening*; Dr Jonathan Finch; Dr Sarah Rutherford on *Research undertaken by CGT's into Repton*;



Repton's Red Book proposal for a terrace view over the park at Ashridge

## Gardens Trust events 2018

Dr Jane Bradney on *Lewis Kennedy and the legacy of the Red Books*; Michael Symes on *Who inspired Humphry Repton?*; Dr Kate Felus; John Phibbs; and Keir Davidson on *Repton's commission for Woburn Abbey*.

Cost to delegates attending both days with one-night accommodation, meals and visits is £285 inc VAT. Non-residential rate that includes dinner on the Friday night will be £150 inc VAT. Accommodation for the night(s) preceding and following the conference is available on application. Bookings can be made through the website or contact contact Sally Rouse: [sally.rouse@ashridge.hult.edu](mailto:sally.rouse@ashridge.hult.edu) or phone: 01442 841 028

### The Gardens Trust AGM 2018 and New Research Symposium Weekend in Birmingham

#### Saturday 1 & Sunday 2 September

The Gardens Trust will be heading to Birmingham for our major annual event next year, developing the theme of taking garden history to new places and people. We will be based in two locations: on Saturday on the **University of Birmingham**'s campus for lectures and the **Annual General Meeting**, and on Sunday at nearby **Highbury** for tours of the house and grounds, an introduction to its restoration project and the ever-popular **New Research Symposium**.

Our conference aims to add to the rising profile that The Gardens Trust is building for itself in Birmingham through the Historic Landscapes Project 'Meet-Ups', the extension of the Gardens Trust's lecture programme to the city and the series of introductory courses on garden history which will run at both Highbury and the University's **Winterbourne House and Garden** throughout 2017 and 2018.

Highbury, now managed by the Chamberlain Highbury Trust, [chamberlainhighburytrust.co.uk](http://chamberlainhighburytrust.co.uk), is a magnificent Venetian Gothic villa (listed grade II\*) with exceptional Arts & Crafts features and grounds (registered grade II) mainly landscaped by Edward Milner. It was built in 1880 for Joseph Chamberlain (1836–1914), father of Neville and Austen and once described by Winston Churchill as the man 'who made the weather', and the figure who shaped the political agenda when the British Empire stood at the height of its power.

In terms of his built and administrative legacy in



Courtesy of Chamberlain Highbury Trust

Highbury, home of the Chamberlain Highbury Trust

Birmingham, Chamberlain had a great and lasting impact, of which Prof. Peter Marsh, Chamberlain's biographer in 1994, said, 'Under his guidance Birmingham was known as the best-governed city in the industrial world'.

Arrangements, still in progress, will differ from last year and, we hope, make the event easily accessible for everyone. Delegates will book with the Gardens Trust for the event only, and be able to choose and book their own accommodation; it is likely that a range of room types will be available on the Campus itself but we will provide a list of alternatives in the City or near the University. The Campus is served by its own station as well as by bus from the City and there is free parking at weekends. The programme for each day will begin no earlier than 10.30am to allow the many delegates who would prefer to come just for each day to do so.

The embryo programme includes introductions to Birmingham's estate landscapes and the context for Highbury and to the late 19th-century political, social and cultural world in which Chamberlain lived. We will enjoy guided tours both of his magnificent villa and grounds, now the subject of a restoration plan and HLF bid, and of Winterbourne Garden, also laid out by a Birmingham City industrialist and pioneer of town planning, John Nettlefold (of Guest, Keen & Nettlefold). We're also exploring linking up with other heritage organisations in the City such as Birmingham's Open Spaces Forum, and the Heart of England forum.

**Full details of our Annual General Meeting and New Research Symposium weekend in Birmingham, with costs and information on booking will be available in spring 2018.**

# Garden History Grapevine courses

new courses in association with the Gardens Trust

## Repton in Context, Spring 2017

2018 is the bicentenary of Humphry Repton's death. Repton has had a mixed critical reaction, especially since he was long overshadowed by Capability Brown in the broad accounts of garden history, but more recently he has begun to emerge as a very significant figure, both theoretically and socially, in his own right. This course running over 11 weeks (not 12 because Easter is early) aims to put Repton into context and to show him as someone who was very much of his time, capable of responding to changing fashion and taste, but who also knew how to guide his clients.

There will be a series of class based lectures at the IHR, London, on Tuesday mornings and some visits to Repton sites.

### PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

9 January: **Humphry Repton and his predecessors** with Stephen Smith

16 January: **Repton, his style and the economy of estates** with Stephen Smith

### AGM reports 2017, continued from p16

#### HLP report continued

management. It started in 2010 and expanded across the whole country in 2013. We receive partial funding from Historic England on an annual basis.

#### The Team

Linden Groves, formerly senior Historic Landscape Project Officer, is now Strategic Development Officer for the whole Gardens Trust but is still working closely with the HLP, including seeking additional funding, to help place the project on a more secure financial footing. I'm now lead HLP Officer, leading on the majority of activities, including organising and delivering events, so you'll see quite a bit of me, around the country. We're pleased that Margie Hoffnung has been able to increase her work with the HLP. Many of you know her, through her Conservation Officer work, and she'll continue to provide one to one support for CGTs and to help with events.

#### Activities since the last AGM

We've had a busy year providing training and

23 January: **Repton's life** with Letta Jones

30 January: **Repton's books on gardening**, all day, with a visit to the Lindley Library with Letta Jones

6 February: **Repton and his world; Sociability, house and garden visiting** with David Marsh

13 February: **Visit to Panshanger** in Hertfordshire with Kate Harwood, times tbc probably 2/3 hrs + travel time

20 February: **Repton and contemporary literature** with Stephen Smith

27 February: **Visit to Wanstead** with Sally Jeffery times tbc probably 2/3 hours + travel

6 March: **Repton in London** plus a play reading! with Stephen Smith, all day

13 March: **Visit to Kenwood** with Letta Jones

20 March: **Repton's Legacy** with Stephen Smith

The course is based at the Institute of Historical Research, Senate House [North Block], Malet Street, London WC1E 7HU.

**Cost: £242.72, find us on eventbrite, or from the GT website.**

networking events and one to one support to 25 out of 36 CGTs. We are delighted by the successes of the CGTs over the last year, including written planning responses from the majority of CGTs, work on a defined 'Research and Recording' project by seventeen CGTs and increasing enthusiasm from CGTs to work with each other.

