



GHS *news*

93 Spring 2014

THE GARDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

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There is no room for our normal **other events** and **other news and views** sections in this edition, but they will return in **GHS news 94 Summer 2014**, later this year

Copy deadlines

for *micro-news 93a* — 10 May
for *GHS news 94* — 1 August

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news

From the editor

This issue was intended, at least in part, as a tribute to Mavis Batey and Ted Fawcett, the two figures who above all, for me, exemplified the combination of scholarship and friendliness that have enabled the GHS to, nearly, reach its half century. I hope you will agree that it serves that purpose.

Our cover showing the recent flooding across the view at Rousham seems an appropriate way of remembering both of our friends; it was one of Mavis's favourite places, indeed one of the last she wrote about between these covers, and we all know how Ted would have enjoyed the watery scene, wringing the maximum humour out of the situation.

I apologise that this *news* has come out a bit later than scheduled; the recent bad weather caused the catastrophic failure of my computers and internet connection. So it may be that the *news* is not quite its normal self, but I hope you enjoy it anyway.

Charles Boot

Merger between the GHS and the Association of Gardens Trusts?

Garden History Society (GHS) members and County Gardens Trusts (CGTs) are invited to give their views on the possibility of a merger between the GHS and the Association of Gardens Trusts (AGT).

The GHS, founded in 1965, brings together all those interested in garden history in its various aspects. The GHS has approximately 1300 individual members, organises lectures, study days, etc. for its members and publishes a Journal and newsletters. The GHS is a statutory consultee, i.e. local planning authorities have to consult the GHS for their views on the impact of planning applications on gardens

Membership enquiries and applications to:
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The Society gratefully acknowledges
the support of Alan Baxter and Associates

Our cover: the flooded view from the terrace at Rousham on 8 February 2014, photo by Charles Boot

and designed landscapes included in the English Heritage Register. The AGT, formed in 1993, is the national umbrella body for the 36 CGTs covering England and Wales. The CGTs are independent charities undertaking survey and research, planning and conservation and educational activities in their local area and organising lectures, garden visits and other activities for their members. The CGTs undertake the majority of the casework, responding to planning applications referred to the GHS as statutory consultee.

Since 2011 the GHS, the AGT, Parks & Gardens UK and the Garden Museum have been committed to working in partnership. In particular the GHS and the AGT have been investigating the issues and steps towards a possible merger. In 2013 the GHS Council and the AGT Committee of Management agreed to set up a joint Merger Project Board. The Project Board has produced an interim report, now available on the GHS and AGT websites, which GHS members and CGTs are encouraged to read and comment upon.

The aims of a possible merger would be to create a stronger, more efficient and effective national organisation, which would:

1. speak with a more powerful voice for the protection of parks, gardens and designed landscapes
2. be an internationally regarded centre of excellence in the study of garden history
3. play a key garden conservation role in the planning system as a statutory consultee
4. provide more resources to support and strengthen the local activity of the CGTs.

The Project Board's interim report sets out the potential advantages and benefits of a merger and the potential disadvantages and risks. The Project Board believes there are a number of possible benefits to a merger. Of particular note is the potential strength of a new national organisation, which could be more robust than either the GHS or the AGT individually, coupled with a potentially stronger and more supportive link between the national body and the CGTs. The interim report outlines the options for a merger and some of the costs. The Project Board proposes that an in principle decision to merge or not should be taken at the AGMs of the GHS and AGT in July and September 2014.

To inform the discussion at the AGMs the Project Board will write a final report. Comments from

GHS members and CGTs on the interim report will be considered in preparing the final report.

The interim report can be read on the GHS and AGT websites. Comments from GHS members should be sent to Jeremy Garnett, GHS Honorary Secretary at: enquiries@gardenhistorysociety.org. Hard copies of the interim report are obtainable to GHS members from 70 Cowcross Street, London, EC1M 6EJ. Comments from CGTs should be sent to Mike Dawson, AGT Vice Chairman at: mike.dawson@mcrobie.org.uk. Comments should be received by Monday 14 April 2014.

4th Graduate Symposium, at Cardiff deadline extended: Monday 5 May, 2014 Friday 25 July 2014

We have extended the deadline for scholars to submit a 200-word proposal for a paper whose subject is unpublished. The aims of the Graduate Symposium underpin those of the GHS as a whole by providing a professional forum for the presentation of new research in the field of garden history and an opportunity for scholars to hone presentation skills, as well as encouraging those whose research subjects are as yet unpublished.

Symposium papers must be no longer than 20 minutes (approx. 2,000 to 2,500 words). Scholars in all disciplines are encouraged to submit, and in any subject relating to garden history will be considered. Full details in *micro-news 92a* and on our website. Applicants must now submit to: enquiries@gardenhistorysociety.org by **Monday 5 May**.

10th Annual Essay Prize deadline: Wednesday 30 April, 2014

The Tenth Annual Garden History Society Essay Competition is open to any student registered in a *bona fide* university or institute of higher education, or any student who has graduated from such an institute in the past twelve months.

The prize was established to encourage vibrant, scholarly research and writing. Over its ten years of existence our Essay Prize has more than fulfilled this aim. Initially the late Pippa Rakusen made a generous donation to the GHS to launch the prize as a way of further fulfilling our educational remit and to bring new talent forward. NFU Mutual then supported the prize for a further five years, and more recently a generous anonymous benefactor has enabled us to fund both the Essay Prize and the popular and

news & GHS events

well-attended Graduate Symposium. Without such generous donors it would be difficult to extend our reach in this way and so to all of them, many thanks.

Submissions must be 5000–6000 words and the only restriction on subject matter is that it must be of relevance to garden history. The prize includes an award of £250, free membership of the Society for a year and consideration for publication in our

peer-reviewed, scholarly journal *Garden History*. All previous winners have been accepted for publication and often the best of the non-winning entries are invited to submit to the journal.

Application forms can be downloaded from the GHS website: www.gardenhistorysociety.org and entries can be submitted up to and including **30 April 2014**.

GHS events 2014

Daffodil Stories

Noel Kingsbury

GHS Winter Lecture series

6.30 pm, Wednesday 26 March,

The Gallery, 70 Cowcross Street

There are some 23,000 varieties of daffodil — and you can have any colour you like so long as it's yellow (or white). How come we ended up with so many? Aren't they all alike? Why breed more?

The recent book by plantsman Noel Kingsbury looks at the story behind our most popular spring flower and the quaintly arcane world of the daffodil breeders, past and present.



Celebrating George London (1640 to 1714), one half of a great gardening duo Research and Recording Study Day at Melbourne Hall, Derbyshire with The AGT and Derbyshire GT 9.45am to 4.30pm, Wednesday 9 April

The London and Wise Nurseries at Hampton Park were the centre of excellence for plant sourcing in the 17th and early-18th centuries. They supplied plants in huge numbers for the intricate *allée* and wilderness schemes of the times and enabled designs of extreme complexity to be planted. These designs of George London and Henry Wise were nearly all swept away by the passion for the 'natural' landscape of the later part of the 18th century.

Melbourne Hall is a wonderful survivor. The layout was a collaboration between London and Wise and the owner Thomas Coke. Coke was heavily involved in the theatre of the early eighteenth century and the garden reflects his own personality.

Melbourne Hall may be well known to you but there is still much to discover about this lovely House and Garden. The morning and afternoon talks will be held in the lecture room in the Visitor Area.

Speakers are: **Gill Western**, Curator at Melbourne Hall, on **Melbourne Hall: The history of the house and family**; **Richard Wheeler**, national specialist in garden history for The National Trust, on **George London: His Life and Work**; and also on **George London and Henry Wise: Their impact on the landscape of Melbourne Hall and legacy**. To be followed by a guided tour of Melbourne Hall Gardens, and tea.

Cost: £45, includes coffee/tea, lunch, guided tours of the garden and afternoon tea. Early booking is advisable. To book a place on the Study Day please complete the booking form, available on our website. If you wish to pay by BACS you will need to reserve a place first, please email Teresa, the AGT Co-ordinator: gardenstrusts@agt.org.uk or phone: 020 7251 2610 to make a reservation.

Garden History Society in Scotland Annual General Meeting & Lecture The Falls of Clyde:

A Designed Landscape at the crossroads AGM 6pm; Lecture 7.15, Wednesday 14 May

Following the AGM, **Professor Mark Stephens** will provide a lay interpretation of the Bonnington Estate that makes up part of the Falls of Clyde Designed Landscape. He will argue that if the proposals to destroy much of it through quarrying can be defeated, its regeneration could unlock its potential for greater popular understanding of its

history and significance. Mark Stephens is Chair of Save Our Landscapes and Professor of Public Policy at Heriot-Watt University.

AGM: 5.30 registration for 6pm start, Lecture: 7pm registration for 7.15 start. At: The Orwell Room, Riddle's Court, 322 Lawnmarket, Edinburgh, EH1 2PG. For more information see website.

**Chelsea Fringe
Arcadian Themes:
A gentle meander along
the Thames riverside
from Strawberry Hill to
Twickenham**



**with London Parks and Gardens Trust
2 to 4pm, Saturday 17 May**

Led by **Chris Sumner**, Garden Historian, and **Sally Williams**, Keeper of the *Inventory*, London Parks and Gardens Trust, the walk will begin at Strawberry Hill, the extraordinary gothic house which Sir Horace Walpole commenced building in 1747. Both house and garden have recently undergone a major restoration. The walk will continue through Radnor Gardens and then trace what remains of the gardens of Pope's Villa before reaching Twickenham, its riverside gardens and the gardens of York House.

Please note that the interior of Strawberry Hill house, though open to the public, is not included in this event, nor is Pope's Grotto which may be visited on one of the open days in July.

Meet at 2pm, in front of Strawberry Hill House, Waldegrave Road, Twickenham TW1 4ST. Transport: Train to Twickenham, Strawberry Hill or Richmond then bus. Bus: 33, R68.

**Gardens and the Enlightenment
Annual Rewley House Study Weekend
Friday 6 to Sunday 8 June**

Our annual study weekend at Oxford's Rewley House, will explore varied aspects of garden making in the context of the ideas of the Enlightenment: advances in science and technology, new ideas of nature and social and philosophical issues. Subjects will include gardens in France and Germany as well as Britain.

Friday 6 June

Registration and Dinner followed by **Professor Tim Mowl**, Professorial Research Fellow in History of Architecture & Designed Landscapes, University of Buckingham, on *From Eclecticism to Neo-Classicism: Gardens of the Enlightenment in Eighteenth-Century England*

Saturday 7 June

Speakers are: **Christopher Dingwall**, Lecturer and Heritage Consultant, on *Luminaries and Landscapes of the Scottish Enlightenment: A Northern Perspective*; **Dr Caroline Dalton**, Research Fellow, Author and Lecturer on *From Empiricism to Romanticism: The Enlightenment Landscape at Blenheim*. Lunch is followed by an afternoon tour of **Blenheim**. After Dinner, **Michael Symes**, Author, Lecturer and Garden Historian, on *Enlightenment and the French Garden*.

Sunday 8 June

Our speakers are **Jessica Tipton**, Research Student, on *Princess Dashkova's love of Le Jardin Anglais: anglophilia or gallophobia?*; and **Axel Griesinger**, Architect and Historian, on *German gardens and the Enlightenment*; followed by lunch.

Accommodation for this weekend is at Rewley House for Friday and Saturday nights only. Cost, from: £139. Contact: ppdayweek@conted.ox.ac.uk quote course code: O13P206LHR, or phone: 01865 270 380 for more details.



Cruickshank Botanic Garden

**Visit to Cruickshank Botanic Garden
and Tillyprone, Aberdeen
Saturday 7 or Sunday 8 June**

In the morning **Mark Paterson** will follow his spring lecture (13 March) with a tour of the Cruickshank Botanic Garden (*above*). In the afternoon we will visit the Victorian gardens of Tillyprone.

See the website for more details.

**Abberley Hall and Witley Court visit
with Hereford and Worcester GT
10.30am to 4.30pm, Wednesday 11 June**

Abberley Hall and Witley Court have teamed up to organise a day out at two of Worcestershire's finest

GHS events

gardens. Visit Witley Court in the morning and enjoy a tour of the garden with Head Gardener, **Richard Squires**, followed by lunch in the Witley Court Café, to be followed by a tour of the garden at Abberley Hall, given by local historian, **Jo Roche**, including the newly restored Pulham Water Garden.

To book a place, please contact Jo Roche: 01299 832 666 or email: jomaro312@gmail.com. Numbers are limited.

Warley Place and Thorndon Hall, Essex with London Parks & Gardens Trust 10.30am to 5pm, Thursday 3 July

Warley Place was the home of Ellen Willmott (1858–1934), 'our greatest woman gardener' according to Gertrude Jekyll. In her heyday she employed 104 gardeners and grew 100,000 varieties of plants. At the time of the last visit by the GHS in March 1997 the 16-acre garden was being managed by Essex Wildlife Trust for the benefit of wildlife and the lease was due for renewal. Its owner would have liked Warley Place to have been managed by a garden organisation to take care of the garden heritage aspect, but no garden heritage group had the courage or resources to take this challenge on. A conservation plan was a prerequisite for managing the garden for the benefit of wildlife and conserving Ellen Willmott's garden heritage. After very lengthy discussions Essex Wildlife Trust was granted a long lease for 33 acres at Warley Place and now regularly features Warley Place as a showcase nature reserve. Come and see how this important garden is managed for wildlife and the encouraging progress made in bringing its garden history back to life. **Ailsa Wildig**, for long involved with its garden history management and former Chair of Essex Gardens Trust, will be our chief guide around the site.

Nearby Thorndon Park is a large tract of woodland and pasture owned in its various parts by Essex County Council, Essex Wildlife Trust and the Woodland Trust. The 15th-century deer park and ensuing sizeable Elizabethan walled garden and orchards around the old hall began to be restyled in 1733 by Bourginion, in a largely formal but complex style at the behest of 8th Baron Petre. Baron Petre was a botanist, famous for introducing many species of plants from North America, through the services of John Bartram, and grew tropical fruits in colossal hothouses or 'stoves'. His untimely death at 29 left his son still an infant. On reaching adulthood the 9th Baron commissioned Paine to design a Palladian



Private collection

*Portrait of unidentified lilies
Autochrome by Ellen Willmott, c. 1900s*

mansion some distance to the north of the old hall, while Capability Brown and Richard Woods redesigned the landscape, although retaining some of its aspects within their informal layout, including many of Lord Petre's trees. The house suffered fire damage, and then major reconstruction in 1976 with conversion into flats. The Petre chapel from 1854, now owned by the Historic Chapels Trust, has been recently restored and we hope to visit it too. Changes in fortune led to the selling off of the land and the resultant multi-ownership. Our guide, **Sarah Green**, now working for the National Trust in Wales but previously with Essex County Council and Essex Gardens Trust, will interpret the fascinating palimpsest of landscapes for us.

We shall assemble at Warley Place at 10.30. It is situated in the village of Warley, Essex, two miles south of Brentwood, just behind the Thatchers Arms pub, where there is limited car parking space available. Rail travellers are recommended to catch the 9.30 from Liverpool Street, arriving at 10.07 at Brentwood Station, where there are taxis. The day should end by 5pm, and involves quite a lot of walking in conditions requiring robust footwear.

Lunch will be at the Thatchers Arms before we move to Thorndon Park.

Price, to include lunch: £35 per head. Please contact Robert Peel at: rma.peel@btopenworld.com or: 020 7121 8938, for further details and Booking Form.

The Garden History Society Annual General Meeting, Cardiff

3pm, Friday 25 July

A prelude to the Great War AGM & Annual Conference, Cardiff Friday 25 July to Sunday 27 July

Most of the gardens we visit have major features, if not their entirety, designed between the end of the 19th century and the outbreak of WWI.

The conference will be based at the University of Cardiff's University Hall and Conference Centre in the city's Penylan district, 3 miles from the railway station and with good communications by car from the east. It is within walking distance of Roath Park. En-suite single room accommodation will be provided with normal conference facilities for the AGM, lectures and meals. See the enclosed Booking Form for full prices and details.

