

## Update on the GHS and AGT merger

In the summer of 2014 the members of both the Garden History Society (GHS) and the Association of Gardens Trusts (AGT) voted to approve in principle a merger of the two organisations.

It is hoped that the arrangements for the merger can be completed before the joint Annual Conference is held in Newcastle-upon-Tyne in July 2015, and draft documents defining the merger have been published on a temporary web site so that members of both organisations can consult them: [www.agt-ghstogether.org](http://www.agt-ghstogether.org)

The website contains all the information about the merger, with pages devoted to the process, our proposed new name, our new constitution, the members of the transitional committee, a timeline, and a way to pass on your comments.

The merger process is being undertaken by a transitional committee with members being drawn from both the AGT and the GHS. Expert help is accessed where required from within the existing organisations or from third parties.

## Submissions pour into unique record of historic garden research

Enthusiastic supporters have now provided 1,400 entries for a second edition of our list of Conservation Management Plans!

CMPs don't simply contain technical details on site management, but they also hold precious and often very detailed research into historic sites. This material can be difficult to access so in 2013 the GHS published a reference list of CMPs and related research for historic designed landscapes. This was made possible with sponsorship and support from English Heritage.

The list has enjoyed huge popularity and supporters including keen individuals, local authorities, national organisations, County Gardens Trusts and eminent landscape practices have continued to send in details of CMPs. In summer 2014 the GHS published the second edition of the list, now available at: [www.parksandgardens.org](http://www.parksandgardens.org)

The published list is not intended to be a definitive catalogue of

all CMPs relating to historic designed landscapes but it is hoped entries will be added in future, growing into a comprehensive reference; it is only ever going to be as good as the willingness of people to send in material so we are extremely grateful for everyone's support.

The Hestercombe Gardens Trust is setting up a Centre of Landscape Studies with a CMP archive and has advised on the GHS CMP project. For the moment the list simply offers an indication that the CMP exists; many are however available at publicly accessible archives or online.

The GHS continues to welcome submissions, or additional details to existing entries, to: [cmp@gardenhistorysociety.org](mailto:cmp@gardenhistorysociety.org)

*Linden Groves,  
CMP project co-ordinator*

## Continuing the discussions, sharing the expertise

We never cease to be amazed at just how much knowledge and expertise is tucked away amongst County Gardens Trust and Garden History Society members, but it is dismaying that there are so few opportunities to share this knowledge, resulting in us all losing far too much time and effort in reinventing the wheel.

So this autumn we have set up a new email group for CGT and GHS members, building on a previous discussion facility on the Historic Landscape Project web forum. A small but growing number of users have already initiated sparky discussions on asylum landscapes, water-filled ha-has, anaerobic digesters and even a Trust seeking help with a planning application. We look

forward to raising topics such as research and record keeping in the next few weeks.

Similar volunteer networks to ours use the same set-up and tell us that it is simple, dynamic and convenient to use, with immense benefits in facilitating friendly and informative mutual support but clearly though, the discussions will only be as good as the people using the facility! So, please join the group by

- visiting <http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/leapthehaha/join>
- sending an email to: [leapthehaha-subscribe@yahoogroups.co.uk](mailto:leapthehaha-subscribe@yahoogroups.co.uk)

*Linden Groves, Verena McCaig,  
Historic Landscape Project Officers*

## Parks & Gardens UK War Memorial Parks & Gardens Gazetteer

Parks & Gardens UK has just begun an exciting project to compile a war memorial parks and gardens gazetteer and has invited the GHS to be a partner in the project; to help provide access any relevant resources, or information, for the gazetteer. Can you think of how you might be able to help?

The project involves compiling a gazetteer of war memorial parks and gardens across the UK. This will be as comprehensive as possible. It will include the name and location of each site as well as a brief description. An all-inclusive gazetteer like this does not yet exist, and Parks & Gardens UK is well positioned as a UK-focused website and information resource to host it. It is anticipated that once the first list is uploaded, more information and sites will filter in from members of County Gardens Trusts (CGTs), individual researchers, and friends groups.

The gazetteer will be updated at regular intervals online. Its compilation is timely at the start of the years when the First World War is commemorated, and will complement government-backed initiatives such as the drive to see war memorials brought into good repair, and far more of them listed. Not only is the project intrinsically worthwhile; it will mesh with and eventually feed in to the database of designed landscapes across the UK, and

place us in a strong position to play a part in the remembrance activities which will mark the centenary of the Armistice.



*Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red, The Tower of London, 11-11-2014*

The gazetteer will include war memorial parks and gardens from all periods of time, although it is anticipated that the vast majority will have been created in the years after the First World War. The definition of a war memorial park or garden must include a specially designed landscape space. It does not include stand alone memorial objects within a non-memorial space such as statues, war memorials, tree avenues or other plantings or buildings. In addition to creating a gazetteer for the website, enough information will be collected about each site to create new basic records for any not already on the Parks & Gardens UK database.

We have invited the CGTs to participate by sending submissions from their areas for the gazetteer. We are aware that there are also multiple sources online to search which will add sites to the list. A member of our project team will assist me with researching sites online for inclusion in the gazetteer. The initial gazetteer with accompanying article will be available on the website in January 2015. Submissions for further updates to the list will be accepted over the next four years. The information will be added to the database records and creation of new records will be ongoing.

