

GHS news



88 late Summer 2011

THE GARDEN  
HISTORY SOCIETY

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### Copy deadlines

for **micro-news 88a** — 10 November  
for **GHS NEWS 89** — 1 February 2012

## news

### AGM report

The Society's AGM was held at Keele University on 22 July 2011. 70 members were present.

Messrs. Peters Elworthy & Moore were appointed as the Society's Independent Examiners.

We are pleased to announce that Dominic Cole was re-elected to Council, and Patrick Eyres, Jeremy Rye and Michael Thompson were elected as members of the Council.

Peter Hayden was elected for a further five years as a Vice-President of the Society. Alan Baxter and Susan Campbell were elected to be Vice-Presidents for five-year terms.

The minutes of the meeting will be included in the papers for next year's AGM.

*Elizabeth Cairns, Hon Secretary*

### other AGM news

A huge boost to the Society has been the generous legacy from Pippa Rakusen. The first part of this has been received and, by combining it with the existing reserves, we have made an investment that guarantees circa £10,000 income per year. This will go part of the way towards the anticipated loss of grant from English Heritage.

I am supported by a dedicated team of volunteers, officers and members and thank everyone of them for their passion, and look forward to reporting on our progress over the next twelve months.

Thank you all for your ongoing support.

*Dominic Cole, Chairman*

## contact us

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The Society gratefully acknowledges the support of Alan Baxter and Associates

### Membership applications to:

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Our cover shows a view from the Temple terrace within 'China', at Biddulph Grange. GHS Vice-President Peter Hayden can be seen rounding a rock on one of the many winding paths within the garden (see the Conference report on p25).

If you have an image you think might be suitable for the front cover, please send it in.

## Looking Ahead

Our Chairman Dominic Cole made an important announcement at the Society's AGM, summarising the results of the 'Working Together' study, which he will also be giving at The Association of Gardens Trust's AGM at Worcester College Oxford, on Friday 2 September.

Our conservation team face big challenges in their work due to changing government policies and reduced funding. In Scotland a significant issue is the availability of grants under the Scottish Rural Development Programme (Rural Priorities) for Native Woodland Creation, increasing bio-fuel production (largely for domestic consumption in woodburners etc). Landowners, pleased to take advantage of these funds, will often disregard the aesthetic landscape in favour of productivity which puts major designed landscapes at risk.

In England the proposed government review of planning potentially reduces the protection offered to designed landscapes by encouraging development without the need for rigorous review.

The GHS has been anticipating such changes over the last two years and at this year's AGM we were able to announce the results of the joint 'Working Together' feasibility study that has been made possible with funding of £20,000 from English Heritage, shared equally between the four partner organisations concerned. We have worked in partnership with three like-minded organisations, The Association of Gardens Trusts (AGT), the Parks and Gardens Database (PGDS) and the Garden Museum. The findings include that:

- GHS and AGT to plan how the two could become one and, in the process, actively involve County Garden Trusts (CGT) so that we become a single strong voice, albeit recognising CGTs are individually constructed and will have particular priorities.
- Not to be overly driven by Government ('Big Society' etc) but to promote a single, independent, strong and informed conservation and learning voice under one 'banner'.
- To plan how to transfer responding to case work (statutory referrals) to CGT's whilst maintaining standards of professional responses. This will involve deciding lines of communication, who does what, training, maintaining records and where ultimate responsibilities lie for quality and effect of responses.
- The Garden Museum, GHS, AGT to form a

working group specifically to plan activities and events based on themes and topics. PGDS to provide information page on website.

- PGDS to progress brief for development of the website, already in progress, and to involve the Museum, GHS, AGT during process.
- The Museum to consider the new ways of working in its Development Plan.
- To build in communication as a vital element of our ability to operate effectively. If a paid 'Co-coordinator' post is agreed it is likely to be based at the Museum.
- To consider how administration and back-up will be most effectively provided, e.g. office systems, finance, constitutional roles and overarching co-ordination.
- To consider what streams of revenue generation are possible jointly and severally, and communicate these across the group.

We believe that uniting our skills and resources will give us a more effective voice and avoid the confusion as to which body is giving what advice.

The most significant outcome of the study has been the agreement between the GHS and AGT, working towards the idea that, in future, there *may* be one organisation. Giving county membership more ability to get involved with direct conservation action underpins this thinking.

The GHS has already undertaken an internal review of the way that we tackle Conservation. It has become increasingly clear that our freedom to have an independent voice in this field is hobbled by our relationship to public funding. In England, as statutory consultees, we are obliged to respond to some 1,500 cases per year. Even now we are struggling to respond to enquiries and with a planned reduction in EH funding will find the position increasingly hard to sustain.

In Scotland, we are not statutory consultees and our only public funding from Historic Scotland comes with the condition that it should be used solely for the support of volunteers researching and recording Regional and Local landscapes.

### Honorary Secretary

Elizabeth Cairns intends to retire as Honorary Secretary of the Society having completed eight years in office. Would anyone who is interested in taking over this role please contact her: [elizabeth.cairns@btinternet.com](mailto:elizabeth.cairns@btinternet.com) or Lou Cooper, the Society's Administrator

## news & GHS events

### GHS Essay Prize 2011

The 2011 annual GHS Essay Prize has been won by Karin Seeber from Bristol University. There was a very strong field this year with entries from as far afield as Oxford, Cambridge, Bristol, Sheffield and London universities, but Seeber's piece on the Mount at New College, Oxford: 'Ye Making of ye Mount' was the unanimous winner. The judges were particularly impressed with the way the author went back to original sources, re-examined and reinterpreted them, and discovered new pieces of information along the way. The essay challenges accepted theories, presents a new interpretation of the Mount and in so doing makes

a valuable contribution to our understanding of mounts in general and the New College Mount in particular.

The level of scholarship in the other entries was also very high, with some excellent social history, good use of primary sources and wonderfully dynamic writing. With the demise of several Garden History courses this year, the entry criteria for the prize will probably be broadened out next year, so interested parties should watch the GHS website in the autumn to see if they will be eligible to submit to next year's competition.

*Katie Campbell*

## GHS events 2011 & 2012

full details of our 2012 programme will appear in future issues

### Study Day: The History of an Estate in its Designed Landscape

Smeaton Estate, Tynninghame, East Lothian (by courtesy of Mr Kenneth Gray)

10am to 4.30pm, Saturday 10 September

The Study Day will begin with coffee in Tynninghame Village Hall followed by two talks in which David Affleck will share with us the findings of the extensive and new research that he has undertaken into the designed landscape of the Smeaton estate. Lunch will be provided at the village hall after which we shall set out on a walking tour of the estate, guided by David and GHSS member, Kristina Taylor.

£16 including coffee and lunch. Contact Sue Hewer: [suehewer1@bopenworld.com](mailto:suehewer1@bopenworld.com) or: 01575 560259 for further details or to reserve a place

### Study Day on Brookwood Cemetery London's Necropolis: a perfect place of rest

in association with the AGT and Surrey GT  
Saturday 17 September

Brookwood Cemetery, Woking, opened in 1854, was upgraded to Grade I status on the Register in 2009 and its future is at risk. It deserves more recognition and support to enable the gradual deterioration of many of the monuments to be slowed, repaired and restored to their former condition. Its exceptional historic and artistic

influence will be explored in three morning talks.

Brookwood Cemetery's huge size (150 hectares) means that we will be selective in what we visit, in order to obtain a broad view of how it was used in the 19th century and how it relates to the 21st century. Brookwood still has its own station and can be reached direct from Waterloo.

Cost: £47. For further information, please contact the Co-ordinator at the AGT: 020 7251 2610 or: [co-ordinator@agt.org.uk](mailto:co-ordinator@agt.org.uk)

### A Study Day at Wrest Park Wrest Park Revealed

in association with the AGT, EH and Beds GT  
Thursday 13 October

The restoration of the landscape at Wrest Park, Silsoe, near Bedford, continues apace. The Study Day will demonstrate how new research methods have shown that previous restoration was at times inaccurate. The different overlays now offer a palimpsest of the landscape through the formal to Regency and family influences.

The morning talks will take place in the dining room of the house and the afternoon will allow the delegates to walk the landscape, see the completed areas of restoration and the archaeological excavations taking place.

Cost: £46. For further information, please contact the Co-ordinator at the AGT: 020 7251 2610 or: [co-ordinator@agt.org.uk](mailto:co-ordinator@agt.org.uk)

## Study Tour to the Gardens of Mexico

Friday 7 to Tuesday 18 October

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Fully Booked

## The Victorian Garden

Rewley House, GHS/OCE Study Weekend, Oxford  
Friday 21 to Sunday 23 October

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The annual weekend school will explore the complexities and variety of the Victorian garden: theory and practice, changes, developments and controversies. The work of particular designers will be considered. There will be a visit on the Saturday afternoon to **Coleshill** as an example of Victorian estate management including a garden.

Cost: £290, other options available on application. Details from the Short Courses Administrator, OUDCE, 1 Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JA. Contact: 01865 270 380 or email: [ppdayweek@conted.ox.ac.uk](mailto:ppdayweek@conted.ox.ac.uk) or see: [www.conted.ox.ac.uk/courses](http://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/courses)



© Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh

*Benmore Fernery under restoration, March 2009*

**The Victorian Fernery at Benmore**  
lecture by Professor Mary Gibby  
with the Architectural Heritage Society of Scotland  
Glasite Meeting House, Edinburgh  
6.30pm, Monday 7 November

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James Duncan, an enlightened Victorian, built the fernery at Benmore in 1874 at the height of 'Pteridomania'. Sadly, following a change of ownership the fernery went into decline. It survived as a derelict ruin for some 100 years, but was restored to its former glory in 2009 (*above*).

Professor Mary Gibby of the Royal Botanic Garden of Edinburgh is a respected authority

on Pteridophytes (ferns & horsetails). She was involved in the reconstruction of the Fernery at Benmore and will describe this project in her talk. The Fernery is built into a hillside, with a vaulted entrance, grotto and pool. Unique, too, because of its scale (142 sq m), it is now a Grade B listed building of great architectural and botanical value. £5. Tickets on the door

## Study afternoon:

**Wilton House, the Tudor & Stuart Gardens at The Linnean Society, Burlington House, London**  
1.45pm, Wednesday 9 November

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Following the successful and over-subscribed study day at Wilton House in June, this event will offer another opportunity to hear **Dr Paula Henderson** and **Dr Sally Jeffery** give extended versions of the lectures they gave at Wilton. Both speakers will also include new research on this iconic garden, as well as material that Dr Paige Johnson covered on the day.

Dr Henderson will speak on the 16th-century gardens (which she only covered briefly at Wilton), the early 17th-century gardens and the remaining early sculpture. Dr Jeffery will discuss records of the garden and changes to it in the later 17th and 18th centuries, with particular emphasis on the surviving fragments of the grotto. The afternoon will conclude with discussion.

Doors open at 1.30pm, programme starts 1.45pm. The nearest Tube Station is at Piccadilly. The Linnean Society is the first door on the left as you enter the walkway towards the Royal Academy of Arts off Piccadilly, 5 minutes walk from Green Park and Piccadilly Circus tube stations

Cost: £25, includes coffee and/or tea, with a discounted student price of £20. The number of places is limited, so early booking is advisable, using the enclosed Booking Form or contact Lucy Kilborn: [LDaubeny@aol.com](mailto:LDaubeny@aol.com)

## Paradise of Exiles: the Anglo-American Gardens of Florence

lecture by Katie Campbell  
with The Friends of the Royal Botanic Gardens  
Edinburgh at the Lecture Theatre, Royal Botanical  
Garden of Edinburgh, 20 Inverleith Row  
7pm for 7.30pm, Thursday 8 December

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Katie Campbell's recent book, *Paradise of Exiles: The Anglo-American Gardens of Florence*, combined

## GHS events

social history with horticulture; exploring the eccentric community of English and American expatriates which gathered in Florence at the end of the nineteenth century. As the city around them modernised they gravitated to the hill towns transforming neglected estates into Renaissance-style villas, dealing in art of dubious provenance, recording local customs and writing endlessly about themselves, each other and great figures of the past. Despite their charmed lives these Anglo-Florentines played a crucial role in preserving Italy's cultural history, protecting important villas, restoring ancient landscapes and creating some of the country's best loved gardens. More importantly they researched and recovered horticultural traditions at a time when these were in danger of being lost forever.

£3 for members. £5 for non-members. Bookings can be made by phoning the RBGE Membership Office: 0131 552 5339 followed by payment on the night. Tickets will also be available on the door.

## Events for 2012: more in next issue

### Study day at Studley Royal, North Yorkshire

in association with the AGT, Yorks GT & NT  
Thursday 3 May

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Studley Royal park, including the ruins of **Fountains Abbey**, was designated a World Heritage Site in 1986. It is a landscape that many will be familiar with, and so this Study Day will focus on current excavations and research, recent discoveries, developing ideas and interpretations, and even



*Statue of Neptune on the Moon Pond, Studley Royal*

perhaps some debunking of established myths!

The morning talks will take place in the Aislabie Conference Suite. Speakers will include Mark Newman, Archaeological Consultant, Yorkshire & the North-East, National Trust, who has spent many years investigating the history of the Fountains-Studley site and the Aislabie family, and is currently excavating the feature known as Quebec. Guided tours of the gardens will follow after lunch.

For further information, please contact the Co-ordinator at the AGT: 020 7251 2610 or: [co-ordinator@agt.org.uk](mailto:co-ordinator@agt.org.uk)

### Our Summer Garden Party 3rd week in May

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The GHS annual Summer Party will be back in London for 2012 and is likely to take place in May during the week prior to the Chelsea Flower Show, full details to follow. Why not combine it with a visit to the ViewTube (p27) to see the Olympic Park.

### Gardens and Literature

Rewley House, GHS/OCE Study Weekend, Oxford  
Friday 25 to Sunday 27 May

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Our annual Study Weekend at Rewley House has now switched to May, so, rather than wait 18 months, we have proposed a new event for May 2012. This weekend will investigate the interconnections of gardens and literature over a wide timescale. It will include consideration of how gardens are represented in literature and used as symbols; and of how literature took form in, or influenced, gardens. A visit will be included.

See page 5 for contact details.

### Study Tour of Gardens in Bohemia and Moravia

with the Friends of Czech Historic Buildings,  
Gardens and Parks  
Saturday 26 May to Saturday 2 June

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**Harriet Landseer** will lead a group from the GHS and the Friends of Czech Historic Buildings, Gardens and Parks on a tour of gardens in the Czech Republic. These will include in Moravia: the Liechtenstein estate of **Lednice/Valtice** with its extraordinary follies and early greenhouse (UNESCO); the preserved 17th century Italian garden at **the Archbishop's Palace in Kromeriz**



Harriet Landseer

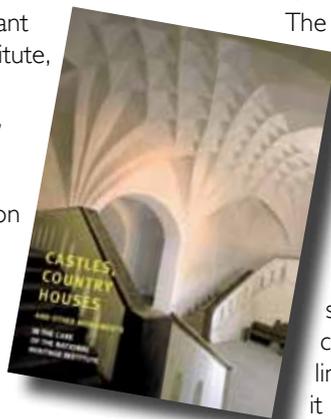
Part of the Baroque gardens at Cesky Krumlov castle

(UNESCO); the court-level Mannerist interiors and garden at **Bucovice**; the pretty formal gardens and impressive arboretum at **Buchlovice**. And in Bohemia: the **Cesky Krumlov** castle complex with Baroque gardens; **Vlasim**, the earliest landscape garden in the Czech Republic; and **Kromeriz**, where Franz Ferdinand laid out the rose garden. There will also be a day in Prague, where we hope to include the garden at the **British Embassy**.