Thursday 24 July

The optional visit will be to **Tredegar House**, South Wales' premier Carolingian house. An orangery overlooks the 18th-century walled gardens containing trained fruit and herbaceous borders and a restored mineral parterre. The larger landscape retains 17th-century elements and an 18th-century sinuous lake with plantings of more recent date featuring numerous Wellingtonias, *Sequoiadendron giganteum*. The management of Tredegar House and gardens has recently been handed over by Newport Borough Council to the National Trust. Our guide will be **Richard Wheeler**, the Trust's specialist in garden history. A coach will leave from the university campus but those coming by car might like to meet us there at 3.15pm since it is conveniently located close to exit 28 on the M4 for those driving from England.

Friday 25 July

The **4th Graduate Symposium** will take place during the morning with our speakers giving unpublished papers on aspects of garden history. The symposium will be chaired by **Patrick Eyres**.

A light buffet lunch will precede the **AGM**, which begins at 3pm, followed by two lectures after tea: **Liz Whittle**, former Registrar of Gardens for CADW and President of Welsh Historic Gardens Trust,

will speak on *The gardens of South Wales*; **Maureen Lazarus**, of the National Museum of Wales will discuss *Lord Bute's Botanical Tables*. Published in 1784 and dedicated to Queen Charlotte, these were the result of many years' work by the 3rd Earl of Bute, whose descendants in the 19th century were largely responsible for the present city of Cardiff, through their enterprise and wealth based on coal. A buffet dinner will be held on campus. Bar facilities will be available both Friday and Saturday nights.

Saturday 26 July

We shall visit **Bute Park** in the city centre, a linear park stretching north along the east bank of the River Taff from the towers and spires of the castle. The park commands a view of the hills to the north, emphasised by massed trees flanking open vistas and gracious avenues to the designs of James Pettifer, gardener to the Bute family. In its new education facility set in the walled garden, **Rosie James**, Principal Landscape Architect at Cardiff County Council, will describe its history and recent HLF assisted project to restore the park's character to that which existed under the last generation of the Butes before they sold the castle to the city after the Second World War. We shall then drive to **Craig y Parc**, an Arts and Crafts garden designed by C.E. Mallows. House and garden are integrated into a strongly axial design. The garden survives in its entirety although some adjustments have been made to serve the needs of its present clients, students of a Scope run school. A picnic lunch on the coach will give us more time to explore the Edwardian gardens surrounding the Elizabethan manor house of **St Fagan's Castle**. A parterre garden and rosary occupy the level ground where the house sits. To one side leading down to linked fish ponds in the valley are slopes, terraced and linked by an Italian style staircase. We return to the campus for tea and a short break before leaving on a coach trip of Cardiff Bay where we shall have our conference dinner at the **Millennium Centre**, a striking copper coated building using Welsh slate near the Customs House in the core of the redeveloped former Bute docklands. Our guest speaker is **Rosie Plummer**, Head of the National Botanic Gardens of Wales.

Sunday 27 July

We shall drive to the coast of the Vale of Glamorgan where the gardens of **St Donat's Castle** occupy a stunning site overlooking the sea on the steeply

GHS events

terraced grounds south of the medieval castle. The bones of its Tudor garden can be clearly appreciated under a veneer of more recent designs. A major restoration of the property from 1901–09 was carried out by Morgan Williams, when the rose garden was created. From 1925 it was the British home of William Randolph Hearst, who carried out further lavish works to its structure. Its later fate was varied until being donated by its then owner to the trustees of Atlantic College, one of 13 United World Colleges. **Liz Whittle**, will explain the significance of the garden to us beforehand, although the garden's several steep stairways may deter some from descending all the way to the shoreline. Lunch will then be at **Dyffryn Gardens** a partnership between Thomas Mawson and Reginald Cory, one of the grandest Edwardian gardens in Wales occupying 55 acres, with extensive use of stone and yew in the many separate garden rooms, including the unusual Pompeian garden. In addition Reginald Cory was an avid plant collector and his arboretum can still be viewed. We shall split into several groups for guided tours. One coach will then leave for the airport and railway station, the other for the campus, depending upon the desired destination.

Full details of prices, with the early bird discount, are on the enclosed Booking Form.

William Shenstone: A Tercentenary Conference with Pembroke College, Oxford Friday 15 to Sunday 17 August

William Shenstone has long been recognised as a key figure in 18th-century landscape design, while in recent years his poetic output has been reassessed and appreciated in the context of the period. This cross-disciplinary conference will explore Shenstone's significance as both poet and garden-maker, and how those identities overlapped or coalesced. Topics include the way Shenstone's piquant writings, pre-eminently the *Unconnected Thoughts on Gardening*, have inspired artists including Ian Hamilton Finlay, his relationship with the glamorous exile Lady Luxborough, his literary coterie in the Midlands and the sheer originality of The Leasowes.

Confirmed speakers include **Patrick Eyres**, **Michael Symes**, **Jane Brown** and **Prof Sandro Jung**; the conference organiser is **Tim Richardson**.

William Shenstone was an alumnus of Pembroke,

and the conference is to be held in a brand new lecture hall which is part of the college's new quadrangle, opened in April 2013.

Friday: drinks reception and keynote lecture (open to the public); informal dinner in college hall.

Saturday: full day conference; lunch in college hall.

Evening drinks reception followed by formal dinner in college hall.



Wikimedia Commons

View from the ruined Halesowen Priory towards The Leasowes. The Modern Universal British Traveller, 1779

Sunday: travel by coach to The Leasowes, Halesowen. Return by coach to Oxford by 4.30pm

Cost: Residential: £375 (early-bird rate, booked by May 31: £335); non-Residential: £275 (early-bird rate: £235). To register interest before booking opens, please email Huw Edmunds, Pembroke College Head of Conferences and Events: huw.edmunds@pmb.ox.ac.uk

Edinburgh Public Gardens and Squares Conference Friday 26 September

The conference will explore the significance of the New Town's squares and gardens and how they can benefit the social, economic and cultural life of the city in the 21st century.

At George Hotel, 19–21 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 2PB. See the website for more details.

Study Tour to Gardens of The Crimea and Kiev Monday 6 to Sunday 12 October

We shall fly via Kiev to Simferopol and drive by coach to Yalta for a five-night stay. The programme includes visits to **Livadia**, where the 'sunny path' runs for a mile west from the palace, **Alupka Palace** with its terraces and gardens, and **Yusupov** in its



Wikimedia Commons

Study Day on Memorial Landscapes of the First World War
Friends Meeting House, Euston Square
Saturday 8 November

The programme for our annual Autumn Study Day, is still in preparation, but please make a note in your diaries. All the organisations involved in Working Together; the GHS, the AGT, the Garden Museum and Parks & Gardens UK are producing events on the First World War during 2014.

Full details in the next edition.

Managing the Fountains Abbey & Studley Royal Estate
Joint Autumn Lecture with the Architectural Heritage Society of Scotland
Monday 10 November

Michael Ridsdale, Head of Landscape, Fountains Abbey & Studley Royal Estate, National Trust, will speak about the multi-disciplinary management of this World Heritage landscape.

At Riddle's Court, 322 Lawnmarket, Edinburgh, EH1 2PG. See the website for more details.

GHS Study Tour to the gardens of Roberto Burle Marx, Brazil
notice of revised dates

Due to problems with an international conference in Rio and other factors, dates for this Study Tour have had to be altered from the intended fortnight at the end of October and the beginning of November 2014. At the time of going to press, it is not yet known if later in November or a fortnight in March 2015 will be the dates.

Sadly it may not be possible to visit a couple of the Burle Marx gardens the GHS visited on our last visit to Brazil due to their poor maintenance, but more time will be given at **Inhotim**, a superbly designed and managed extensive garden outside Belo Horizonte, which is not a Marx garden but can be described as inspired by him.

The re-organised dates and the prices will be sent directly to those who have already expressed an interest. Expressions of interest have been brisk enough to fill the trip but the changes to dates and the as yet uncertain prices may make some of those unable to commit, so for further information and inclusion on the waiting list please contact Robert Peel at: rma.peel@btopenworld.com or: 020 7121 8938.

Postponed
 See page 40 for potential alternative Study Tour to the Italian Lakes...

...er sites are Massandra ...nce, the steep slopes ...s, Chekhov's White ...e with its subtropical ...on the seashore ...Balaclava will refresh ...00 riding 'half a league ...y of Death', to be followed by an ... in Sevastapol and a visit to the **Panorama Museum of the Crimean War.**

Sites hardly known outside Ukraine will also be included on this trip. On Saturday 11, we fly to Kiev and go to **Bila Tserka** to see the 18th-century landscape park of the Brantizky family before a brief tour of the city and a night in Kiev. On the last day we have a long drive to see Count Potocki's **Sophiyivsky**, one of the best examples of a late 18th-century park in Eastern Europe and still in a good state of conservation. Our flight back to London leaves in the late afternoon.

Obviously we are hoping that the current political situation will have been resolved by the time we intend making our study tour, and all sensible contingencies are being looked into.

The price per person in twin/double accommodation will be £995 with a single room supplement of £140. This includes all accommodation in hotels as per programme, all breakfasts, 6 lunches and 5 dinners, coach transportation, all site visits and services of a local guide/tour manager and garden guides where available as well as a contribution to the GHS. It does not include the international return flight to Kiev, nor the internal return flight Kiev to Simferol. The intention is to use a travel counsellor for a group booking, which should total less than £300 per round trip, price on application to Robert Peel, from whom further information and a booking form are available: rma.peel@btopenworld.com or: 020 7121 8938.

Mavis Batey MBE

Honorary Secretary 1971 to 1985, President 1985 to 2000

From the Chairman Dominic Cole

When I joined The Garden History Society in the 1980s I felt privileged to be meeting the people leading the field in garden history; they were friendly, frighteningly knowledgeable (to a non-historian) and unfailingly generous with their knowledge and sources. None more so than Mavis Batey who would always follow up our conversations with one of her postcards listing out what we had talked about and where I would find more information.

This encouragement fired my enthusiasm and I began the pursuit of learning about garden history in a way that I had never been inspired to do at school. Mavis's company always made you feel an equal, despite one not following most of what she was talking about — in fact, one of her outstanding abilities was to talk in depth and around a subject without completing sentences and jumping from one topic to another — leaving one slightly shell-shocked but knowing that you had just been honoured to share her latest insight ... and relieved to know that you would be thrown a land-line in the form of a hand written note in the next post to help you get the point.

Before the establishment of the County Gardens Trusts, the GHS and its events were the focus of garden history activities and I remember wondering how Mavis was able to appear at all of them, always smiling and with time for everyone.

I am very lucky to have been able to thank Mavis for what she gave to me. It has been a real pleasure to watch the GHS thrive and to see a new dawn in the Working Together process with the County Gardens Trusts.

The astonishing achievements of Mavis, do not be fooled by the 'little old lady' front, are well documented by others but The Garden History Society would not have the world wide respect it enjoys without her dedication to creating such a solid foundation for a subject that she introduced to thousands of people.

In a paper written by Mavis in 1990, recently re-discovered by Jenifer White, she charted the blossoming of the GHS and its remarkable achievements. We decided to reproduce it below as it came as a revelation to many of us now on Council, and lays down a challenge to us today.



The Garden History Society and the Conservation of Gardens Mavis Batey, c.1989

The Garden History Society, which celebrates its twenty-fifth anniversary in 1990, has led the campaign for the recognition of historic parks and gardens as national heritage. Originally founded for the study of garden history, it was soon apparent that this was inseparable from a commitment to the conservation of historic gardens. Some may have wondered why it was necessary in 1965 to found another garden society, when gardening interests had been taken care of over a century and a half before by the founding of the society which was to become the Royal Horticultural Society of worldwide renown. The RHS was founded in the true spirit of its age, for the advancement of the art and science of gardening, and was scientific and progressive and not concerned with an historical appraisal of gardening. The GHS, on the other hand, as its name implies, is primarily concerned with history and seeks to apply the historical sense to all aspects of gardening and gardens; it is interested in the history of the introduction of plants, plant collecting and exploration, nurserymen, garden layout and designers, landscape architecture and

buildings and above all to the gardens themselves in which garden history is contained.

Peter Hunt, the founder of the Society, who had compiled information on garden history over the years, had just completed his *Shell Gardens Book* and for the entries in it he had called on a variety of expertise and was inspired with the idea of bringing the participants together to exchange ideas.

In his preface he had written, 'There has long been a need for a guide to British gardens; not to tell one which gardens may be visited and when, but what features to look for when one gets there. Furthermore the ideal guide, the curious garden-visitors *vade mecum*, should not only describe the various garden features, but should relate them to the long history of gardening and garden design as a whole and place them in their context in the social history of this country.'

The contributors' width of expertise, covering horticulture, landscape architecture, history, literature, art and architecture, botany and dendrology made Peter Hunt realise the need to make a cohesive subject of garden history by forming a society to bring these wide-ranging interests together. Shortly after the publication of the Shell book, Peter Hunt and Miles Hadfield, who in 1960 had published his influential *History of British Gardening*, met by arrangement in the buffet of a London railway station, less appropriate perhaps than an historic garden, and discussed the formation of a Society. Its name was suggested by **Dr William Stearn**, who was to be its President from 1978 until 1982. Having such an eminent botanist as a founder member and supporter added distinction to the embryo committee and his expertise was often to be called upon in conservation matters.

Peter Hunt was the first Chairman of the Society and **Kay Sanecki** its Honorary Secretary and they were responsible for the pioneering work in promoting garden history and attracting members. An important aim at the inaugural meeting had been that as the only society of its kind exclusively devoted to garden history it should be international.

A systematic attempt was made to collect information, and our librarian, **Ray Desmond**, began to compile an index of references to gardens, which was published in 1984 as the *Bibliography of British Gardens*. The same meticulous and painstaking scholarship which Ray Desmond had already applied to his *Dictionary of British and Irish Botanists and*

Horticulturists makes his *Bibliography* invaluable to researchers and garden restorers. An ongoing *Register of Research* was also set up to encourage the exchange of information, which is now very valuable for conservation as well as for further research. In the early years a *Quarterly newsletter* reported on the Society's activities but from 1972 a journal, *Garden History*, has been published, which has established itself internationally as the vehicle for original articles on the subject.

Conferences, visits and exhibitions were arranged and the AGM held at different centres in England, Wales and Scotland to attract local interest. Special visits are made to see restoration work with which the Society has been associated in progress, as at **The Swiss Garden**, Bedfordshire, **Painswick**, Gloucestershire, and **Nuneham** in Oxfordshire.

The 1960s had seen the conservation movement gathering strength after the cult of functional modernism and comprehensive development of the 1950s when the new technological age called for a non-historical approach to landscape. The word 'derivative' was frequently used sneeringly for an architect who was influenced by past traditions and the idea of restoring gardens authentically did not find much favour with landscape architects who wanted to respond to a site with unimpeded creative ideas. **Frank Clark**, the founder President of the GHS, had also been President of the Institute of Landscape Architects and played a leading role in reconciling the 'new lives, new landscapes' attitudes with respect and understanding for the past, particularly the 18th century which for him was a constant source of inspiration. One of the first letters he signed, when the ink on the GHS letterhead was scarcely dry, was a plea to West Riding County Council to preserve the gardens of **Studley Royal** for the nation.

The first **Garden Conservation Conference** was held at Stowe in 1968 at which the President set out his own creed, which the Society has striven to follow since his untimely death in 1971.

The inheritance of a tradition confers both riches to an indigenous culture and responsibilities to the new generations that inherit it. A culture that is alive and aware uses this opportunity as an occasion for renewal... It is now becoming generally recognised that in the 18th century this country evolved and described a series of principles that were humane, sensible and functional... The meaning of the

principles which were embodied lay solely in their being an answer to challenges. Though the nature and direction of these challenges have changed in this century, the principle that environmental design must find answers to the challenge of human needs is still relevant. And these human needs are much the same now as then. Variety of visual experience, forms that are rich in association, forms that are expressions of the richness and complexity of nature, forms that allow the processes of life to go on; all these are as important now as they were two hundred years ago. One of the objectives of the GHS is to propagate the values of this tradition as they were expressed in the great gardens of this country.

