



Historic Landscape Project Email update for CGTs

No. 5, SPRING 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, with funding from Historic England. In an effort to keep the County Gardens Trusts up to date with the HLP's key messages, but not to bombard you with numerous emails, we group our news into one email update, sent to you four times a year.

Those of you who have received our previous updates will notice that this one is considerably shorter. This is because we are now concentrating solely on the activities of the HLP, with all other news of events and campaigns from the Gardens Trust and external landscape heritage organisations being covered in **a new, Gardens Trust E-Newsletter**.

As ever, you can find information about Gardens Trust visits, talks and conferences 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 an interest. You'll also be able to find this, and previous email updates, on our Resource Hub, under 'Guidance', <http://thegardenstrust.org/conservation/hlp-hub/cgt-guidance/>

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

HLP NETWORKING EVENTS:

Members' Meet Ups

These one day events are free to attend and are open to all 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 main speaker from an external heritage organisation or CGT. Meet Ups have a friendly and informal atmosphere and all attendees are encouraged to chip in. *Do please encourage your members who are not actively volunteering to come along too and learn more about the varied and valued voluntary work undertaken by CGTs.*

On 15th February, we held an astonishingly well-attended Meet Up at **The Butterfly House, Sherborne Castle, in Dorset**. 33 attendees came, from seven CGTs. It was quite a squeeze, amongst the potted lemon trees in the orangery! Chris Archibald told us about his wide-ranging review of public parks in Gloucestershire, for Gloucestershire Gardens and Landscapes Trust; we heard from Graham Linecar about SCAPPS' (the Southampton Commons and Parks Protection Society) successes in influencing planning policy to prevent inappropriate development in and around parks; and Sarah Fitzgerald updated us on the numerous and varied conservation and restoration projects which have benefitted from Dorset Gardens Trust's Small Grants Scheme. External speakers, Philip White and Daniele Agostini, of Hestercombe Gardens Trust, gave us the happy news that work to update and improve the Parks and Gardens UK database is progressing well and it is hoped that new research contributions from CGTs will be able to be uploaded this summer (see below, for more on PGUK).



A sample of SCAPPS' planning successes in Southampton

Our Meet Up in **The Gallery, Cowcross Street, London**, on 22nd March attracted 19 attendees, from six CGTs. Helen Monger, Director of London Parks and Gardens Trust, described the immense amount of preparation required to prepare their annual Open Garden Squares Weekend: more than 900 volunteers, 202 gardens, 27 local authorities and, last year, 45 000 visitors! **This year's event is on 9th-10th June**, more details at <http://www.opensquares.org/2018/home/index.php>. Jonathan Sharpe, of Painshill Park Trust, Surrey, described the severe threats to Painshill's Grade I Registered landscape posed by the planned changes to the M25 and A3 roads. Vicky Basford, Research Officer for the Isle of Wight Gardens Trust, told us about their production of an Historic Environment Action Plan (HEAP) for the island. This included detailed research on 14 designed landscape categories and the report is now helping to steer the activities of the Trust, as well as informing local planning authorities.



Jonathan Sharpe, updating us on the campaign to protect Painshill

Discussion at both events was wide-ranging but a few highlights emerged, which are of interest or concern to many of you, including:

- the skills shortage in the horticulture sector – the loss of horticulture courses and the problem of horticulture too often being seen as a poor career choice;
- the difficulty of recruiting the next generation of volunteers, particularly those willing to help with planning responses.

You can find presentations from these events on the Networking section of our Resource Hub, at <http://thegardenstrust.org/conservation/hlp-hub/networking-materials/>.

Due to popularity of our Members' Meet Ups, we will be extending the season and number of events, holding one every couple of months from this summer to March 2019. Our draft programme is as follows:

- June/July 2018 Meet Up in Sheffield (including an update on 'Sharing Repton', the GT's HLF-funded community heritage project);
- September 2018, in Warwick;
- November 2018, in Newcastle;
- January 2019, in Grantham (to include a presentation by the Woodland Trust);
- and March 2019, in Hampshire.