Harriet has lived in Prague on and off for the last 20 years, since moving there after graduating in art history from Yale. She specialises in the heritage and art of the Czech Republic and Central Europe, and has been accompanying and leading tours for museums and garden groups from the UK and USA for over 18 years.

She also works as a consultant to the National Heritage Institute, and did the English language version of their book, *Castles, Country Houses and other Monuments*. She is currently finishing a booklet for them on Historic Gardens.

Accommodation will be in good quality hotels: 4 nights in Brno, 2 in Cesky Krumlov and the last one in Prague. The price will be £895 per person based on shared twin accommodation. The single person supplement will be £265 per person. This includes all coach transport, bed and breakfast accommodation, 6 lunches and 6 dinners and the cost of site visits, but not the cost of the flight from London to Vienna and back again from Prague. Each



organisation is limited to 15 places each. There will be a non-returnable deposit fee of £100.

For more information please contact Robert Peel: rma.peel@btopenworld.com, or phone: 020 7121 8938 (from 13 September to 6 October and again in November).

### AGM & Summer Conference 2012 at the University of Reading Friday 13 to Sunday 15 July

Following the success of this year's **Graduate Seminar** we aim to have another one on the Friday morning before the afternoon **AGM**. There will also, again, be an optional extra garden visit on the afternoon of Thursday 12 July.

The University received a Gold Medal for its display on chocolate at the Chelsea Flower Show this year; and the campus at Reading was awarded a Green Flag (only the second awarded to a University campus) this summer. Judges "were impressed by the 134-hectare site which contains wooded areas, open meadows, a lake, shrubs and borders as well as county standard sports pitches. There is a wonderful collection of trees, and a network of paths links these different and exciting areas, making it an accessible and enjoyable place for all to take pleasure in."

The Whiteknights campus was one in which Frank Clark had some involvement, and Chloe Bennett will give a talk on the work of her father, here and elsewhere, at Conference.

Full details of the Conference and AGM will appear in the next **GHS news**.

## HS2, our response

The Society has made many contributions to protecting parks and gardens throughout its history and, as Mavis Batey reminded us at her recent 90th birthday party, even Petworth's park was once under threat from a bypass proposed to run through it. The latest threat is that posed by HS2, and we combined with both The Association of Gardens Trusts and The Georgian Group in making our response to it.

*Jonathan Lovie,  
Policy Advisor & Principal Conservation Officer (England)*

### **Proposed High Speed Rail Link Consultation Paper, February 2011**

This consultation response is submitted jointly by The Garden History Society, The Association of Gardens Trusts and The Georgian Group.

The Garden History Society is the national amenity society concerned with the conservation of Britain's heritage of historic designed landscapes. It is also the Statutory Consultee charged with considering the impact of proposed development on designed landscapes of national significance which have been included by English Heritage on the *Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest*. The Society comprises some 2,000 members worldwide. Its Conservation Committee, which has reviewed the High Speed Rail Link proposals, is composed of landscape historians, landscape architects and landscape conservation specialists of national and indeed international standing.

The Georgian Group is the statutory national amenity society specialising in the understanding and conservation of our eighteenth and early nineteenth century designed heritage. It is the Statutory Consultee for development proposals which affect Georgian buildings and their designed settings. The Georgian Group comprises more than 3,500 members.

The Association of Gardens Trusts is the umbrella organisation for the county gardens trusts in England, which collectively represent some 7,000 members. The Association of Gardens Trusts is a respected voice in the heritage sector; responding to Government and other policy consultations; the county gardens trusts embody considerable locally-based expertise on historic designed landscapes and have a particularly valuable role in providing information about non-designated designed landscapes.

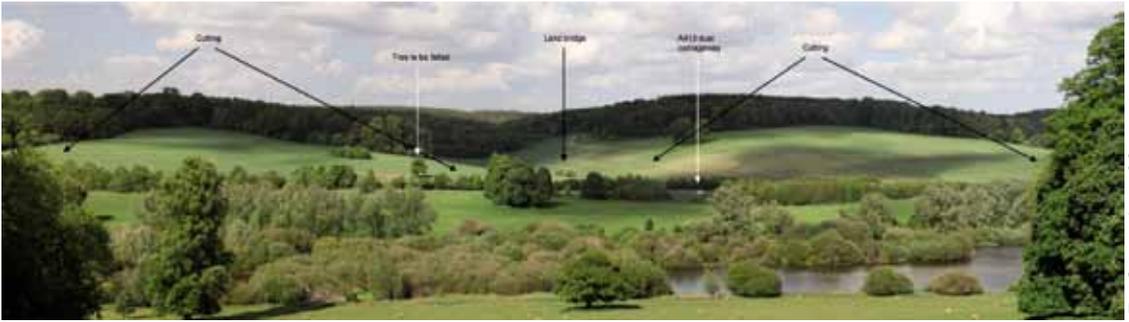
It is not the locus of these bodies to comment on the economic case for or against the proposed High Speed Rail Link. We note, however, the division of expert opinion on this case, and would

comment that the economic imperative for this project appears far from established.

The Garden History Society, The Association of Gardens Trusts and The Georgian Group have given careful consideration to the revised proposed route for the High Speed Rail Link published in February 2011. We note and welcome the alterations made to the original proposed route published in 2010. However, we remain opposed to the preferred route on the grounds of its unacceptable impact on a significant number of nationally important designed landscapes.

We note with considerable concern that the impact of the proposed rail link on the various sites and their settings has not been assessed in detail as part of the process of developing this scheme. We consider this to be a fundamental and unacceptable methodological flaw, and would observe that it appears to conflict directly with the Government's national planning policies for the historic environment set out in *Planning Policy Statement 5 (PPS5)*. Similarly, it appears that the guidance of English Heritage on assessing the impact of proposed development on the historic environment has not been followed. It is inexcusable for the planning of a major infrastructure project closely associated with the Government not to follow planning and conservation best practice.

We append to this letter a more detailed list of designed landscapes which would be affected by implantation of the preferred route. Of particular concern is the impact on three eighteenth century designed landscapes (**Hartwell** and **Shardeoles** in Buckinghamshire, and **Stoneleigh Abbey** in Warwickshire) which are included on the English Heritage *Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest* at Grade II\*, indicating that these sites are of outstanding historic interest when



The Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty [www.chilternsaonb.org/](http://www.chilternsaonb.org/)

View north east of the Humphry Repton designed landscape of Shardeloes Park, just down the slope from Shardeloes House. The proposed route will cut through the fields behind the A413 before crossing below a 'land bridge' spanning the valley in the centre right of shot. The cutting sides will be clearly visible where they cut into the hillside. Repton accepted the route of the now A413 saying it formed 'a line of separation between the two parts of the park' and he created 'a communication under the turnpike road' as part of the circuit drive.

considered in the national context. Each of these landscapes also forms the consciously designed setting for a Grade I listed principal building.

The Register of Parks and Gardens is a highly selective designation comprising only some 1,600 sites in total (compared to c.360,000 listed buildings and c.18,000 Scheduled Ancient Monuments); of these sites, 10% are considered to be of international significance (c.160 sites), and 30% are identified as being of outstanding historic interest (c.480 sites); the remaining 60% of sites are considered to be of 'special' historic interest (c.960 sites). It is clear, therefore, that sites such as Hartwell, Shardeloes and Stoneleigh are both rare and highly important surviving examples of eighteenth century landscape design – an aesthetic genre widely considered to be Britain's greatest contribution to our international cultural heritage.

We note and commend to your attention the comments submitted by the Chilterns AONB Board; we also commend the response submitted by Bucks Gardens Trust and those of other county gardens trusts in affected areas: these embody a very high level of locally-informed expert comment which serves strongly to underline the absence of an appropriate impact assessment in the consultation documents.

The Garden History Society, in its role as Statutory Consultee for nationally designated historic designed landscapes together with The Georgian Group and The Association of Gardens Trusts, advises that the preferred route for the proposed High Speed Rail Link would have an unacceptably detrimental impact on the historic environment and particularly on historic designed

landscapes and their settings along its route by reason of physical impact on the historic fabric, or impact on views, vistas or by scale, movement, noise and light effects.

We further advise that there appears to have been a totally inadequate assessment of these impacts on the historic environment as part of the planning process for the preferred route, and comment that this represents an unacceptable approach to planning in this sensitive area.

For these reasons, all three bodies urge you most strongly to withdraw this damaging preferred route for the proposed HS2 rail link.

If, however, despite these and other considered objections this route is adopted, The Garden History Society and The Georgian Group (as Statutory Consultees), and individual county gardens trusts will wish to comment upon, and where appropriate offer advice on mitigation measures. However, it is our collective view that mitigation will not negate the terrible harm which would be inflicted on these fragile and outstandingly significant elements of our historic environment and inheritance.

## Appendix

### Outline Schedule of Historic Designed Landscapes and their Settings affected by HS2 Preferred Route

#### 1.0 Nationally Designated Designed Landscapes

##### 1.1 Sites in Buckinghamshire

- **Shardeloes**, Amersham (Grade II\*; Grade I listed principal building) – considerable damage amounting to the destruction of this outstanding landscape designed by Humphry Repton.

## conservation notes

- **Hartwell House**, Aylesbury (Grade II\*; Grade I listed principal building) – the setting to the north and east will be particularly adversely affected with damage to the historic fabric including Park Lodge and the North Avenue; the opportunity for the reinstatement of the historic (early eighteenth century) designed view to the spire of St Mary's, Aylesbury will be lost forever; as will historic designed views from the North Avenue and the Wilderness to open country.
- **Eythrope House** (Grade II; Grade II listed building) – impact on the setting of the landscape through noise and visual impact on views.
- **Waddesdon Manor** (Grade I; Grade I listed principal building; National Trust) – impact on the setting due to the elevated position of the house and surrounding designed landscape. Designed views north from the park will be particularly affected.
- **Quarrendon**, Aylesbury (Scheduled Ancient Monument) – earthwork remains of Sir Henry Lee's garden; the setting will be adversely affected.

### 1.2 Sites in Warwickshire

- **Stoneleigh Abbey** (Grade II\*; Grade I listed principal building) – the proposed viaduct across the River Avon to the north of the Abbey will compromise designed views within the eighteenth century landscape. The route through the former National Agricultural Centre will serve further to blight this area of the designed landscape, ensuring that the full aesthetic concept for Stoneleigh will never be appreciated.
- **Castle Bromwich Hall** (Grade II\*; Grade I listed principal building) – while the setting to the north of the Hall is already compromised by transport routes, the addition of HS2 will create additional noise and visual impacts, intensifying the degradation of this setting. The existence of harmful development should not be taken as justification for further adverse development.

### 2.0 Regionally and Locally Significant Sites

NB Due to the incomplete nature of the English Heritage *Register of Parks and Gardens*, some of these sites below may be of suitable quality and historic interest to merit national designation.

This list makes no claim to be exhaustive, but serves to highlight the inadequacy of the approach adopted to the historic environment in the Consultation document.

#### 2.1 Sites in Buckinghamshire

- **Barton Hartshorn Manor** – an important

example of the work of the Scottish Arts and Crafts designed Sir Robert Lorimer; which remains more or less intact.

- **Chetwode Manor**, Preston Bissett – impact on the setting of the garden.

#### 2.2 Sites in Northamptonshire

- **Edgcote House** – the proposed viaduct to the north of the lake will have an unacceptable impact on the eighteenth century landscape designed to form the setting of this important Grade I listed eighteenth century house (1747–52).

#### 2.3 Sites in Warwickshire

- **Stoneythorpe Hall**, Southam – the line to the south of the house and landscape may have a detrimental impact though increased noise levels.

### Wood, Devon, an update

Wood was purchased by James McDiarmid, Surgeon, in 2008 with the intention of using the property as a cosmetic surgery/beauty therapy centre. Mr McDiarmid is aware of the historic importance of Wood, which is a Grade II\* listed building within a Grade I Registered historic c1904, designed landscape by Thomas Mawson, and bought the property with a view to making it a first class hospital clinic and feels he needs high quality surroundings for both operational and commercial reasons.

Consultants were reappointed to update reports previously undertaken in 2006, and to give guidance on technical issues. All necessary planning & listed building consents have been granted. In 2008 the fabric of the house and garden structures were in rapid decline, in particular a the fabric of the Tea House and the dry rot was threatening the fabric of the house, with seven substantive outbreaks scattered throughout the building.

The dry rot is gone, the roof has been repaired and 100 of the 150 windows have been repaired. As well as the roof & windows, the house has been repainted, most of the garden walls have been stabilised & some have been rebuilt, large areas of brambles & undergrowth have been cleared, the hedges have been trimmed & the lawns cut. The survey of the condition of garden buildings and structures has been updated, a tree survey has been made & a conservation plan has been prepared.

On a recent visit I was shown the work done so far; it has certainly made a huge difference to the place, Wood now has an air of care about it.

Mr McDiarmid has committed himself, and his resources, to making the project a success.



John Clark

*Wood, as the scaffolding comes down*

Unfortunately after spending almost £500,000 on the works so far he has been unable to raise the necessary funds from the banks for the project to continue. Until the hospital is up & running, income cannot be generated and so the project is 'on hold'. However McDiarmid, whose business has remained healthy despite the recession, remains optimistic about bringing Wood 'on-line' over the next year; or so, through alternative funding sources.

*John Clark  
Conservation Officer, south-west*

**conservation notes**  
from our officer in Scotland

As many members are now aware the conservation office in Scotland has undergone some radical changes over the past few months. During 2010 and ongoing discussions with Historic Scotland (HS), it became clear they were no longer able to fund the project which we had been undertaking over the past three years, assisting with the protection and conservation of gardens and designed landscapes not included in the *Inventory*. They were however prepared to support and help expand our volunteer recording project for twelve months until April 2012. A lower level of grant than previously received was duly confirmed in February, leading to a cut in conservation officer hours of one-third and the closure of the Edinburgh office. As no alternative source of funding has been identified so far for conservation casework in Scotland, this effectively ceased on 31 March this year; despite continuing consultations

and requests for advice. Our work for the Forestry Commission remains unchanged.

Support and development of the recording groups thus continues; a very successful day was held at Broich, Stirlingshire in May to introduce more members to the project and we are very grateful to Sir Peter and Lady Hutchison for allowing us to take over their home and garden for the day. On 9 September we are holding an initial training day for an East Lothian group. This will take place at the Town House, Haddington, and nearby Amisfield; please contact the conservation officer [scotland@gardenhistorysociety.org](mailto:scotland@gardenhistorysociety.org) if you would like further details of this event or group.

Interest has also been expressed by members in Central Scotland in establishing a group there, which will probably broadly cover Stirlingshire, Clackmannanshire and Falkirk. Again please contact the conservation officer for further details if you would like to be involved in this, or any other area.

Changes for dealing with gardens and designed landscapes have also been taking place at HS with this function now split between the new 'Policy & Outreach', and 'Heritage Management' Divisions. With the gradual enactment of the *Historic Environment (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill* throughout 2011 re-survey and updating the *Inventory* is being undertaken by HS, particularly in the Scottish Borders, parts of Aberdeenshire, and Morayshire. These changes are now included on the re-vamped gardens and designed landscapes section of the HS website.

The future for conservation in Scotland, in its broadest sense, remains uncertain, just as it now also appears to be in the rest of the UK. For GHSS the only realistic way forward is to ask you, the members, to assist with this role. With appropriate training and support, the membership and recording groups could take on much of the monitoring of planning applications, identification of potential threats, and compiling of advice and responses to the planning authorities. This would prove a very effective way forward for the Society's conservation role in Scotland.

Lastly I should just like to thank members for all their support with the Gardening Scotland Exhibition at Ingliston in June. With the help of your donations, contributions to the display, setting up and looking after the stand for three days, we won our first medal, a Bronze at the event! Thank you all.