It soon became apparent that if historic parks and gardens, with their variety of visual experience, were to be handed on to succeeding generations, the GHS must become an amenity society as well as a learned society and take its place with the established national amenity societies concerned with the protection of historic buildings and the environment. Its first action in this field was in 1970 when the Society presented evidence at a Public Inquiry concerning a proposed trunk road through **Levens Park** in Cumbria. Our representations, based on historical research and an appraisal of the present scenic value of the park, assisted materially in building up a case which led to the road being diverted to an alternative route; but although this established a claim for the protection of one historic landscape there was as yet no national policy. We became increasingly aware that with all the modern pressures on land use our great landscaped gardens were at risk and it was imperative for us to campaign for steps to be taken to save this undervalued part of our heritage.

At first it was hoped that an Historic Landscapes Council might be set up to parallel the Historic Buildings Council but the climate was not right for any new official bodies. However, an opportunity came to bring historic gardens to public notice in **European Architectural Heritage Year 1975** when we could jump on the already well-established architectural heritage bandwagon. We set up our own Conservation Committee in 1974, chaired by **John Anthony**, and held a symposium in London on the treatment of the surroundings of historic buildings to suggest that historic buildings were enhanced by appropriate settings and that the house and its garden should be seen as an historic entity.

We joined forces with the Association for Studies in the Conservation of Historic Buildings who agreed with us that in many cases historic buildings were restored to the last detail of accuracy, while their surroundings which could greatly have enhanced the interest of the building were left to someone completely unfitted for the task. We were invited to speak at the **Schwetzingen Conference on the Conservation of Historic Gardens** in European Architectural Heritage Year, for as the invitation said England had always led the way in gardening and must be in the forefront of garden conservation. Little did they know how far we had still to go!

Gardens should be brought into the mainstream of history as part of the spirit of the age, and be seen as a link with the house and the people in it and an enhancement to the historic building itself. This was the case that was made to the government and it was as a setting to a house that the garden first received official recognition in Clause 4 of the **Town and Country Amenities Act 1974**, which was a parliamentary prelude to Architectural Heritage Year. Any provision for protection of gardens was firmly linked to listed buildings, but the clause did mean, if full advantage were taken of it, that in future public opinion must be tested on planning applications which might be detrimental to the visual enjoyment of an historic building. Hitherto, although there was a statutory requirement to preserve a listed building, no attention was paid to its setting, which might be a sea of concrete or power lines. After the Act we always made representations about threatened settings which were brought to our notice, often by the Georgian Group or Ancient Monuments Society, who, as designated societies, have to be notified when listed building consent is applied for. An application to build in the garden of a 17th-century Cotswold manor house was refused because the house and its walled and terraced garden had a scaled and historic relationship, and an application for a development near **Vanbrugh's Castle** at Greenwich was turned down on the grounds that it would spoil its picturesque setting deliberately planned by Vanbrugh.

We also took advantage of the strengthening of control of the Conservation Area, first introduced in 1968, by the new Act. At first there was some resistance to including landscape in the Conservation Area which it was argued was intended as a protection for the built environment

but those planning authorities that were sympathetic found ways and means of doing so. We were able to assist a number of local authorities by providing the historical background for the designation of the Conservation Area, particularly **Biddulph Grange** in Staffordshire, now in the care of the National Trust, which the Society thought was one of the most important gardens which would disappear without protection against development. We were also approached by local societies for help with preparing their case for designation. One particularly interesting example was the designation of the **Webb Estate** in Purley, Surrey as a Conservation Area. The local residents approached us when they were concerned that unsuitable development would erode the essential character of the estate, which was laid in 1903 on the maxims Webb explained in his book *Garden First*. The estate was planned to give enjoyment not only to residents but to the numerous pilgrims, who included Queen Mary every Spring to see the delights of grass footpaths along floral roads with daffodils, primroses, cowslips and violets growing under silver birches.

The 1974 Act also made provisions for grant-aid to gardens of historic importance whether or not they were attached to houses of architectural merit, but this was a very cutback carrot as no extra money was made available to the Historic Buildings Council for the purpose; nevertheless, it did introduce the concept of the historic garden in its own right into the official conscience for the first time, and very soon we were able to take advantage of this when the **National Heritage Memorial Fund** was set up in 1980. We had played a small part in the setting up of this Fund following the parliamentary inquiry into the working of the **National Land Fund**. This had been set up by **Hugh Dalton** when Chancellor of the Exchequer in 1946 as a war memorial, which instead of being a work of art in stone or bronze should 'dedicate some of the loveliest parts of this land to the memory of those who died in order that we should have freedom.' This directive was only grudgingly carried out by the Treasury with the result that by 1977, when the select committee inquiry was set up, the Fund had been very little used and was hardly more than a book-keeping entry. Indeed few people knew of its existence.

Our only contact with the Land Fund had been in 1976 when we made enquiries about its terms of reference as we were then concerned with

the plight of derelict **Painshill**. As it was clear that no financial help could be forthcoming from the HBC it seemed to us that the Land Fund was set up for just such a purpose and that the acquisition and conservation of one of the country's most outstanding landscaped gardens would keep faith with Hugh Dalton's imaginative idea of heritage land as a war memorial. It soon became apparent that the request did not just fall on deaf ears but that there were not even any Treasury ears that could listen. However, we were able to testify that our application to the Land Fund had been disregarded when the next year we made a submission to the Environment Committee of the Expenditure Committee, who were appointed to look into the iniquitous suppression of the Land Fund. Painshill Park, which, much to their credit, had been acquired by Elmbridge Borough Council, was one of the first recipients of grant-aid from the National Heritage Memorial Fund, the Independent body that was appointed to take over the Land Fund. It also received a generous grant from the Countryside Commission, who have often supported the campaign for the protection of historic landscape, and we have watched with pleasure the achievements in restoration by the Painshill Park Trust, on which we are represented.

We also made a submission to the Select Committee on Wealth Tax to plead for tax relief for owners of historic gardens and parks, stressing that generations of country house owners had invested in woodland management and the landscaping of their estates and if these now had to be sold off piecemeal, through crippling taxation, the planned relationship of farming and parkland would be severed and the consequent loss to the countryside immeasurable. It was now up to us to define our garden heritage and produce an inventory of historic gardens and to increase public awareness of their value.

Fortunately, the Chairman of the Historic Buildings Council, **Jennifer Jenkins**, gave us great encouragement and set up an unofficial gardens committee, which she chaired, so that the lists of historic gardens could be graded in a way acceptable to the HBC. Those now concerned with garden heritage must all be very grateful to Dame Jennifer Jenkins for the initiative she took in promoting this unofficial listing as when the National Heritage Bill was in preparation historic gardens

could be discussed with a better understanding of what was required than we had before the 1974 Act. The 1983 Act empowered the new Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England to compile an official *Register of Gardens and Parks of Special Historic Interest*. The following year we held a Symposium, in association with the Ancient Monuments Society, on the Conservation of Historic Gardens to consolidate the position and in official jargon to chart 'the way forward'. We invited speakers from all the garden heritage bodies, the Centre for the Conservation of Historic Parks and Gardens, the National Trust, the National Council for the Conservation of Plants and Gardens, the Tradescant Trust and the new County Gardens Trusts, so that we could all work together for our common aim. The publication of the proceedings, *The Conservation of Historic Gardens*, 1984 was assisted by the Frank Clark Memorial Fund, which had been set up in the memory of our first President.

The Symposium, which was opened by Lord Montagu of Beaulieu as the new Chairman of HBMC, was chaired by Jennifer Jenkins, who described the activities of her now redundant *sub-rosa* committee thus, 'The Committee which was responsible for drawing up the first registers has been a voluntary committee, and the work has been done wholly voluntarily; indeed at one moment I was instructed that no official in the Department of the Environment was to spend his time on such a frivolous activity as listing gardens.'

Derek Sherborn was the official who served the Committee, wrote the minutes, and drew up the draft lists in his spare time. We were even barred at that stage from using the official typewriter, so there were many obstacles.

As I remember we didn't even get a cup of tea at the meetings for fear of being regarded too official, but we were very glad to have contributed to the process which led to the appointment of a **Gardens Inspector** in the Commission for the publication of the official registers, and later for a permanent Inspector. We were particularly pleased when it was **Dr Christopher Thacker**, who had been the founder-Editor of our Journal *Garden History*, who was appointed as the first Gardens Inspector and warmly congratulate him on the *Registers*, which are the backbone for any subsequent work on research or conservation. Although, unlike listed buildings, there are no statutory controls

for registered gardens, the *Registers* have greatly strengthened the cause of conservation. Inspectors at Public Inquiries and planning committees now use the term historic or registered garden in the same way as listed building, Conservation Area, or scheduled monument and the fact that there was a statutory requirement to compile the *Register* gives the garden an official status. Our representations now fit into a recognised slot, whereas before we sometimes wondered if their destination had been the waste paper basket.

Many more books on different aspects of garden history were being published and many more courses and conferences held which backed up the new official recognition of historic gardens and parks. Inevitably, in the time available, some important gardens had been overlooked and there were others which, although not eligible for entry on the *Register*, had features worthy of recording. Researching and recording is, therefore, an on-going process and it is important that information should still be sent to the **Centre for the Conservation of Historic Parks and Gardens at York** and the recorder at the county trusts. The NCCPG provides the essential element of recording the plants as well as the design features and can assist garden restorers searching for authentic plants. We have always worked closely with local history and museum societies and frequently hold weekend and day schools with University extra mural departments and we have been pleased to be associated with the setting up of the curriculum for a **Diploma in the Conservation of Historic Gardens at the Architectural Association**. One of the difficulties of restoring historic gardens, now that more and more owners are interested in authentic restoration rather than a vague 'period gardening', has been the lack of training available to landscape architects in garden conservation.

We received very practical encouragement of our conservation work by the receipt of a grant from the Department of the Environment under the Special Grants programme in 1986 amounting to 50% of the costs of postage, stationery, hiring rooms and travelling expenses, when specifically related to conservation. The Conservation Committee was able to extend its work of providing an advisory service to local authorities and private owners on the restoration of historic parks and gardens and sponsoring research on specific sites.

We had often been asked for information about authentic plants for restoration schemes and their availability today. **John Harvey**, a long serving member of Council and its Conservation Committee and from 1982 to 1985 President of the Society, who is the acknowledged expert on the history of the nursery trade, had provided information on the plants suitable for the restoration of flowerbeds at **Kirby Hall; The Circus, Bath; Nuneham; Brighton Pavilion** and **Mount Edgcumbe** and it was decided that a publication should be produced for future enquirers. Having worked through several important trade lists and identified versions of the nursery stock, he was able to compare them with the lists produced by the Hardy Plant Society in their *Plantfinder* of 1987, which enabled us to publish his valuable *The Availability of Hardy Plants of the late 16th century* in 1986. Lists of authentic plants for earlier periods had been published in the *Shire Garden History Restoring Period Gardens* by John Harvey.

We have always felt the lack of our own premises and staff where contact can be made with the public and we decided that **Conservation Workshops** might go some way to providing a substitute. The first such workshop was held in January 1987 at the Society of Antiquaries and a number of directors of **restoration projects** with whom the Society has been associated, including Painshill, Mount Edgcumbe, Leigh Park and Castle Bromwich were brought together to compare notes and discuss problems. Many leaders of **Manpower Services Commission** teams have acquired useful knowledge and techniques during their practical conservation work on historic landscape without leaving records and we hoped that this information might be brought out in discussion and collated. We also invited a number of private owners who had asked for advice on various subjects to meet appropriate experts. It is not everybody who is lucky enough to have the National Trust Garden Advisor or someone from the DoE at their elbow to ask about conservation or grant difficulties.

The second workshop was on **archaeological aspects of garden restoration**. We have always tried to co-operate with and learn from archaeologists who can add a new dimension to garden history. Some of our most interesting Society visits have been to archaeological sites, on the quest for



Hazel Le Rouge: GHS collection

Nonsuch with Martin Biddle, the earthworks of Campden House with Paul Everson of the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments, the English Heritage excavations of the Great Garden at Kirby with Brian Dix, Harrington and Holdenby with John Steane, the excavated garden at 41 The Circus, Bath with Robert Bell and our Scottish Group to Chatelheraut with Neil Hynd and to the mediaeval hospital site at Soutra with Brian Moffat. Our working lunch at the workshop was enlivened by passing round plant remains from mediaeval cesspits. Gardens are of course only one small part of the overall interest of archaeologists but we hope by bringing their incidental garden work together and offering them a forum in our *Newsletter* to further the interest already stimulated by Christopher Taylor in garden archaeology.

The Society had from the first been acutely aware of the importance of conserving garden archives, past and present, but lacking any premises for storage itself, could only undertake to catalogue the whereabouts of such archives, and to pass on to suitable repositories any archives it might itself acquire. Following an American Summer School, when participants learned that would-be restorers of **Gertrude Jekyll's** gardens were greatly hampered

by lack of plans or plant lists which were all at **Berkeley**, the University of California gave us a gift of 17 tins of microfilm copies of all the surviving plans. These have been deposited at the **National Monuments Record** at Fortress House, Savile Row, London where they are fully accessible. Negotiations with the NMR led to another deposit of original plans by **Percy Cane**, and soon afterwards when the Society learned of the destruction of a large body of similar papers, it was decided to approach the British Records Association with a view to obtaining wider publicity on the vital importance of such records for history and conservation in the future. The outcome was an invitation to speak at their annual conference in 1988 and we are most grateful to the BRA for enabling us through their initiative to emphasise the importance and interest of garden history and the need to preserve its records.

Following this lead, the third workshop was on **landscape archives**, and was attended by representatives from the National Register of Archives, the Landscape Institute, the R.I.B.A, British Records Association, Centre for the Conservation of Historic Parks and Gardens, the Landscape Research Group, Kew and the National Trust. It was decided to appoint a research fellow, if funding could be obtained, to be supervised by **Peter Goodchild** at York to record archival sources for gardens to complement Ray Desmond's *Bibliography* of published material. It was also intended that the researcher should find out what provisions are being made for garden history in the making, that is to say the plans and records of designers of contemporary gardens and landscapes.

The funds have now been obtained and the working group set up will continue in support of the new landscape research fellow. Knowing where plans and manuscripts are deposited will greatly assist the work of landscape surveys and reports undertaken for the purpose of conservation.

The fourth workshop was part of our **William and Mary Tercentenary** celebrations and was held at Hampton Court Palace on the restoration of formal gardens to coincide with the publication of the book on William and Mary Gardens, edited by **David Jacques** and sponsored jointly by the GHS and the Dutch Garden Society, and our exhibition in the King's Private Apartments. The recreated **Het Loo** garden, revisited by the Society in autumn 1988, is of course the outstanding example of an

authentic restoration and, while we had the plans on display and the Dutch expertise available, it was decided to hold a workshop for those concerned with the restoration of 17th-century formal gardens in this country. Questions were invited in advance of the Workshop and sent out to Het Loo; these included requests for information about planting design, parterre archaeology and the maintenance of old flower cultivars for restoration. Little has as yet been attempted in this country on the authentic restoration of a formal garden based on archaeological evidence, but we were able to hear about current work at Kirby and Castle Bromwich, which we have been supporting.

Case work is always a most important part of any conservation committee and in this we had to play an uncharted role, particularly before there was any official body recognising historic gardens. Precedents once established and cases won we had a better chance of future successes, and this was particularly true of road threats, which for us began at Levens in 1970 before the official awareness of the heritage of landscaped parks in the 1973 and 1983 acts. It now seems unbelievable that the idyllic settings of **Petworth**, and **Leeds Castle** were threatened by major roads. We were delighted by the Inspector's recommendation to adopt the GHS route presented by David Jacques at the Public Inquiry on the road through **Highclere Park**, Hampshire. We had made many representations about roads through landscaped parks, but this was the first time that an alternative route had been drawn up. We stressed that the park had a long and continuous history, having evolved from the ancient deer park of the Bishops of Winchester through the early landscaping of lawns and cedars and classical temples to the late 18th-century Brownian composition which Cobbett thought superior to Fonthill, Blenheim and Stowe. We were particularly pleased that our route saved, not only much of the landscaping intact, but also a considerable stretch of the mediaeval park boundary which would have been lost in the Department's preferred route. The Inspector was persuaded that Highclere was a 'park deep in history and with its aesthetic pleasure enhanced by the awareness of that history'.

