

**Historic Landscape Project Email update for CGTs,
October 2017**



Dear CGT Chairs, main contacts and HLP mailing list,

As you know, the Historic Landscape Project is the Gardens Trust's capacity building project for County Gardens Trusts, with funding from Historic England. In an effort to keep the County Gardens Trusts up to date with the HLP's key messages and information we want to share, but not to bombard you with numerous emails, we are trying a new system. We're grouping everything into one email update, sent to you perhaps four times a year. We hope this works better for you.

You can expect to find here 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. Information about Gardens Trust visits, talks and conferences will not generally be included here but is readily available on the Gardens Trust website <http://thegardenstrust.org/>.

Although this update is aimed principally at those who are actively volunteering for their CGT in some way, we are more than happy for it to have a wider audience, so please do forward it on far and wide, to anyone who may have in interest. You'll also be able to find this, and previous email updates, on our Resource Hub, under 'Networking', at <http://thegardenstrust.org/conservation/hlp-hub/>.

So, what have we been up to over the summer, and what's going to be happening next?

GT Annual Conference and AGM, Plymouth

It was good to see many of you at this year's conference in Plymouth, which was so fantastically organised by the GT's Events Committee and 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.



Admiring the astonishing view of Plymouth, from Mount Edgcumbe

We were all really delighted to see the GT's own Charles Boot receive the Volunteer of the Year Award for his dedication to the GT's publications.



Charles Boot, receiving Volunteer of the Year Award from GT President, Dominic Cole

HLP NETWORKING EVENTS:

Members' Meet Ups

We are now taking bookings for this year's four Meet Ups. These one day events are free to attend and are open to members of any CGT and the Gardens Trust, no matter where in the country they are held. Each meeting will include updates from CGTs on their conservation, education and research and recording work; as well as a guest speaker from an external heritage organisation. Meet Ups have a friendly and informal atmosphere and all attendees are encouraged to chip in.

Upcoming Members' Meet Ups are as follows:

- The Quaker Meeting House, Lancaster, 1st December 2017;
- Cambridge Botanic Gardens, Cambridge, 22nd January 2018;
- The Butterfly House, Sherborne Castle, Dorset, 15th February 2018;
- The Gallery, Cowcross Street, Farringdon, London, March 2018 (date TBC).

You can find further details on our attached events flyer. Please contact me if you would like to book a place. Tickets are free, but we are asking for a donation of £7.00, payable on the day, towards lunch and refreshments.

Historic Landscapes Assembly

Tuesday 28th November, The Birmingham and Midland Institute, Birmingham



Emmetts Garden, Kent, the day after the Great Storm

©NTPL/Mike Howarth http://www.bbc.co.uk/kent/content/image_galleries/1987_great_storm_gallery.shtml?28

Tickets for the Assembly are selling fast! To get yours, please book via Eventbrite, at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/gardens-trust-historic-landscapes-assembly-tickets-37276845047>. Tickets are only £12 – a bargain for this day-long CGT and heritage organisation networking event which, this year, has an additional evening book talk and signing by Tamsin Treverton-Jones, author of 'Windblown: Landscape, Legacy and Loss, The Great Storm of 1987'. It was great to see Tamsin on the BBC News this week, on the anniversary of the Storm (and, strangely enough, the day we were experiencing the gusty winds and yellow skies of former hurricane Ophelia!).

You'll also be treated to:

- Updates from the Gardens Trust on the Capability Brown at Risk Report; Celebrating Repton 2018; and a campaign to record mid to late 20th Century landscapes;
- Updates from Historic England, Natural England and P&GUK;
- Case studies of conservation and research and recording projects from two CGTs;
- Dominic Cole, President of the Gardens Trust, speaking about the legacy of the 1987 Great Storm.

Please see the attached programme for further details.

If your CGT would like to distribute any promotional material at the event, please let me know. To place any non-CGT promotional material, please get in touch with Maz Oakley at maz@hall-McCartney.co.uk.

Historic Environment Forums

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 (possibly from Devon, Wiltshire, Gloucestershire and Somerset) to the next one, in Chippenham in December. I'll be at

the East Midlands HEF, in Nottingham, on 8th November. Please do let us know if you can come along with us, or 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 would like to find out more. Thank you.

HLP 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 2nd 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.

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A Public Parks Crisis Training Day, April 2018 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.