In terms of last year's HLP networking activities, we're really pleased that our first Historic Landscapes Assembly, in November, in London, was well attended and received and it formed an unprecedented networking opportunity for the Gardens Trust.

We've also been developing our Historic Landscapes Directory, a list of individuals from external organisations who are keen to work with CGTs. We will make this available to the CGTs to help you expand your networks.

Our first three Meet Ups (which replaced Regional forums), in York, Swindon and London,

## AGM reports 2017

attracted members of 18 CGTs. Feedback showed that all who attended found these to be a great opportunity to share experiences and knowledge.

In total, 149 volunteers and professionals came to our networking events last year.

It's been a busy year for training too, with 136 volunteers attending introductory days on: significance; protecting historic parks and gardens using the planning system; and using research to conserve historic parks and gardens. In addition, there were more in-depth days on: writing planning response letters; and running research and recording projects.

In addition, the HLP has: distributed around 3000 copies of our 'The Planning System in England the Protection of Historic Parks and Gardens' leaflet; and started a new email update and online discussion forum. Please do register for the forum, on the Gardens Trust website, this is such a useful networking platform for CGTs, we continued to add to the online Resource Hub, making resources available for those who aren't able to come to training and networking events

### Plans for this year

We will be refocusing our activities this year, with networking support becoming the core ongoing HE-funded activity. Training needs will be bundled into packages for which we are seeking additional funding. We see networking as a priority because it is immensely important for us to continue championing the fantastic work CGTs do and your unparalleled understanding of historic designed landscapes should be shared far and wide. We also want to connect you with as many individuals and organisations as possible, some to help you in your work; others who will be grateful for the knowledge you can provide.

We'll be holding four Meet Ups in different geographic regions, to maximise opportunities to attend, in Lancaster (December), Cambridge (January), Dorset (February) and London (March). We are still looking for speakers for some slots so please let me know if you would like to talk about your CGT's recent projects in conservation, education or research and recording.

This year's Historic Landscapes Assembly will be in Birmingham, on 28 November [see p17]. One of the themes for the day will be the Great Storm of 1987, 30 years on. Our President Dominic Cole, and Tamsin Treverton Jones will be looking at its effects at the time, and its long-term legacy. We'll



©NTPL/Mike Howarth

Emmetts in Kent, the day after the Great Storm

also have updates from Historic England, Natural England, P&GUK and CGT case studies. We hope to attract more delegates each year, to make this a major networking event for our sector.

We want to encourage a third level of networking, with other local heritage organisations, via regional Historic Environment Forums, which are organised by HE's local engagement advisers. We are looking for regular attendees to attend regional HEFs (only a few a year) as representatives of the CGTs in their region, and to report back to them afterwards. Please let Margie or me know if you are interested in coming along.

In terms of training this year, we'll be delivering the third and final part of our planning application training package to at least eight CGT volunteers in the West Midlands and SW. We're also planning a conservation training workshop on the Public Parks Crisis, with David Lambert and other experts in this field; and we'll be supporting Alison Allighan, the GT's Conservation Casework Manager, in training CGT volunteers to use the new Casework Log. You'll meet her at some of our events this year.

Any additional training events will not be covered by our HE funding and Linden will be looking into alternative ways of financing these. These sessions will include: a revised research and recording training package that can be repeatedly delivered to or by CGTs; repetition of our three-part planning application training package, across the country; and conservation training projects.

Please tell us what your training needs are as it is important that our events are truly relevant to you and your CGT.

## CELEBRATING HUMPHRY REPTON 2018

Report from Linden Groves,  
Strategic Development Officer

Most of you will know that, in the end, the Capability Brown Festival was a big success, although I know that there were some things we would have liked to have happened differently. We are keen to keep this momentum going and the 2018 bicentenary of Humphry Repton's death is the obvious next big excuse to celebrate and share our passion.

Many County Gardens Trusts are already in full swing organising walks and talks, exhibitions, and leaflets and books, and at the Gardens Trust itself, we have conferences and other activities planned. But it doesn't end there. The Gardens Trust is in a unique position to be the anchor at the centre of a collaborative whirlwind. Using a £10,000 grant from Historic England, we are building a structure for the disparate Repton celebrations to be seen as an appealing and accessible whole by the public.

This goes far beyond the CGTs and we are delighted to have the involvement of organisations and gardens such as the Garden Museum, Landscape Institute, Georgian Group, Heritage Open Days, National Trust, and Broadland Tourism team (where Repton is buried), Woburn Abbey and Wicksteed Park. We have even been making links with initiatives abroad.

So what are we offering by means of help? Firstly, ways for everyone to share ideas, with a large and growing mailing list of stakeholders, which we are using to keep people updated. On 10 October there was a networking meeting in London. If you would like to be on this list or come to future meetings, do please let us know.

We are also fortunate to have a freelance Communications Adviser, Susannah Charlton [see p5], and she has set up loads of media and communication tools for us to all use. There is a checklist of tools currently available on the Resource Hub, at [www.thegardenstrust.org](http://www.thegardenstrust.org), so do please make the most of it.

What are we asking you to do? The choice is yours, of course, but I very much hope that County Gardens Trust researchers are starting to delve into Repton landscapes. Kate Harwood has kindly agreed to act as CGT Repton Research Coordinator and she can give you pointers as to the best uses of this research; we're hoping you'll be thinking of entries on Historic Environment



Records and Statements of Significance, as well as leaflets, books and on the refreshed Parks & Gardens UK.

The Gardens Trust website has the facility to publicise and link your research, and we look forward to seeing this grow. There is also a dedicated online Repton discussion forum on the website, and there are already some interesting discussions there.

I also know that many of you are already planning walks, talks, study days and exhibitions, which will be a great success. Let's please strive to be accessible to all, whether or not people are or become our members, so consider stepping outside of our comfort zones in 2018. Repton understood how to capture imaginations and squeeze good things out of his talents and networks, so let's follow his example, perhaps take disabled groups to visit a garden (as Northamptonshire Gardens Trust did during the Capability Brown Festival) or taking local people on a crazy Jeep adventure to explore a lost landscape (as Shropshire Parks and Gardens Trust did at Tong Castle); or take your exhibition not just to the local museum but also to pubs, as per Welsh Historic Parks and Gardens Trust.