There has also been success at **Castle Hill**, Devonshire where an alternative route through a disused railway was accepted. Our representative, **Robin Fausset**, put our case so well that the

Inspector is on record as saying in his Report on the recommended route that 'during my site inspection my thoughts were that one would have to be a philistine, or know nothing about the area, to promote such a route as this'. A true recruit to garden conservation! Unfortunately, the outcome was not so successful with the M40 route under the **Farnborough** terrace, but the strong voices of protest have ensured that extra effort is being made for satisfactory screening. The Department of Transport has a 'framework' on which options for road siting are judged and we found it extraordinary that when routes were assessed there was no attempt to quantify the value of the historic park in terms of national heritage. Both at Highclere and Castle Hill the Inspectors took into account the high grading of the park but we have drawn attention to the fact that this should have acted as a constraint at the 'framework' stage before it had to come to a Public Inquiry.

The GHS made a submission to the **Select Committee on Environment** on the heritage value of historic parks and gardens, which was published as an appendix to their Report in 1987. It listed examples of development proposals affecting historic parks and gardens and highlighted the problems facing owners of historic landscape and the need for further funding. The **Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission** has powers to grant aid gardens, but in practice only gave grants to garden buildings until the Great Storm came and money was made available to help owners of storm-damaged historic parks and gardens, and it is now hoped, that following this precedent the ill wind may have done some good and that the case for grant-aiding historic gardens may be more favourably looked upon. Certainly there was much eloquence in both Houses of Parliament about the loss of our landscape heritage.

We have often made historical reports as a basis for **restoration and management policies**. The first of these was by Miles Hadfield, who was President of the Society from 1971 until 1977, on **Westbury Court**, Gloucestershire for the National Trust and more recently a history of the landscaped park has been prepared for Mount Edgcumbe Country Park as a basis for its conservation. We also had the chance to research Mason's famous garden at Nuneham, which **Richard Bisgrove** is in the process of restoring. We hope that Nuneham will

have a new lease of life now that Ashford Hotels have taken over the house and have shown a great interest in a historical restoration of the whole riverside landscape. So many of our great houses are being taken over by institutions and hotels, indeed many of them could not survive without this change of use, and we see it as one of our most important functions to advise on the conservation of the historic park or garden and put the new owners in touch with the right professionals.

The first two decades of the Society's conservation efforts had been directed to increasing public awareness and lobbying the government for the recognition of historic gardens. At the 50th anniversary of the Ancient Monuments Society in 1974, an elderly founder recalled the days when the fight for the conservation of historic buildings was called the 'antiquarian interests of a few'. By 1974 that campaign had long since borne fruit, but ours was just beginning. We are very grateful to those amenity societies, the Ancient Monuments Society, SPAB, Georgian Group, Victorian Society, Civic Trust and CPRE which had already influenced conservation attitudes, and for the links we have maintained with them. On the garden front we are now very happy to co-operate with new fellow conservationists in the County Garden Trusts, the NCCPG and the Tradesant Trust. We maintain close links with the National Trust, the Centre for the Conservation of Historic Parks and Gardens at York and with English Heritage.

Although England now has an official Gardens Inspectorate, for which we had long campaigned, the need for our conservation committee's vigilance has not diminished. Case work has in fact so increased that we have recently appointed a Conservation Officer, **David Lambert**, who has the advantage of being in close contact with the Gardens Inspectorate and as the Hon. Sec of the Avon Gardens Trust is well-placed to co-operate with the new county trusts as they are formed. We have a very active group in **Scotland**, where official provision has been made for the protection of historic gardens, and are now co-operating with our Welsh representative, Susan Muir, to ensure that the heritage of **Welsh gardens** is not neglected. At our 25th anniversary next year we can rejoice that historic gardens are not just 'the antiquarian interests of a few' but are seen and enjoyed as part of the national heritage.

The Genius of The Scene Edward Fawcett, 1996

This piece by Ted introduced *Garden History* 24:1 Summer 1996, the *Festschrift* of 'Essays in honour of Mavis Batey', and still delightfully sets the scene for this tribute issue. Ed.

Have we an instinct, as do migratory birds, that leads us to our goal? Or does chance play the predominant part? Did Mavis from an early age perceive which way her career would go? Apparently not, for, as a girl, she wanted to be a ballet dancer. She gained a scholarship to University College, London, to study German and was at once placed in the second year, had to catch up, and did.

We, the war generation, were an anxious bunch, hating privilege, reading the *New Statesman*, wishing for a world that was not directed by stuffed shirts and bowler hats, but before we could find our way we were plunged into things. That for Mavis, with her knowledge of German, meant 'Enigma' at Bletchley Park, to which, after intensive screening, she was recruited.

Bletchley, as we all know now, was the nerve centre of the war, responsible for breaking and deciphering signals from the German High-Command, on which the fate of cities and armies depended. Where was the raid to be tonight? But, as Mavis says, 'You can't work any faster even if a General is breathing down your neck'. For this work Mavis evidently had a kind of genius; always interested in puzzles, she found that jumbled letters easily became words, and the signals emerged. Her boss was Dilly Knox, the classical scholar and Egyptologist.

The bonus was Keith, sent to Bletchley as a newly-fledged 'Cambridge Wrangler'. They were married in 1942, had three days of honeymoon, then Keith sailed to Canada to train for the Fleet Air Arm. We may imagine the anxiety with which Mavis, who had access to the Naval Operations Room, followed the progress of his convoy, surrounded by U-Boats.



Keith and Mavis

by kind permission of the Batey family

A spell in the Diplomatic Service followed the war. Then the Bateys settled into Oxford life. The bringing up of three children left little spare time, but evenings were for the Bodleian, where Mavis stayed until closing time at 10 pm. Her interest in landscape history was stimulated by hearing William Hoskins lecture in Oxford, which ran parallel with her campaigning experience with the Council for the Preservation of Rural England. But it was during their time at Nuneham, the site of Goldsmith's deserted village and William Mason's flower garden, that her interests moved towards garden history. Nuneham had everything she loved, including underdogs.

Mavis's first contact with the Garden History Society was when Kay Sanecki, its secretary, brought a group to Nuneham in 1966. Mavis took Frank Clark, its President, round shortly after and they formed an instant friendship. When Kay wished to retire in 1971, Frank suggested that Mavis would be the right person to succeed her.

Council meetings in those days, the early seventies, were glum, held in a cell at the top of the Royal Horticultural Society's New Hall, with an agenda that concentrated on the constitution. Mavis's notes of meetings were brief. Soon, however, she got into her stride. At that time the Garden History Society was a learned society concentrating on the establishment of garden history as an academic subject. I was then chairman and neither Mavis, with her Council for the Preservation of Rural England background, nor I, from the National Trust, could see the point of letting historic gardens be divided by roads, or developed for housing. The Garden History Society took conservation as its second objective, a course along which Mavis has steered it ever since.

All was not heavy seriousness. Christopher Thacker was at that time editor of *Garden History* and the health of each new number was duly drunk in Christopher's rooms at Reading University, while Mavis and Joy Lee helped to stuff the journals into envelopes.

Another of Mavis's interests was running an Oxford-American Summer School course on Garden and Landscape History for the University of California, which she did for many years. The literary interest was never far away and when Keith moved to rooms at Christ Church, overlooking Alice in Wonderland's Deanery garden, Lewis Carroll became a friend and companion and the Pitkin *Alice's Adventures in Oxford* followed.

The Garden History Society is an organisation

to which it has always been a pleasure to belong. No one has used it as a career vehicle, so it has remained a group of friends. Much of this is due to Mavis. How many of us when in trouble have benefited from her depth of heart?

'And what do you still wish to achieve?'

'Well, there is my book on Jane Austen to be called *Jane Austen and the English Landscape*'.

'What about garden history?'

'I hope that as many people as possible will visit and love gardens, and that their history will become as much part of our lives as poetry or painting'.

Her husband, three children and seven grandchildren are the framework of Mavis's life, but within that frame there is a tapestry of living and learning, the one runs into the other; Rodings, Rousham and Wonderland are equally real.

Insatiable curiosity, the scholar's desire for accuracy, the artist's for truth, we have indeed a remarkable President. Lucky Garden History Society!

Days 'Marked with a White Stone' **Christopher Thacker, 1996** **Vice President GHS**

This was also in *Garden History* 24:1 and Thomasina Thacker, requested we reprint it here, saying that 'meetings with Mavis continued to be 'marked with a white stone', for both of us'; always memorable and special.'

Mavis Batey and I came to know each other around 1970, in the course of committee meetings in Vincent Square, after which we would leave for Paddington, to reach Oxford, for Mavis, and Reading for myself.

In following years, Mavis took me to many of her favourite garden and landscape sites, Tackley, Kiddington, Hillesden, to Nuneham Courtenay more than once; and on one occasion we were both chauffeured, from Reading to Oxford and then to Bedfordshire, to visit, inspect, and report on the 'Swiss Cottage' at Old Warden.

Her enthusiasm radiated from Oxford, from Charlbury Road, and from Christ Church, where Keith Batey was Treasurer for a good few years. I was therefore happy to be led, to listen and look in various parts of the House, to stroll, and learn, in the Meadows, and to slip into Corpus, in order to look back over the old city wall into the Fellows' garden in Christ Church.

In these happy visits I was regaled again and again with references to 'Alice', bubbling up in the rich mixture of comment on Oxford letters and life. At this time Mavis was formulating the first of her two

'Alice' books, *Alice's Adventures in Oxford*, in which a clear, essential, yet previously unremarked fact was outlined; viz. that everything, nay EVERYTHING, in *Alice's Adventures Underground*, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, and *Through the Looking-Glass*, and *What Alice Found There* was related to matters, people, events which Alice Liddell (born in 1852), the daughter of the Revd Henry George Liddell (1811–98), the Dean of Christ Church, could have known, heard of, or appreciated through her awareness of this or that.

Some she knew directly, like the Cheshire cat (her own cat Dinah) perched in the tree overlooking the garden (the massive horse chestnut, in the Deanery garden at Christ Church) close to the most special door; leading from the Deanery garden to the Cathedral garden; others were indirect, like the tales of another childhood and family told her by the Revd Charles Lutwidge Dodgson (1832–98), Student (i.e. fellow) of Christ Church, or the fantasy-tales, incorporating features from a variety of sources, told her by Dodgson when he saw her and her sisters at tea-parties in the Deanery, or took them on visits and excursions in and around Oxford.

All this occurred in a few years, in the brief period between 25 April 1856 when Dodgson first met Dean Liddell's children, 4 July 1862, when, at the end of an excursion on the Thames to Godstow, Alice Liddell said to him, 'Oh, Mr Dodgson, I wish you would write out Alice's adventures for me', and his last excursion with them, to Nuneham, on 25 June 1863. When these tales were printed, their author; Dodgson, was named as 'Lewis Carroll', and as such, countless readers have known him ever since.

And so, in these walks and visits, over 20 years ago, Mavis Batey demonstrated, explained the links between 'Alice' and Christ Church, Oxford, and the Oxfordshire countryside. She showed me the 'Queen Alice' doorway, 'her father's Chapter House', near the end of *Through the Looking-Glass*, and the brass fire-dogs in the Hall at Christ Church, which Dodgson adapted for a sketch of Alice with 'an immense length of neck, which seemed to rise like a stalk'. Outside the House, she took me to the shop, at 83 St Aldgate's, where, in looking-glass fashion, Alice and the Old Sheep / White Queen, a tiny bit like Mavis herself, are shown inside the premises; and she told me of the exhibition of manuscripts in the Bodleian in 1863, incorporating the 'Anglo-Saxon attitudes'; particularly attractive to me, since I had managed to find a way into Duke Humphrey

throughout my undergraduate years, in the early 1950s, to write my essays and do my French prose.

We are now aware of the many links between Oxford and 'Alice'. Each of the Alice books begins with 'Alice...', and she, Alice Liddell, is at the centre of the story in known, real or fantastic, surroundings. This, says Mavis, 'we can recognise'. But it is you, Mavis, who have made it all clear. We thank you.

For a week, this last summer; in August 1995, I was given a room in Christ Church, in Peckwater Quad. Not for the first time in Peckwater. But on this occasion, should I, as Dodgson would have done in his diary, 'mark it with a white stone'? My room was in the south-western corner, with a view, the view, over the Dean's garden, towards the DOOR. Eagerly I took photographs; and then, accompanied by Mr Dallah, the House's gardener, I ventured inside the Deanery garden. There, beneath the giant chestnut tree, I picked up a swollen, prickly shell. May I soon have a young chestnut sapling from this noble source?

From David Lambert

This is the text of a short tribute given by David Lambert at Mavis's funeral.

I'd be tempted to say it's hard to know where to begin, except I hear Mavis's inevitable reply, 'Begin at the beginning, go on till you come to the end; then stop.' So I'll try to do something like that.

Everyone here knew her so well and will have been immersed in their own private thoughts about her: I'm not sure what mine can add to yours. I've been recalling tea in Brown's café in the covered market in Oxford and conversations outside Duke Humfrey's library, lunch in the pub at Nuneham, and the sound of her voice, 'Oh, David, you'll never guess what,' as she described her latest find, somewhere deep in the footnotes of Walpole's letters, and what it must mean.

I've turned to Lewis Carroll for words of wisdom in the last few days; a very good place to go when thinking of Mavis. 'It's a poor sort of memory that only works backwards', the White Queen says in *Through the Looking Glass*. Talking with Mavis you were in the presence of a mind that worked backwards, forwards, up, down and sideways; equally at home at Bletchley or in the Bodleian or in Wonderland. I remember how much she liked another exchange between Alice and the White Queen: 'One can't believe impossible things', says Alice. 'I daresay you haven't had much practice,' says the White Queen. 'When I was your age I always

did it for half an hour a day. Why, sometimes I've believed as many as six impossible things before breakfast.' That was typical of Mavis's fearlessness in research; 'all you need is a pencil', as she said of her welcome to Bletchley.

Leafing through the 1996 number of *Garden History*, of essays in Mavis's honour, I came across a casual reference from Ray Desmond to her 'beloved Twickenham', and it struck me of just how many places the word could be used: her beloved Mount Edgumbe, where she quoted Milton and Thomson to dubious county councillors and won them over; her beloved Strawberry Hill, or Painshill, or Pope's grotto; and her beloved Nuneham of course. She had a soft spot for orphan gardens, to which she brought not only love but wonderful scholarship and impassioned advocacy. While research was always fun it was never an end in itself: scholarship was always to be put to use, as ammunition in the fight to save places.

And of course she loved Bognor and West House, where she and Keith were so happy. I recall her delight at her Regency Gothick windows, straight from Jane Austen she said, but also her descriptions of the wintering birds in Pagham harbour, and the thrill of the storms that hurled pebbles from the beach horizontally at the house. Picturesque, beautiful and sublime, they were all there to be had in Bognor.

For Mavis, garden history was also peopled with characters she similarly loved: Jane Austen, Pope and his 'grottofying', Walpole with his gloomth and his honeysuckles hanging down 'somewhat poetical', the Reverend Gilpin, Gilbert White and his tortoise, William Morris and Ruskin, whose dictum, 'There is no wealth but life', she once remarked, said it all, Miss Jekyll, Octavia Hill and Robert Hunter, a whole gallery she brought to life. The eighteenth century was her home territory, but it was not the solemn terrain of other historians; it was the world of Pope sending a puppy to Prince Frederick with an inscribed collar saying, 'I am his Highness's Dog at Kew; Pray tell me Sir, whose Dog are you?' Only Mavis could see how such facts illuminated a study of the relations between Pope and the Prince.

Over the years she became the heart not just of the Garden History Society but, for all those who knew her, of garden history itself. She corresponded with what she would call gardening friends all over the world; from her 'dear Dimitri' in Russia to her 'lovely Americans' from the Oxford summer school. One of my favourite recollections is Mavis side by side with

Mick Aston, he of the wild beard and wilder jumpers on channel 4's *Time Team*, at an archaeology workshop in Bristol, a unique Little and Large of garden history and each equally entranced by the other:

We are all feeling the loss of Mavis now. But for all of us here I am sure, she will remain a happy presence, one of those rare people who as Tolstoy said of Ruskin, 'think with their hearts'; endlessly kind and generous, always amused and wise, a lodestar to remind us of all that love.