*Alison Allighan*

## Villa Gregoriana at Tivoli: an overlooked 'Sublime' landscape

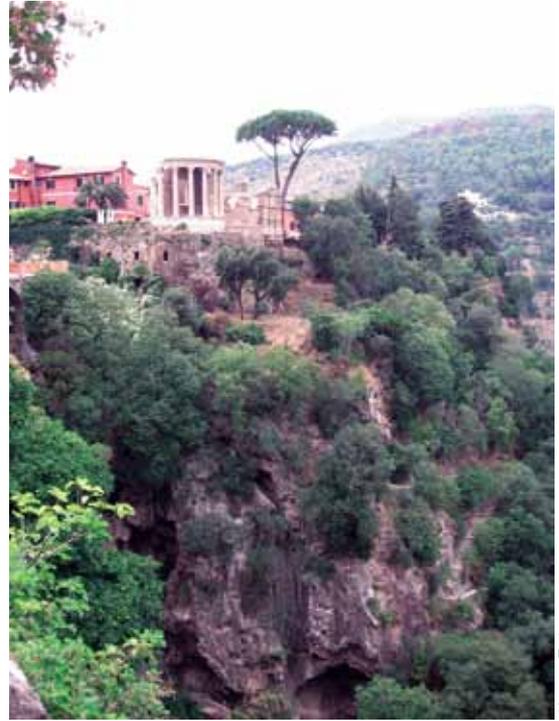
Kristina Taylor

In the Non-Catholic cemetery in Rome, lying near Shelley's grave, is a stone with a poignant inscription which reminds us of the dangers of trying to experience the thrills of sublime landscapes and why health and safety standards haunt our enjoyment of them:

*Sacred to the memory of Robert the eldest son of Mr. Robert Brown of the City of London, Merchant who unhappily lost his life at Tivoli by his foot slipping, in coming out of Neptune's grotto, on the 6th July 1823. Aged 21 years. Reader beware by this fatal accident a virtuous and amiable youth has been suddenly snatched away in the bloom of health and pride of life...*



Neptune's grotto is near the bottom of a spectacular natural picturesque gorge which has undergone a number of changes over the last two millennia, now known as the Villa Gregoriana. The gorge has been carved out from uncompacted tufa, conglomerate stones and sedimentary deposits, by the Aniene river, a tributary of the Tibur, at Tivoli north of Rome where it drops over 100metres from the centre of the town



into the plain. At one time there were a number of little waterfalls, sprouting randomly out from different places on the cliffs wherever water found its way through the porous rock, in addition to the principal waterfalls (*left*). So beautiful was this place that the Romans, in the 1st century BC, built the circular Temple of Vesta with the Temple Tiburnus alongside, the ruins of which are still perched high to one side of the gorge (*above*). They are supported by reinforced concrete (*opus caementicum*) vaults below the temples, innovative high tech engineering of their time.

Until 1915 this was Tivoli's main attraction, so it is disappointing that visitors who now come to visit the later Roman Villa Adriana and the Renaissance Villa d'Este nearby usually miss out on the wonderful Villa Gregoriana. It was a 'must see' tourist destination on the Grand Tour and from the 17th century was celebrated in paintings by many artists from Poussin, Claude Lorraine, Fragonard and Piranesi to Ingres and Turner.

The unfortunate Robert Brown was, by 1823, able to access Neptune's grotto more easily than



Philadelphia Museum of Art; The York Project: 10.000 Meisterwerke der Malerei

Samuel Palmer's c.1839 view of the falls and surroundings; not long after the new works were completed

18th century visitors because of a tunnel, the *Traforetto*, with arched window openings to the gorge, constructed in 1809 by General Miollis, Napoleon's Governor in Rome. Before that the precarious path was so difficult to navigate, even with the aid of ropes that few ever experienced the grotto. Steps were cut into the rock inside the grotto in 1841 and there is an iron railing part of the way up. But, it is still very scary inside and a strong feeling of vulnerability overwhelmed me as the thunderous sound of the water echoed throughout the space whilst the river churned through large boulders below, spitting up a fine mist. It is not dark, only gloomy, as light comes from a huge opening at the back made larger by the devastating flood of 1826.

As a result of this disaster, which seriously affected the livelihood of Tivoli's residents, Pope Gregory XVI (1831–46) commissioned engineering works which solved any more uncontrolled destruction of the town and the gorge. Villa Gregoriana, a public park (confusingly there is no

house), was created as a result of these works, and opened in 1835. It has recently undergone a restoration by FAI, Fondo per L'Ambiente Italiano.

People were writing about the gorge's natural beauty and its unstable nature long before Pliny the younger's eyewitness account of a typhoon leading to a flood which washed away large parts of the town in November 105 AD. In his *Epistle 8* (17, 3–5) he describes how standing on a high part of the town he watched the torrent tearing away at the rocks, woods, buildings and villas and described the 'mighty chattels of the rich' along with oxen, ploughs, peasants, monuments and tree trunks floating past. There had been a large and beautiful green lake, the *Pelago*, in the bottom of the gorge but this all but disappeared as the water level dropped and a new opening was forced through below the level of the second cascade, now a natural bridge called the *Ponte Lupo*. The bottom of the gorge, now planted romantically with evergreens, is called the *Valle dell'Inferno*, Valley of Hell. Where water pushed through under the *Ponte*

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*Lupo* it became known as the *Albergo delle Sirene*, Grotto of the Sirens, named in the late 18th century by the Swiss landscape painter Louis Ducros.

Many attempts were made over the millennia to channel flood waters which repeatedly swept away at least three weirs erected by the Romans as well as a barrier from 1489, which with careful maintenance had lasted until the disastrous flood of 16/17 November 1826. Pope Gregory, when he acceded, invited engineers to submit proposals for a competition to find the best solution to taming the floods. Clementi Fochi, an experienced hydraulics engineer, won it, even though his plan to move most of the river away from the town was the most expensive of the 23 submitted. It took three years to dig out a pair of parallel tunnels 280 metres long by 10 metres wide through hills to the northwest of Tivoli that divert most of the water from the river running through the town. The long, spectacular, 'Grand Waterfall', which resulted, dropped from the twin tunnels to a shorter yet equally showy one. They could be viewed from the other side of the valley, where the Pope presided over its inauguration on 7th October 1835, accompanied by the King of Portugal and the Queen of Sicily. The completion of the diversion came just in time, because, on 6th February the following year, another flood tested the engineering works and its level is recorded on a plaque inside one of the tunnels.

Within the gorge the water pressure through the tufa dropped and the smaller waterfalls dried up allowing the gorge to be landscaped with paths and views in a more orderly fashion than in the past. Cardinal Rivarola, in charge of the project, suggested planting evergreens "in order to avoid monotonous uniformity and to ensure that there should be as much scope as possible for that which can be classed as charm and picturesque." Holm oaks, pines and cypress created a tree canopy, under which holly, viburnum, arbutus and bay were planted along with acanthus, ferns and cyclamen. Walks, seating areas and view points were created including a new overlook focussing on the Grand Waterfall, which lay outside the gorge park.

In 1870 the Pope transferred the park's ownership to the Italian state and in the early 20th century it was fenced in, with a museum at its entrance in Via Quintillo Varo. After bombing during WWII, which damaged large parts of the



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*The Grand Waterfall*

town, the park went into decline until in the 1990s it was finally closed because of its state of decay. Health and safety measures had never been considered and the park was not fit for purpose. In 2002 the FIA began a five-year project of restoration including conservation of the Roman Villa, Manlius Vopiscus, with its columns, capitals and *cippi* which had been scattered over the left side of the valley. Only some foundations to the huge villa complex remain, as vaulting six metres high, built into the cliff face. However a giant fish tank in the basement area is still visible.

Poor Robert Brown will be remembered for daring to explore the sublime gorge and the terrifying Neptune's grotto at Tivoli whilst his family are long forgotten. His gravestone, inscribed both in English and Italian, concludes: "his disconsolate parents are bereaved of a most excellent son. His brothers and sisters have to lament an attached and affectionate brother and all his family and friends have sustained an irreparable loss."

When next in Rome try to make time to visit his grave at Zona Prima, row 15 no. 3 to pay homage to him and then take yourself off to Tivoli to experience Neptune's grotto. Be careful the rocks are still very slippery inside.

## In Praise of George London, c.1640–1714

Pat Bras

We often see references to the splendid 17th-century nurseries of London & Wise at Brompton Park, London. They were used by royalty and many other important landowners who were 'improving' their estates. They supplied trees, shrubs, fruit trees and especially the newly introduced plants, mainly from North America.

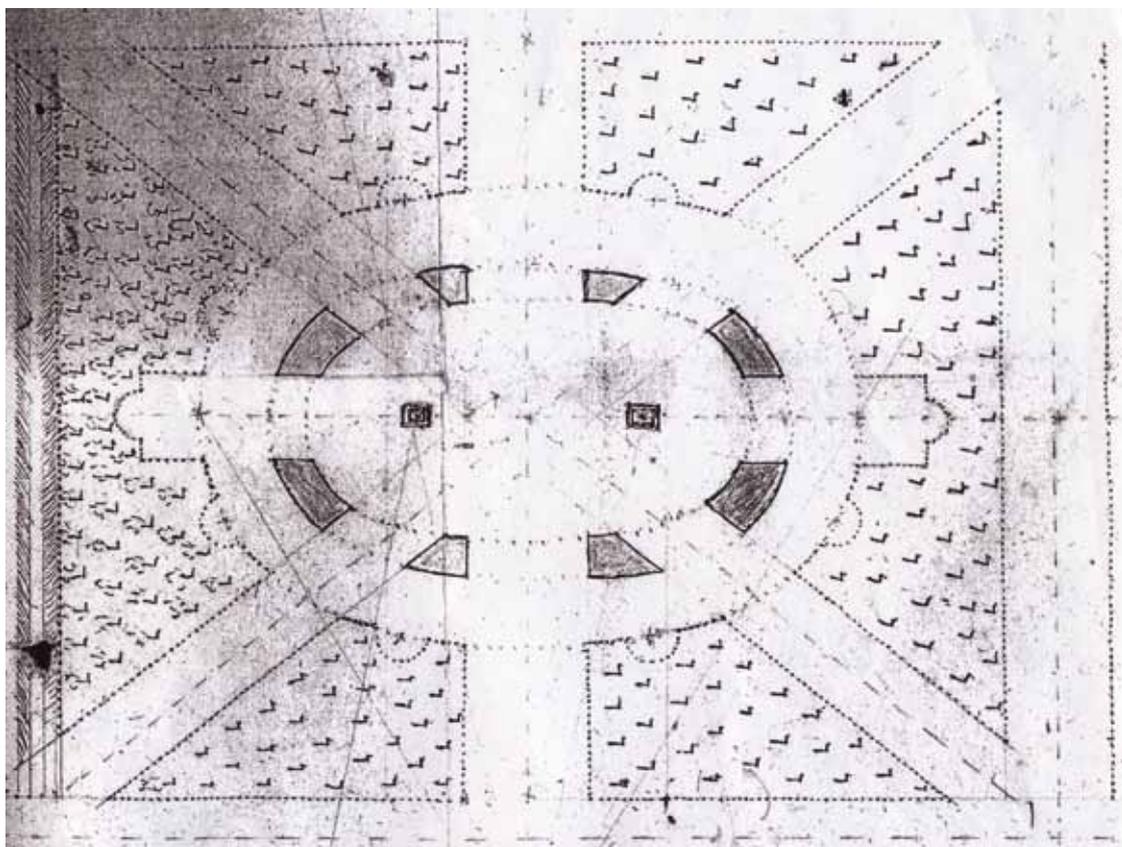
The formal designs of George London & Henry Wise were nearly all swept away by the naturalistic landscapes of the 18th century. Perhaps only one remains, at Melbourne Hall in Derbyshire. This layout was a collaboration between the owner and London & Wise, who supplied the plants, the work carried out by locals. In modern times the elaborate Parterre has been grassed over but the Wilderness remains with many delightful statues of cherubs and fine stone urns.

The National Trust has recently re-created London's early 18th-century gardens at Hanbury Hall, Worcestershire. Fortunately some of the original plans of George London were available

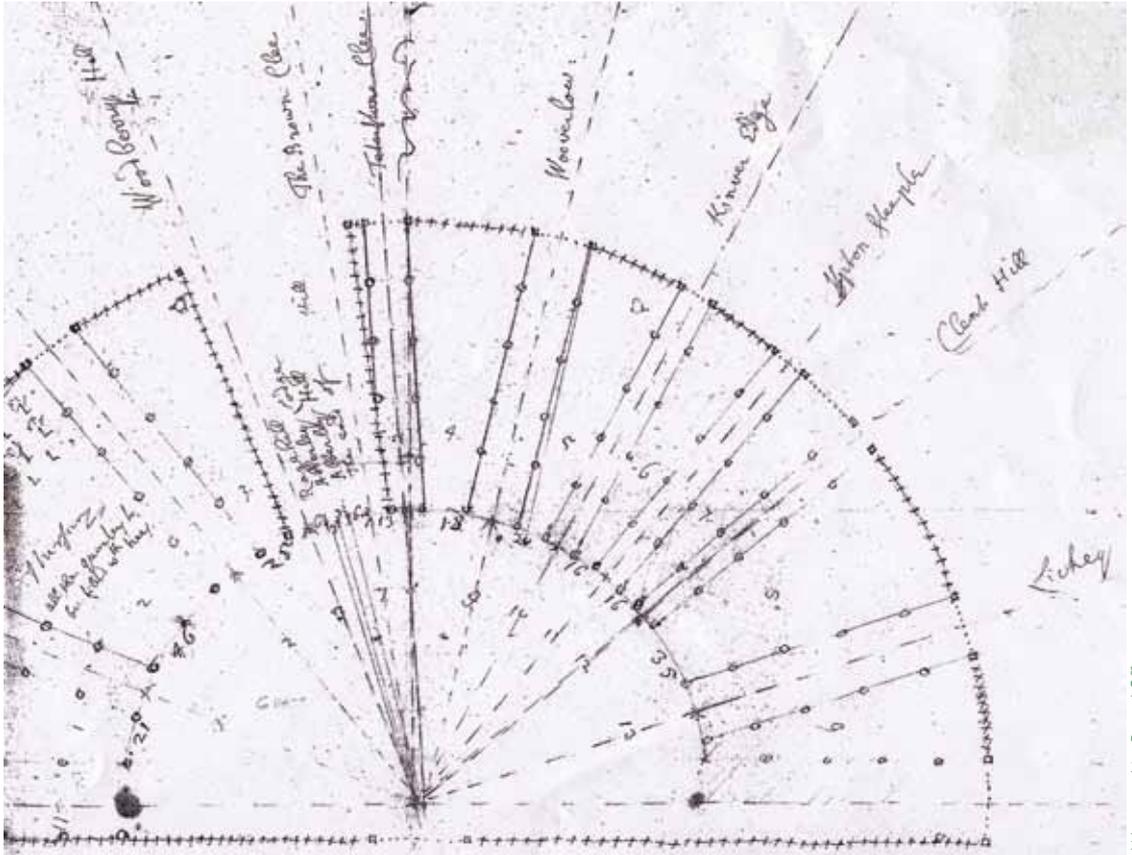
at the Worcestershire Record Office, they are probably office copies. It is a delight to see the house returned to its original setting. A single Cedar of Lebanon is probably the only survivor of London's original planting.

The Grove (*below*) near the house is small, designed around an oval walk. On the outside are blocks of mixed small trees, surrounded by a hornbeam hedge, with tufts of small elm trees every 15ft. This is a sheltered area for the enjoyment of the garden. There are niches along the walk to display statues and rare plants in pots.

