

## Historic Landscape Project Email update for CGTs

WINTER 2018

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. We are supported by Historic England and are delighted to announce that we have just been awarded another two years' funding from them.

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 grouping everything into one (occasionally rather lengthy!) email update, sent to you perhaps four times a year.

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/>.

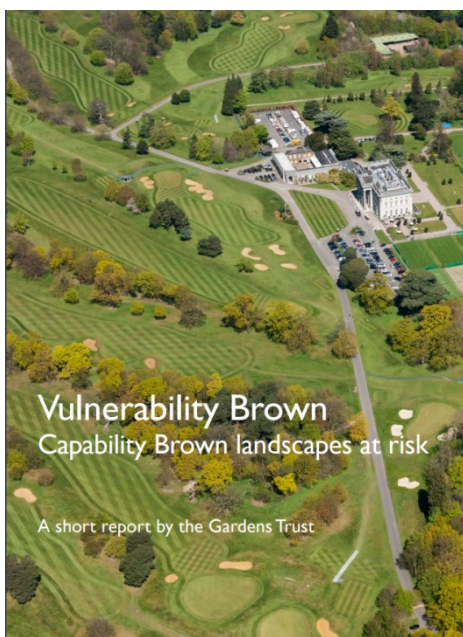
Although this update is aimed principally at those who are actively volunteering for their CGT in some way, we are more than happy for it to have a wider audience, so please do forward it on far and wide, to anyone who may have in interest. You'll also be able to find this, and previous email updates,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

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

### HLP NETWORKING EVENTS:

#### Historic Landscapes Assembly, Birmingham

We were delighted that our second annual Historic Landscapes Assembly, held at the Birmingham and Midland Institute on 28<sup>th</sup> November, was so well attended, not only by representatives from 25 CGTs but also by 21 external heritage organisations. Attendance has grown by 25% since last year's inaugural Assembly in London: the Assembly is truly becoming the fantastic networking opportunity we hoped it would be.



Highlights included:

- The launch, by GT Trustee David Lambert, of the GT's new report, *Vulnerability Brown*, which examines the pressures, including from planning applications, mineral extraction, and neglect, which threaten many of the 200 or so surviving 'Capability' Brown landscapes. The report makes clear how CGTs can get involved in protecting these precious landscapes, by making their research and understanding of these sites' significances available to those striving to conserve them.
- An update from Karen Fitzsimon about the GT/HE *Compiling the Record* initiative, which seeks to address the lack of 20<sup>th</sup> century designed landscapes on the National Heritage List for England. Nominations for new registration have poured in from across the country. These will be reviewed by Historic England and some will go on to be Registered.

- Jenifer White, National Landscape Adviser for Historic England, updated us on numerous policies and initiatives, including the aims for HE's 2017-20 Corporate Plan <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/he-corp-plan-2017-20/>, which, we were heartened to hear, continue to include support for capacity strengthening programmes such as our own Historic Landscape Project. Jenifer gave thanks to CGTs who, by providing invaluable research and understanding of significances, have played a huge part in getting 14 new historic designed landscapes added to the Register of Parks and Gardens over the last year. She reported that there are 96 parks and gardens on the latest Heritage at Risk Register, published October 2017. Happily though, this figure represents a 15% reduction in sites on the HAR register, achieved partly by HE having awarded £10.5 million in grant aid to 260 projects. Jenifer underlined how much HE values its partnership with the Gardens Trust and County Gardens Trusts, working together to protect historic designed landscapes.
- Elaine Willett, Natural England's Senior Historic Environment Adviser, told the conference about NE's role as the Government's statutory advisor for the natural environment, conserving and enhancing the landscape including parkland, which has a huge amount to offer in pursuit of the goals of NE's Conservation Strategy for the 21st century (Conservation 21) to protect nature and landscapes [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/562046/conservation-21.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/562046/conservation-21.pdf). We also heard the latest on DEFRA and NE's agri-environment schemes.
- Volunteers from CGTs inspired us with their descriptions of recent work and planned endeavours. Sally Miller described how Hampshire Gardens Trust used their research at Bramshill Park, a police staff college until 2014, to successfully influence a large and complicated planning application there. Beryl Lott (Lincolnshire Gardens Trust) and Christine Addison (Northamptonshire Gardens Trust) described a joint research and recording project for which the five East Midlands CGTs are currently preparing and HLF bid. This project, which seeks to reach and train new audiences, will produce statements of significance of unregistered parks and gardens in the region. Initially, a two year pilot project will examine urban parks, country parks and other landscapes which are freely open to the public.