From Anna Pavord

I can't remember when I first became a member of the GHS, but I think I first went into print about it in June 1989, when I did an Op Ed piece for *The Independent*. Mavis was incredibly helpful when I was drafting the piece, and although such a rigorous academic herself, saw the point of a piece about historic gardens appearing in a wider, more general sphere. An Op Ed, appearing on the page opposite the editorial page, is reckoned the best place for a campaigning feature and Mavis recognised this too. Of course, she followed up with a letter, and of course, being so succinct and well written, it occupied a prominent place on the Letters Page.

Mavis was always my first port of call, if I wanted to check whether I was being fed a line about some place or person, which needed a balancing view. She was extraordinary in that respect. You could telephone her and ask a question and immediately she was there with you, in that place, in that time. And she shared so much. She never showed the jealous guarding of her special area that you notice in so many professional academics. She was magnificent.

From Tony Beckles Willson

Mavis was widely known and rightly celebrated for her decoding work at Bletchley Park during the war years. Less known is the part she took in the project to create The Twickenham Museum. While sharing our ambitions she had a specific agenda: to bring greater recognition of the life of Alexander Pope in Twickenham and, in particular, the need for proper care of his neglected grotto.

Her way to this involvement was through the Garden History Society, founded in 1966. By 1971, Mavis was the Honorary Secretary, later serving as President from 1985 for 15 years. Her indomitable energies were devoted to raising awareness of England's historic gardens and landscapes. For her,

Pope's grotto and garden were iconic.

From 1985 we collaborated regularly, from 1994 in the context of The Thames Landscape Strategy, which she supported strongly, celebrating the 'Matchless Vale of Thames'. Mavis was consistently encouraging and helpful throughout these years. By way of example only, in November 1996 we were able to arrange for the grotto to be opened one weekday afternoon. To our astonishment, over 700 people arrived during a 2 hour period. At one time a queue stretched along Cross Deep and people were observed turning away. The Museum has been able to arrange openings every year since then.

Next, she suggested a paper about the grotto could be written for *Garden History*. This led to 'Alexander Pope's Grotto in Twickenham', a detailed history sponsored by the Society, and published jointly with the Museum in 1998.

In 1999 she was delighted to accept our invitation for her to become a Patron of the Museum.

When, in 2000, the Museum finally opened, she secured the donation of Professor John Butt's considerable library of Pope's works, from his widow Margot Butt. These grace the Museum today, ensuring that Mavis's part in our endeavour will not be forgotten.

See page 5 for details of our **Chelsea fringe: Arcadian Thames** event.

From Wendy Osborne

I met Mavis Batey, the Bletchley Park codebreaker in 1991 when I was involved in restoring a small neglected park opposite the Regency crescent where I live in Alverstone. I had sketched a design for its possible restoration, and, knowing nothing of garden history was amazed to learn that it had been forwarded to the GHS, whose president asked to visit me.

We asked her to tea. I made cucumber sandwiches, and expected a grand and formidable lady. Mavis arrived, laden with carrier bags, an unimposing, smallish lady. Research notes and copies of plans (mine included!), tumbled out of the bags, and a new field of learning was opened to me.

Her help continued for years. No mention was made of her wartime achievements, until a tulip tree, seeded from an ancient specimen, was looking for a home. Mavis suggested that we might take it to Bletchley Park, as part of an American memorial planting. This we did. Now it feels like a satisfying link between the two remarkable careers of a true friend.

Ted Fawcett OBE

Chairman 1973–76 and 1988–95, Vice President from 2010

From the Chairman Dominic Cole

I first became aware of Ted when the National Trust held an AGM at the Festival Hall, I believe it was his idea to make the event more attractive and up-beat. He boomed at us, and I remember a tall silver-haired mandarin who seemed to be master of his craft. It is certainly an event that made a big impression on me as a teenager.

My next encounters would be at Garden History Society events, at Winter Lectures where he would introduce and thank speakers, often throwing in a question or point that could leave the speaker looking nervous and the rest of us quaking. It was not that he was terrifying but he had a unique gift for spotting things that others missed and an ability to propose an idea or action that 'must happen if we are to move forward', and he was usually spot on.

I was later privileged to be invited to talk to his students at the Architectural Association, where he set up the much missed Garden History Conservation course with Gordon Ballard.

Ted was unstinting in his support for The Garden History Society and garden history as a subject, he inspired so many of us.

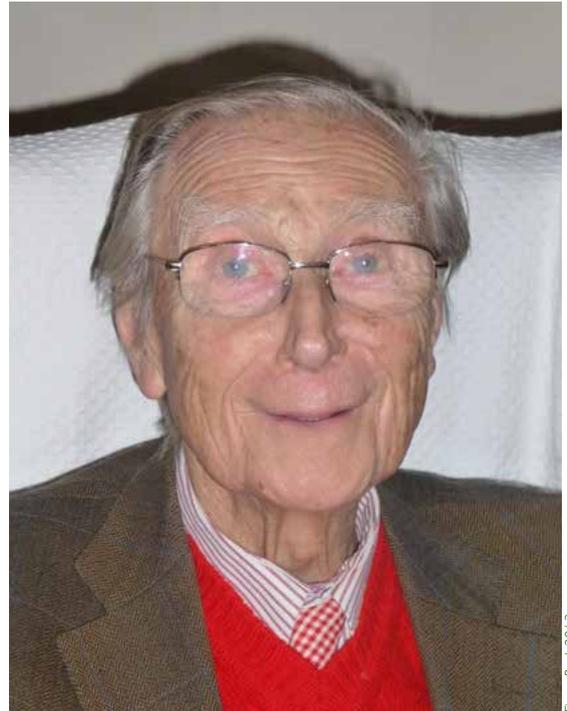
The last time I saw Ted was at the service at Westminster Abbey for Octavia Hill, when a plaque in her memory was celebrated.

Edward Charles Richard Fawcett David Jacques

Ted had a very wide range of interests and admirers, amply proved by the turnout of hundreds at his funeral service and reception in Petersham. He and his wife Jane (née Hughes) were together a formidable team for seventy years, supporting and urging each other on to further achievements.

From the garden conservation perspective Ted made three major contributions which deserve special celebration: his time at the National Trust, his contribution to the Garden History Society (GHS) and the International Council for Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), and the Garden Conservation course at the Architectural Association, all of which are expanded upon below.

In these roles diplomacy was crucial to his success. He was sympathetic and amusing to, and amused by, those he met, so that everyone he encountered



Franco Pecci, 2013

would soon count him as a friend. To his colleagues he was charming but firm in his views, and quietly persuasive. To his students he was calming and encouraging. His sister Jean Davidson remembers him as a teenager with a romantic streak, good with words, and engaging in song and recital. He would take the gentle way round a problem, never angered and always considerate and patient to his little sister.

Another trait that would be discovered as an adult, and remarked upon by several that knew him, was that he was much energised by innovative thought, and was loyal to them, sometimes over decades, working for their realisation. He would use his personal skills to encourage others and thereby breathe life into new ideas.

Early years

Ted's father, Harold, was an engineer of fertile inventiveness. During the First World War he developed an improved gun control system which was adopted by the Royal Navy's destroyers before the Battle of Jutland. He had also seen the importance of submarines, and became one of the earliest anti-submarine warfare specialists in the Navy, but resigned his commission because the Navy did not fund this work adequately. He became

the manager of a wool combing factory, then as a centrifugal engineer and designer in the wool trade in Bradford.

So Ted was brought up in nearby Harrogate, where there was a large garden. One of his most vivid memories was of his father pressing him into duty for experiments with cannons on the lawn. Ted much preferred it when the garden was quiet.

He went to Uppingham School, the public school in Rutland, and became head boy. Despite the offer of a scholarship to Cambridge University he was packed off to his mother's family's firm in Glasgow.

Harold was called up in 1939 and returned to his anti-submarine endeavours. He played a key role in the Battle of the Atlantic by devising radar-equipped aeroplanes that could detect and sink U-boats. Meanwhile Ted had decided that, despite his pacifist nature, he would join the Royal Navy Volunteer Reserve (RNVR) just before the outbreak of the Second World War. Starting as an able seaman, he was afterwards commissioned, and became a Sub-Lieutenant first serving in motor launches in Gibraltar. He did not have a quiet war. One of his great fears was being drowned at sea, yet he was posted to serve in destroyers protecting convoys in the North Atlantic. Ironically, in view of his early dislike of cannon, he became a Gunnery Control Officer on the destroyer H.M.S. Bramham, at the end of 1941. His most dangerous moment was when Bramham accompanied the convoy that lifted the siege of Malta in 1942. Under constant aerial attack, it towed the crippled tanker SS Ohio into port, and so delivered precious fuel to the island.

After the war there was still the opportunity to go to Cambridge, but his family persuaded him that if he wanted to get married he should get a job. So Ted got a job at Shell in 1947, but soon moved to Joseph Lucas, the electrical component manufacturer so commonly seen in cars of that date. He and Jane always felt that his career would have taken a rather different and more congenial turn if he had gone to university, but rather than consign himself to the drudgery, Ted made the best of his situation and was glad to be put in charge of Lucas stands at international shows. This gave some outlet to his artistic inclinations, and he enjoyed the travel abroad.

Ted and Jane had taken on a house at 31 Frognal, in Hampstead, in the early 1950s. It had a quarter of an acre garden consisting of a tennis court and an Italian garden with some Lombardy poplars.

They wanted room for the children to play, and so Ted dug up the entire tennis court and transported it in small pieces to the front of the house. Their interest in opera developed into staging it in their own garden. A kindly neighbour was persuaded to have the orchestra in his garden. Two hundred people came each night. Opera in June at 31 Frognal became a tradition, held in aid of the Hampstead Park Church, which lasted 15 years. Jane remembers that the first performance of all was *Comus* by Milton with the music by Henry Lawes, her son James remembers *Dido and Aeneas*, in which Jane played the chief witch with great verve.

Ted's interest in gardens was mainly sparked by Humphrey Waterfield (1908–1971), an artist but probably a better gardener. The connection was that Waterfield had a very close friend in Nancy Tenant, who was Ted's cousin and godmother. He thereby knew Waterfield from the 1940s. The latter's garden at Hill Pasture, near Broxton, Essex, had clipped yews, long vistas and a moon pond, but its chief glory was its exuberant planting. Nancy had her own cottage and garden, The Chase, on part of this property, and Ted and Jane had a cottage nearby so for 15 years they came to make their own garden there as well.

Waterfield's family also had a garden at Le Clos du Peyronnet, at Menton on the Riviera, the same town where Lawrence Johnston created La Serre de la Madonne. He remodelled this during the 1950s and 60s. It remains one of the best Riviera gardens.

Maybe Ted was taught about historic gardens by Waterfield. His reading was headed by *A History of Gardening in England* by Alicia Amherst, and brought up-to-date by *Gardening in Britain* by Miles Hadfield. For the European scene generally he consulted *The History of Garden Art* by Marie-Luise Gothein. Ted was to provide an obituary for Waterfield in the February 1972 issue of the *GHS newsletter*, in which he praised him as 'a man of wholly unusual capacity, an inspired teacher, and artist and a gardener of great talent'.

Ted was promoted by Lucas to Overseas Director, and he was sent on a course on Personnel Management at the London School of Economics. Nevertheless this job further negated his creative side. He had studied Architectural History and French at Birkbeck College, and really would have wanted to move in that direction.

The circumstances leading up to his arrival at the National Trust are worth a digression.

The National Trust

The Trust acquires property for the nation, and was given the privilege by Parliament of holding it 'inalienably' in order to thwart any proposals for development. However this emphasis on ownership presumed that ownership was an end in itself. It left many unanswered questions as to whose vision of the nation was to be preferred, and also how should the land and buildings be kept; preserved or conserved?

Between the wars the vision was defined for most by George Macaulay Trevelyan (1876–1962), an extremely popular historian whose beguiling presentation of the past life of the English nation was patriotic and inspiring. He bewailed the losses to England, its landscapes, its places and its people's spirit by modern industrial and economic pressures, and warned that what was left was endangered and needed protection. It was a message that resonated with the founders of the Council for the Protection of Rural England, the Ramblers Association and most members of the National Trust. Brenda Colvin quoted his *History of England* (1926): 'without vision the people perish, and without the sight of the beauty of nature the spiritual power of the British people will be atrophied'.

The ideology of these bodies was twofold, to protect the nation's precious assets and to make them publicly accessible. The Trust's slogan, for example, was 'for ever; for everyone'. No contradiction was seen between the two aims whilst the number of people who could take advantage of greater access remained a small section of the well-to-do. However car ownership rose steeply after the Second World War and doubled again in the 1960s. Tensions began to appear as large numbers of car-borne visitors converged on the National Parks and other beauty spots.

Whilst this was taking place, the Trust was acquiring scores, if not hundreds, of country houses under its Country House scheme. The land agents who had been looking after the hundreds of square miles of countryside acquired since the Trust's inception, were thus joined by a raft of historic buildings representatives intent on promoting the very highest standards of care of the houses. Jane Fawcett called them the 'pelmet men' for their attention to such detail.

From 1963 the Trust appointed an Appeal Director for its latest mission, *Enterprise Neptune*. This was Commander Conrad Rawnsley (1907–1997), whose grandfather had been one of the three founders of the Trust. Acquisitions started in 1965. Rawnsley was

loyal to the 'for everyone' aim, and urged the Trust to provide car parks, picnic places, caravan sites and public lavatories.

Queen Anne's Gate (the Trust's headquarters) had quite a different vision in mind. They saw the coastline dedicated to the long-distance walker who would be passing through wilder landscapes in greater solitude. Rawnsley's demands threatened to destroy the very qualities for which the coastal paths were valued. It soon became apparent that Rawnsley, however aggressive he was in pursuing acquisitions, was an abrasive character who could not coexist comfortably with the Trust.

The failure of this relationship was inflated to a matter of principle by Rawnsley. He was against those in the Trust who argued that its properties were to be kept intact for all time, thus for tightly-controlled access; and he was for the ideal of free public access to the countryside, albeit by car. He said that the Trust's leadership was out of touch, dominated by a certain type of person and placed too much emphasis on conserving country houses. This played to a public perception that the Trust had become snobby and elitist.

Rawnsley and his followers called an Extraordinary General Meeting for February 1967, and forced a vote of no confidence. Although this failed, another vote that the Trust should appoint a committee to examine its constitution, policy, finance and administration was passed. The Trust's Council appointed such a committee in July 1967 to report in 1968.

As the Trust's Historic Buildings Secretary and then Deputy Director-General until his retirement in 1973, Robin Fedden (1908–1977) must have felt that he and his historic buildings colleagues were under attack. He was a man of wide ranging interests. He was a mountaineer, canoeist, and poet, and author of numerous travel books relating to the Middle East. He was certainly known for his extreme aesthetic stance, and distaste for the crowds. He is reputed to have declared: 'the Trust is nothing to do with people', and he quoted Trevelyan's *Must England's Beauty Perish?* (1928): 'the importance of the Trust is a measure of the constant diminution of all that is lovely and solitary in Britain'.

Without waiting for the committee to report Fedden immediately penned a defence, *The Continuing Purpose* (1968). In this he remarked that the steady rise in visitor numbers 'has sometimes tended to destroy the beauty of the very things they

come to see and at certain properties to render nugatory the careful work of preservation carried out by the Trust'. He also was wary of the steady rise in Trust membership, up from 9,500 in 1945 to 175,000 in 1967: 'the Trust did great things with less than a thousand members'. Many of these new members 'joined for what they could get rather than what they could give'. Who were they? 'The most active support comes from suburbia, from modest people who since the last war have discovered in motorcars the pleasures and beauties of the coast and countryside'.