It is interesting to look at these designs which were rather different from the usual gardens of the day, as recorded in the many engravings of Johannes Kip. I suspect George London had an enlightened client in Thomas Vernon who was a successful London lawyer, and that they were both influenced by the writings of John Evelyn. Evelyn didn't like the regimented schemes we see in Kip's engravings, and was advocating more natural



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Worcestershire Record Office

lines and the planting of many more trees. He wrote about the pleasures of views out into the surrounding countryside. Looking at London's plans here, we get the feeling the grounds were laid out for the pleasure of a family who would enjoy walking around and admiring the views over the local countryside.

Further out in the parkland, at the highest point, is the Viewing Platform. This is a plantation of large native trees with paths radiating out to create views of distant villages. These are named on the working plan (above), together with measurements needed to set out the design. This 'excursion' must be intended for those who wanted more energetic exercise!

### The man

Originally he worked for Bishop Compton at Lambeth Palace, where he learned about 'curious' new plants from North America. Later, when he set up his own business he travelled on horseback to visit his customers' estates. The most prestigious of these was Queen Anne.

His first commission was for Lord Weymouth at Longleat in 1682. His then traditional approach

was recorded in a Kip engraving of 1690. This shows a formal design of squares and oblongs, adorned with a few fountains and *parterres-de-broderie* and rows of trees. However I detect a touch of originality even there, the main axis is a long, wide path leading to an elaborate arbour, surrounded by trees. The several water features are fed by diverting the small River Leat; simple water engineering.

In John Evelyn's book *The Complete Gard'ner* (1693) he included a report on the Brompton Nurseries with some detail of their horticultural expertise and knowledge of *silviculture*; they must have been advanced for the day. It does suggest that George London was a disciple of John Evelyn and had already acquired a feeling for his 'rural gardening'.

It is important to mention London's own book, *The Retir'd Gard'ner* (c.1706). This must have been a great help to landowners. It is a translation from a French book by Louis Liger, adapted by London & Wise. It explains 'good horticultural practice', and was helpful with growing newly acquired exotics and Mediterranean plants. It also explains the fashionable garden design of the day.

## 'Turn your Faces towards Rousham'

Mavis Batey

This was the advice of Clary, the proud Rousham gardener who had laid out William Kent's garden for General Dormer in 1737; it was also my advice to the Historic Buildings Council, over two hundred years after Clary's letter, when acting as Secretary of The Garden History Society. We had approached them to consider giving protection to historic gardens as well as buildings. Thanks to Jennifer Jenkins, who was then Chairman, an unofficial Gardens Committee was set up to consider criteria for listing and grading historic gardens. The GHS had already produced a pilot scheme for my own county of Oxfordshire and Rousham headed the list. The provisional text as submitted was;

'One of the earliest of English landscaped gardens, embodying the poetic and philosophical ideas of the age. As it stands it is entirely the work of William Kent, with no later additions; his 'most engaging' according to Horace Walpole.'

Following a site visit when 'Faces' were set towards Rousham, it was unanimously given provisional Grade I status; this was confirmed after the 1983 National Heritage Act empowered English Heritage, which replaced the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission, to compile a *Register of Gardens and Parks of Special Historic Interest*; the term listing now being abandoned as that implied statutory control. Rousham was the first entry.

I should now like to give due thanks to Alun Jones with whom I worked on the Oxfordshire CPRE, which had been concerned about the lack of protection for its historic parks even before the GHS entered the fray. I accompanied him on many happy surveys at a time when he was producing map guides to historic landscape in the Oxfordshire countryside and succeeded in persuading him to extend this to historic gardens. Although we took many Oxford students to Rousham, as a study document, the map guide was not published until 1980, and then because the famous Clary letter showing the way to view Kent's garden had just been discovered and to encourage more visitors to 'turn your Faces towards Rousham'. At the time it was not clear whether this was in 1750 or 1760 and so no date is given on the map guide, but when the full letter

was published in *Garden History* (Vol 11:2, 1983 pp125–32) the date was given as 1750. Now, however, Angela and Charles Cottrell-Dormer have studied it again, and can date it definitely as 1760, and this has greatly added to its interest, particularly as the first garden historian, Horace Walpole, was shown Rousham by Clary in 1760. Walpole was so impressed by Kent's planting instructions to him, *at the very time* he was planning his own garden, now that his gothic villa at Strawberry Hill had been completed.

Walpole writes in July 1760 that his greatest pleasure had been in visiting Rousham and we now realize that it was Clary the gardener who showed him round in the absence of the owner. Admiring 'the sweetest little groves, streams, glades, porticoes, cascades and river imaginable', he goes on to say 'if I had such a house, such a library, so pretty a place and so pretty a wife, I think I should let King George send to Herrenhausen for a Master of the Ceremonies'. The Cottrell family had been Master of Ceremonies since the days of Charles II, but it became a more onerous task with the coming of the Hanoverians as they spent their summers back in Herrenhausen.

The reason for Clary's recent letter was to give the family a reminder of their gardens. 'Madam, I am afraid my Master and all of you have forgot what sort of a Place Rousham is, so I have sent you a description of it that it might not creep out of your Memorys'. Walpole clearly commiserated with him, but George II died later in the year and there was no more need for the Cottrell-Dormers to attend at summer courts. The pretty wife, Jane Caesar, returned to being a fulltime mistress of Rousham and promptly fired Clary.

However, not only has Clary's guided tour become a gem of garden history, his description of Kent's romantic planting clearly delighted Walpole. 'You see deferant sorts of Flowers, peeping through the deferant sorts of Evergreens, here you think the Laurel produces a Rose. The Holly a Syringa, the Yew a Lilac and the sweet Honeysuckle is peeping out from under every Leaf'.

By 1765 Walpole at Strawberry Hill could write 'the honeysuckle dangles from every tree in festoons, the syringas are thickets of sweets'. When Walpole later came to write his history of modern

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gardening, he could see it all in perspective.

It was Pope who had influenced Kent, and it was Pope who was held in such high esteem at Rousham, where a special 'Pope's room' had been set up for him. Although Pope was dead when Walpole moved to Twickenham, he said that his ghost skimmed by his windows.

General Dormer, who never recovered from wounds received at the Battle of Blenheim, liked nothing better than to sit in his gardens reading Pope's verses, enjoying 'the 'philosophic retirement'

Walpole said Kent had planned for him.

Kent had learnt from Pope a great love for Spenser's *The Faerie Queene* and one of his illustrations is of Phaedra's island clearly showing Rousham's arcade Praeneste, the place to which celebrated Romans retired to regain their health.

At Rousham are two of Kent's drawings, one of the view across the Cherwell, 'calling in the country' as Pope advised, and the other of Venus Vale, the best example of his 'practical poetry'.

## Caldwell Tower by Uplawmoor; not so much Camelot, but rather...

*John West*

Caldwell Tower in East Renfrewshire was recently featured in a television series about the restoration of a number of small historic buildings. The particular programme repeated the owner's belief that his tower was built in the 15th century and was the last standing portion of a large mediaeval castle which stood by Uplawmoor on the hillside above Loch Libo. Artistic licence and a considerable amount of imagination was used to produce an image of a Renfrewshire Camelot.

A different picture has emerged from research undertaken over the past two years by an East Renfrewshire Historic Designed Landscape Group supported by the Garden History Society in Scotland. The group has been studying and surveying a number of sites in the area including the designed landscapes associated with Caldwell House.

The present Caldwell House was built in 1773 for William Mure, Baron of the Exchequer of Scotland, to the designs of Robert and James Adam. The house was originally planned as a rather plain classical box but the detailing was changed by the addition of a machiolated cornice with small bartizan towers, and the house as built is one of the last of the Adam castellated mansions. However, whilst site was new, this was not the first property at Caldwell.

Timothy Pont's 1580 map of Renfrewshire (*right*) shows a substantial tower house at Caldwell. It appears to be located above the southern end of Loch Libo, which would place it some distance from the site of the present house.

The nature of Pont's map is such that buildings are represented rather than accurately sketched and we cannot be sure what the building actually

looked like. The indications are that it was a tower and may have had a barmkin wall or enclosure, but it was certainly not a large or important multi-towered castle. Little seems to be known about the occupation of this tower at Caldwell. The main branch of the Mure family lived at Glanderston a few miles from Caldwell and whilst the Blaeu map of 1654 identifies a number of properties in the area it does not show any inhabited site for Caldwell. It may be that the old tower had been abandoned by this date.

In 1666 William Mure was attainted for his support of the covenanters' cause and went into exile in Holland where he died in 1670. The Caldwell estates were restored to the family in 1690 following the accession of William of Orange to the English throne, and eventually passed in 1722 to the nephew of William Mure of Glanderston, another William who became Baron Mure in the same year.

It has been suggested that a new house commenced building in the early part of the 18th century on the recently restored family property. It is not clear when this house was completed as



National Library of Scotland

General Roy's map (*below*) of 1746 shows a tree lined avenue, an elaborate garden of intersecting alleys, and a walled enclosure, but no house.

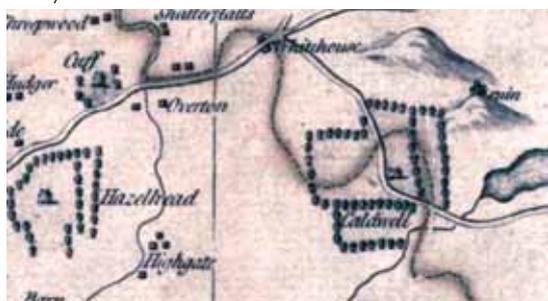
However, Jean Hunter Blair (the sister-in-law of Colonel William Mure, the heir to Baron Mure)



National Library of Scotland

writing from Caldwell in 1799 reports that "Mr Mure is at present in the very agony of making a new garden on the Brandy Hill behind the stables and offices. He has converted the old house into stables and means next year to take away the offices entirely which will be an immense improvement to the place for at present they are not a beautiful ornament!"

Survey work by the volunteers has identified the living remnants of an avenue of old limes and the location of tree root hollows in patterns corresponding with the Roy garden. In addition there still exist the footings of the large enclosure and a levelled platform suitable for a house close to a stone water pump of classical design. The presence of fragments of plaster, pottery and slate in disturbances on this latter site suggest that the older dwelling was indeed on the top of the rising land in front of the Adam house. Unlike the current house, the demolished property and the 'new' garden looked out across the intervening valley to the site of Pont's tower house.



National Library of Scotland

The Armstrong map of 1775 (*above*) suggests the fate of the tower house as it identifies a 'Ruin' on the



National Library of Scotland

hillside above Loch Libo corresponding approximately with the location of that provided by Pont.

Fifteen years later, after the completion of the Adam house, Ainsley's map of the area (*above*) shows a castellated tower, described as a 'Pigeon House' (*circled*), on the site of the ruin.

The tower is still visible from the hill on which the pre Adam house was built, and without the trees which have grown up over the intervening years, this ornamental 'Pigeon house' would have been the principal eye catcher in the landscape as seen from this viewpoint. In fact the group's survey work has revealed the presence within the "new garden" layout of a belvedere or bastion which looks directly to Caldwell tower:

Further documentary research will be needed to establish exactly when the site of the ruin acquired its castellated pigeon house, but it seems likely that it was contemporary with, or shortly after, the construction of the castellated Adam mansion house.

It seems probable that the Caldwell tower that we see today was constructed as a decorative feature in the landscape surrounding Caldwell House. Its construction on the site of the earlier tower, and possible incorporation of remnants or materials from the original building, would no doubt also have provided a link or memorial to the Mure family past and a reminder of how the family's fortunes had improved.

There is no evidence for the conjectured 'Camelot', but the story of the tower is no less romantic in its own way. It is sad that this small element in the landscape has fared better than the mansion itself, as Caldwell House now lies roofless waiting for another map to describe it as a ruin.

Reprinted from *The Journal of The Architectural Heritage Society of Scotland*, 2010. See also p37.

## agenda

# Doing 'Green Heritage': towards a Theory of Conservation for Historical Gardens Symposium at Sypesteyn Castle, the Netherlands on 10 September 2010

report by D.H. van Wegen

*Theory of conservation and restoration is usually focused on Art with a capital A. Those involved with 'Green Heritage' can borrow from this, but usually they rely on standard practice, and common sense. In recent years conservation theory has been tailored to accommodate more specific forms of heritage, such as technical collections and contemporary art. In particular non-traditional art forms such as installations called for new practices and a new theory of conservation. At this meeting in Holland it turned out that these new concepts might fit the needs of historical gardens surprisingly well.*

Our purpose was to develop and exchange ideas on the conservation of historical gardens and to introduce these ideas to an audience of gardeners, gardens designers and conservators of historical gardens. Chaired by Jan Willem Edinga, four experts on green heritage engaged in fruitful debate with a fifth scholar specializing in conservation of twentieth-century installation art. The symposium was organized within the context of an exhibition, entitled 'Tuinvisioenen; Jonkheer van Sypesteyn op zoek naar de verloren tuinkunst' (Garden visions; Jonkheer van Sypesteyn in search of lost garden art).

Rik van Wegen, who initiated the exhibition and is the author of the accompanying book, emphasized that gardens present a living heritage; the identity of gardens ought to be considered as partly fluid. It is inevitable, moreover, that over the years this identity becomes multi-layered. At Sypesteyn Castle, this multi-layered identity was even built in; designed at the beginning of the twentieth century the gardens point back to the heyday of Dutch garden design. Jonkheer Van Sypesteyn laid out the gardens as his fancy took him; they reflect both the period around 1600 as well as the modern ideas of the early twentieth century, his own lifetime. And, to top it off, his gardens breathe his own, personal taste and passion as a collector of rare plants and trees.

Johan Carel Bierens de Haan argued that van Sypesteyn's seemingly unique creation was in fact part of a much wider tradition. When designing his gardens, van Sypesteyn's aim was not to be restricted to a mere reconstruction, his aim was to create an image of continuity. He wanted to



*An elderly Jonkheer Van Sypesteyn in his garden*

present a 'gardenscape' that not only looked as if it had been created in the sixteenth century but had then been cared for ever since. This resulted in a traditional garden with modern features. Sypesteyn Castle and its gardens would emphasise the ancient roots of the Van Sypesteyn family.

Van Sypesteyn was not the only one doing this, as Bierens de Haan pointed out. Other Dutch families had been engaged in similar endeavours. Huis ten Bosch in The Hague, for example, was built in the seventeenth century by Prince Frederik Hendrik, and completed by his spouse Amalia van Solms; the decoration of the main hall illustrates the role of the Princes of Orange in the long struggle for freedom from Spain. At Duivenvoorde, near The Hague, gardens and house were restored, and extended using both modern and older styles; at Keukenhof and Heeswijk Castle, old architectural fragments were integrated in the buildings; Schaffelaar Castle was built in the then modern neo-gothic, a want-to-be medieval style, emphasizing the ancient origins of the family. Even at the Royal Palace 'Het Loo', at the beginning of the twentieth century Queen Wilhelmina ordered the main staircase to be redecorated in order to evoke the most glorious period of the palace and her own family, the reign of Stadholder King

William III; who not only re-established the family in its leading position in the Netherlands, but also became King of Great Britain and gave Louis XIV many a hard time, both in the battlefield and in European politics.