I appreciate that some of this can sound daunting, so we have been in touch with the Heritage Open Days team. They are eager to be more involved with historic parks and gardens, and to achieve this by working with us. If you're liaising with a garden to organise a visit for your members, why not also go a step further and organise a second day, as part of the Heritage Open Day weekend, in which your volunteers can help make a Repton site accessible to members of the public? Do let me know if this is something that you're interested in taking on.

email Linden: [lindengroves@thegardenstrust.org](mailto:lindengroves@thegardenstrust.org)



New GT Communications Adviser Susannah Charlton addresses the delegates at Cowcross Street, during our Repton meeting on 10 October

### **DOMINIC COLE, PRESIDENT: CLOSING REMARKS**

I would like briefly to repeat what members have expressed earlier; to say how much I enjoy the friends I have met through the Gardens Trust and the GHS, meeting up at the annual conferences or other events, and sharing enthusiasms and passions for our wonderful heritage of parks and gardens.

I am very proud of our colleagues and of all the achievements made over the years and the

initiatives we are working on.

I know that formal thanks will be made this evening at Conference Dinner but I should like to thank Jim Bartos for his chairmanship, quietly determinedly working behind the scenes, and all the GT team and committees for everything this year. And finally thank everyone involved for their organisation of the conference this year, which I am enjoying very much.

## **agenda**

reports from our members; **all** contributions are warmly welcomed...



### **Paul Miles's designs for Fenton House gardens, Hampstead**

Dominic Cole

Fenton House, c1686, is a substantial merchant's house, a weekend retreat for the owner from his business in the city. The garden is on several levels to cope with the naturally sloping site and had been a kitchen garden until the twentieth century when

a tennis court was added; for over two hundred and fifty years the garden provided fruit and vegetables for the house and was not deliberately ornamental.

When the National Trust was given Fenton House after Lady Binning died in 1952 the

garden was considered 'over-mature and dull' (NT records). The Trust, in consultation with the NT Gardens Advisory Panel decided to start again and to create a relaxed 'Old English Style' garden evoking the Edwardian period c1900–10. The curator Christopher Wall and Martin Drury, with affirmation from the Gardens Panel, agreed to 'start again' (pers. comm. Martin Drury) and create a garden that would 'feel right' with the house.

Paul Miles, the garden designer, was commissioned to draw up proposal plans for the garden in 1977 (NT archives) which show how a new structure could be created using hedges, topiary and formal lawns and borders. His plans were very slightly adjusted over the next couple of years but the essential ideas and layout remain as shown on Paul's drawings.

In 2014 the curator of Fenton House asked me to help with an assessment of the conservation policies for the house and garden. One aspect of concern was that the garden as presented today, to Miles's plan, is not based on historical research into how the garden had looked in previous generations; how could the National Trust have justified the creation of a completely new layout in the late nineteen seventies? Re-creating 'historic gardens' had been tried before, notably with Ernest Law's gardens at Hampton Court and Kensington Gardens and by the National Trust at Moreton Old Hall (1963) and Little Moreton Hall (1975). Each of these used historical texts or illustrations to create period appropriate plans, but did not research the sites to understand what their particular gardens may have looked like.

Fenton House's new garden layout predates the change of approach to garden presentation and conservation that took off in the 1980s. Garden Archaeology was a very new practice, and was not used on a large scale until English Heritage used archaeology and detailed documentary research to re-create the flower parterre at Audley End in 1984.

But Fenton House garden is not a re-creation, restoration or based on source material from the eighteenth or nineteenth centuries. For the curatorial team the idea of making a garden that 'felt right' chimed with decisions that were being made about the presentation of the interior where there was little original furniture left and the decoration had been changed many times.

The Trust chose to house several differing



The Fenton House borders spill out into gravel, tall yellow verbascums contrasting pleasingly with the spires of the columnar yews behind

collections in the house, including Harpsichords and china, that had no connection with Fenton as such, but, like the new garden, they 'felt right'. So the 1970's garden is Miles's response to the spirit of place, the architecture of the house and used his 'acute sense of scale' (Miles pers. comm.). The decision to 'start again' has resulted in a delightful garden which most visitors read as 'having been there for ever', a fitting tribute to the National Trust's conviction and to the confident design by Paul Miles.

With a degree of trepidation I sent my assessment to Paul for his comments and, looking back, to seek his approval (we don't usually get the chance to ask the designer what they make of our assessments of their historical works...). Paul wrote a long letter back, he was surprised and pleased to be recognised and thought the assessment was factually accurate. He added to some of the recollections on the discussions that took place when the decisions were being made about the design approach for the garden. He wrote about his own approach and design philosophy, which I have quoted here. Fenton is local to me and I visit often, getting great pleasure every time.

As a small post script it is appropriate to record that immediately following Paul's input and building on his ideas, the 'in house' NT garden team made their own important contributions to layout and planting, including Jim Marshal, Mike Calnan and David Jeffcoate.

**By the time you read this the house and garden will have closed for the winter. Roll on Spring!**

## agenda

### Friends of Finsbury Park High Court Appeal

David Lambert, GT Conservation Committee member



At the time of writing, the Friends of Finsbury Park are appealing for funds for a Court of Appeal case which has major implications for the protection of public parks. Last year they brought judicial review proceedings against the Council about the continued over-use of the park for private and commercial events, which involved fencing off large parts of the park from the public and damage to the park's infrastructure. Supported by the Open Spaces Society, the Friends case was heard on 2 November 2017.\* The case focuses on the number of days in a given year that a park can be rented out and the size of events in London.

In London, there is an area restriction of a tenth of the park being closed off (Ministry of Housing and Local Government Provisional Order Confirmation (Greater London Parks and Open Spaces) Act 1967, Article 7), while in London and the rest of the country, section 44 of the Public Health Acts Amended Act 1890 limits the time that a park can be closed to no more than 12 days in a year or 6 consecutive days on any one occasion. The promoters of the Wireless Festival in Finsbury Park, and Haringey Council are arguing that s.145 of the Local Government Act 1972 allows a local authority to ignore the 1967 Act and the 1890 Act, and it is this which the Friends and the Open Spaces are challenging.