'In the future', he wrote, 'the Trust is likely to come under increasing pressure from those who put access before conservation and those who see the Trust primarily in terms of tourism... If the Trust is to remain true to its purposes, it must resolutely withstand this pressure'. He saw the desirability of 'further changes, particularly in the sphere of public relations', which he saw in terms of putting across the Trust's objectives to the public and encouraging visits to lesser-visited properties in order to relieve the pressure on the most visited.

The advisory committee was meanwhile deliberating. Randal McDonnell (1911–1977), 8th Earl of Antrim, Chairman of the Trust 1965–77, had asked Sir Henry Benson (1909–1995) to take the chair. Benson had a burning ambition to take his firm Coopers (later Coopers & Lybrand) to the top. He was the outstanding accountant of his generation and for 30 years exercised a major influence on developments in the profession. As a management consultant he was thus well suited to look into the management and organisation of the Trust. The report in 1968 recommended further regionalisation, implied that the Trust appeared to be elitist, and that a young industrialist should be recruited who would reorganise the management and be responsible for recruiting members.

It can thus be appreciated that Ted Fawcett arrived at the Trust at a pivotal moment. He had seen the advertisement, applied and was interviewed by Antrim and Fedden. Antrim, who saw the Trust's property as 'a bit of what England was once like', was of a similar mind to Fedden. They saw the position chiefly as one of public relations, in line with Fedden's views, but Ted's qualification in Personnel Management made him well suited for that aspect of the post. His architectural history studies at the Birkbeck also qualified him to become an historic buildings representative. He was in

fact offered that position in Sussex, but decided against it and so became the Trust's first Director of Public Relations in 1969.

What the Trust got was perhaps the opposite of what they had planned for; someone who would increase the membership, popularise the Trust, and who promoted gardens and the rural landscape, not just the country houses. He did not confine himself to public relations, but meddled in many areas. The historic buildings representatives, loyal to the 'for all time' aim, and protective of their own standards of care, had reservations about opening properties to the hordes of car-borne urbanites. Meanwhile Cirencester-trained land agents and regional directors viewed his ilk with suspicion. Ted survived by being charming. When that didn't work he was thick-skinned. And when that didn't work he treated defeats with grace and good humour. One could pull his leg.

Ted mimicked Fedden's effete way of speaking to the great amusement of his listeners, but in fact came to find him an interesting man with several admirable qualities. It says much for the two men that despite their differences in outlook they became and remained friendly with each other. Ted also got on well with James Lees-Milne, each of them thinking the other was funny.

The pure Public Relations included dealing with seal culling debates and a proposed bypass through Petworth Park in 1976, but such work was not where Ted made the greatest strides. Membership, it will be recalled, was 175,000 in 1967. It was already climbing fast, and was 226,200 in 1970. Ted pushed forward with innovations such as free entry to properties for members, annual handbooks and *fêtes champêtres* at West Wycombe and the amphitheatre at Claremont. By 1975 membership stood at 500,000 members, and by 1981 it was over 1 million, celebrated by the long-remembered slogan: 'You're one in a million'. By the time Ted left the Trust in 1984 it stood at 1.5 million.

This great rise in numbers, as Rawnsley had foreseen, demanded the car parks, lavatories, cafés, shops, and the paraphernalia of public opening, that Fedden had so dreaded. There was undoubtedly a significant body of opinion that did not like what they saw. Snide remarks about the Trust selling tea towels were made. Nevertheless the drive to provide cafés and shops gathered pace and in 1972 the Trust formed a company, National Trust

(Enterprises) Ltd, for its commercial activities.

The great advantage of the enhanced membership, besides the income, was that the Trust became a popular movement, and thereby escaped its elitist image. Probably without these changes the Trust wouldn't have survived in the way it did. There was undoubtedly the danger of over-emphasis on catering for the visitor, and the diminution of the visitor experience, but this was not pronounced in Ted's day.

Ted made the Trust aware that they did not just have houses, but that the estates of which they were the centre said much about social history, and were of interest in their own right for their history and vernacular buildings. He organised a vernacular buildings exhibition at a time when this subject was in its infancy. However his greatest interest became the gardens. The first garden acquired by the Trust was that at Montacute that came with the house in 1931, and many others had followed in this way. There was considerable concern after the Second World War that gardening skills were fast disappearing, and in 1948 a Gardens Committee was formed that sought to maintain the craft. Their first two specifically garden acquisitions were the then non-historic gardens at Hidcote and Sissinghurst. The gardens advisor from 1954 was Graham Stuart Thomas (1909–2003), a partner in Sunningdale Nurseries.

Ted's years at the Trust were a crucial and exciting time for gardens held by the Trust. Anthony Mitchell had overseen the restoration of the gardens of Westbury Court from 1966 and the next year Thomas created a period-style garden at Moseley Old Hall. The Trust continued to be leaders in conservation in 1974 when the Slater Walker Foundation paid for restoration at Ham House, Claremont and Erddig and, under the leadership of John Sales from 1974, initiated the first historical surveys, with both history and recording, in 1979, preparatory to devising restoration plans.

Ted saw the potential of gardens in raising the profile of the Trust. He got involved in gardens on the pretext that as Director of Public Relations he needed to know what was going on. This could have led to suspicion and irritation amongst the advisors, especially when in 1970 he got himself appointed to the Gardens Panel which oversaw them. However Ted made a point of befriending Thomas. They were very different people, with Thomas being earnest and serious about his own work, and anxious to be given regard for his books and other achievements.

Yet somehow they managed to get on. In fact the gardens advisors soon found that Ted was on their side and no threat at all.

Ted was awarded an OBE for services to the National Trust on retirement, though he had loved his time there and was reluctant to depart.

Garden History Society and ICOMOS

Attending the GHS Annual General Meeting and Conference in York in 1969 led to an association of over 40 years. Impressed by the rising visitor numbers to the Trust's properties, Ted submitted a table for the GHS's Autumn 1969 newsletter showing that the 'top twelve' gardens and parks were then headed by Tatton (with house), Chartwell, Stourhead and Sheffield Park. He then wrote up the improvements underway in National Trust gardens for Spring 1970. He took on the organisation of a memorable and much appreciated tour to France in May 1971 with the help of Brigitte de Soie.

The GHS was enlarging, and the group of like-minded friends needed stronger organisation. Mavis Batey became Secretary in 1972, and Graham Stuart Thomas, perceiving Ted to be an organiser, pushed him into being Chairman in 1973, which lasted the usual 3 years [now four]. Ted became Chairman of the GHS again in 1988 and held that office for two terms until 1995.

Towards the end of his time with the Trust Ted had begun a more direct involvement with particular gardens. When the management of Osterley Park was transferred from the Royal Parks to the Trust, he took a deep personal interest in this and the subsequent phases of restoration. Living at Black Lion Lane, Hammersmith, his house was but a short distance along the Great West Road from Chiswick House and Grounds. In 1983 there was a survey, then in 1987 a restoration plan of the grounds. He championed the ideas for restoration, arguing that although the grounds were a public park they were, more importantly, a unique historic garden. In 1984 he became the first chairman of the Chiswick House Friends.

This year happened to be when English Heritage was created, and one of its first acts was to announce the creation of a *Register of Historic Parks and Gardens* which built upon work by Mavis Batey and others. Conservation work would inevitably follow. Ted thought this a good time to revive the ICOMOS-UK Historic Gardens Committee, and chaired it for nine years. During this time the UK Committee hosted an international conference in



Robert Peal

Ted planting a tree in South Africa, GHS Study Tour 2004

Oxford and led the world in promoting cultural landscapes internationally, with Ted taking a very active interest. For a while in the early 1990s he was a 'corresponding member' of the ICOMOS-IFLA International Committee for Historic Gardens (now the ICOMOS-IFLA International Scientific Committee on Cultural Landscapes).

Architectural Association

Ted had also become interested in promoting garden history to a wider audience. He organised National Trust lectures at the Purcell Rooms (at the Festival Hall). From 1978 until 1984 he ran residential courses at West Dean on the Conservation of Historic Gardens, a great inspiration for attendees.

The GHS journal, edited by Christopher Thacker, provided a regular flow of authoritative articles, but nowhere was garden history systematically taught. There were no principles for conservation set down except some by ICOMOS which were not particularly appropriate in England's landscape parks and plantsmen's gardens. Apart from the Trust's advisors, all horticulturalists, those given professional work on historic parks and gardens were landscape architects groping their way forward, for example on management plans for Blenheim Palace, and historical surveys of the Royal Parks and Chiswick House Grounds.

The only formal teaching in the conservation of parks and gardens at this time anywhere in the world was in the Institute of Advanced Architectural Studies at the University of York. This had an MA in Building Conservation, with a primarily international student body, and had a Gardens Option, which had

been turned into an MA in the Conservation for Historic Parks and Gardens in 1985.

Ted's most important post-retirement role, and the one for which he will be longest remembered in the gardens world, came in 1986 when he started a course at the Architectural Association (AA) in London. It was an unlikely turn of events. The AA was Britain's first school of architecture, and was hard-core Modernist. However it had always led in innovation, and had since 1975 been running the first Post-graduate Course in the Conservation of Historic Buildings in the UK, though this was hardly a main-line subject for it.

As it happens, Jane had been on the course, and by the mid 1980s was one of the teaching staff. Alvin Boyarsky, who was Chairman (the AA's term for the head of the school) from 1971 to 1990, was wondering, in his typical 'why not?' mood, whether the AA should not also have a course on garden conservation. Jane said she could think of one good candidate. Alvin and Ted got on famously at the interview and the Graduate Diploma course, entitled 'Conservation of Historic Landscapes, Parks and Gardens', opened for students in 1986.

Knowing that his own contribution would be in organisation rather than lecturing, Ted saw himself as a year tutor (the course would be 2-year part-time) and he brought in Gordon Ballard, an AA-trained architect who was also a member of the GHS, to be the other year tutor. They sought advice on the curriculum from a panel of historians and practitioners consisting of Elizabeth Banks, Brent Elliott, Patrick Goode, David Jacques, and Michael Symes. It was decided that the course would have a balance of history and conservation, and culminate with a challenging 15,000 word thesis.

The AA had a tradition of bringing in external lecturers. By this date Ted's tentacles spread throughout the historic gardens world in the UK, and it is safe to say that virtually everyone who was anyone in it found their way through the front door on Bedford Square, despite the fee being purely nominal. In fact a list compiled by Ted included 190 names. The students were exposed to a melange of topics which could not fail to expand their horizons.

There was straightaway a tremendous demand for places on the course. Many of the students were experts in their own right on a wide range of topics. Not only did the range of lecturers, and the enlivening discussions, endear the course to the students, but

so did the summertime symposia and trips abroad. In the mid to late 1990s the trips to Austria, Bohemia, Denmark, Paris, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, and the Veneto, and symposia on royal palaces, private French gardens, and other topics were organised for students and alumni by Axel Griesinger.

In view of the mismatch between the AA's ethos and that of Ted's course, it was perhaps a tribute to him that he was still running it after 15 years, at the age of 80. Whilst he was courteous, polite, and humorous, he sometimes had to fight fiercely for its survival.

The field required ever-greater professionalism, reflecting the emergence of the conservation of historic landscapes, parks and gardens as a new branch of landscape practice. In 1984 historic gardens had begun to be protected through the town and country planning system, English Heritage acquired its first Inspector of Historic Parks and Gardens in 1987, and since 1988 there have been a number of grant schemes from English Heritage and the Countryside Commission that stimulated hundreds of management plans and restorations. During 1999 the grants that had been awarded through the Heritage Lottery Fund's Urban Parks Programme exceeded £200m.

The Diploma offered was the AA Postgraduate Diploma, but because the AA was not part of the university system, students and staff felt that its validation by the university system would demonstrate to employers, prospective students and the outside world generally that the course was meeting the academic standards implied by its title.

Ted decided to go for validation, using the occasion to rethink the coursework. He brought in me, David Jacques, a long-time lecturer to the course, to seek it with the Open University. Soon after that was achieved in 1999 Ted handed over leadership to me to run the course with Jan Woudstra, Sandra Morris and Axel Griesinger, though he continued for a while as tutor responsible for assessment. He gave his last lectures in 2002, on interpretation and presentation.

Over the 20 years of the course over 200 students had attended it, of which 35 received validated Diplomas or MAs since 2000. Many of these 200 students became leaders in the field of landscape conservation and achieved prominent positions at home and abroad. Ted had played a crucial role in changes in garden history education as history and practice matured from an amateur to a professional approach. Regarding himself more as an impresario

than an academic, for 15 years he successfully orchestrated an innovative and inspiring course on garden history and conservation.

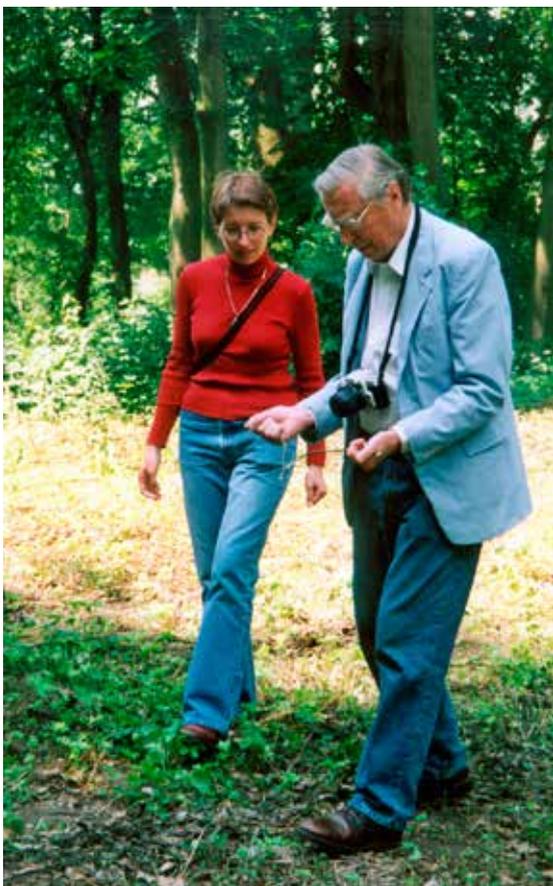
At the urging of his own past students he was a founder member of the London Historic Parks and Gardens Trust in 1994 and became a Director from 1997. After Ted relinquished the AA course he still continued to be the leader of tours abroad for alumni, calling the venture AAA Tours (i.e. AA alumni). Paul Wood, previously National Trust Curator at Sissinghurst, had and continued till 2007 to take a large part in the organisation, and soon Robert Peel also began to lay them on. He continues to do so, and more are planned. Ted's last excursion was to Romania in 2009. He enjoyed the status of doyen, and was made one of the Vice Presidents of the Garden History Society in 2010.

Finale

Ted always joked about his numerous careers, and after retirement from the AA concentrated upon dowsing. He knew he was able to dowse from childhood, and did so at Chiswick House Grounds in the 1990s, which turned out to be amazingly accurate, and some of which was inexplicable by conventional archaeology. He and Jane dowsed the grounds at Osterley Park, Avebury Manor, Moor Park and Hatfield House. He was most interested, though, in Neolithic stone circles. He pointed out that the stones that remained could be a mere fraction of those that had once existed, but dowsing helped him discover the empty positions. Together they developed theories on the Avebury circles, for example, and also on the Ring of Brodgar on Orkney on which he spoke to an ICOMOS conference in 2003.

In his private life Ted was a keen opera buff, enjoyed English and Chinese garden poetry and was a poet himself, printing a number of small volumes. He knew well that he did not have the training or formal qualifications of others but his urbane and easy exterior hid a passionate desire to advance his chosen subjects. He was the right person at the right time at both the National Trust and the AA.

A full account of the AA course, by Ted, can be found in *Occasional Papers from The RHS Lindley Library* Volume 9, December 2012; available at: www.rhs.org.uk/occasionalpapers or by post (£7.50 plus p&p) from: Lindley Library Wisley, RHS Garden Wisley, Woking, GU23 6QB.



Peter Atkinson

Ted dowsing at Pulawy, in Poland, with Katarzyna Piotrowska-Nosek, a Polish landscape architect, 2002

From John Sales, Vice President GHS

Ted Fawcett and I joined the staff of the National Trust in the early 1970s with widely different roles. Despite his official position, I soon realised his interest in gardens and got to know him well from being a member of the GHS Study Tour of gardens around Paris. His role in helping transform the culture of the NT at that time by increasing membership and developing income generation, demanded extraordinary resilience and energy and he combined these with a disarming sense of humour.