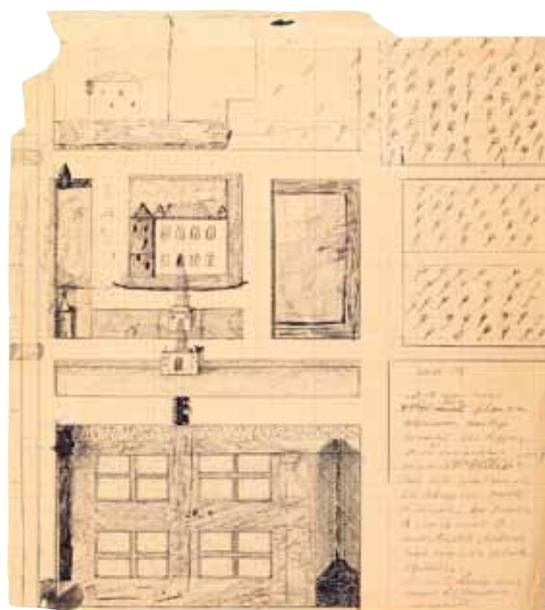
Vivian van Saaze introduced the audience to the latest developments in the theory of conservation of contemporary installation art. Although van Saaze focused primarily on her own subject-matter and did not venture into the field of green heritage, interesting parallels could not be missed. Van Saaze defined installations as three-dimensional artworks engaging in a physical and substantial relationship with the surrounding space, requiring some kind of meaningful participation of the observer. A starting point for Van Saaze's research was the strain between the supposedly fixed identity of artworks in museums and the variability which inevitably shows up with installation art.

Originating in the 1960's from an anti-institutional attitude, such works, intended to be ephemeral, were eventually bought and incorporated into museum collections. From then onwards, re-installing installations presented a challenge. Whenever a work of art is installed in a space other than in the one for which it was originally conceptualised, it entails consequences for its meaning. More substantial problems occur when a change in technical 'surroundings' demands changing hardware-support that can change the aura of the work completely. For example, the 1979 multi-channel video installation *25 Caramboles and Variations: Birthday present for a 25 year old* by Miguel-Ángel Cárdenas was originally shown by using black-and-white monitors on a billiard table in a pub and is now re-enacted in full colour in the museum. Several stakeholders, each with their own 'interests', were involved in the decision-making processes which surround re-installing installation art. The word 'biography' is nowadays commonly applied in this context.

In her dissertation *Doing Artworks*, Van Saaze argues that when installations are re-installed time and again, their identity becomes variable and instable. Moreover, the very act of installation itself (the choices, the actions, but also the architectural framework and manner of documentation) inevitably becomes part of the identity of the work. In the context of installation art, Van Saaze proposes to replace the concept of 'authenticity' by 'continuity' and the concept of 'artist intent'

by 'interaction'. By introducing continuity as an important concept to the identity of installation art, the difference between gradual development and sudden change immediately comes out as being meaningful. Identifying interaction recognizes the fact that every time the artwork is re-installed, its meaning is also reconstructed. Consequently the identity of installation artworks can evolve, depending partly on the institution which became its owner.

Henk Boers, described how, since the death of van Sypesteijn in 1937, the Castle gardens had been neglected because of lack of funds as well as a lack of interest, until the late 1970s. Between then and the early 1990s, the head gardener and the voluntary staff, among them Boers himself, worked to restore and return the gardens to their former glory. Van Sypesteijn's notebooks, drawings (*below*) and publications were thoroughly researched, as well as the garden itself. The efforts made were immense and the results truly impressive, the historical garden was reborn. In just over ten years, a complete metamorphosis had taken place; the original layout, the numerous singular patterns and the many pruned shapes were, once again, fully recognizable.



During the process of this extensive restoration, the age of the gardens has always been respected. The passage of time, more than half a century, had left, undoubtedly, visible marks. It is curious, therefore, that the formal purpose of the

## agenda

restoration remained 'reconstruction', as if to fit sound garden practice into standard museological conservation theory. One might say that during restoration of the gardens between the late 1970's and the early 1990's, 'authenticity' as the main identifying concept was never explicitly challenged. At the same time, it was equally self-evident, that 'continuity' was implicitly introduced; reclaiming a huge topiary chicken from a giant shrub (right), doing a garden artwork indeed!

By contrast, the fourth speaker, Hanneke Schreiber, took the audience to the reconstruction of the 'Snippendaal Garden' in the Amsterdam Hortus Botanicus (Botanic Garden), named after the 17th-century botanist and author of the *Catalogue* of the then Hortus Medicus. From the beginning it was obvious that authenticity in the strict sense of the word would be unattainable, just one authentic element was left of the original Hortus Medicus, the 1646 catalogue of its plants. Not a single image or description of what the original 'Snippendaal' looked like remains. Moreover, as the Amsterdam Hortus Botanicus had moved to a different location, a technical reconstruction on site would not be possible anyway. The Keepers of the Amsterdam Hortus Botanicus decided to turn this problem into an advantage. Rather than creating a 'historical' herbal garden anew, they created a *truly* new garden with all the original species of plants, giving the authentic assortment of medicinal plants a contemporary home.

Finally, Sypsteyn's present-day gardener Henny van der Wilt demonstrated how she 'does' these gardens which are entrusted to her; not bound to any kind of theory, let alone dogma. Van der Wilt freely, yet respectfully adds to the continuity of their existence. As to respect for the 'artist's intent', van der Wilt regards van Sypsteyn as her ultimate boss. First thing every morning, she salutes his portrait above the coffee maker, then she literally springs into (inter)action. The structural design of



the gardens is conserved, but within that van der Wilt takes the liberty to change whatever needs changing; she alters the mowing-regime in order to gain a wealth of 'stinkenplanten', wild spring flowers, on the lawns; she replaces roses suffering from parasites with less demanding perennials.

Non-traditional artworks demand new practices and new theories of conservation and restoration. Conserving historical gardens fits in surprisingly well. '*Il faut cultiver le jardin*', one must maintain one's garden, was the answer to the disturbing questions of life that Voltaire's hero Candide eventually came up with. But in maintaining one's garden, men will still ask themselves: how? And why in that way? Theories of conservation seek to provide answers.

Van der Wilt found her 'common sense' practice confirmed by van Saaze's analysis of the practice of conservation of installation artworks, as did the other speakers and the audience. Previously such ideas and actions were intuited, now it turned out that they can be argued in a rational and even academically sound debate. This allows those responsible for the conservation of green heritage to take the exchange of ideas one step further; to express and question thoughts and considerations which were not voiced before. As a result, awareness of questions facing the conservation of historical gardens are deepened.

## Historic Landscapes and the 2010 Flood and Water Management Act Conference at Deer Park Hall, Pershore, Worcestershire on Tuesday 21 June 2011

report by Steffie Shields

*The Reservoirs Act 1975, ensuring the safety of UK reservoirs, is being updated by the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, England and Wales. Haycock Associates liaised with English Heritage and other*

*key organisations to host a conference for interested groups to share experiences of implementing these changes, where costs may be significant, and to summarise challenging requirements of the new*

*Flood and Water Management Act for historic landscapes whilst maintaining a sensitive approach to management.*

Professor Andy Hughes, Director of Dams & Water Resources, Atkins; Panel Engineer; Advisor to DEFRA, began the day with a historical perspective (see [www.barrages-cfbr](http://www.barrages-cfbr) for his paper *Reservoir Safety in the UK*). The first reference to reservoir safety in the UK appeared in the Waterworks Clauses Act of 1863, where anyone who was concerned about reservoir safety could complain to two Justices of the Peace who would then investigate the issue and organize repairs/action. Then in 1925 three failures caused loss of life. On Monday 20 April 1925, heavy rain caused Skelmorlie reservoir dam to overtop, killing a woman and four children. On 2 November 1925, a cascade failure caused the death of 16 persons in Dalgarrrog village, North Wales, when two dams failed, after poor quality construction. This led to the Reservoirs (Safety Provisions) Act 1930, applying to all reservoirs containing more than 5 million gallons and subject to inspection by an independent engineer. There was a responsibility under common law for accumulating water and filth, but no powers to enforce the Act or compel the owner to carry out works required in the interests of safety. The Reservoirs Act 1975 brought in the formation of a supervising Enforcement Authority nested in more than 136 different authorities, with the provision of a Supervising Engineer for each dam with a capacity of 25,000m<sup>3</sup> to inspect the dam usually twice a year. The first formal Register was made. Every year since 1975, there have been three or four incidents of dam failure, though no loss of life. A guide *'Floods and Reservoir Safety: An Engineering Guide'* (1978, updated 1989 and 1996) suggested standards and categorised dams in terms of the potential hazard to life and property downstream:

- Category A dams: where a community (10 or more people) are at risk.
- Category B dams: where inhabitants of isolated houses are at risk or where extensive damage would be caused (i.e. erosion of soils, severing a main road or rail communications).
- Category C dams: situations where there is negligible risk to human life, flood-threatened areas that are 'inhabited' only spasmodically e.g. footpaths etc and loss of livestock and crops.
- Category D dams: usually small dams where

additional damage caused by the release of water may be insignificant if lake is small, where stored water would add no more than 10% to the volume or peak of the flood.

The 2003 Water Act called for better record keeping of 'flood-plans'; inundation mapping, velocity and depth of water; on-site and off-site emergency planning. 136 different enforcement authorities were replaced with a single enforcement authority, the Environment Agency and Crown immunity was removed.

The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 includes more small reservoirs and cascades with a 10,000m<sup>3</sup> threshold and will provide more monitoring, better maintenance, a risk-based-approach to protect persons and property against the escape of water. Statutory Inspections will have the force of law. Recommendations may be challenged at the report stage with a referee procedure. Owners will be given three years to resolve problems. Many historic water features previously exempt from regulation will now have to meet statutory standards and will be subject to inspection; those which pose a low risk to people and property downstream may be deregulated.



*Wrest Park's Old Park Lake dam recently restored,*

Steffie Shields

## agenda

The choice of pragmatic and flexible engineers will be key for owners, so as to build and maintain stable level-crested, smooth dams with working valves, appropriate spillways, and ensure no trees in wrong positions, care with machinery, grass cut and no overgrown vegetation so that dams may be inspected. The advice is be safe, be legal, be sure.

Simon Rundle, Principal Counsel for Reservoirs, Environment Agency, continued the theme, pointing out that the average age of reservoirs is 110 years. Owners will be enforced to register. In Phase 1, April 2012, every reservoir will be assessed, probably in three categories, high, medium and low risk, with necessary measures to be taken 'as soon as practicable'. Phase 2, Oct 2013/2014 will require the registration of new large reservoirs and flood maps for those from 10,000m<sup>3</sup> to 25,000m<sup>3</sup>. High-risk reservoirs will require a supervising engineer to make a statement of compliance on maintenance. Post incident reporting will become a legal requirement, and will enable the sharing of knowledge with owners/undertakers/lessees of ornamental lakes. In cases of dual, or even several ownership regarding upstream face, and downstream face, and road, or even different local authority areas, it will be a matter of negotiation on a case-by-case basis. Safety is paramount. Criminal charges may be brought for an offence of strict liability.

Andy Wimble, Regional Landscape Architect EH, considers approximately 13% of registered parks and gardens could be affected by this 2010 legislation. He endorsed the need for flexibility and pragmatism regarding issues of extreme weather and ground saturation, de-silting of lakes, die-back in trees, and warned of the cumulative effect of managing a chain of lakes or abandoned water features. 'Heritage at Risk' Funding is being extended to landscapes at risk. There are design issues such as the use of 'riprap' (loose stone construction) to counter rising water tables. Warning that landscapes are vulnerable to failure to understand the character and key components, he emphasised both the need to mitigate highly inappropriate, over-engineered solutions and the importance of dialogue, case studies and data gathering to help both an understanding of the history of features and how lakes are being used. Case studies included Bretton Country Park, EH Grade II, (home to Yorkshire Sculpture Park) restoration of the lakes created by damming the

River Dearne; Plumpton Rocks, EH Grade II\*, to retrieve the picturesque landscape as depicted in Turner's c.1798 paintings; Alnwick Castle Estates looking at using hydro-power from cascades on the River Aln.

David Thackray, Head of Archaeology, National Trust, has been working on their policy publication *Source to Sea*. 5% of NT land and 2,000 buildings are at risk, with 120 NT properties at Flash Flood Risk. Slope is an issue, as is erosion, episodes of high rainfall and climate change. NT is looking at slowing the speed of water moving downstream, using land to absorb and store water. With coast erosion and sea level rises, nine coastal historic parks and gardens are in the flood risk zone. The restoration of the Stourhead dam is an example of good practice regarding hydrological, archaeological and biodiversity aspects. In Studley Royal water garden artificial islands caused by previous dredging have now been removed. At Woodchester, Gloucestershire, a chain of five lakes poses a serious health and safety risk to the Stroud valley community. Dense forestry creates a problem, casting deep shade on the lakes. Viewpoints have been obscured. The 25-year NT plan aims to take out the forestry and return the land to grazing. Some serious, austere engineering, including enlarging spillways, has followed appropriate historical research and design intentions to ensure water resource conservation in planning.

Dominic Cole, Principal Landscape Architect, Land Use Consultants, Chairman of the GHS, agreed that the brutal engineering at Woodchester works, because the sides of the valley are planted up. Water features placed on tops or on sides of hills cause problems; for example the scale and visual illusion at Prior Park with small ponds in a geologically unstable area of Bath. At Wardour Castle, Richard Woods' dams had collapsed when trying to implement Lancelot Brown's lake proposals. A fascinating plan of the contours of the Stowe landscape showed great amounts of earth-moving and excavated soil deposited, when Brown had problems sourcing water and failed to create a lake in the Grecian valley.

Nick Haycock, Director of Consulting, Haycock Associates, focused on hydrological perspectives, the challenges of catchment risks, and modifying catchment behaviour. Should we use smart hydrometrics to reduce reservoir management risk, or find softer solutions? He spoke of eleven water

bodies on the 600-acre Hampstead Heath, the impact of people, and the problems of compaction and sorptivity, with some areas like concrete. Crisp, clear water is an aspiration. The badly silted lake at Croome was dredged, keeping the weir and original penstock systems. The need was for sympathetic solutions, particularly with a heronry on the island, the reduction of pollution and nitrogen because of significant wetlands and, with ground water seeping down the valley, alternating flow and run-off. He discussed warning systems, such as the rain radar now monitoring the weather on Hampstead Heath, and rain gauges and water-level recorders to trigger an alarm system.

Steve Capel-Davies, Partner & Past-Chair, Peter Brett Associates, concluded with a key case-study, Blenheim, having been involved for 8 years working with EH, Natural England and the Environment Agency where Vanbrugh built 'a monstrous bridge over a vast hollow' (Thomas Whateley) and Brown dammed the modest river Glyme to create the Great Lake, 7½ million m<sup>3</sup> of impounded water in a World Heritage Site. In 2007, a tractor made a hole in Brown's underground spillway beside the dam. The cascade, with 7 to 8 metres drop, was also leaking. They cut down the plane trees below the dam and dug a 1m wide trench to remove eroded and breached sections of the dam, replacing the 600 mm core by back filling with bentonite (a form of clay) slurry (or cement made of hydrated aluminosilicate minerals, comprised chiefly of montmorillonite). Instead of underground, they built a serpentine armour-lock spillway as a path where vegetation will take root. 12,000 cubic metres of top-soil were imported, wildflowers and grass sown, and evergreen shrubbery planted. A viewing area for visitors overlooks the Grand Cascade which was grouted, and limestone rocks placed either side to stop leakage. An area below the Swiss Bridge is being addressed that was once wetlands according to a 1920's photograph, and also the river-lake, embanked and densely wooded



Sally Stradling



Sally Stradling

*New work on the cascade & dam at Blenheim Palace*

all the way to Brown's brick Lince Bridge and another 4-metre drop cascade.

Conclusion. A worthwhile day explaining the implementation of the 2010 Flood and Water Management Act, adding much to a gathering wisdom re hydro-projects in historic landscapes. Haycock Associates' posters in the conference room: "Putting water first creates habitat for lives" and "Thinking big to solve problems at source" would seem to suggest a positive way forward for owners of historic landscapes, which will need to be individually addressed, carefully, sensitively, case by case. Personally speaking, I am concerned that Blenheim's engineering solutions have set a precedent that may radically affect sense of place.