Resource Hub

As ever, keep an eye on our Resource Hub, which you can find on the Gardens Trust website at <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 Gardens Trust and external heritage organisations, on all aspects of designed landscape research, conservation and education.

Recent additions include:

- 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 – see 'Guidance' – 'Conservation Casework Log'
- Additions to the 'Training' section, including presentations and handouts from our research and recording training day at Hodssock Priory 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.

Website Forum

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 click here <http://thegardenstrust.org/conservation/forum/>. Don't forget to check the Forum every now and then and to seriously consider it as a means of answering your CGT-related questions.

A few problems with registering on the Forum have been reported to us and we're working to sort these out. If you've experienced any problems, please let our new Communications Officer, Susannah Charlton know, at susannahcharlton@thegardenstrust.org.

Cheerleading, Championing, Celebration: Repton 200

From Linden Groves, Strategic Development Officer for the Gardens Trust

Next 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 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, has set up Repton social media and other communications tools (susannahcharlton@thegardenstrust.org); Kate Harwood has kindly agreed to act as CGT Repton research coordinator (kateharwood@thegardenstrust.org); Alison Allighan has added to her Conservation Casework Manager workload to wrangle the Repton administration (repton@thegardenstrust.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@thegardenstrust.org



Reptonites at our October networking meeting were raring to go!

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 28th 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 **#TGTweeklylist**, which will hugely increase awareness of planning issues, both within CGTs and beyond. The Tweets link to our resource hub <http://thegardenstrust.org/conservation/hlp-hub/cgt-guidance/> , allowing you to easily check for cases which might affect your region (see 'Conservation Casework Log' in the Guidance section of the Hub).

OTHER HISTORIC DESIGNED LANDSCAPE EVENTS AND CAMPAIGNS

You can find information about all the Gardens Trust's events and campaigns on our website, at <http://thegardenstrust.org/> . We would, however, like to draw your attention to the following GT initiatives, which may be of particular interest:

Gardens Trust Family Picnic 2017

Wollaton Hall, Nottingham, Saturday 11th November, 1-3.30pm



This year's GT Family Picnic will be hosted by Nottinghamshire Gardens Trust, in the beautiful parkland of Wollaton Hall. Bring the whole family for a chance to meet up with members of other CGTs. The day will include:

- Traditional garden games with Hahahopscotch
- A tour of the gardens and Camellia House, with Erika Diaz Petersen
- Free hot drinks and biscuits in the Courtyard Café (it's a bit too chilly for an actual picnic!)

This is a free event and there's no need to book. See the attached flyer for more details.

Calling Garden Historians!

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

From Virginia Hinze, Gardens Trust Board Member and Chair of Events Committee

The Gardens Trust is running a campaign: '**Compiling the Record': the Essential mid to late C20 Landscapes**. Urgent! We need your nominations by 31 October! In partnership with Historic England we are looking for important designed landscapes from the 1960s to the mid-1990s with potential for assessment for registration on the National Heritage List for England (NHLE) where they are woefully unrepresented.

To date our Campaign has received 48 nominations; a rough breakdown of typologies shows you have nominated 21 cemeteries, 8 gardens but only 18 sites in the more public domain of country park, civic, commercial, institutional, sport and housing landscapes. The geographical spread is uneven too, dominated by the South and Midlands: only 4 sites are in the North or North East! Speakers at our springboard Conference last May 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 occasion, complete loss.

As garden historians you might well have encountered some of these landscapes on your travels. So, push back the cobwebs and have a good think: do you know of just such a landscape? Can you take 5 minutes to nominate it to the Campaign?

The landscapes most likely to make the grade should have:

- 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 here [Compiling the Record](#) for you to provide the basic information we need to know:

- the name and address of the site
- what it is - and to help you decide a LIST OF CATEGORIES OR TYPOLOGIES is provided on our website at [Compiling the Record](#)
- 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 DEADLINE for submitting your form(s) is 31st October 2017. The Gardens Trust and Historic England will review the sites, compile a shortlist of 50 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](#)



Three eras of the Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe designed Hemel Hempstead Water Gardens ~ built 1962; decline 2012; restored 2017. A registered C20 designed landscape. Copyright MERL/LI for 1962 black & white image. Credit to HTA Design LLP for 2012 & 2017 colour images.

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, Linden lindengroves@thegardenstrust.org or Margie margiehoffnung@thegardenstrust.org.

Best wishes,

Tamsin

Tamsin McMillan
Historic Landscape Project Officer