To my slight surprise he became a member of the Trust's advisory Gardens Panel, where he nevertheless made an increasingly useful contribution. Ted seemed to have re-created his career several times, his enthusiasm for historic gardens gradually gaining the upper hand.

As well as his stellar achievements at the Architectural Association and in the GHS, he played an important practical role at Osterley Park in

guiding the new regime when the Trust took over direct management of the park and pleasure ground from the Royal Parks, which enabled a large measure of the restoration that has continued since.

From Anna Pavord

I think I met Ted when I first joined the Gardens Panel of the National Trust. Unfortunately, by the time I took over as Chairman, Ted had stood down from the Panel, but we sometimes still met at NT things.

What everyone will remember is his charm, a funny quizzical manner; a way of asking questions and looking at you sideways, hoping perhaps for a mad answer. I laughed with him. We always laughed. There were so many ridiculous things to laugh at, organisation, re-organisation, re-re-organisation. There was an anarchical streak in Ted that I responded to very warmly.

He was endlessly kind, *Simpatico*. And very helpful too in battles such as the one that I and others fought to keep the Lindley Library in London.

From Sandra Morris

I owe Ted a big 'thank you' for introducing me to garden and landscape history, and I'm sure many others feel the same.

In 1986 Alvin Boyarsky invited Ted, a member of the Gardens Panel of the National Trust, to set up a part-time postgraduate diploma course in Historic Garden and Landscape Conservation at the AA School of Architecture in Bedford Square. It was the first day-release course of its kind, and enabled working professionals to attend once a week on a Friday. No 'recognised' qualification was offered, beyond the AA's own prestigious Graduate Diploma. From 1986 to 2000 Ted directed the programme; such was his commitment, that he sat in on every lecture and learned the subject alongside his students, inspiring both students and lecturers with his unfailing enthusiasm.

At the time, I was Registrar of the AA school, awarded a bursary and one day-off a week by a generous head of school. It was the first year of the course, and nothing similar was being offered elsewhere. The assembled students, all relatively mature, had come from many different walks of life in addition to landscape design and consultancy, to share in the challenge of engaging with a new programme. Most of those who were in that year went on to take on senior posts in related fields.

I remember Susan Campbell, already researching and writing about historic kitchen gardens;

Jane Crawley, founder of Barn Elms publishing house, and subsequently publisher of Mavis Batey; Chris Sumner of English Heritage; and our one non-English participant, Benoit Fondu, a Belgian landscape architect who flew over to London each week.

Particularly memorable were the garden visits arranged by Ted and his colleague, Gordon Ballard. On one occasion, we climbed the scaffolding raised over the great glasshouse at Kew in order to replace the glass, skirts flapping in the wind. On another occasion, it may have been at Painshill, we watched Ted exercise his skills at water-divining, a much envied gift that led to later commissions.

With his wealth of contacts, Ted was able to rally a notable bunch of experts and put together an exciting course. Later, under the guidance of David Jacques, it acquired Open University recognition and was able to offer an MA degree, but it was never more loved than under the leadership of Ted.

From Susan Campbell

Unless it was a very serious occasion, Ted always looked as if he was trying not to laugh; in fact the first time I met him it was a fairly serious occasion, as he was interviewing people prior to enrolling them as his first batch of garden history students at the AA, way back in 1986.

When he asked me why I wanted to join I explained that I needed to learn more about the subject in general as walled kitchen gardens were all I knew about so far. At which he got very excited, and shouted 'Nobody's mentioned them before! You must give us a lecture!'

And then it was me who was trying not to laugh, as I had never given a lecture in my life. But as time progressed and I got to know him better, I saw that it was Ted's bursts of unexpected, impromptu enthusiasm and encouragement that made that course so lively and such fun.

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contributions from all members are warmly welcomed by the editor

Restoration of the Parterre Cascade at Bramham Park

Nick Lane Fox

Three hundred years after it was abandoned, Robert Benson's design for the cascade falling into the parterre, on the garden front of the House, is being restored.

Visitors to Bramham have often been perplexed by the view into the garden from the House. On the face of it there is a classic Baroque *Patte d'Oie*, or goose-foot, of five rides converging on the balcony outside the Gallery door; however, the cardinal central ride was rather disappointing. Since the restoration of the House, before the First World War, the parterre has been filled with an Edwardian rose-garden leading to a dry pond and waterfall on the facing wall. Surrounding this was an extensive mown lawn and the hint of another dry pond above that, not at all the dramatic effect that Robert Benson intended.

The plan of Bramham Park drawn by John Wood the elder for Benson in about 1728 annotates this spot with 'Parterre with the Cascade, Water falls 21 feet on thirty Steps', and various contemporary descriptions exist for this feature. The following is attributed to Edward Southwell in 1724;



Detail of the 1728 John Wood plan; pool and cascade at B

We lay at Bramham, Lord Bingleys new Stone house with a Hall of an exact Cube 30 feet high & Square richly adorn'd with stone. Corinthian pilasters & all the rooms well proportion'd & perfectly well finish'd, with different kinds of Cornishes, mouldings, carvings and Gilding.

The House in the main & Gardens front have 11 windows wth 2 Colonnades of Doric pillars. We rode wth Ld Bingley thro' his 3 noble woods, all cut out into most beautifull Stars & Avenues, but all of underwood. The Wilderness near the House was high, & full of Stars, & in the main Avenue there is a cascade wch falls 30 steps & 21 feet in Height, tho' there are to be two others, the greatest a fall of 40 feet, & both on each side of an Obelisk 26 feet high. The Cluster of Doric pillars at Entrance into the Court was very Beautiful.

In 1727 Sir John Clerk of Penicuik wrote this in his diary;

From Wetherby turning off by the right for 3 miles we went to my Ld. Bingley's house. This fabrick is very indifferent outwardly but is tolerably good within and well furnished. The garden and parks are worth seeing for the cascades are very pretty and the stone work admirably executed. The greatest fault here is that there are too many of these cascades. That which is seen at the back of the house is very pretty. The water falls from a receiver or pond down some 80 or a hundred steps each about 3 or 4 inches high and then seems to tumble down an artificial rock. The stones here are of an excellent kind and the lime is good both easily got. We pitched at the Black Horse where the ale is excellent. From this place we came to Ferrybridge where we din'd and at night...

So what happened to this cascade, which Southwell and Clerk both noted? Another account of a visit to Bramham in 1728, this by John Baker, a linen draper of Cornhill, might give a clue;

1 Jul From Tadcaster went to the Seat of the Ld Bingley which is new built but a very bad house, bad architecture, bad rooms, worst furnished & very dirty, especially his Lordship's own room, the bed etc. made of Ticking & most exceeding dirty fit for his Lordship. The gardens ill laid out with small triffling [sic] cascade with little or no water, went four hours out of the way to see this confounded place. Saw Lady Hastings at a small distance and got to Womersley to dinner a little before four.

From this decidedly negative account it sounds as if the water supply was proving inadequate and it seems that the cascade was remodelled once, if not twice, to make the most of the water that there was, before the whole system was abandoned sometime in the mid-18th Century. The reservoir pond (now known as the Queen's Hollow) and the site of the stepped cascade to the parterre were both grassed over.

Early 19th Century pictures show the parterre as a thick shrubbery (*right*), before the House was rendered uninhabitable by a disastrous fire in 1828.

The gardens and landscape were kept up during the 80 years before the House was finally restored and early photographs show the parterre as a plain lawn, surrounding the central sundial. There is, however, no evidence of what the remains of the last three steps of the cascade into the parterre looked like at this stage.

Detmar Blow designed a rose-garden with teardrop-shaped yews for the parterre, when he rebuilt the House, starting in 1906. The cascade and its terminal pond remained as dry features and my great-grandmother and grandmother both grew rockery plants there. Thus it remained throughout the 20th Century, until the 2001 Landscape Conservation & Management Plan for Bramham suggested a further hydrological study to assess the viability of restoring all the water features in the designed landscape. This study by the Geography Department of Leeds University measured the water flows and losses of the whole system over a year, and concluded that the three supply springs could supply enough water for one of the two sets of historic cascades using the original gravity-feed, but a recirculating pump would be needed to make both work again. It also quantified the amount of water leaking from the T-Pond and showed us that this needed fixing before any other part of the system.

Money to help with this possible restoration became available through Margaret Nieke at Natural England, and to unlock this we commissioned a scoping report to cover repairs to the T-Pond and restoration of the Queen's Hollow to Parterre cascade. The T-Pond repair work was carried out over the winter 2011/12 and saw 3,300t of clay puddled to reform the base, before new turf-topped retaining walls were constructed. It now again looks as it did when first constructed.

Even before work had started on the T-Pond we



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began to investigate what remained of the Queen's Hollow to Parterre Cascade and in January 2011 Durham University carried out a geophysical survey. They detected the remains of a retaining wall in the Queen's Hollow and the remains of the stone cascade across the lawn to the parterre, so, that same summer, we commissioned a dig of four trenches across the feature at different points. The archaeologists found elements of the remains in all of the trenches, ranging from a well-preserved lining for the reservoir with walls and a cobbled clay bottom, to a partially demolished 10ft wide cascade and later culvert.

Before the T-Pond was even finished, in February 2012 design work began on the Queen's Hollow to Parterre Cascade. We explored various options: doing the whole scheme as originally described, or leaving the existing cascade as it was but with flowing water and various options in between. Settling eventually on the original scheme and reserving judgement on the final remaining three step cascade until we had dismantled and examined it properly, we progressed to the next stage of uncovering the whole of the cascade in June 2012 (*below*). This,



Nick Lane Fox

for the first time, showed us the whole feature and revealed at least three phases of construction between 1700 and 1740, consistent with ongoing water supply problems.

Having decided on a design, we put the project out to tender, which almost inevitably revealed that it would cost more than the funds we had available. What quantity surveyors call 'Value Engineering' and what the rest of us call making savings had to be faced. We decided to delay restoration of the dismantled cascade and the Queen's Hollow reservoir and carry out the work to the remaining 3-step cascade falling into the parterre pond.

This would include the water supply, drainage and recirculation system, all of which could be used for the wider scheme. We minimised the work which would have to be undone when we can finally reconstruct the rest of the system.

Work started in January 2013 and dismantling of the existing cascade soon revealed an earlier, more formal scheme inside it (*below*). This, of course



Nick Lane Fox

prompted much discussion about what should go back, however, ultimately there was not enough of it left to reconstruct and we proceeded with repair of the existing cascade, although we decided to replace the undecorated parterre wall either side of the cascade with two vermiculated pilasters and four vermiculated panels. Strong evidence of these was revealed on taking the wall apart.

Another design change prompted by the new archaeological evidence on dismantling it, was to the dimensions of the parterre pond. The measurements for this had been taken from a geophysical survey, but when the ground was excavated, we found the original clay lining around the pond, and the original pond wall under the parterre wall. The pond was longer and narrower than we had thought, but the ratio of its length to width was the same as the parterre in which it sits. Its sides also met the parterre wall at the vermiculated pilasters which we have replaced: altogether a tidy set of connections.

Construction progressed smoothly: the original parterre wall has now been backed by a massive new concrete retaining wall and the pond has a waterproof concrete liner, onto which the new stone walls are fixed. A new water supply pipe comes from the T-Pond and an overflow pipe now gives into the fire reservoir tank under the south colonnade beside the House. The pumps (to re-



Nick Lane Fox

circulate the water and overcome the eighteenth century water supply problems) sit in a chamber behind the rebuilt parterre wall (*above*), connected to the mains electricity supply and controlled by text message! There are two identical pumps, one with a slightly restricted output for 'everyday', whilst the other produces a fuller flow for 'best'. Running both together is possible, but rather over-the-top.

The pumps were properly started on 18th September 2013, and have been working since then. There have been a couple of pauses to clear fallen leaves from the in-take and for the masons to complete some detailing to the stonework, but otherwise no problems. The cascade looks wonderful in action and sounds just as good: the walls of the parterre garden reflect the noise of the running water (*right*) towards the House and seem to amplify it, too.

When we removed the Edwardian rose-garden from the parterre in 2009, we did so in anticipation of the cascade and pond restoration work. Now that this is complete, the question of what to put back in the frame of the parterre walls comes back into focus. We have, so far, found no illustrations or evidence of what the original scheme looked like

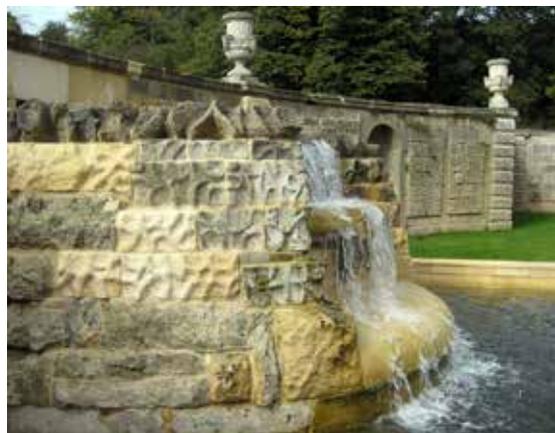
and I am looking for ideas for what we might put back, which would be in keeping with an early-18th-century landscape and complement the restored cascade. Perhaps we should run a design ideas competition. . . .

This is an updated version of an article that appeared in the *Yorkshire Gardens Trust Newsletter*, 33, Summer 2013.

Restoration of the Parterre Cascade Yorkshire Gardens Trust Bramham Study Day 10am to 4pm, Friday 16 May

Introduced by **Nick Lane Fox**, speakers include **James Edgar**, architectural & garden historian, on *Significance: Have We Done the Right Thing?*; **Andrew Brookes**, Project Architect, on *Restoration of Rocky Cascade: A Conservation Architect's View*; **Lucy Dawson**, Project Director, on *Excavations at Bramham: A Cascade of Archaeology*; and **Dr Margaret Nieke**, Historic Environment Lead Advisor, Natural England, on *Parklands and Environmental Stewardship: Continuing the Historic Journey in Yorkshire*.

The day includes lunch and a tour of the gardens in the afternoon. Cost: £50, download a Booking Form at: www.yorkshiregardentrust.org.uk The day is limited to 50 participants, so please act quickly. . .



Dick Knight

The most spectacular rond-point in England?

The restoration of part of Charles Bridgeman's design for Tring Park, Hertfordshire

Anne Rowe

In March 2011 I received an email from the Woodland Trust inviting the Hertfordshire Gardens Trust to write a restoration plan for Tring Park. This plan was a requirement for the bid they were making to the Heritage Lottery Fund, in partnership

with Tring Museum, to gain funding for a project to increase awareness of what both the museum and Tring Park had to offer for the inhabitants of Tring and the surrounding villages, and for visitors to the area. Tring Park had become physically divorced from

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the town in the 1970s when the A41 Tring bypass was constructed. Although a pedestrian bridge had been provided over the road, the footpath linking the town to the bridge was so inconspicuous that many people were unaware of it and the park began to fade from local memory.

A major commercial threat to the park took shape in 1989 with a proposal for a leisure complex and golf course but fortunately the ecological value of the site, as one of the largest surviving areas of unimproved chalk grassland in Hertfordshire, had been recognised by the ecologists at the County Council and much of the park was designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest. The development plans were rejected. As a result Dacorum Borough Council purchased the area of the park lying south of the A41 and responsibility for its future management was subsequently placed in the hands of the Woodland Trust.

Tring Park was known to the garden history world as a Charles Bridgeman site largely because of a bird's-eye view of the gardens by Thomas Badeslade published in *Vitruvius Britannicus* in 1739. But there is also a lovely plan by Joseph Colbeck (*below*)

showing the town of Tring, the mansion and its gardens and park at around the time that the Bridgeman landscape was being laid out. This plan belongs to the Rothschild family who became the owners of Tring Park and its mansion in 1872. It shows the layout of the 'forest garden' designed by Bridgeman on the steep slope of the Chiltern escarpment, a series of straight paths radiating from a central obelisk, which still survives today. But little work had been done to record what, if anything, survived of the Bridgeman gardens in the parkland beneath the escarpment.