## Keele Conference 2011

*report by Dominic Cole and Charles Boot*

Continuing the tradition of holding these events regionally, to reach as many members as possible, we were at the University of Keele in Staffordshire, described by our guest speaker Dr Nigel Tringham

(of the History department at Keele) as the 'lost county'. Some 80 members attended. Our visits to two major gardens near Stoke on Trent, Biddulph Grange and Trentham proved that the county is

## agenda



Peter Ranson

*Biddulph Grange, with Vice-Presidents Peter Hayden (in cap) and Keith Goodway (in terracotta jacket)*

very much still on the map! Two past Chairmen resident in the county further proved that Garden History is thriving here.

At Biddulph Grange, our extra visit, Peter Hayden shed light on this remarkable garden and its restoration, and is looking forward to a reprint of his book, *Biddulph Grange, Stafford: Victorian Garden Rediscovered* (1988), to coincide with the National Trust refurbishment of Bateman's unique Geological Gallery. Keith Goodway hosted us at Keele and gave a fascinating account of the early history of the house, its residents and its garden and landscape setting, as well as of the transformation of the former army barracks and Keele Hall into a vibrant University campus; Keith has been involved at Keele for many years and was pleased to see some of his former students enjoying the weekend.

We were especially pleased to initiate the first GHS Graduate Symposium on the morning of the AGM. The idea was proposed by former Chairman, Colin Treen and built on by Tim Richardson and Patrick Eyres. The aim is for new unpublished students of Garden History to showcase their studies and establish a public footing in the discipline. We enjoyed the lucid and erudite offerings, from five new scholars. Oliver Cox on *Jeremiah Dixon, Alfred the Great, and the merchant fathers of Leeds* provided a valuable lesson in showing how one Leeds resident's aim was to remind the Lascelles at Harwood that political decisions had consequences; alas his architectural and landscape reaction is now just a street name in a Leeds suburb. Sarah Hundleby on *The Development of Bramham Park* raised questions

of the attribution of the famous park's designers, suggesting the key role for London, wasn't in fact the famous designer, but instead a local mason. Sarah Law on *The Rufford Abbey Estate* provided an engaging account of how one enterprising landowner built up a remarkable garden under the eye of his much wealthier and better landed neighbour. Elaine Mitchell on 'A fine crop of peaches, and several hundred geraniums' traced the story of how two business partners created a large and thriving business on the banks of Birmingham's canal system which survives as a trace in a business still extant. Gabriele Mulè on *The Extended Garden: following Walter Swinburne, 'Grand Tour' traveler*, demonstrated a delightful journey in the footfalls of this now obscure traveler, brilliantly elucidating his view of a journey through the Sicilian landscape as a garden; perhaps made more poignant as Gabriele himself was combining the Symposium with his honeymoon. Most members attending the weekend were able to attend the Symposium and found it very stimulating; a very exciting way of encouraging younger people to engage with the Society, and it will be rerun next year.



Peter Ranson

*Dominic Cole with Keith Goodway & Barbara Simms, our journal editor, in the foreground, at Trentham*

Having been involved with the reawakening of the gardens at Trentham our chairman, Dominic Cole, was able to describe the huge amount of work that has gone into re-opening this garden as a popular local and national attraction. Long ago memories of the Beatles performances in the conference centre and waterskiing on Brown's lake are now complemented by the magnificent new plantings by Piet Oudolf and Tom Stuart Smith. He

was also able to explain how in a scheme on this scale it is possible to accommodate the enormous new car park, shopping village and garden centre without detracting from the overall ambience of a great garden.

On Sunday we visited two very different gardens, both still in private hands. At Adlington Hall in Cheshire, after a brief tour of the house that set the context of the visit, we were impressed to discover 'The Wilderness', which deserves to be far better known. Currently undergoing a very gentle rediscovery with vistas and garden buildings being opened out and uncovered for our visit it made an impression on all who visited it. We await the

## The new Olympic Park, London

*report by Charles Boot*

Dominic Cole organised a small group of GHS Council & committee members to be taken around the new Olympic Park site. It's still a hard-hat area, so we were obliged to do the tour in a mini-bus (right) as many thousands have already done, indeed a few locals got onto the bus with us!

We were guided around the site by Phil Askew of ODA as site landscape architect responsible for designing and over seeing the laying out of the new park, and indeed for the ensuing ten years after the Games, which can only be a good sign. Starting from the site entrance from where Anish Kapoor's nearly complete ArcelorMittal Orbit red tower (how that trips off the tongue) and the Olympic Stadium emerge over the DLR embankment, you are very quickly into the site proper. Despite there still being nearly a year to go there is a lot of new landscape formation and planting going on.

Mature trees partly ring the west side of the stadium, where we could just make out the site of the 'English Garden' the result of an RHS competition, won by Rachel Read and Hannah Clegg. There was a good London mix of alder, sycamore and ash trees including some of the few pre-existing trees, lining the route of the River Lee, where it links to the Grand Union Canal; efforts were made to propagate many trees on site, notably the rare Black Poplars. Continuing up the west side of the site we passed geometric stands of newly planted mature plane trees, eight metres high; provided by Hillier's. Some of these had perished, perhaps not surprisingly given the heavy

return of Father Tiber to his Cascade, albeit in replica form. The final visit was to Henbury Hall, which is itself about to undergo a transformation under the guidance of its new chatelaine, the owner's third wife. Julian Bicknell's new villa Rotunda sits at the head of a system of ancient radiating avenues, with relatively modern pleasure gardens laid out in a hidden valley below the East front, though an older walled garden suggest there has been a garden here for some time. Somewhat surprisingly this old landscape has no Register listing at present, surely an oversight. Perhaps it is Cheshire that is the lost county?



Dominic Cole

*Front row: John Hinze, Elizabeth Cairns, Virginia Hinze, with new Vice-President Alan Baxter behind her*

construction surrounding them; this may be down to faulty irrigation units. Perhaps the rigid blocks in which they are planted are improved by a few gaps, Lancelot Brown might think so? They are perhaps the most visible of the 1,500 plus mature trees and a further 4,000 semi-mature trees to be planted eventually. These tight geometric blocks of large tree planting help break up the bulk of the large buildings dominating the west side of the site, the most massive being the enormous Media Centre on the site of the former Hackney Wick Greyhound Stadium, which finally closed in the 1990s.

Approaching the Hockey Centre the bus turned around and luckily got stuck behind a bin lorry, which slowed our progress, allowing time to take on board the transformation of the site. It was hard to see the west bank of the River Lee below us, where much work has gone into

## agenda



Pamela Patterson

*The impressively planted amphitheatre area with the spectacular velodrome behind (taken from in the bus)*

creating green areas where previously there was scrubby riverside growth. Approaching the site of the former Manor Garden allotments (one of two areas of allotments destroyed to allow the construction of the Olympic park, the other lying on the area between the Handball courts and the end of Stratford International station), who could not be impressed by the work done on lowering the land form to provide a green amphitheatre and wetland area, where previously there had been a hill topped by the motley selection of huts and vegetable patches. The visitor concourse proposed for this site seems to have been replaced by two gentle paths leading through one of the largest plantings of perennials made in this, or any other, country, looking spectacular on a sunny August afternoon; designed by Nigel Dunnett and James Hitchmough of Sheffield University. We are assured that four football fields (2.1h) of allotments will be reinstated elsewhere on site, in the longer term.

We then ran alongside this planted area towards arguably the best of the Olympic buildings, the wood clad Velodrome, with its BMX circuit alongside, looking as only a BMX circuit can; surprisingly like the landscape that it replaced (the old speedway track), that lay alongside the former Clays and Trafford Lanes, one of the few residential areas formerly on the site.

The massive new Olympic Athlete's village has a somewhat Berlinesque feel to it, with dense high quality urban apartment blocks; it was hard to see inside as we could not get close, though we were assured they were well planned and planted.

Returning back over one of the six or seven new bridges over the River Lee's various branches,

we returned along the west side of the Olympic Stadium, an impressive building recapturing the feel of an ancient amphitheatre, but in steel. It is surely helped by its green fringe, and being set into the ground reduces its height, so that it was, to me at least, an echo of the wonderful arena at Nimes. It will be interesting to see what shape it takes when made over to football after the games.

We briefly swung round to take in the base of the Zaha Hadid designed Aquatics Centre, with its unfortunate temporary wings, which has an intriguing grass wall at its southern end. There was more herbaceous planting going in below this, on the widest, eastern stretch of the River Lee.

Among the incredible statistics mentioned were that some 400 tons of Japanese knot weed have been removed and buried, and that ten football fields of perennial and annual meadows will have been planted on site by the time the Games open. To put this in perspective, neighbouring Hackney Marshes holds 64 football pitches and three rugby pitches (2006 season), with a little space left over: Most worthily a new regional sports club will be built, with a tranquil garden square centred on the original Eton Manor Boys' Club war memorial and planted with Sweet Gum trees which turn red around Remembrance Day. The forward thinking Arthur Villiers (its original founder) is still honoured in the legacy.

We returned back to our starting post as Phil Askew revealed he would be doing perhaps twice as much work again after the Games getting the site ready for its 'legacy' existence. We were told that a Milton Keynes Parks Trust type solution was in place to ensure that the park would be maintained "in perpetuity". The Olympic Park will be renamed the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park after the 2012 Games.

I can highly recommend a visit, and it is to be hoped that the authorities allow access to the park during the period of the Games, given the difficulty getting tickets for events. I am sure big screens in the park would attract huge audiences.

You can get a good view of the site now by travelling to Pudding Mill Lane on the DLR and then taking a short walk to the View Tube, a converted shipping container and display area on that same Greenway aka the Northern Outfall Sewer Outfall pipe; they do a very good cup of tea.

LPGT are running a Study Day at the View Tube on Thursday 3 November; see page 32 for details.

## Alix Wilkinson

Alix Wilkinson was an enthusiastic garden historian, intrepid traveller and cheerful, smiling friend and companion. To those who have travelled on garden history tours in Europe and the Near East she was a familiar figure. One of my first memories of Alix dates from a visit we made together to the Egyptian collection in the British Museum. I wondered about the meaning of the hieroglyphics and she immediately began reading them as fluently as if she was reading the daily newspaper. I had no idea then that she had



worked in that department, nor of her command of a variety of languages, or that she had written *Ancient Egyptian Jewellery* (Methuen, 1972).

Alix and John, her husband lived for several years in Jerusalem and later in Washington, D.C. and both postings provided opportunities which contributed to her development as a garden historian. While based in Jerusalem, Alix taught English to Palestinian students attending Birzeit University, outside Ramallah. She also learnt modern Arabic and became involved in the archaeology and gardens of the Near East, travelling later to Iran and to Syria.

In Washington D.C. Alix studied at Georgetown University where she was awarded her PhD in Linguistics. However as her commitment to garden history increased, she accepted an offer to become a Gardens Fellow at the Centre for Studies in Landscape Architecture, Dumbarton Oaks. This meant that she was paid to study historic gardens and during this period she researched much of the material for *The Garden in Ancient Egypt* (Rubicon Press, London, 1998). This involved studying archaeological remains; documents on stone and papyrus which described the layout, size, plants and use of particular gardens; and paintings and models of gardens.

Once back in London Alix became involved in a variety of garden-related activities. She became a tour guide at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, joined the Birkbeck College Garden History

Course, set up the Kensington Gardeners' Club and organised a programme of visits and lectures, and was a founder member of ASTENE, 1997 (The Association for the Study of Travellers in Egypt and the Near East).

She also embarked on new research in Egypt, focusing this time on nineteenth century Cairo and the gardens of the Khedive, Ismail Pasha. Ismail Pasha was determined to bring Egypt into the 'modern' European world and as part of this plan he brought in Barillet Deschamps, who had worked with Alphand on the parks

of Paris. The plans and planting lists of two of Barillet Deschamps' gardens, Gezira and Ezbekiah, survive, as do documents of his assistant. Tracking down the individual plants, in a period when plant nomenclature was by no means standardized, was a challenging task and Alix was often to be seen at Kew studying and photographing particular plants; she was a very good photographer. Her research meant frequent visits to Cairo and another circle of friends and colleagues.

Other important areas of her research remain unpublished. These included Lyveden New Bield and *sacri monte*. The original sacred mountain was the hill of Calvary outside Jerusalem and from the late fifteenth century this inspired the creation of many *sacri monte*, initially in Italy and later across Europe. They were approached via a pilgrimage route, which was in effect the *Via Dolorosa*. Much smaller versions could be found on religious sites such as monasteries. Even if these had been abandoned the *sacro monte*, which could be created from a natural feature, or man-made, often survived. It was these smaller sites that Alix was amassing information on, travelling widely in order to do so. These sites were often off the beaten track, as were many of the gardens that Alix visited. This meant contending with local public transport which could be very unreliable. Her tales of some of her struggles to return to base could be most entertaining.

She is much missed.

Hazel Conway

## other events

our round-up of exhibitions, lectures, seminars & study days by **other** organisations

### Hestercombe's Great Seed Giveaway

11am or 2pm, Wednesday 14 September

Accompany **Claire Reid**, Formal Gardens' Supervisor, collecting seeds from the wonderful herbaceous borders. Bring envelopes and a pencil and join either session at the Ticket Office.

Free event. Garden Admission applies.

### OPEN HOUSE weekend, London

17 & 18 September

**Dominic Cole**, of LUC, is offering two walks at sites he is currently working on:

#### 2pm, Saturday 17 September

Horniman Museum, Forest Hill, currently on site (contract work) will be finished by September. £3.4 m HLF project to integrate the museum and its grounds. On a first come basis.

#### 2pm, Sunday 18 September

Alexandra Palace: to see the results of the HLF funded works. It is not easy to see how the £3.5m was spent, without a bit of light explanation (about 2hrs). Again, on a first come basis.

### Night of Light

at Hestercombe

6 to 9pm, Friday 30 September

A magical, mystical celebration of Somerset Art Weeks 2011 and the launch of the 2012 Cultural Olympiad in Somerset. Hestercombe Gardens hosts a light and sound artistic extravaganza! Travel along a route in the Garden filled with light and sound installations with work by national and international artists including: Mark Anderson (*right*), Chloe Brooks, Suki Chan, Simon Lee Dicker, Michael Fairfax, Helena Haimes, Simon Hitchens, Sue and Alexander Maris, Tim Martin, Sue Palmer, Jane Prophet, and James Price working with Family Connections.

Cost: £5, concessions £3, contact: [www.hestercombe.com](http://www.hestercombe.com) or phone: 01823 414 180



### Walled Kitchen Garden Network

Forum at Dyffryn Gardens

Saturday 1 October

The WKGN is aware that a large proportion of walled kitchen gardens in the UK are in the hands of council authorities, many of which now recognise the value of what they own. Increasingly, many councils are exploring ways in which to restore them and bring them back to play a useful role in the local community. This Forum will explore some of these restoration projects with the aim of providing examples of good practice whilst highlighting some of the problems.

This year our Forum will be held at Dyffryn Gardens near Cardiff in Wales. The 55 acres of Grade I listed pleasure grounds were laid out in the early 20th century by Thomas Mawson (1861–1933), and are among the best, if little known, examples of his work. However the walled kitchen garden is of an earlier date, but is included in Mawson's plan (published in the 1926 edition of *The Art and Craft of Garden Making*).

The property is now under the administration of the Vale of Glamorgan County Council. With assistance from the Heritage Lottery Fund, the gardens have been undergoing an extensive restoration programme, and last year work began

on the walled kitchen garden. This is being restored to reflect the Edwardian period, cultivation began this spring and the glasshouses are due to reopen this summer.