While dealing with specifically London legislation, the decision has potentially major implications across the whole of the UK, where the same pattern of over-use in premier urban

parks is developing as a result of government-imposed budget cuts. Events have always been part and parcel of the functioning of a successful park, but this is different. First, the pressure to raise increased revenue is unprecedented; second, security arrangements are more intrusive than ever resulting in large areas being fenced off from public use; and third, modern logistics are more heavyweight than ever, with over-sized articulated transport which can damage and destroy park roads, paths and trees.

Many of our parks are now threatened with damaging intensification of events programmes and infrastructure, and not just hard-up municipal parks, but the Royal Parks and, as readers of the **GT news** will be aware, many National Trust sites.

#### \* Judgement Reserved in Court of Appeal from 'The Friends of Finsbury Park' website

The case was heard by the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Hickinbottom, Singh and Treacy) in court 70 of the Royal Courts of Justice, and heard argument from the parties (Richard H QC for the Friends of Finsbury Park; George Laurence QC for the Open Spaces Society; Philip Kolvin for Haringey Council; Robert McCracken QC for Wireless Festival). The Court of Appeal thanked the parties for their legal arguments and observed that this was a very interesting case. A reserved judgment was delivered, which means that they will go away to write their judgment and deliver them in the next month or so.

We will post the judgement as soon as we have it.

## A 'Reason to be Cheerful', or perhaps not?

Susan Kellerman, Yorkshire GT

Parlington Hall, near Aberford, West Yorkshire, was the seat of the Gascoigne family until 1905, when the family moved to nearby Lotherton Hall. Over the years, the house at Parlington declined through neglect and demolition, and only a service wing remains. However, the estate around the Hall survives to a remarkable extent, with all the expected features of an eighteenth- and nineteenth-century designed landscape. This has, remarkably, received little attention, and had no Historic England (HE) *Register* designation, although some of the built structures are listed, the best known being the Triumphal Arch (Grade II\*).



The gates and extensive walls of Parlington's stallion pens, with their sadly underscaled current occupants

In 2016, the current owner, M&G Real Estate, put the land forward for inclusion in the Leeds CC Site Allocations Plan, with proposals for thousands of houses and related infrastructure. So in December 2016 I submitted an application, supported by the Yorkshire Gardens Trust and the Gardens Trust, for the site to be put on the HE *Register*.

Historic England recognised the threat to the site and completed its advice report in an admirably short time, so the site is now on the *Register*, at Grade II. HE also initiated a separate assessment of seven other built features on the estate, including the impressive early 19th-century stone-walled stallion pens. Inspectors are currently examining the

Leeds CC housing plans, and hearings regarding the Parlington site have just been postponed until next year (2018), so it is to be hoped that the results for further listing assessments might be known by then.

It is a common complaint from those involved in conservation in the Gardens Trust and County Gardens Trusts that HE moves too slowly, and lacks the necessary resources to respond adequately to threats of development such as that at Parlington, but on this occasion HE York should be acknowledged for pulling out all the stops and providing one further defence to



Susan Kellerman

this threatened heritage asset, to add to all the thousands of objections submitted from other amenity organisations and local individuals.

### As we went to press Susan sent in the following update:

Parlington's owners, M&G Real Estate, have challenged the inclusion of this site on the Historic England *Register* (Grade II).

Historic England is currently conducting a Review. Although HE has been unable to give the reason for their decision being challenged, this is being pursued by a 'Freedom of Information' request. Given the potential £millions involved it is perhaps not surprising that such a challenge has been made, by M&G Real Estate but it is very unusual, if not unique, for a *Register* entry to be challenged.

## agenda

# Launch of HLF-supported research project on historic orchards in the East of England

Kate Harwood, Hertfordshire GT

**Orchards East** was launched in Hertfordshire on 9 September, and other counties in the East of England will follow. It extends initiatives already developed by partner organisations, the Suffolk Traditional Orchards Group, and the East of England Apples and Orchards Project



A tour of the wonderful Tewin orchard, led by the equally wonderful Michael Clark

Little is really known about our historic orchards although there is much anecdotal evidence for decline and neglect. The project aims to survey each county and to research their history. Plenty of volunteers will be needed, which is where the county gardens trusts come in. There is a programme of training for the volunteers from simple surveys to workshop on managing orchards and trees. But the expertise in archival research on historic gardens possessed by the CGTs will be crucial to tracing the history of these and to help understand what was grown locally, how orchards were managed and the importance of orchards to the local community and its economy. And in Hertfordshire's case what, if any, effects did the London market have on our orchard provision.

We know we had some star players such as Lane's of Berkhamsted and River's of Sawbridgeworth, but there are many little local orchards unrecorded and perhaps uncared for.

For those interested in the fascinating



Kate Harwood

Another view of the wonderful Tewin orchard

biodiversity of these orchards the survey data will be used to record their significance as habitats for biodiversity and wildlife.

The project is based at the University of East Anglia but each eastern county will be spearheading its own research. Herts GT is working with others and we hope that CGTs in Bedfordshire, Cambridge, Essex, Suffolk and Norfolk will be similarly involved as not only will we discover wonders we didn't know of locally but also the regional context; similarities and differences will deepen our understanding.

As we know, there is little statutory protection for historic orchards so Herts GT, at least, hopes that this project will not only raise awareness amongst local people but also lead to historic orchards being included on Local Lists and given the consideration they deserve.

The historic orchards of the future, the new 'community orchards' often growing local varieties, are springing up on patches of ground around the region. Orchards East can offer help and support to get such a project off the ground if you haven't got a local orchard, or want another one.

And within the same week as the launch of the project, another historic local orchard has had its hedges ripped out, some trees felled and its specially designed apple store demolished.

**Further information, please contact:**  
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[www.orchardseast.org.uk](http://www.orchardseast.org.uk) or for Herts contact  
Kate: [conservation@hertsgardentrust.org.uk](mailto:conservation@hertsgardentrust.org.uk)

## Mid to Late 20th-Century Designed Landscapes: Overlooked, Undervalued and at Risk?

Report by Sarah Green CMLI on the GT Conference held on 5 June 2017 at the Garden Museum

The Gardens Trust was fortunate to hold this event at the Garden Museum in the very first week of the Museum's refurbished splendour. Newly reopened after eighteen months of radical restoration, the Museum has doubled its gallery space, created a new learning centre, and now boasts a garden by Dan Pearson, which incorporates the tombs of John Tradescant, John Sealy and Captain Bligh in an appropriately 21st-century setting.