We'll send out the full programme as soon as it is finalised and you'll also be able to find information on our website at <http://thegardenstrust.org/events-archive/>. Tickets are free, but we ask for a donation of £7.00, payable on the day, towards lunch and refreshments.

HLP TRAINING DAYS:

Our **Public Parks Crisis Training Day** was held at Abington Park Museum, Northampton, on 26th April. Public parks historians David Lambert and Katy-Layton Jones took us through the background to the crisis, including the joyful, HLF-funded renaissance of the 1995-2010, to the current crisis, during which many parks are forced to manage on little or no funding. Erika Diaz Petersen, HE Heritage at Risk Landscape Architect for the East Midlands, described the help offered by the Heritage at Risk Programme. The Friends of Abington Park led a tour of the park, where their ongoing hard work was much in evidence, and we finished up with some practical advice and inspiring examples of the many triumphs achieved by CGTs in helping to protect and enhance the parks in their county.

Thanks to our expert speakers, enthusiastic audience and wonderfully energetic Friends of Abington Park, this at times upsetting wake-up call left delegates fired up and armed with the tools and determination needed to help protect our underfunded and underprotected public parks.



You can find presentations and handouts from the day on our resource hub.

The final part of our three part **Planning Training Package – the 'Full Monty'** was scheduled for 2nd March at the Goods Shed in Tetbury, Gloucestershire. Unfortunately, on this day Gloucestershire experienced the heaviest snowfall of the year and we had to postpone the event. We are trying again on 11th June, when hopefully the weather will be on our side!

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. You will leave this session knowing all you ever wanted to about the UK planning process and armed with the tools you need to protect vulnerable landscapes. This is a free event and we still have a handful of places left. Please email me to reserve a space.

Keep an eye on the events page of our website for **other training events** coming up in 2018-19. These will include

- Training workshops with our Conservation Casework Manager, Alison Allighan, on using our online Conservation Casework Log. If you'd like to find out more about the Log, please contact Alison at conservation@thegardenstrust.org .
- Part one of our three part Planning Training Package, in Yorkshire
- A hands-on training day with the Woodland Trust, this autumn.

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:

- Networking: presentations and notes from our Dorset and London Members' Meet Ups
- Training: presentations and handouts from our Public Parks Crisis Training Day
- Guidance – Charity Management: new advice for CGTs on GDPR requirements

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

Don't forget to use the GT's new online forum if you have a CGT-related question or problem you think another CGT could help with. Register here <http://thegardenstrust.org/conservation/forum/> and help to make this a really great resource.

Social Media

Remember to follow us on Twitter (@thegardenstrust) and Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/950605768331048/about/>). 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 us, so that you can continue to receive our news.

OTHER NEWS:

Buckinghamshire Gardens Trust: *Enriching the List*

Clare Butler, a Buckinghamshire Gardens Trust volunteer, has just completed a mammoth and painstaking exercise, adding links to BGT's research dossiers (which cover nearly 50 sites researched since 2014! See <http://www.bucksgardenstrust.org.uk/locally-important-sites/>) to over 120 listed building entries on the National Heritage List, as part of the *Enriching the List* project. This is a great way to not only share your research and increase awareness of historic designed landscapes, but also to raise the profile of your own CGT. You can find more information on this, including suggested wording for your entry, on our Resource Hub at Guidance – Research and Recording.

Parks and Gardens UK



P&GUK are now seeking feedback from CGT research and recording volunteers. They are updating their research recording form (attached) and would welcome your suggestions on how this could be improved.

It would be helpful if you could you organise your responses so that each CGT nominates one representative to send feedback to P&GUK. P&GUK is seeking individual responses from either two or three volunteers per CGT, or a summary of feedback from one or more person per CGT. Please send your comments to Daniele Agostini daniele.agostini@gmail.com as soon as you are able.

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

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