Speakers include: **Gerry Donovan**, Project Manager and Site Curator at Dyffryn; **John Isaacs**, Insole Court Community Garden; **Tacy Rickard**, The Rowdens Walled Garden Project.

This will be an all day event, cost: £60 for the day, with concessions (students & community groups): £45. This covers lunch, refreshments, entry to the gardens and tours of the extensive walled garden.

Contact Anne Richards: 01432 354 479 or email: [f.grant14@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:f.grant14@tiscali.co.uk) or write to: Anne Richards, 5 The Knoll, Hereford, HR1 1RU, enclosing an SAE.

Further details: [www.walledgardens.net](http://www.walledgardens.net)

**Field Evidence: a symposium**  
at the Garden Museum  
9.45am to 4.30pm Monday 3 October

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The third in a series of Symposia in partnership with the Garden History Group at Birkbeck College, on the role of archaeological and physical evidence for the history and conservation of historic gardens. It will review the origins and impact of field evidence, including dendrochronology and aerial photography, and explore possibilities for the future; it will also examine how physical evidence can be integrated with literary and visual sources in projects of restoration and recreation.

Speakers include **Brian Dix** (archaeologist), **Lesley Howes** (archaeologist), **Ted Fawcett** (GHS), **Todd Longstaffe-Gowan** (designer of the re-presentation of the gardens at Kensington Palace) and **John Watkins** (English Heritage).

This full-day symposium includes lunch and all coffee breaks. Cost: £40 for Garden Museum Friends & Birkbeck Garden History Group, £50 for all others. Bookings: 020 7401 8865

**The Japanese Garden in Britain: design, history, conservation & management**  
at Edinburgh College of Art, EH3 9DF  
10.30am to 4pm, Saturday 8 October

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The theme of this study day is to examine and discuss the issues involved in designing and maintaining a Japanese style garden in Britain. Julia Rayer Rolfe on the history and development of Japanese Gardens in Britain. Sam Youd takes Tatton Park garden as an example, of the general conservation of historic gardens and the specific management necessary for their upkeep. Takashi Sawano and Haruko Seki, 2 distinguished British based designers, will talk about creating new Japanese gardens here and abroad and the sensibilities needed to capture that very 'Japanese' essence. We conclude with Alan Johnson on the garden at Sesshu, Japan.

A photographic exhibition 'Visions in Paradise' will be staged at the ECA to accompany the study day.

Lunch and refreshments will be provided. To reserve a place please send a cheque for £30 made out to the Japanese Garden Society in Scotland to: Ellen Graham, 32 Winton Drive, Edinburgh EH10 7ES with SAE.  
Contact: ellengraham@btinternet.com

**Recent research in Garden History at the Institute of Historical Research, Senate House, London**

The North Wing of Senate House, where we have had our **Free** seminars in the Institute of Historical Research for the last seven years will be undergoing refurbishment for the next two years, beginning in late summer 2011. The IHR will be moving into the South Wing (the Library side) and until things settle in the spring with a regular venue, our seminars will be in different rooms. Do join us for a meal afterwards.

**Edith Wharton: Interior Design and Gardens**  
**Helena Chance**, of Buckingham New University in The Torrington Room, Room 104  
5.30pm, Friday 7 October

*"I walked in the garden": Mary, Marchioness of Huntly 1822–93, her life, her diary, her gardens*  
**Dr Maxine Eziefula**  
in The Senate Room  
5.30pm, Friday 21 October

*The role of the gardener in England from 1600 to 1730: studies from Knole, Kent & Arbury, Warks*  
**Sally O'Halloran**, of Sheffield University in The Court Room  
5.30pm, Friday 4 November

*Urban Design and Landscape Architecture in the UK & Hungary: Thomas Mawson & Béla Rerrich*  
**Luca Csepeley-Knorr**, of Manchester University and Corvinus, University of Budapest in The Court Room  
5.30pm, Friday 18 November

*Sir Thomas Hanmer: beyond the Garden Book*  
**Jill Francis**, of University of Birmingham in The Bloomsbury Room, Room 35  
5.30pm, Friday, 2 December

**Advance notice for 2012**

**'Art, Landscape and History'**  
Symposium at the Institute of Historical Research  
The Court Room, Senate House, London  
9.30am to 5.30pm, Friday 23 March 2012

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More details in the next edition.

For information on all of the above, please contact: Dr Janet Waymark, at the Institute of Historical Research: [janetwaymark@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:janetwaymark@yahoo.co.uk)

## other events

### **LPGT talks at the Garden Museum**

*Victoria Park: Old Design, New Uses*

**Sally Prothero**

7pm, Monday 10 October

*London's Street Trees*

**Hazel Conway**

7pm, Monday 14 November

*Fields in Trust: King George's Fields and Queen*

*Elizabeth II Fields in London*

**Alison Moore-Gwyn**

7pm, Monday 12 December

### **2012**

*Gardens of Metro-Land*

**Sophie Seifelian**

7pm, Monday 9 January

*London's Olympic Games*

**Martin Polley**

7pm, Monday 13 February

*A Gothic Garden in Kentish Town*

**Michael Symes**

7pm, Monday 12 March

*Pitzhanger Manor and Walpole Park*

**Sarah Couch**

Wednesday 6 April, 6 for 7pm

*What are 'natural' landscapes?*

**Tim Dee**

7pm, Monday 16 April

LPGT members and Museum Friends £8 (season tickets £48), others £9 (season tickets £54) from the London Parks and Gardens Trust, c/o The Store Yard, St James's Park, London SW1A 2JB or phone: 0207 839 3969, or at the door, from 6.30 for a glass of wine.

### **Researching Historic Designed Landscapes for Local Listing Training Workshop at Juniper Hall, Mickleham Surrey**

**10am to 4pm, Wednesday 26 October**

This training day is aimed at County Gardens Trust (CGT) volunteers in the south east who wish to be actively involved in researching and surveying historic landscapes in their county in order to support their conservation. Over the course of the day, volunteers will become familiar with the basic

concepts of using maps and archive resources to understand a historic designed landscape and carry out a 'walk-over' survey of the site. Volunteers will also be introduced to the methodology of writing up research and survey results in line with the format used for entries to the English Heritage *Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest*, an invaluable tool in ensuring that sites are written up in a consistent and professional format for wide use in their conservation.

The day will be led by **Virginia Hinze**, formerly of English Heritage and with extensive experience of training in this topic, with **Verena McCaig**, Historic Landscape Project Officer for the AGT. The AGT is working in partnership with English Heritage and Natural England to support volunteers from the south-eastern CGTs to play a greater role in the conservation of our historic designed landscapes through the Historic Landscape Project.

To attend, contact: **Teresa Forey-Harrison**, Co-ordinator at the AGT: [gardenstrusts@agt.org.uk](mailto:gardenstrusts@agt.org.uk) or phone: 020 7251 2610. For more information: [www.gardenstrusts.org.uk/12-proj-historiclandscape](http://www.gardenstrusts.org.uk/12-proj-historiclandscape)

### **The Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park: Tradition and Innovation for the Twenty-first Century**

**London Parks & Gardens Trust Study Day at the View Tube, The Greenway, East London 10.15 to 3.30pm, Thursday 3 November**

This major new park, London's Olympic legacy, has been planned by LDA Design / Hargreaves Associates in the great tradition of London parks, but also as an inspiration for future park design. It incorporates ideas of regeneration, ecology, community and history in its landscape and planting philosophy, using new and imaginative techniques.

Speakers are: **Andrew Harland** (Managing Partner, LDA Design / Hargreaves Associates) on the principles behind the design of the Parklands; **Sarah Price** (Sarah Price Landscapes) on her design for the planting of the 2012 Gardens; **Sarah Weir** (previously Head of Arts and Cultural Strategy, Olympic Delivery Authority, now with the Olympic Park Legacy Company) on how artwork reflecting the history of the site has been embedded within major design elements.

For security reasons it will not be possible for us to visit the Parklands, but a general view over the site can be obtained from the venue. After lunch we will walk

along the Greenway and visit nearby Victoria Park, now being renovated by LDA Design, to see how the 19th and 21st-century parks will relate to each other.

Price: £45, including coffee and lunch. Contact: 020 7839 3969. Write to: London Parks & Gardens Trust, c/o The Store Yard, St James's Park, London SW1A 2BJ, enclosing a cheque payable to LHPGT and enclose SAE for your tickets.

### What are gardens for?

Society of Garden Designers conference  
at Imperial College, London SW7 1LU  
Saturday 12 November

Lucy Huntingdon, one of the earliest members of the SGD will chair the day. Speakers: Dan Pearson gives an insight into making three very personal, and very different gardens; Bernard Trainor seeks to inspire clients to connect with the space at a deeper level; Jane Owen is sure to provoke a lively debate on the theme for the day; Wendy Titman observes that we are rearing a generation that is 'outdoor averse'.

Cost: £96 members, £132 non-members, or call: 01989 566 695 for other rates or to book by credit card. [www.sgd.org.uk](http://www.sgd.org.uk)

### The Historic Buildings Parks & Gardens Event 2011

at The Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre,  
London SW1P 3EE  
9am to 5pm, Tuesday 15 November

The Historic Houses Association invite members of the GHS to attend **Free of Charge**. Held annually for over 25 years, this major heritage conservation day has evolved from, and is held in parallel with, the AGM of the HHA who kindly allow, subject to seating availability, visitors to listen to their President, **Edward Harley**, of Brampton Bryan Estate in Herefordshire; to their Guest Speaker, **John Penrose** MP; and to attend the HHA/Smiths Gore Lecture, this year given by **The Marquess of Douro**, the eldest son of the eighth Duke of Wellington. Lord Douro and his wife live at Stratfield Saye House in Hampshire and at Apsley House in London.

Over 70 exhibitors will be displaying a broad selection of products and services used in the care, repair, conservation and restoration of historic buildings, their contents and surrounding landscapes.

### Lecture series at the Garden Museum

From October to December 2011, the Garden Museum, in association with the Landscape Institute, will be running an exhibition **From Garden City to Green City** examining the development of the green city, from Hampstead Garden Suburb to the present day.

*Landscape in the Garden City:  
the Sharing of Great Things*

David Davidson

6 for 6.30pm, Wednesday 12 October

*The Landscape of Consumption:  
Food in the Metropolis*

Tim Waterman

6 for 6.30pm, Wednesday 19 October

*Housing Landscapes: public realm, private territory and the spaces in between*

Roland Jeffery

6 for 6.30pm, Wednesday 26 October

*Landscapes for Leisure:*

*pleasure grounds, public health and recreation*

Ken Worpole

6 for 6.30pm, Wednesday 2 November

*The Public Landscape:*

*from Townscape to the privatised Plaza*

Sarah Gaventa

6 for 6.30pm, Wednesday 9 November

Panel discussion:

**Realising the Green City – is it possible?**

Kim Wilkie, Chris Young & Annie Coombs

6 for 6.30pm, Wednesday 16 November

Cost: £8 Members of Garden Museum, Landscape Institute, and C20 Society, £5 students, £10 others. Please book in advance: 020 7401 8865 or: [gardenmuseum.org.uk/events](http://gardenmuseum.org.uk/events). The bar and bookshop will be open before and after the talk

And also:

### Professional Gardeners Guild Seminar 'Innovation or restoration, the historic house garden dilemma'

at The Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre  
9 for 10am to 2.45pm, Tuesday 15 November

The Seminar will examine the choices available when the historic garden is in need of a major

## other events & forum

overhaul. For example, should the owner consider a complete new design or develop the existing historical layout according to the original plans?

Speakers include **John Watkins**, Gardens Manager for English Heritage on the case for recreating and developing the historic layout; **Trevor Nicholson**, Harewood House Head Gardener, on the implications and management of changes in garden design; **Stephen Anderton**, author and journalist and **Lord Cavendish** owner of Holker Hall on design and financial implications.

For £60 (£50 + VAT) you can upgrade your visit to include attending the Professional Gardeners Guild Seminar which is taking place in the same building. Call Catherine: 01462 896 688, or email: [catherine@hall-mccartney.co.uk](mailto:catherine@hall-mccartney.co.uk) or visit: [www.hall-mccartney.co.uk](http://www.hall-mccartney.co.uk) and use SOURCE CODE = PR

### Researching Historic Designed Landscapes for Local Listing Training Workshop at South Hill Park, Bracknell 10am to 4pm, Monday 21 November 2011

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See p33 for further details.

### Wallich and Indian Natural History at the Natural History Museum, London Tuesday 6 & Wednesday 7 December

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A conference to celebrate the collections of the Danish botanist Nathaniel Wallich (1786–1854) and Indian natural history, to be held jointly at The Natural History Museum and The Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. This is a collaborative project with the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and the British Library, and funded by the World Collections Programme. This international conference will

explore the challenges associated with exploiting such collections and the interesting opportunities they provide for interdisciplinary research.

Details on: [www.nhm.ac.uk/cahr](http://www.nhm.ac.uk/cahr) or contact Dr Zara Naghizadeh: 0207 942 6788 or email: [z.naghizadeh@nhm.ac.uk](mailto:z.naghizadeh@nhm.ac.uk)

### Sir Joseph Dalton Hooker, Botanist, Explorer, Champion of Darwin: a Centenary Celebration Friday 9 December

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Conference at Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, jointly organised by the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, the Linnean Society of London, the Kew Guild, and the University of Sussex.

In an age of great naturalists, Sir Joseph Dalton Hooker (1817–1911) was perhaps the greatest Victorian botanist. His reputation is based on his early travels in the South Pacific Ocean and India, his lifetime's work on the world's flora and biogeography, and twenty commanding years as Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Sir Joseph's fame has continued to grow through his friendship with and staunch support for Charles Darwin.

All of these aspects of Joseph Hooker's long and remarkably productive life will be covered in a celebratory one-day meeting held, appropriately, at Kew Gardens. A varied programme includes five talks by leading scholars, private behind-the-scenes tours highlighting Hooker material in Kew's collections, and a reception in the Shirley Sherwood Gallery with a private view of a special exhibition about Sir Joseph's life and work.

Registration fees include lunch and refreshments: £35 (students £15), book at: [www.kew.org/jdhooker](http://www.kew.org/jdhooker) or contact: [jdhooker@kew.org](mailto:jdhooker@kew.org)

## forum

for news, appeals, requests for information etc.