The main aims of our conference were to highlight important landscapes designed in England after the Second World War that have yet to be included on the National Heritage List for England (NHLE), and to launch a campaign by the Gardens Trust to recognise and record these landscapes and, if appropriate, have them listed.

The campaign, called 'Compiling the Record: the essential mid to late c20 landscapes', may also go some way to lay a few ghosts of the past, as it echoes the rallying cries of campaigners, conservationists and innovators from the Outrage of Ian Nairn and beyond. Currently there are 1658 registered parks and gardens but of these only about twenty are post-war in date [see also p5].

The conference was nimbly chaired by **Robert Holden**, landscape architect, teacher and writer, and **Catherine Croft**, Director of the Twentieth Century Society, who steered the expert team of eight speakers through an inspiring day. The speakers and a capacity audience reflected a wide spectrum of professions and interests from the built environment, ranging from practitioners to statutory advisors and journalists. **Dominic Cole**, designer of the Eden Project and President of the Gardens Trust, introduced us to the aims of the conference and aptly referred us to examples of the work of Philip Hicks, Brenda Colvin, Geoffrey Jellicoe, Sylvia Crowe, Janet Jack and others. He touched on the widely differing scale of these landscapes which form the basis for the later 20th-century landscape typology; from university campus to small scale, sensitive and intricate examples of garden art and architecture such as the Philip Hicks work at Sanderson Hotel, London.

To **Annabel Downs** must go the prize for the

best title of the conference papers, 'Bread, Butter and Some Jam: Landscape Projects, 1929–1990'. Fittingly for the former archivist of the Landscape Institute, she illustrated her analysis of the intellectual and commercial background to the landscape designers of the post-war period and the development of the Landscape Institute with many examples from the Institute's extensive collection of drawings, part of its archive which is now in a permanent and accessible home at the Museum of English Rural Life (MERL), University of Reading. As her lightning tour de force account tantalisingly illustrated, MERL holds the archives of seminal 20th-century designers and practices, and continues to add to these (for instance, LUC's records will be deposited there).

**Oliver Rock**, of HTA Design LLP, reminded us how post-war new towns had given great opportunities for new design of all kinds, and described in detail his firm's restoration of Hemel Hempstead water gardens, a heartening example of persistence, focused research, luck (the survival of Jellicoe's original plans), and excellent negotiating skills all coming together and paying dividends. Like many of the other speakers he recognised the huge value of local support in the success of the project; in this case 'Save our Serpent', and the strength of feeling that threats to valued local landscapes can raise.

This theme was elaborated upon by **Rowan Moore**, architecture critic of *The Observer*, the author of 'Slow Burn City' and a student of context in time and place, as he considered the conundrum of spaces that were simultaneously both private and public, especially in London. What exactly did we mean by public civic space, either hard, urban and corporate like 'More London', or softer and greener like Hampstead Heath? And what were we to make of some even stranger hybrids, such as the garden in the sky on top of the 'Walkie Talkie' building in the City or the now abandoned project for a garden bridge across the Thames? His thesis, that landscapes had to have meaning and significance for people at the present time, otherwise they become orphaned green spaces, was traced forward from

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the very early campaigns to protect open spaces like Epping to the present-day campaigns, such as the successful campaign to keep Camley Street Natural Park at Kings Cross.

On the regulatory side, **Roger Bowdler**, director of listing at Historic England (HE), brought us up to date on registering historic parks and gardens and the relationship between that and the listing of buildings and battlefields, developed since the failure of the Heritage Bill to be enacted in 2010. Since June 2016 the NHLE was being 'enriched' by the moderated addition of information and photos solicited from the public, and encouraging the compilation of local lists. He described some of the 20th-century sites whose significance has already been recognised by being put on the NHLE. This includes sites whose significance has been upgraded as a result of thematic studies, such as the German Military Cemetery at Cannock, Staffordshire, opened in 1967 and raised to Grade I in 2009.

**Richard Flenley**, one of the original three directors of Land Use Consultants in 1970 (from which he formally retired in 2011), took a long view. While the life cycle of buildings might now be only 20 years, landscapes can take 200 years to mature. The post-war experience of both industrial decline and regeneration included important experiments in large-scale restoration of damaged landscapes, 'brownfield' sites and derelict land, which presented opportunities as well as challenges. These initiatives included the far-seeing and publicly beneficial provisions of the 1968 Countryside Act, which enabled hundreds of country parks to be created, some now threatened by a decline in public resources. He described the work of the derelict land programme, the necessity for which was tragically underlined by the disaster in 1966 at Aberfan, in south Wales, and praised modern examples of land reclamation, as at Bedfont Lakes, on landfill in west London, and at Northala Fields in north-west London. We live in the age of the car, which demands great adaptability and flexibility.

**Elain Harwood**, an architectural historian with Historic England specialising in the post-war period, looked at examples of landscaped public housing and new universities. How were they faring? And who created their landscapes before local authorities employed landscape architects? Aesthetically speaking, perhaps the

most successful and celebrated was Alton West, in south-west London, where LCC architects in 1950 had integrated slab blocks, inspired by Le Corbusier and Scandinavian public housing, in the surviving remnant of a sweeping 18th-century landscape designed by 'Capability' Brown.

By contrast, **Deborah Evans**, with a background in practical horticulture as well as the historic environment, considered the difficulties of applying criteria of significance to post-war plantsman's gardens, 'plants without architecture'. The characteristics of such a garden might be ephemeral or could be re-imagined contrary to the original design intent, perhaps after the creator's death, as had happened, she suggested, at Knighthayes Court, in Devon. Is the present approach of the HE designation criteria in the rural landscapes selection guide too limited? Does the survival of a historic planting scheme or plant collection serve only to add interest to, or upgrade, a site on the NHLE? Could plants be protected in the way that fixtures and fittings are in listed buildings? Within the current designation system there remain some specific problems for 20th-century plantsmen's gardens, not least of which is the '30-year rule', as a result of which ephemeral gardens may have disappeared by the time their significance is recognised. They may be threatened by the lack of specialist knowledge needed to recognise their special qualities as well as the need to observe them in every season of the year.

This presentation and others provoked a number of questions that had common themes; conflicting interests still need reconciliation, between the so-called natural environment and the designed, and the importance of local involvement and education. The process of designation has to be underpinned by research, understanding and communication in order to achieve true protection.