- One of the key themes of the Assembly was the legacy of the Great Storm of 1987. Dominic Cole (left), President of the Gardens Trust, examined some of the positive aspects of the storm, which proved to be a catalyst in the way in which we think about landscape management and conservation and even opened up significant funding streams for work within historic landscapes. Our evening session speaker, author Tamsin Treverton Jones, took a more personal look at the storm, about which she has written *Windblown: Landscape, Legacy and Loss, the Great Storm of 1987*. This new

book describes how her father, artist Terry Thomas, created the Kew mural, from wood which had fallen at Kew during the storm.

Presentations and further notes from the Assembly can be found on our resource hub at <http://thegardenstrust.org/conservation/hlp-hub/networking-materials/>.

## Members' Meet Ups

We're now right in the middle of our Meet Up season, which runs from December to March. 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 includes 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.

Since we launched our Meet Ups last year, as a replacement for Regional Forums, interest in these networking opportunities has really grown and we were very pleased to welcome 20 attendees, from six CGTs, to our Meet Up in Lancaster on 1<sup>st</sup> December; and 20 individuals from eight CGTs to our Cambridge event, on 22<sup>nd</sup> January. The former session included research into Thomas Mawson landscapes in Lancashire; dealing with planning appeals (Shropshire); and the Yorkshire Gardens Trust's schools group; and an introduction to the work of the Heritage Trust Network, by guest speaker Benjamin Parker. In Cambridge, we were treated to useful advice on researching and publishing books (Norfolk Gardens Trust); planning issues in Lincolnshire; and Cambridgeshire GT's varied educational schemes, catering for all ages and levels of interest.



There are two Meet Ups still to come this year:

- The Butterfly House, Sherborne Castle, Dorset, 15<sup>th</sup> February - NOW FULLY BOOKED.
- The Gallery, Cowcross Street, Farringdon, London, 22<sup>nd</sup> March. This event will include presentations on London Garden Squares Weekend; the Isle of Wight's Historic Environment Action Plan; and advice on seeking HLF funding for CGT projects.

Please contact me if you would like to book a place on the London Meet Up. Tickets are free, but we are asking for a donation of £7.00, payable on the day, towards lunch and refreshments.

## National Meet Up for CGT Chairs

In March we are running an additional Meet Up in London, specifically for Chairs of the County Gardens Trusts to discuss issues critical to the management of their Trusts. We look forward to some lively discussions!

## Historic Environment Forums

As you know, Margie and I have been looking for volunteers to represent their region's CGTs at Historic Environment Forums organised by Historic England <http://www.theheritagealliance.org.uk/historic-environment-forum-2/>. These occasional meetings (about four a year) offer a wonderful opportunity for CGTs to network with other heritage organisations, keeping themselves up to date with regional heritage conservation and management issues and growing the profile of CGTs at the same time.

We still need volunteers for three regions: the North-East, North-West, and East.

If you'd like to find out more, please get in touch with me or Margie.

### **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.

'We were recently delighted to be asked to deliver a day on **'Sustainable Strategies: Managed Parks and Gardens' for UCL's MSc Built Environment: Sustainable Heritage**. There were approximately 20 students not only from the UK but also India, China and Greece, so it was a fantastic opportunity to share skills across generations and continents. Generic versions of these course materials are now available for you to access and reuse in the Training Materials section of the Resource Hub <http://thegardenstrust.org/conservation/hlp-hub/training-materials/>

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; Chris Gallagher, Historic Landscape Consultant, on dealing with planning appeals; and Kate Harwood, of Hertfordshire Gardens Trust, on her long-running involvement with planning issues at Panshanger.

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 we still have a few places left. Please email me to reserve a space.

**A Public Parks Crisis Training Day, April 2018** will be held in Northampton, 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 Erika Diaz Petersen, HE Heritage at Risk Landscape Architect for the East Midlands; 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, or to receive more information once we have secured a venue.

### **ONLINE RESOURCES:**

#### **Resource Hub**

We regularly update our Resource Hub, located 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:

- Presentations from Members' Meet Ups in Lancaster and Cambridge
- Presentations and notes from this year's Historic Landscapes Assembly
- Support materials for CGTs planning Repton bicentenary events – see 'Campaigns and Celebrations' – 'Humphry Repton 2018 Materials'.

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 Trust's knowledge and experience.

### **Website Forum**

Got a CGT-related question or problem you think another CGT could help with? Then register for the GT's online Forum, at <http://thegardenstrust.org/conservation/forum/>. The more people who use the Forum, the greater the resource it will become.

### **Conservation Casework Log**

Our Conservation Casework Manager, Alison Allighan (on the right, with Barbara Moth, Cheshire GT), has joined us at two of our networking events, the Historic Landscapes Assembly in Birmingham and Members' Meet Up in Lancashire, to demonstrate the GT's updated online Conservation Casework Log (comprising over 20,000 cases, dealt with by the GT and CGTs since 2001) to volunteers involved in planning.