### Major accessions to repositories in 2010 relating to Gardening

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#### Local

#### Bristol Record Office

Bristol Botanical Club: minutes, reports, corresp and papers 1903–30 (44420)

#### Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies

Waddesdon and District Horticultural Society: minutes, accounts, history of the society 1899–1994 (D-X 1930)

#### Durham County Record Office

Willington Chrysanthemum Society: minutes, accounts and records 1935–2009 (7532)

**East Sussex Record Office**

Pevensey Bay Allotments Society: records 1954–2006 (10491)

**Hampshire Archives and Local Studies**

New Milton Horticultural Society: minutes 1930–85 (24A10)

**Kingston Museum and Heritage Service**

Surbiton Horticultural Society: records 1885–2003 (KX452)

**Lancashire Record Office**

Lytham St Annes Horticultural Society: records 1937–1988 (DDX 2789)

**Norfolk Record Office**

Long Stratton and District Gardening Club: records incl minutes, accounts and programmes c1980–2010 (ACC 2010/138)

**Somerset Heritage Centre**

Dunster Horticultural Society: minutes and exhibition poster 1869–1874 (A\DDA)

**Surrey History Centre**

Horsell Allotment Association: records incl minutes, financial records, plans and corresp 1917–2005 (8700)

**Sutton Local Studies & Archives Centre**

Worcester Park Horticultural Society: newsletters and minutes 1976–1990 (785)

**Tyne and Wear Archives**

Rectory Road Allotment Holders Association: corresp against closure 1988–1997 (SX131)

**Warwickshire County Record Office**

St Mary's Allotments Association, Leamington Spa: committee meeting minute book, account book, rent books 1909–1958 (CR4322)

**West Glamorgan Archive Service**

Ynystawe Horticultural Association: minutes 1942–49

**West Yorkshire Archive Service, Calderdale**

Halifax and District Allotments Federation: minutes, agendas, corresp, memos, income and expenditure accounts, 1979–2007 (WYC:1271)

**West Yorkshire Archive Service, Kirklees**

Huddersfield Allotments and Gardens Federation: minutes 1908–2006 (WYK1571)

**West Yorkshire Archive Service, Wakefield**

St John's Mount Allotments, Wakefield: register 1969–1976 (WYW1730)

**National****Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, Library and Archives**

William Bassett, gardener and agricultural superintendent: lecture notebooks whilst studying at Kew Gardens 1924–1930 (PrP 10-0036)

Frederick George Harcourt, gardener and agricultural superintendent: letters, photographs and cuttings rel to time in Antigua and Dominica c1920–1970 (PrP 10-0030)

**University & Museum****Dundee University Archive, Records Management and Museum Services**

Friends of the University of Dundee Botanic Garden: minutes, newsletters, papers 1982–2010 (2010/379)

**Museum of English Rural Life**

Francis Pearce, head gardener, Eynsham Hall: letters and references 1908–13 (FR DX1913)

For more: [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/accessions/](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/accessions/)

**RHS Lindley Library London Closed****Gaynor Messenger writes:**

Following a small fire in the Library's main stack room, on 22 July, the RHS Lindley Library, London, is closed to visitors. All our historical and art collections are safe, but we are organising for our research material to be cleaned by specialist conservators and it is likely to be some months before we get back to business as normal. Until this work is completed none of London's collection material is accessible.

Whilst specialist cleaning of the collections is underway, the following services will be in place:

- Limited enquiry service. Email: [library@rhs.org.uk](mailto:library@rhs.org.uk)
- Image Request Service for commercial or research image requests: [www.rhsimages.co.uk](http://www.rhsimages.co.uk) until further notice
- Lindley Library Wisley and the other Garden Libraries remain open as usual. Contact us on: 01483 212 428

We apologise for the inconvenience this disruption to our services will cause to all of our regular users.

**Knighton Wood****Sara Tenneson writes:**

During the visit by members of the GHS to Knighton Wood in Woodford on 7 July, it was suggested that the 40-acre woodland had been planted by a 'skilled craftsman' in the *picturesque* style; with grouping of native trees planted on mounds. The name of William Barron was proposed and further research also indicates that it could be Barron. The making of the garden

## forum

dates from 1863, and still has significant plantings of rhododendrons, Highclere holly and bamboos, together with a Pulham Rock Bank. There are no family records existing that could identify the 'skilled craftsman' and there appear to be no records for William Barron and Son of the Elvaston Nurseries in Borrowash.

Does anyone have any information about William Barron and Son working in the South East, ie London, Essex, or other South Eastern counties in the period from 1863 to the late 1880s?

Contact Sara Tenneson: 020 8505 8558  
or: [sbt@tenneson.org.uk](mailto:sbt@tenneson.org.uk)

## English Landscape Gardens: 1650 to the present day an online garden history course Tim Richardson writes:

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I have written this course as an ideal introduction to English garden history. It provides an overview of five centuries of development, from Baroque formalism through the naturalistic landscape style, right up to contemporary cutting-edge planting style.

The architectural historian Nikolaus Pevsner called the landscape garden Britain's major contribution to the visual arts, and this course aims to explore why and how that came to be so. Beginning in the mid 17th century, when grand gardens were laid out in formal style, the course traces the development of garden style across five centuries. There is special emphasis on the early-18th-century landscape garden, as perhaps the high point, when politics, art, science, philosophy and gardening intersected in an unprecedented way. Later in the century Lancelot Brown made the style his own, creating a landscape monopoly across Britain, before Humphry Repton brought back an element of formality in the Regency period.

The 19th century witnessed the apogee of the head gardener and the creation of the first public parks, while new plant introductions from China and elsewhere provided new impetus to horticulture. The 20th century was one of the richest periods in English garden history and will be fully explored here. Gertrude Jekyll pioneered the colour-themed herbaceous border and her partnership with architect Edwin Lutyens created what is often seen as the perfect stylistic union between house and garden. The story is brought

right up to date with modules on 20th-century planting theory and contemporary art or sculpture gardens such as Little Sparta.

Formed of ten modules, it is strongly recommended that you try to find a little time each week to engage in the online conversations (at times that are convenient to you), as the forums are an integral, and very rewarding, part of the course and the online learning experience.

For more information:  
[www.conted.ox.ac.uk/V200-48#Abstract](http://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/V200-48#Abstract) ;  
if you have any questions about this course,  
please email: [onlinecourses@conted.ox.ac.uk](mailto:onlinecourses@conted.ox.ac.uk)

## Saxon deities on sale Charles Boot writes:

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On 8 July there was a sale of 'Old Master Sculpture' at Sotheby's where the last two Saxon deities from Stowe were catalogued at £200–300,000. They didn't sell (or aren't recorded as being sold on the Sotheby's website) and their fate remains unknown. Originally part of Sir Richard Temple, 1st Viscount Cobham's famous 18th century gardens at Stowe, Buckinghamshire, Woden and Seatern are the last two of Rysbrack's great Saxon deities remaining in private hands.



Sotheby's

Commissioned in the late 1720s the gods represent the days of the week, Wednesday and Saturday, and epitomised the height of 18th century antiquarianism in the gardens at Stowe. Rysbrack used the finest Portland stone, which has retained much intricate detail, and the heroic figures have developed a timeless mystery, enhanced by the picturesque weathering of nearly 300 years.

The detail of carving on these original sculptures is noticeably finer than that of the replicas now in place at Stowe, though they do give the effect. Surely the point of returning sculpture to any garden, where they have been lost as a result of theft or sale is to make the experience of visiting them more fulfilling. Many garden statues were themselves replicas of earlier exemplars (though the Deities appear to be one-offs), often made in different materials so it's not unreasonable that replicas are used, as long as they look right.

The sculptures are being sold by the Aspinall Foundation. Of the others, two (Mona & Friga) are now in the Buckinghamshire County Museum, Aylesbury, and two in the V&A (Thuner and Sunna), the seated statue of Thuner remains to be replicated. Tew has finished up at Anglesey Abbey, another National Trust property. Any offers?

### Caldwell Tower update

John West writes:

It is now a year on from the Channel 4 *Restoration Man* programme referred to in the article about the B listed Caldwell Tower (p18). In the intervening period planning permission was granted for a modest ground floor extension and a covering for the external stair giving access to the upper room of the tower. Conditions were attached to the permission for the expressed purpose of protecting the visual amenity and historical and architectural character of the tower. Roofing was to be in thick blue slate and weatherboarding to be in natural wood. Though not specifically included we imagined that window frames would be similarly treated so that the finished extension would blend in with the tower allowing it to remain a key feature of the landscape.

The work is now nearing completion, and we have been very surprised to find that the pale blue material which from a distance we took to be temporary tarpaulin covering the construction is in fact the finished article. There has been an



John West

*Caldwell Tower, from 'eye-catcher' to 'eye-sore'*

unsympathetic ground floor extension in stone which looks rather like a 1960s public toilet. More startling is the bright blue tongue and groove erection covering what is left of the original external staircase (*above*). It has a rubberoid stepped roof with white plywood fascia. This part of the development dominates the appearance of this modest tower. It's a real shocker! What was an 'eye-catcher' is now a major 'eye-sore'.

It is hard to believe that this development was sanctioned by Historic Scotland in the form that it now presents to the world or that regular monitoring by the authorities has not noticed the failure to comply with the requirements to protect the visual, historical and architectural integrity of this landmark tower. It's clear that even when we believe that appropriate conditions have been attached to a development as a result of advice and intervention, there is a need for continued close monitoring. It is to be hoped that retrospective action will be taken to remedy or ameliorate the effect of this damage to the focus of Caldwell's Brandy Hill gardens.

The Channel 4 team is now doing a follow up to the original transmission. The continuing research work of the volunteer group and the GHSS view of the tragedy have been expressed in an interview for the programme, though of course only a selected fraction of the dialogue is likely to be given air time.

### Eight more parks given £15.9m Lottery investment

More from the HLF:

The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) has awarded funding of £12.4m to six parks in London, Felixstowe, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Merseyside and Dunbarton. HLF and the Big Lottery Fund (BIG) have also jointly awarded £3.5m to two further parks in Godalming, Surrey and Nottingham. All parks can now begin major redevelopment work, with opportunities for volunteering and training tied into most awards



Trustees of the Sir John Soane Museum

#### Walpole Park, Ealing, London: grant of £2.4m

Walpole Park's gardens and lawns are the backdrop to the Grade I listed Pitzhanger Manor (above). Sitting in the heart of Ealing town centre, the park has a number of historic features including a Grade II\* listed rustic bridge, a Portland stone bench and a lodge building. The park was opened to the public in 1901. HLF's grant will help restore the park to its original beauty and improve its visitor facilities. The park will undergo major conservation to recreate the Regency planting and reinstate the kitchen garden.

Other awards were made to:

- Raphael Park**, Romford, Essex: £1.7m;
- Felixstowe Seafront Gardens**, Suffolk: £2.1m;
- Exhibition Park**, Newcastle-upon-Tyne: £2.4m;
- Victoria Park**, St. Helens, Merseyside: £3m;
- Dalmuir Park**, Dunbartonshire: £859,600.

Also joint HLF/BIG funding of £3.5m to:

- Nottingham Forest Recreation Ground**: £3.2m &
- Phillips Memorial Park**, Godalming, Surrey: £335,000

Initial Lottery support and development funding totalling £725,427 has also been awarded to the following 10 parks across the UK: **Boultham Park**, Lincoln; **West Hackney Recreation Ground**,

London; **Alexandra Road Park**, Camden, London; **Plasnet Park**, Newham, London; **Wharton Park**, Durham; **Castle Vale Park** and **Coronation Park**, Berwick-upon-Tweed; **Moor Park**, Preston; **Westgate Gardens**, Canterbury; **Lightwoods Park**, Sandwell; **Belleisle Park**, South Ayrshire.

### New Pulham Site in Scotland

Christopher Dingwall writes:

A previously unrecorded scheme by James Pulham & Son has recently come to light on the estate of Craigengillan, near Dalmellington in East Ayrshire, formerly home of the McAdam family of 'tarmacadam' fame. Confirmation of its date and authenticity comes from the diary of one time Pulham employee Fred Rickett, whose diary records three separate visits to Craigengillan, spread over several years. What Rickett refers to as a 'rock and water garden' for Mrs. McAdam occupied him on three separate occasions between 1910 and 1915.

The diary was discovered by Claude Hitching, whose eagerly awaited book on *The Pulham Legacy* is now due to be published in the New Year.



Christopher Dingwall

Owner Mark Gibson shows some of the Pulham rockwork recently unearthed at Craigengillan

Owner of Craigengillan Mark Gibson has now begun the gradual process of unearthing the scheme, which includes a mixture of natural and artificial stonework. The garden having become almost entirely obscured by several decades accumulation of soil, leaf litter and vegetation, its large extent is only now becoming apparent as work progresses. It is hoped that, in time, the rock garden will be fully revealed, and the water supply to the cascades and pools will be restored once more.

**THE GARDEN  
HISTORY SOCIETY**

**Please consider leaving a Legacy to the Society in your Will**

If you are thinking of remembering The Garden History Society in your Will and would like to discuss the proposed legacy, you may wish to advise the Society. If so you can use this form (or a copy) and send it to our head office:

The Administrator,  
The Garden History Society,  
70 Cowcross Street, London EC1M 6EJ.  
We will then contact you.

- I have already included a legacy to The Garden History Society in my Will
- I have instructed my solicitor to include a legacy to The Garden History Society in my Will
- I would like to discuss a legacy to The Garden History Society with you
- I would like to discuss a legacy to The Garden History Society in Scotland (GHSS) with you.

Name: .....  
Address: .....  
.....  
.....  
Postcode:                      Tel: .....  
email:

**How to leave a gift to the Society**

You can choose to leave an amount of cash to the Society or a share of your estate. Such a gift should include the society's name, charity registration number and address.

For example:

I give to The Garden History Society  
(registered charity number 1053446)  
of 70 Cowcross Street, London, EC1M 6EJ  
the sum of £

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Mr Richard Broyd, Mrs Susan Campbell,  
Sir Richard Carew Pole, Mr Ray Desmond,  
Mr Edward Fawcett, Mr Peter Hayden,  
Dr Niall Manning, Mr John Sales,  
The Dowager Marchioness of Salisbury,  
Mr Tim Smit, Dr Christopher Thacker

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**Patrick Eyres**  
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**Jeremy Rye**  
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GHS representative on NT Council:  
**Jonathan Lovie**  
Honorary Secretary, GHSS: **John Ellis**  
Honorary Treasurer, GHSS: **Julian Stanning**

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## GHS events diary

Saturday 10 September	Study Day on The History of an Estate in its Designed Landscape, Smeaton
Saturday 17 September	Study Day at Brookwood Cemetery, Woking, with AGT & Surrey GT
7 to 18 October	Study Tour to the gardens of Mexico
Thursday 13 October	Study Day on <i>Wrest Park revealed</i> , with AGT, EH & Bedfordshire GT
21 to 23 October	<i>The Victorian Garden</i> Rewley House GHS/OCE Study Weekend
Monday 7 November	<i>The Victorian Fernery at Benmore</i> Mary Gibbey, Glasite Meeting House, Edinburgh
Wednesday 9 November	Study Day on <i>Wilton: The Tudor and Stuart Gardens</i>
Thursday 8 December	<i>Paradise of Exiles</i> Katie Campbell, RBG Edinburgh

*Details and booking information for all our events can be found inside, on pages 4 to 7, including Diary dates for next year, or look at our website: [www.gardenhistorysociety.org/events](http://www.gardenhistorysociety.org/events)*

## Stop Press Draft National Planning Policy Framework

In late July the Government published its proposals for simplifying the planning system in England.

We are working through this complex document, and will be submitting a full response to Government in due course. However, it is clear that the proposed Framework contains some very worrying changes which have the potential to allow unchecked and damaging development on a scale not witnessed since the 1930s.

The policies are clearly designed to promote significant additional development in an attempt to stimulate the economy. While this is a legitimate objective for national planning policy, the planning system should not be seen solely as an engine for economic growth. A credible planning system must safeguard the needs of people and the environment (in the broadest sense) as well as the economy.

With a presumption in favour of permitting new development in "undesignated" areas of the countryside (all areas outside Green Belt, National Parks and AONBs) where the planning authority

does not have a core strategy in place (and 47% of local authorities do not have a local plan in place); and a requirement for every local authority to identify an additional 20% of its land for development, historic landscapes, and particularly their settings, will be at unprecedented risk from harmful change.

We strongly support the campaign launched by the National Trust to win changes in the Draft Framework. The consultation period expires on 17th October, so time is short. Please consider adding your name to the Trust's on-line petition to Government: [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/main](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/main)

The text of the Draft National Planning Framework can be found at: [www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/1951811.pdf](http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/1951811.pdf)

It is also possible for individual GHS members to respond to the Government's consultation. We would be very pleased if members' responses could please be copied to the Office at Cowcross Street, or emailed to [enquiries@gardenhistorysociety.org](mailto:enquiries@gardenhistorysociety.org).

*Jonathan Lovie, Policy Advisor*

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**GHS news** correspondence and items to the GHS Head Office, or email the Editor: [news@gardenhistorysociety.org](mailto:news@gardenhistorysociety.org)

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