This conference and the launch of the Trust's campaign are parts of a continuing conversation on the role, significance and, ultimately, the protection of 20th-century designed landscapes, both urban and rural. Over the last 20 years this has included:

- 'Gardens and Landscapes 1930–2000', Garden History Society and Twentieth Century Society conference, Kew Gardens, March 1998
- *Context* 65, March 2000, 'The 20th-century

- landscape: heritage or horror' by Peter Wakelin
- **Garden History**, 28:1, Summer 2000, 'Reviewing the 20th-century landscape: defining philosophy and significance' edited by Jan Woudstra and Cristiano Ratti
  - 'Post-war Gardens and Landscapes in the UK: A provisional history for the post-war period'. Draft by David Lambert, March 2002
  - 'Important figures in post-war British public landscapes and their works', 10 November 2007. Study day held by the Garden History Society at the Geffrey Museum. At that time there were approximately 16 post-war landscapes on the Register of Parks and Gardens.
  - 'Landscape of the recent past: conserving the 20th-century landscape design legacy', Proceedings of the DOCOMOMO ISC Urbanism + Landscape Conference, April 2011, exemplified by Paper 9 'Conserving landscapes of the recent past: Increasing our understanding of key problems, roles, initiatives and required action' by Dr Jan Haenraets. His objective was to share information about conserving and protecting landscapes of the mid and late 20th century, and thereby raise awareness of key issues and make expertise available.
  - 'From Garden City to Green Cities', exhibition and lecture series at the Garden Museum, 2011–12. The topics ranged from reinventing the pleasure garden for the 1951 Festival of Britain to modern sports parks, housing and public-private spaces. The lectures were sponsored by the Landscape Institute, the Twentieth Century Society, the Garden Museum, and English Heritage.
  - Historic England Register of Parks and Gardens Selection Guides: urban, rural, commemorative and institutional landscapes, 2013
  - 'Eastern Promise', Association of Gardens Trusts Conference, September 2013, organised by the London Parks & Gardens Trust, about public landscapes in east London.

I found the day's conference very heartening, not least because I had been one of the speakers at the GHS study day ten years ago. The 2017 conference was an object lesson, telling us that good ground work and persistence are having valuable, profound and long-term effects, with the result that designed landscapes of the recent past are finally gaining recognition as significant heritage assets. This comes, sadly, too late for

either Frederick Gibberd's water garden at Harlow, whose significance as the centrepiece of the New Town's civic landscape has been irremediably compromised by being moved to make way for additional car parking and retail space, or for Sylvia Crowe's elegant landscape in front of the Commonwealth Institute in London, which was destroyed during the redevelopment of the site in 2009–16. But then again, speaking as one of those who tried to protect these landscapes in the planning process, on the basis of their undoubted heritage significance (they were both on the Register after all!), I'm afraid we still have some way to go in the face of counter-arguments based on short-term economic gain.

These days, of course, the quality of work that was achieved by local authorities in the generation after the Second World War is no longer financially or politically feasible; the glory days of the LCC architect's department are a distant dream. We must look now to the private sector and the commercial world for development of comparable quality, as for instance at Stockley Business Park, west London.

The launch of the Gardens Trust's campaign will have a practical value that was only dreamed of ten years ago. Many congratulations must go to all who are acting in practical ways to realise this aim, the Gardens Trust, Historic England, independent landscape consultants, and Karen Fitzsimon and the other organisers of the conference and the campaign. My only doubt arises from the fact that we seem to be preaching too much to the converted; there were very few representatives of the planning and development world, whose different priorities make them notoriously hard to reach, but they need to hear the message that heritage can bring added economic value; a point now often made and particularly well expressed by Historic England in 'Heritage and the economy', 2017.

The deadline for submitting candidate sites to the campaign, 'Compiling the Record', has been extended to 31 December 2017, [thegardenstrust.org/compiling-the-record/](http://thegardenstrust.org/compiling-the-record/)

The Gardens Trust and Historic England will review the suggestions, compile an initial shortlist of 50 sites and establish a panel of experts to assess their potential for registration.

**See also Karen Fitzsimon's update article on the campaign on pages 5 & 6.**

## agenda

# The Gardens of North East Scotland Study Tour, 30 June to 6 July

Report by Dick Knight

Our Aberdeen-based tour benefited from team leadership, with **Bill Brogden** contributing scholarship and extensive local knowledge to complement **Kristina Taylor's** excellently planned and executed series of visits, for each of which she had generated considerable preparatory reading material. The week took in private, local authority and Scottish National Trust properties, new developments as well as a rescue in progress, marvellous formal gardens and properties with lush herbaceous borders, all in a region with particular gardening challenges which include very long days in a short summer, a risk of frost on higher ground from September to the start of June, and, at some locations, quite precipitous terrain within the garden.

Our visits regularly offered evidence that Aberdeen and its region, although relatively inaccessible by land, had since time immemorial been a hub of maritime trade (just as it is today, thanks to oil) with links extending to Scandinavia, Germany and the Netherlands, as well as simply along the coast. This, then, is a city and hinterland with a strong identity distinctly different from the romantic Highland image shaped and promoted by the Victorians, and long pre-dating the latter.

Three locations we visited were marked by ruined castles, **Tolquhon** (1420 onwards), **Kildrummy** (built by around 1250) and **Edzell** (16th century). By this last period some landowners felt sufficiently secure and prosperous to create or expand homes which, whilst ostensibly defensive, were designed for comfortable living, with a pleasure garden; a *pleasance*, to use the Scottish term. At Edzell there are sculptured panels in the 'Pleasaunce' walls with motifs derived from German prints, and no doubt an awareness of formal gardens such as the Villa d'Este could have come from prints or from friends' and relatives' travels. At Tolquhon too we saw traces of pleasure grounds with yew and holly avenues and bee-boles. The Kildrummy gardens, by contrast, date from the early 1900s, created within the quarry which had provided stone for the original castle and subsequently for a house (now a hotel) and bridge.