Alison is extremely pleased that so many have shown an interest in the Log: nine CGTs are now able to access the log and search for data. London, Devon, Lancashire, Sussex, Avon and Staffordshire CGTs have also been given the necessary additional access, and with ongoing support from GT staff, and are now starting to add their own consultation responses and new cases.

If you'd like to find out more about the Log, please contact Alison at [conservation@thegardenstrust.org](mailto:conservation@thegardenstrust.org).

### **Social Media**

Thanks to those of you who have been following the HLP on Twitter and Facebook. We will shortly be merging our social media accounts with those of the Gardens Trust, and shutting down the HLP accounts. We find social media invaluable for letting you know about all our training and networking events, so please do make sure that you Like and Follow them, so that you can continue to receive our news. The GT's Twitter account is @thegardenstrust and you can find the Facebook page here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/950605768331048/about/> – just click the 'Join Group' button.

## **In Raptures over Repton**

*From Linden Groves, Strategic Development Officer for the Gardens Trust*



## **A LIFE IN LANDSCAPES *from* PAGE TO GARDEN**

twitter @humphryrepton or facebook <https://www.facebook.com/HumphryRepton/>.

In the few months since I last updated you, the Humphry Repton bicentenary celebrations have exploded in the most fabulous ways. Any day now we will be launching an online Events calendar to showcase the hundreds of Reptonian activities to enjoy this year, from County Gardens Trusts, to Repton sites, to national organisations such as the Royal Horticultural Society and Heritage Open Days. Back in January, the Gardens Trust hosted a meeting for Repton researchers at which some 35 delegates shared all kinds of fascinating tidbits (watch this space for some previously unrecognised Repton sites!), prompting Repton author Professor Stephen Daniels to declare that he had learnt more about Repton in that one hour than ever previously. Do keep an eye on [www.humphryrepton.org](http://www.humphryrepton.org), or follow us on

In a new exciting development, the Garden Trust is delighted to announce that it has now been successful in winning a Heritage Lottery Fund grant for an additional Repton-based project. Running through to the end of 2019, 'Sharing Repton' will firstly deliver five different activities at five different Repton sites around the country using local volunteers and aimed at including participation from local communities. It will additionally create an infrastructure of skill sharing, guidance materials and training workshops with a view to other groups being able to roll out this sort of local community event in the future.

To be added to the mailing list for updates on the Repton projects, please email [repton@thegardenstrust.org](mailto:repton@thegardenstrust.org).

## **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 campaigns and initiatives, which may be of particular interest:

### **In austerity Britain, people need parks**

As part of the Gardens Trust's ongoing involvement in the future of public parks, it seems appropriate to reproduce here GT Trustee David Lambert's letter to The Guardian, 25<sup>th</sup> December 2017 <https://www.theguardian.com/travel/2017/dec/25/in-austerity-britain-people-need-parks> :

*Funding for public parks is being cut off just when they are needed more than ever to combat the stress of surviving in austerity Britain, says the Parks Agency.*

*The quietly announced news that the Heritage Lottery Fund is closing its Parks for People funding programme comes as a shock. It should be a matter of huge concern, not only to the 90% of families with children who visit their local park at least once a month, but to all who care about the wellbeing of our towns and cities. Since it was set up in 1996, the programme has transformed hundreds of urban parks from no-go areas to thriving community assets, paying not just for repairs to bandstands, lakes, paths, gates and other features but also for new cafes, toilets, play areas and funding for new staff.*

*Austerity has hit parks departments particularly hard. As a non-statutory service, parks have been in the frontline of the cuts since 2010, with budgets falling on average by 40% – and in some cases by far more. Newcastle upon Tyne has seen a 90% fall, resulting in unprecedented plans to transfer the city's parks to a charitable trust. Elsewhere, councils such as Knowsley are selling*

*parks for development to fund future maintenance. Users have seen the impact in terms of loss of staff, reduced tidiness and increases in antisocial behaviour. Politicians, of course, have not. Now the one dedicated source of funding for public parks has been cut off without warning. The HLF will continue to fund parks but in competition with other, elite, forms of heritage – and that will mean less money available. Money aside, the signal this decision gives that parks are marginal, or do not matter, could not be worse timed or further from the truth. Research by the HLF has revealed that by 2020 parks will be in a worse state than they were in the mid-1990s when HLF began its funding.*

*Good-quality parks are needed more than ever to combat the stress of surviving in austerity Britain, and the loss of Parks for People is another lurch into a spiral of decline which this time could prove terminal for many places.*

By David Lambert, Dr Stewart Harding, *The Parks Agency*; Ian Baggott, *Communities First Partnership*; Dr Anna Barker, *University of Leeds*; Matthew Bradbury, *The Parks Alliance*; Professor Robert Lee, *The North West Parks Friends Forum*; Dominic Liptrot, *Lost Art*; Anna Minton, *author*; Peter Neal, *consultant*; Paul Rabbitts, head of parks, *Watford borough council*; Dr Sid Sullivan; Professor Ken Worpole  
*The Parks Agency, Stroud, Gloucestershire*

### **ICOMOS Survey of Garden and Landscape Heritage Education**

Peter Goodchild, of Yorkshire Gardens Trust and the GARLAND Trust, is working with the landscapes and gardens committee of ICOMOS-UK on a survey to identify the range of educational provision currently available in garden and landscape heritage and identify where improvements need to be made. Please see the attached documents for further information.

