CBF Email to CGTs 18/12/15

Dear County Gardens Trust Capability Brown Festival Contact, (PLEASE LET US KNOW IF THIS EMAIL WOULD BE BETTER SENT TO ANOTHER CGT MEMBER!)

Some of you may already have heard on the grapevine that we have recently received the unexpected news that, thanks to the Getty Foundation, The Gardens Trust is able to employ us for an extra shared day/week on top of our usual Historic Landscape Project work to support County Gardens Trusts in your involvement with the Capability Brown Festival, working under the guidance of Kate Harwood, who has already done so much to bring us to the eve of the 2016 celebrations. We see this as very good news and hope that you do too – it is certainly testimony to the key role that CGTs are seen as having in the Festival.

It seems to us that both you and the Festival team are knee-deep in exciting initiatives for next year, and if we can oil the wheels of communication between everybody then hopefully County Gardens Trusts will be able to benefit from the Festival as well as continue to contribute invaluably. We all know that this is our chance to attract a general public’s interest not only in Capability Brown but in other historic parks and gardens too. But we must make sure that we also use this opportunity to gather interest and momentum for our CGTs too. We realise that this is no easy task, especially coming on top of all the hard work you’ve already contributed in difficult circumstances, but hope that we can help with this.

We promise not to spend 2016 pestering you for things, but you’ll appreciate that to get us started we need to gather some information. (Apologies if this duplicates information you’ve already sent to Kate, CBF or PGUK, but this is a concerted and final effort to pull it all together now that all the jigsaw pieces are finally in place !) There is absolutely no need to reply to this until after Christmas, but we would be very grateful if in due course you could please spare a minute to let us know:

1. What, if any, Capability Brown events your CGT is planning for next year.
2. What, if any, Capability Brown research your CGT has carried out or is planning to carry out.
3. What, if any, Capability Brown publications your CGT is planning for next year.
4. Are funding or resource issues preventing you from any Brown activities?
5. Finally, of course, are there any specific Capability Brown niggles that we can help you with?

That’s quite enough from us, as Christmas is definitely calling! We’ll be back in touch early in 2016, but in the meantime we were quite inspired by the below random sample of Brownish CGT activities that are already in the pipeline, listed at the bottom of this email – many many thanks and congrats to those CGTs listed. Do please contact Laura Smith at the CBF team if you have anything to add ([Laura.Smith@capabilitybrown.org](mailto:Laura.Smith@capabilitybrown.org)), or let us know if you need a little help putting something together.

With very many best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year,

Caroline and Linden

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***Historic Landscape Project Officers working with The Capability Brown Festival on behalf of The Gardens Trust***

***The Historic Landscape Project is a The Gardens Trust initiative, with funding from Historic England***

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www.thegardenstrust.org / [www.facebook.com/historiclandscapeproject /](http://www.facebook.com/historiclandscapeproject%20/) Twitter: @leapthehaha

***Access extensive support materials at the HLP Resource Hub via*** [***http://www.gardenstrusts.org.uk/hlp.html***](http://www.gardenstrusts.org.uk/hlp.html)

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* **Bedfordshire Gardens Trust’s Luton Hoo Study Day**

A joint study day with the Luton Hoo Estate on 'Capability Brown Walled Garden', 6th April.

<http://www.capabilitybrown.org/event/luton-hoo-estate-and-bedfordshire-gardens-trust-study-day-capability-brown-walled-garden>

* **Buckinghamshire Gardens Trust at the Chalfont St Giles and Jordans literary festival**

Leading BGT members Claire de Carle and Sarah Rutherford will be speaking at the literary festival on Capability Brown and Chalfont Park.

http://www.capabilitybrown.org/event/capability-brown-and-chalfont-park

* **Cambridgeshire Gardens Trust’s national conference and TGT AGM weekend**

‘Lancelot 'Capability' Brown 300 years on: A celebration of his life and work in Cambridgeshire’, 2-4th September 2016.

<http://www.capabilitybrown.org/event/conference-lancelot-capability-brown-300-years-celebration-his-life-and-work-cambridgeshire>

* **Hertfordshire Gardens Trust exhibition on Welwyn Garden City**

An exhibition at the New Maynard Gallery on the development of the Welwyn Garden City landscape across the centuries, January 2016.

* **Kent Gardens Trust’s ‘A Day at Chilham Castle’**

Two lectures, an exhibition and a walk around the garden of Chilham Castle, 21st August 2016 at 10:30am.

<http://www.capabilitybrown.org/event/capability-brown-kent>

* **Lincolnshire Gardens Trust’s array of events**

Including a Brownian Midsummer Garden Party at Hainton Hall, 19th June.

http://www.capabilitybrown.org/event/brownian-midsummer-garden-party

* **Suffolk Gardens Trust’s ‘Capability Brown in Suffolk’ study day**

Lectures and walks at Heveningham Hall, 15th July 2016.  
<http://www.capabilitybrown.org/event/capability-brown-suffolk-study-day>

* **Yorkshire Gardens Trust’s exhibition ‘Noble Prospects: Capability Brown and the Yorkshire Landscape’**

The first ever exhibition dedicated to the Yorkshire landscapes of Lancelot 'Capability' Brown (1716-1783), 25th July to 11th September.

http://www.capabilitybrown.org/event/noble-prospects-capability-brown-and-yorkshire-landscape

And not forgetting those CGTs who have already done fabulous Brown work in advance of 2016!

* **Isle of Wight Gardens Trust and the Appuldurcombe Heritage List entry:** IoWGT have contributed to the newly amended Register entry for Appuldurcombe.

<http://services.historicengland.org.uk/webfiles/GetFiles.aspx?av=7DCCF5EF-CF5D-4986-A7EA-7EC7A7066EFB&cn=A1792BAB-33C3-42F0-9BFE-0F8BC64E3FED>

* **Essex Gardens Trust’s new book:** *Lancelot Brown and his Essex Clients* - <http://www.essexgardenstrust.org.uk/publications.html>

… many thanks to **Northumbria Gardens Trust** for getting us all in the mood back in July 2015 with their tour around Brown’s Hulne Park at Alnwick as part of the 2015 AGT/GHS AGM weekend!