It is surprising that so many formal gardens survive in this part of Scotland, although those

at **Pitmedden** are in fact an imaginative 1950s 'recreation' by the NTS of those established by Sir Alexander Seton in 1675. The Trust itself now sees the renewed gardens as a *pastiche* [see also p28, or indeed Haddo, below], but it is surely a magnificent one, its success helped by the perfection of its gazebos and other hard features. It is, of course, anything but low-maintenance; but the NTS surely feels it needs to invest in labour at showpieces like Pitmedden and Crathes, also on our itinerary, which has a team of full-time gardeners with specific areas of responsibility, as well as ten part-time volunteers, to care for the splendid, extensive, largely 19th-century hedged and walled gardens (with some early 18th-century topiary features).

At **Drum**, the Trust established a new Rose Garden in 1991, the design of which was educational inasmuch as each of its four quarters contained roses and other plants characteristic of a particular century, 17th through to 20th. Money for its upkeep appears now, though, to be tight.

The parterres on the terrace at **Haddo House**, shown on early OS maps, have quite recently been recreated, and should provide a focal point for garden visitors within a wider landscape which somehow struggles to convey its original magnificence (in spite of a grand lime avenue) and is in part 'just' a country park.

At **Fyvie**, an initiative to boost visitor numbers by creating a new Scottish Fruit Garden is laudable and interesting but the actual design was somewhat compromised due to constraints



Dick Knight

The walled garden, or 'Pleasaunce' at Edzell, c1605

imposed by access to a neighbouring non-NTS part of the estate.

Our tour necessarily focused principally on gardens, but a comment has to be made in passing about the houses at these properties. Only Palladian Haddo was a wholly new house, built from scratch in the 1730s to a design by William Adam; an earlier tower house nearby was demolished at the same time. Bizarrely, though, Haddo was given a 19th century makeover, allegedly to please a particular bride, so that the interior was modified but then treated to Victorian 'faux Adam' interiors, and a Gothic revival chapel was added at the end of one wing. Drum, Crathes and Fyvie all evolved as buildings over long periods of time, with the finishing 'baronial' touches being added by the Victorians. At least one of these might merit the description carbuncle, to borrow a term from the owner of another property we visited.

The baronial style of country house seems part and parcel of the fashion for the Highlands, tartan, bagpipes, Landseer and all, writ large at Balmoral thanks to the involvement of Prince Albert in its design, and recurring in scaled-down versions as hunting lodges, or holiday homes. Not all of these buildings lack appeal. **Glenkindie**, for instance, is utterly charming, with an Arts and Crafts feel thanks to additions (c1900) complementing earlier 18th-century elements. But pity the poor gardener. This is a property a thousand feet up that apparently only shooting parties make use of, perhaps without noticing the efforts to maintain, by hand-clipping, the wonderful topiary shaped as chess pieces, saluting soldiers, figures from Alice's adventures, and so on. Who, apart from us, will have seen the garden in summer?

**Balmoral** and, nearby, the Duke of Rothesay's Birkhall are similarly properties 'at altitude' which in their own way are also holiday homes, challenging the gardeners to bring the grounds to perfection at times which may not best suit particular plants. We had to judge Balmoral on the basis of a walk around the lawns, vegetable garden, and planting around the house and service buildings. Were we to stay there, we would surely better appreciate the wider designed landscape, with its exotic conifers planted by the Prince Consort, and mountain vistas.

**Birkhall** is very different, being a far more modest house dating from the 18th century,

somewhat enlarged by Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, who used it as a summer residence and developed the gardens she and her husband, then Duke of York, had begun in the 1930s. Her grandson Prince Charles took over the property in 2002. The garden has humour, in the Bouncy Bridge (suspended over the River Muick), and must be a joy for children, with its 1930s heather-thatched Wendy house, secret paths, stumpery, and touches of folly. Its owner's favourite area is apparently the developing Four Seasons arboretum across the river, designed to bring autumn colour at the time when he is most likely to be in residence. One should add that a real delight of the garden is the constant sound of flowing water.

After these places that await their owners' visits, it is good to look at some where the owners are very much in constant residence. The Arbuthnotts have been on their spot, where **Arbuthnott House** stands, for over 800 years. The family home may seem somewhat understated but has ceilings with quite marvellous 17th-century plasterwork. The designed landscape was laid out at the end of the 18th century, and the



Dick Knight

Hand-clipped topiary at Glenkindie

gardens nearest the house have sloping paths and beds to obviate the need for costly terracing. **House of Formartine**, within the Haddo estate (see above) is a new home for Lord and Lady Aberdeen, built in 1994/95 in the walled garden established in 1820 by an earlier generation of the family. Modernity is epitomised by the two robot lawnmowers, Henrietta and Hermione from

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Scandinavia. At **Pitmuies** the Ogilvies have since 1945 continued a 300-year gardening tradition at a property retaining 16th-century elements, with the overwhelming flower borders along narrow grass paths (as well as the wider landscape) cared for on a closely-controlled budget by Jeannette Ogilvie and one helper.

Our tour took place in midsummer, and the weather was rather kind to us. But we can imagine an Aberdeen winter, during which the city's David Welch Winter Garden in **Duthies Park** must seem like paradise. With 300,000 visitors a year it is Scotland's third most popular, and is indeed on a grand scale. We marvelled at many of its delights, including stupendous hanging baskets along a pelargonium corridor. We might

not return in winter just to enjoy this, but another visit to this area in some years' time would have to include **Elton Castle Garden**, where a local group of Friends have managed to extract significant and ongoing funding from a housing developer to support the retrieval of a 'lost' garden with the aim of creating a public park. A highlight of the place, which has an impressively massive terrace wall, is a mini-forest of huge ancient yews.

Our thanks go to Kristina and Bill for a splendid week. **Christopher Dingwall** deserves special mention for his appearances at several locations. Thanks also to all those custodians of historic gardens: property owners, gardeners and managers (too many to name individually) who contributed to our learning and enjoyment.

## A man out of time?

Emma Isles-Buck

When a garden designer dies do they just leave the gardens they designed, the plans and endless client notes behind? In the case of Anthony du Gard Pasley the answer is simply, no.

The two essential strands, the man and his work are woven cleverly together in this tribute. Pasley was an exceptionally gifted designer, seemingly born with a vision of how a landscape could be worked. He joined the offices Brenda Colvin and Sylvia Crowe in 1950, as a paying apprentice. Both these women were pioneering and in some cases revolutionary, landscape architects of the post war period. During the day he learnt from them, in the evening he studied under Geoffrey Jellicoe amongst others, at the University of London. In 1997 he gave a humorous and informative address to the Garden History Society conference which outlined his career to date, some of the characters he had met and the gardens he had designed, which is reproduced in the book.