Compiling a detailed report on the history of the park and its ecological value, together with proposals for its restoration and management as part of the HLF bid was a major undertaking for the Hertfordshire Gardens Trust, requiring the pooled talents of a small, but perfectly formed, team. Jenny Milledge would research and write the history of the early eighteenth-century designed landscape, Kate Harwood would concentrate on the later history and I would write about the landscape itself, the origins of the park and its ecological importance.

We set to work, and by July 2011 our report and



restoration proposals were ready. They received a very favourable response from the Woodland Trust and also from the large number of local and regional bodies and groups with an interest in the bid to the HLF. Our list of restoration proposals was discussed and whittled down to what was affordable and feasible within the terms of the project bid. The bid was submitted and in October 2012 it was announced that it had been successful; the 'Experience Tring' project was no longer just a proposal, it was happening.

Of major concern for the future of the park was the intensity of grazing. Up until the later decades of the last century, the park had been grazed by sheep and cattle, and by an assortment of zebras, emus and kangaroos at the beginning of the twentieth century! The combined efforts of these herbivores had maintained the floristic diversity of the grassland in the park and kept invading scrub at bay; the slopes of the Chiltern escarpment and its foothills in Tring Park were open pasture, rich in wild flowers and butterflies. But grazing intensities had fallen by the 1980s, scrub started to invade, especially on the steep slopes of the escarpment, and in places the scrub was developing into woodland. This was damaging not only for those species of plants and insects dependent on the increasingly rare chalk grassland habitat but also for the historic designed landscape. A herd of cows was reintroduced in the park and strenuous efforts were made by local volunteers to keep the scrub at bay and maintain the ecological diversity of the escarpment but the magnificent views that Bridgeman had planned from the King Charles Ride, a high level terrace carved out of the chalk escarpment, had all but disappeared behind a wall of trees by the time we started our investigations in 2011.

To our delight we discovered that the two circles of trees, *rond-points*, shown on the Colbeck plan at each end of a section of the King Charles Ride had been planted on circular earthwork platforms. These platforms had been carved out of the slope on their south sides and then built out above the slope on their north sides but by 2011 they had become submerged in scrub and trees and were virtually

invisible. Restoration of these key features of the Bridgeman design became our priority. The reality of the HLF budget and the amount of tree clearance required meant that we had to settle for the restoration of just one of the *rond-points*, the one that marks a change in direction of the King Charles Ride. Concerted efforts at clearance of scrub and trees beneath selected view points along the ride started in the winter of 2012/13 using contractors with chain saws. The effect was immediate, the relationship of the ride with the mansion in the distance below, and with the surrounding landscape, was re-established.

Within the parkland below the escarpment we have discovered further evidence for Bridgeman's splendid canal and associated terracing, and for his network of tree-lined rides which appear to be marked by low earthwork ridges. Bridgeman had a great talent for exploiting the natural topography to enhance his landscape designs. On the tops of two of the low hills within the park he laid out plantations of trees in geometric shapes; a circle of trees on one, a square plantation on another. These too seem to have been shaped or outlined with minor earthworks. A careful survey of these subtle reminders of the past will be made in the next year or two.

Towards the end of October 2013 work started to clear the trees on the slope beneath the eastern *rond-point*, and the *rond-point* itself was cleared of brambles, scrub and small trees (*below*). The two largest trees on the platform were left standing, it is a Woodland Trust site after all! When we visited the site on 7 November to advise on the positioning of the new circle of trees, we were astonished at the transformation; the views to Tring and the landscapes beyond were quite stunning. This was surely one of the most spectacular *rond-points* to be created in England!

Since then the ground has been levelled, a circular path has been laid and a new circle of young lime trees has been planted. A celebration is planned for early April when the Countess of Verulam, President of the Hertfordshire Gardens Trust, will plant the final tree at the centre of the *rond-point*.



Anne Rowe

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An information panel will be erected on the approach to explain the historical significance of the restoration. The original intention of the feature needs no explanation, it is there laid out in the landscape for anyone to see.

The restoration of the Forest Garden at Tring Park Study Day Hertfordshire Gardens Trust 10am to 4pm, Thursday 29 May

Speakers are: **Tom Williamson** on *The early gardens of Henry Guy and William Gore and Charles Bridgeman*; **Francesca Greenoak** on *The Rothschild Gardens and Park*; followed by a tour of the mansion

with **Mike Hutchinson**. A sandwich lunch will be followed by a coach trip to King Charles Ride, and guided walk through park back to mansion with **Anne Rowe** (Herts Gardens Trust) and **Louise Neicho** (Woodland Trust) to view restoration work. This walk is quite strenuous and a guided tour of the private Rothschild gardens around the mansion with Francesca Greenoak is offered as a less tiring alternative. The day ends with tea.

Cost: £30 per person. Please make cheques payable to Hertfordshire Gardens Trust and send to 78, Broadstone Road, Harpenden, AL5 1RE. Acknowledgement and further instructions will be emailed where possible.

The Governor's House and Garden at Parramatta, New South Wales Sarah Joiner

During my studies with Kate Harwood on the Georgian Garden at Birkbeck last year, I decided to write an essay on Joseph Banks' contribution to the foundation of Australia. As the eldest daughter of Australian parents, it was natural to look at my homeland. My research led me to the Natural History Museum to study Banks' frequent correspondence with the first governor of New South Wales and dear friend Admiral Arthur Phillip. Phillip's death in 1814 will be commemorated in the UK this summer with the unveiling of memorials in Westminster Abbey and in Bath. Phillip wrote often of his beloved garden at Parramatta and I was thrilled to be able to examine the Natural History Museum's unique collection of paintings of Australia.

Two paintings of the Governor's garden exist in the collection from the time of the First Fleet and the establishment of the new colony in Sydney Cove.

The first (*below left*) is *A view of Governor Phillip's house, Sydney Cove, Port Jackson* taken from the

NNW painted between 1789–92 which is part of the Watling Collection at the Natural History Museum in London. The second (*below right*) is a *View of the east side of Sydney Cove, Port Jackson, ... the Governor's House*, painted 1789 or 1790 and is part of the Raper Collection again at the Natural History Museum

The large house in both paintings is clearly one and the same property. The main features of the house are there in both paintings. Francois Peron, the French spy writing in 1809 described the house as being in the Italian style. Peron visited Parramatta between 1802 and 1804.

The gardens surrounding the Governor's House and the scrubland behind the settlement in Raper could not be more different from Watling.

The Watling painting shows a large mansion, a formal garden laid out in a European style, a well, and smaller outbuildings, all fenced in.



with the permission of the Trustees of the Natural History Museum



with the permission of the Trustees of the Natural History Museum

The Raper painting shows a similar mansion but this time the grounds are painted not as a formal garden but as far more agricultural land between the house and the seafront. The outbuildings are not as clearly shown but there is some indication of their presence.

The Australian bush at the rear of the Watling picture is a much more accurate interpretation than the dense, almost European, woodland shown protecting the Raper painted settlement.

Neither picture exactly demonstrates the garden that was probably there. Contemporary writings indicate a great number of fruit trees in the garden that grew vigorously.

Peron said, 'Behind these magazines is the governor's house, which is built in the Italian style, surrounded by a colonnade, as simple as it is elegant, and in front of which is a fine garden, that descends to the sea-shore: already in this garden may be seen, the Norfolk Island pine, the superb Columbia, growing by the side of the bamboo of Asia: farther on is the Portugal orange, and Canary fig, ripening beneath the shade of the French apple-tree: the cherry, peach, pear, and apricot, are interspersed amongst the Banksia, Metrosideros, Correa, Melaleuca, Casuarina, Eucalyptus, and a great number of other indigenous trees: beyond the government garden.'

James Backhouse, a missionary from England visiting between 1832 and 1838 also wrote of walking in the Governor's garden and described it as several acres enclosed by a wall. Apples, pears, quinces, mulberries and walnuts were growing in abundance.

Governor Phillip was greatly exercised to ensure that food crops were the priority and this makes the formal garden shown in the Watling painting less likely. Labour was at a premium and food production meant survival. As the Governor was instructing the convicts and free settlers to work the land, he would have set a good example by putting his own land to crop production. A formal garden merely for show was a luxury no one could afford in the early days

of the new colony. Alan Frost states that by 1793 Parramatta was already growing corn, potatoes, fruit trees and vines. Parramatta was the centre of agricultural production.

Phillip himself wrote to Joseph Banks on 26 September 1788 to express his hopes that the fruit trees and vines would in a 'few years will give the luxuries as well as the necessarys (sic) of life'.

Neither painting shows the detail in the garden that is described by contemporary writings. Clearly the newly planted vines and fruit trees would have been small in size and therefore the artist may have decided not to work on the detail.

Thomas Watling's version of the house and garden in the formal European style denotes status as interpreted by people in England and Europe who would view the painting on its return to the mother country. This European style was well understood and offered a sense of security and safety which was important to convey to those back home who were fearful of what life in the new colony might be like.

George Raper who painted the second view of the Governor's house and garden was in fact the official painter travelling with the First Fleet but that still does not automatically mean he painted the most accurate detail. Inevitably one needs to consider all the information available through drawings and the written word.

Today the site of the Governor's house and garden, together with the experimental farm at Rose Hill is held by the National Trust in New South Wales. The house, a reproduction of the original property, is very similar to that shown in both paintings. The garden and experimental farm are long gone, replaced by neat lawn and a few shrubs. The information on the environment and heritage pages of the NSW Government's website reveals that the integrity of the site is generally good but modern life encroaches. A major sports stadium at Parramatta, and the human traffic it brings, looms large over the area, 'twas ever thus.

Antony du Gard Pasley, a forgotten Garden Designer?

Emma Isles-Buck

'He had 3-D vision; he could instantly see what my garden could become'.

Anthony du Gard Pasley was an eminent Garden Designer and Landscape Architect who is sadly, too soon forgotten. In 1952 he became a paying pupil

of Sylvia Crowe and Brenda Colvin, working in their offices by day and studying under the tutelage of Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe in the evening. His own private practice started in the late 1960s only stopping when he died of cancer in October 2009. His designs won

agenda

gold medals at two Chelsea Flower Shows where he later became a judge on the panel. Along with writing a few books, he also wrote articles on gardening for *Country Life* for over 21 years. He was a well known figure in the GHS for many years, speaking about his career in 2007 at one of the Winter Lectures.

His wide experience, impeccable taste and deep knowledge of what actually worked in the making of a garden made him both a popular lecturer on garden design, at the Inchbald Institute, and then in 1983, the English Gardening School and much in demand by clients. After the catastrophic storm of 1987, a client rang Anthony to say that several trees in their 4-acre garden in Sussex had come down. Anthony seemed to know exactly which ones they were, he named them all and did not see this as a problem, remarking to the client that it saved them money in taking the trees down and they would now have a new vista to enjoy. He was right about that too!

His neat appearance and impeccable manners reflected the enigmatic man he was. Often referred to as someone who was of 'another era', dressed in a striped blazer, cane and straw boater in summer; deer stalker hat and tweed cape in winter; he belied this by being right up to date with what was going on in the world, although he never read a newspaper and didn't own a television.

Garden and Landscape, the lectures of Anthony du Gard Pasley, Packard Publishing £27) published posthumously in November 2013 was his last book. He wrote it for students and serious gardeners alike. The foreword by John Brookes and a conclusion by Rosemary Alexander, both colleagues



Emma Isles-Buck



and friends of his, bring the book right up to date.

Emma Isles-Buck is compiling a book on Anthony and would be very glad to hear from anyone who knew him well, or indeed projects he worked on. Please contact her at: emmaib@btinternet.com

Fiona Grant 1948–2014, an appreciation

Susan Campbell

Fiona Grant died on New Years Day 2014, after a very brief illness from pancreatic cancer. She and I worked incredibly closely and happily for thirteen years on the Walled Kitchen Garden Network, an internet based organisation that was almost entirely Fiona's idea. By this means people with questions about walled kitchen gardens (their history, restoration, funding, future uses, planning issues etc.) were able to email us, and each other. Also, through

our Workshops, Talks and Annual Forums, which Fiona also organised, with help from Anne Richards, we actually got to meet hundreds of those people.

We had huge fun inspecting the venues for those events, she must have held the record for the number of times anyone could drive round a roundabout before finding the right exit. We met and interviewed gardeners and garden owners of all sorts; community leaders, property developers,

herbalists, health spa managers, horticultural therapists, dukes and earls, schoolmasters and hoteliers, with overnight stops in a wide range of hostelries and B&Bs. We'd send cautious invitations to potential speakers about whom we knew very little, or not enough, but by whom we were often happily surprised; indeed, thanks to Fiona, I married one of them. Over the years we dealt with more and more questions, with more and more people wanting to come to our Forums. Moreover, the GHS, the AGT, the National Trust, English Heritage and Garden Organic all wished to be affiliated with us.

It is largely thanks to Fiona that the WKGN is such a success. When I first met her she was very unsure of her own abilities, but lately she really shone. She worked without stint on the welfare and history of these marvellous gardens. Everyone with whom she had contact admired the charm, efficiency, friendliness, humour, intelligence and energy with which she handled the affairs of the Network. She also gave many talks, lectures and garden tours, provided reports and management plans, edited newsletters and booklets for her local County Garden Trusts and only last summer published a small book on *Glasshouses* (Shire Library), which has all the hallmarks of a serious, relentless researcher, and is a classic of its kind.



Paul Richmond/Shire Library

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GHS events diary

Wednesday 26 March	GHS London Lecture: Noel Kingsbury on <i>Daffodil Stories</i>
Wednesday 9 April	<i>Celebrating George London Study Day</i> at Melbourne Hall, Derbyshire
Wednesday 14 May	GHS in Scotland Annual General Meeting & Lecture: <i>The Falls of Clyde</i>
Saturday 17 May	Chelsea Fringe: <i>Arcadian Thames</i>
6 to 8 June	<i>Gardens and the Enlightenment</i> Annual Rewley House Study Weekend
7 or 8 June	Visit to Cruickshank Botanic Garden and Tillyprone, Aberdeen
Wednesday 11 June	Abberley Hall and Witley Court visit with Hereford and Worcester GT
Thursday 3 July	Warley Place and Thorndon Hall, Essex with London Parks & Gardens Trust
25 July to 27 July	<i>A prelude to the Great War</i> AGM & Annual Conference, Cardiff
15 to 17 August	<i>William Shenstone: A Tercentenary Conference</i> with Pembroke College, Oxford
Friday 26 September	Edinburgh Public Gardens and Squares Conference
6 to 12 October	POSTPONED: Study Tour to Gardens of The Crimea and Kiev — see below
Saturday 8 November	Autumn Study Day on <i>Memorial Landscapes of the First World War</i>
Monday 10 November	Edinburgh Lecture: Michael Ridsdale on <i>Managing the Fountains Abbey & Studley Royal Estate</i>
revised dates	Study Tour to the Gardens of Roberto Burle Marx, Brazil

Details and booking information for all GHS events can be found inside, on pages 4 to 9, or look at our website: www.gardenhistorysociety.org/events

Alternative Study Tour to the Italian lakes, October 2014

In view of the unresolved problems in Ukraine, and especially now that the Crimea is playing centre stage to political tensions in the region, we have taken the decision to postpone the **Study Tour to The Crimea and Kiev** until 2015, at the earliest.

Members of the Events Committee of the Garden History Society are endeavouring to put together another trip to interesting and historic gardens in October 2014 as a substitute. We are hoping to offer a visit to cultural landscapes and gardens beside some of **the Italian Lakes**, pending confirmation of available hotel group accommodation. Although the trip begins outside Turin, we will not repeat what we saw around that city a couple of years ago, but go to **Biella**, staying in the mountainous retreat of **Santuario d'Oropa** for two nights and a hotel besides **Lake Maggiore** for three, and include a visit to the **Lake of Orta**.

For further information of this or any other programme of visits we are researching, please contact Robert Peel: rma.peel@btopenworld.com, or watch out for information posted on our website.

GHS news correspondence and items to the GHS head office,
or email the editor: news@gardenhistorysociety.org

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