If you know of any such courses, at any level, including school, adult education, and continuing professional development, Peter would be grateful if you would contact him, at [peter.goodchild@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:peter.goodchild@yahoo.co.uk) It is crucial that we address the loss of such courses as without them, we will have a severe future deficit in skilled gardeners, landscape historians, landscape managers and conservationists, and our parks and gardens will suffer as a result.

### **Gardens, parks and tree management stars sought as Custodian Awards 2018 opens for entries**

*Horticulture Week*



Entries are open for the Horticulture Week Custodian Awards 2018 - the leading industry Awards scheme supporting, encouraging and broadcasting excellence in the professional management of the UK's gardens, parks, grounds and trees.

Horticulture Week is delighted to welcome The Gardens Trust as partner for the Custodian Awards which seek to ensure the outstanding achievements of the UK's gardens, parks and tree professionals are recognised by customers, clients and stakeholders.

Management achievement is honoured in the Horticulture Week Custodian Awards, with categories celebrating outstanding work across all areas of activity including restoration and redevelopment, on-going management and maintenance, partnership working, volunteer and community

engagement, and more. And don't forget **as a member of The Gardens Trust, you are entitled to a 10% discount on the entry fee**. Simply enter code: HWCA10 during checkout to claim this discount.

*You can find more details of the Custodian Awards attached to this email.*

### **Heave-ho (and off we go!), Gardens Trust Family Picnic 2017**

*From Jason Mordan, Chair, Nottinghamshire Gardens Trust*



Nottinghamshire Gardens Trust proved it's not just 'Park Run' that use historic parklands for fun and exercise as we had a fantastically energetic afternoon in November with some of our 'friends' (and soon to be future members we hope!), hosting the Gardens Trust's annual Family Picnic in the wonderful setting of Wollaton Hall. The traditional fun and games provided by Hahahopscotch kept all ages warm, as we ran, skipped, jumped and pulled ourselves into a parkland frenzy. Followed by a relaxing 'cool down' tour of the gardens and Camelia House that provided for a splendid vista across the lawns and lake as the afternoon sun made a special appearance right on cue. Refreshments for young and the 'not so young' at the stables tea room finished the afternoon nicely and ensured we all left with a warm glow that inspirational landscapes and good company invariably deliver. We look forward to the next family fun event (I am working on perfecting my egg and spoon technique in anticipation).

*The Gardens Trust Family Picnic is an annual event, at which the Gardens Trust supports a County Gardens Trust to run an afternoon of inclusive fun for their members and other guests, with garden history-themed children's entertainment provided free-of-charge by Hahahopscotch. The 2018 GT Family Picnic will be held at Wicksteed Park with Northamptonshire Gardens Trust, to mark Humphry Repton's bicentenary. If you would be interested in your CGT or site hosting a Family Picnic, do get in touch with the Education and Events Committee Co-Chair Virginia Hinze at [vchinze@aol.com](mailto:vchinze@aol.com).*

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

In partnership with Historic England, the Gardens Trust has been 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. Karen



Fitzsimon, of the Gardens Trust Events Committee, made a presentation about the campaign to our Historic Landscapes Assembly, in Birmingham on 28th November. Historic England launched their social media campaign for the project in early December. The nomination period closed on 31st December and 111 nominations have been received. HE is now taking the campaign forward to the next stage and more information can be found on their website at <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/apply-for-listing/listing-priorities/modern-gardens-landscapes/>.

### **Parks and Gardens UK**

Philip White, CEO of Hestercombe Gardens Trust, which now houses P&GUK, has been keeping us updated about improvements to the database. After some frustrating delays, Hestercombe were finally able to access the database in June last year. They have employed an experienced network developer who has copied the original website onto a new server and is currently moving the database onto a new, cloud-based platform, which should ensure its security for the foreseeable future. Volunteers are being recruited to re-enter as high resolution images over 4000 photographs which had been uploaded to the site.

Philip anticipates that the transfer of the database will soon be completed and then work will start on a replacement website. Until that is up and running – hopefully by early summer – the old website will continue to function. P&GUK can now receive and upload new data from CGTs but, as this will go onto the new database, it will not be able to be consulted until probably May or June.

### **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).

Best wishes,

Tamsin

**Tamsin McMillan**  
**Historic Landscape Project Officer**