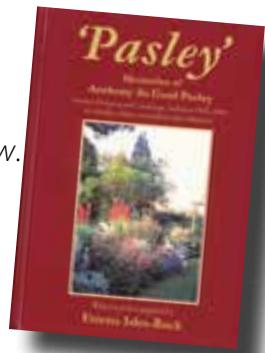
Pasley was at one time a colleague of John Brookes, Michael Laurie and Rosemary Alexander amongst others and by all accounts was a charismatic, popular tutor of landscape architecture and garden design at the Inchbald School of Design, the Canterbury School of Architecture, Wye College and the English Gardening School. Throughout his career he wrote copiously on various aspects of gardens and gardening for *Country Life*, *Garden Design*

*Journal* and the *Architectural Review*. Some of his articles regarding gardens he designed are in the book along with many good photos and plans.

A few of the gardens he designed are open to the public; the most notable of these is Pashley Manor in Ticehurst, Sussex, some of the others are members of the NGS and so open occasionally. He worked on both a grand scale and very small, always according to his design principles, usefully described and illustrated. He worked in the UK and in Europe often staying in touch with the development of his designs and clients for many years. His sense of the role of volume in design and how a garden belonged both to the landscape and to the house was exceptional.

One of his many other talents was renovating houses, if only to suit his own needs, and filling them with many Victorian and Edwardian artefacts that he had collected over the years. His cousin said of him that 'he had 3-D vision and could easily have been an interior designer', a comment supported by Jacqueline Duncan, Dean of the Inchbald School of Design who is also an amusing contributor to the book.

A devout bachelor, a charming eccentric, Pasley was instantly recognisable not only for being impeccably dressed for every occasion but also



# The Gardens Trust

for his impeccable manners. He had a strong desire for privacy which comes across in the book as does the deep regard he was held in by many, both in the world of garden design and outside it.

'*Pasley'* **Memories of Anthony du Gard Pasley, Garden Designer and Landscape Architect, 1929–2009** by friends, clients, ex students and friends. Compiled and written by Emma Isles-Buck. At £16 + p&p from independent book shops; Bailey Hill, Castle Cary 01963 350917, Halls of Tunbridge Wells 01732 547531 and Barnetts of Wadhurst on 01892 783566

## News and events from Yorkshire

Our cover shows Humphry Repton's original watercolour for the frontispiece of Peacock's *Polite Repository* for 1794. Patrick Eyres adds: this and all of Repton's illustrations of Yorkshire sites for the *Repository* will be published, courtesy of the Gardens Trust, in the forthcoming book by Patrick Eyres and Karen Lynch, *On the Spot: the Yorkshire Red Books of Humphry Repton, Landscape Gardener*, which will also reproduce the extant Red Books, courtesy of their owners, in Spring 2018. To reserve a copy, please email: patrickjeyres@gmail.com

## Repton in Yorkshire (and beyond)

**Saturday 24 March.** Yorks GT AGM at Rudding Park with speaker **Stephen Daniels** on Repton; 200 years to the day since Repton's death...

**Tuesday 8 May.** Yorks GT and Yorkshire Philosophical Society Joint Annual Lecture, York. **Patrick Eyres** on *Repton in Yorkshire*, and launch of new book **On the Spot** by Patrick Eyres and Karen Lynch.

**Saturday 12 May.** Lecture by **Patrick Eyres**, in Edinburgh for SGLH, and the Scottish launch of **On the Spot** by Patrick Eyres and Karen Lynch.

**Wednesday 23 May.** Yorkshire Gardens Trust visit to Mulgrave Castle.

To book a place(s) at any of these events please follow the links from our website.

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## GT events diary 2017 and 2018

Tuesday 28 November	Historic Landscapes Assembly, Birmingham
Friday 1 December	Members Meet-up, Lancaster
Sunday 31 December	'Compiling the Record' extended closing date for nominations
Monday 22 January	Members Meet-up, Cambridge
Wednesday 24 January	London Lecture: Pete Smith on the gardens of Wollaton Hall, Notts
Wednesday 31 January	London Lecture: Professor Stephen Daniels on <i>Revealing Repton: Approaches to the Art of Landscape Gardening</i>
Wednesday 14 February	London Lecture: Shirley Evans on William Andrews Nesfield
Thursday 15 February	Members Meet-up, Dorset
Wednesday 28 February	London Lecture: Susan Campbell on Queen Victoria's Kitchen Garden at Windsor
Wednesday 14 March	London Lecture: Maria Luczak on <i>Rivington Terraced Gardens</i>
Thursday 15 March	Bath Lecture: Professor Stephen Daniels on <i>Revealing Repton...</i>
26 March to 8 April	Study Tour: Japan Gardens, Osaka, Hiroshima and beyond
Wednesday 18 April	Birmingham Lecture: Maria Luczak on <i>Rivington Terraced Gardens</i>
Wednesday 2 May	New Research Symposium proposal and Annual Essay Prize closing dates
Saturday 12 May	Garden visit to Rivington Terraced Gardens, Bolton
1 to 2 June	Conference: The Prophet in his own Country, 3 Repton gardens in Norfolk
1 to 3 June	Oxford Rewley House Study Weekend: Wonders & marvels
4 to 10 June	Study Tour: Designed Landscapes of northern Denmark
Saturday 30 June	Annual pic-nic at Wicksteed Park, with Northamptonshire GT
5 to 11 August	Study Tour: Gardens of Northern Ireland
10 & 11 August	Celebrating Humphry Repton, Conference at Ashridge, Hertfordshire
1 & 2 September	<b>Annual General Meeting and New Research Symposium in Birmingham</b>
Wednesday 26 September	Birmingham Lecture: Professor Stephen Daniels on <i>Revealing Repton...</i>

Details and booking information for all these events can be found inside on pages 17 to 24, or look at our website: [www.thegardenstrust/events](http://www.thegardenstrust/events) for updates

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**GT news** correspondence and items to The Gardens Trust head office, headed **GT news** or email the editor Charles Boot: [news@thegardenstrust.org](mailto:news@thegardenstrust.org)

**Please make a note of our new publications schedule**

**GT news deadlines: 14 February, 14 May & 14 October,**

**distribution: mid March, mid/late June with Summer Journal & mid November with Winter Journal**

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