If you have any questions about the project, please don't hesitate to contact me. And please let me know what resources you might have which can help us to add to the list, photographs for the records perhaps? I look forward to hearing from you.

Rachael Stamper  
[parksandgardensUK@parksandgardens.org](mailto:parksandgardensUK@parksandgardens.org)

**GHS Events 2015** more will be added during the year,  
for full details please see [www.gardenhistorysociety.org/events](http://www.gardenhistorysociety.org/events)

**GHS London Winter Lecture Series**  
at The Gallery, Cowcross Street, London  
6.30pm, Wednesdays: 28 January,  
11 and 25 February, 11 and 25 March  
For details see the enclosed Booking Form.

**Petticoats and Plants: Scotland's  
Gardening Women, 1800-1930**

Lecture by Deborah Reid  
7.30 pm, 19 March 2015

At: The Lecture Theatre, Royal Botanic  
Garden Edinburgh, EH3 5LR. Tickets on the  
door £5 members, £6 non-members

**Spring Study Day on  
Imagery for Garden History**  
at the Linnean Society, London  
Thursday 30 April

Includes a tour of Green Park & St James's  
Park and an evening Guided Tour of *Paradise  
Preserved* by the Curator of the exhibition of  
the Queen's pictures of gardens at the  
Queens Gallery, Buckingham Palace.

For details see the enclosed Booking Form.

**GHSS AGM**

& lecture by Bill Brogden  
*Ichnographia Rustica*: Stephen Switzer  
and the *Designed Landscape*  
date to be confirmed, mid May  
Lecture tickets: £8, students: £5

**GHS & LPGT Chelsea Fringe event**  
Saturday 16 May

Full details on the websites, and in *news 95*.

**GHSS Garden Party Fund Raiser  
evening, Friday 5 June**

Connie and John Byrom's Garden of the  
Nine Muses. Details to follow.

**GHS Rewley House Conference  
Gardens and the Theatre**

Friday 5 to Sunday 7 June  
Details on the website.

**GHSS visit to Tynninghame House**  
Saturday 20 June

Garden visit and tea.

**Joint visit with LPGT  
first week in July**

Full details on the websites, and in *news 95*.

**AGMs, Graduate Symposium and  
Annual Summer Conference  
Newcastle University**

Friday 24 to Sunday 26 July

Thursday: extra visit to Seaton Delaval and  
Northumberlandia, Charles Jenck's landform  
sculpture. Friday: Graduate Symposium, the  
AGMs & conference dinner. Saturday: Croxdale  
Hall, Hardwick Hall, Sedgfield, and small gardens  
in Durham. Sunday: Alnwick Gardens, Hulne  
Priory and Belsay Hall and Castle.

Please see the enclosed Booking Form for  
costs and detailed itinerary.

**Study Tour to gardens of USA:  
Pacific Northwest**

Sunday 9 to Friday 21 August

100 years of design in Seattle, Portland,  
Victoria, Vancouver. Itinerary on the website.

Contact Liz Goodfellow: [LIZGZ@aol.com](mailto:LIZGZ@aol.com)

**GHSS visit to Dumfries House  
with the Arboricultural Association**  
Saturday 5 September

**Study Tour to gardens of Normandy**

Saturday 10 to Friday 16 September

Contact: [rma.peel@btopenworld.com](mailto:rma.peel@btopenworld.com)

**Autumn Study Day:  
Masonic Symbolism in Gardens  
in the Freemasons' Hall, London WC2**  
Saturday 31 Oct

Researchers from both UK and Europe will  
examine this complex subject.

Contact: [rma.peel@btopenworld.com](mailto:rma.peel@btopenworld.com)

Please note details of some events may change.

**be heard...**  
student opportunities

**GHS Annual Essay Competition**

The competition is open to any student,  
worldwide, 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.

Submissions must be 5,000 to 6,000 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 as well.

Application forms can be downloaded from  
our website and entries can be submitted up  
to and including **Thursday 30 April 2015**.

**Our 5th Graduate Symposium  
to be held at Newcastle University**  
Friday morning, 24 July 2015

We invite scholars worldwide to submit a  
200 word proposal for a paper whose  
subject is unpublished. Symposium papers  
are 20 minutes only (approx. 2,000 to  
2,500 words), with a short Q&A session  
afterwards. Scholars in all disciplines are  
encouraged to submit, and any subject  
relating to garden history will be  
considered. Full details on our website.

Applicants should submit their 200 word  
abstract via our website or direct to:  
[graduatesymposium@gardenhistorysociety.org](mailto:graduatesymposium@gardenhistorysociety.org)  
by **Monday 2 March 2015**.

This year's Symposium will be held as part  
of the activities at our Summer Conference  
in Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Attendance at the  
Symposium does not require attendance for  
the whole Conference, separate ticketing is  
available, see the Conference Booking Form  
for details.

THE GARDEN  
HISTORY SOCIETY

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**micro-news 94a**

correspondence and items to  
GHS head office or email the editor:  
[news@gardenhistorysociety.org](mailto:news@gardenhistorysociety.org)  
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