

THE GARDEN  
HISTORY SOCIETY

NEWS  
SPRING 2009 83



events

conservation

agenda

forum

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Front cover: Orchard on the Carse of Gowrie,  
Perth and Kinross; Forestry Commission Scotland

## from the Chairman

In the last issue I omitted to thank the outgoing Chairman! I would like to express my gratitude to Dr Colin Treen who has worked extremely hard to ensure the ongoing smooth running of the Society.

It has been a particular pleasure to me to work with Colin, as it was with him as my Tutor at Leeds some thirty years ago that I first encountered the subject of garden history. Colin also opened my eyes to the possibility that there is both history and excitement in what I might otherwise have overlooked in my quest for obviously big shiny examples. His subjects, the Florists' Gardens in Leeds and the American Gardens at Meanwood, cannot be more than a mile or so from his own front door; but for me, he transported both to a rank of equal interest with any Brown or Repton site.

He has contributed his quiet but determined authority, gained from years of dealing with stropy students and a stint as Dean, and left the Society in a healthy state for me to come back and take the credit. Thank you Colin.

### **Greenwich Park and the Equestrian Events, Olympics 2012**

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I did speak too soon! LOCOG are clearly not listening to any objections and The Royal Parks have decided to "work with them" to ensure minimum damage and full restoration after the event. The GHS retains its stance that the decision to hold the event in this internationally important designed landscape is wrong, and undermines the principles of conservation and good practice.

### **NEWS Editor**

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Finally, thanks to outgoing Editor Pat Huff, for enthusiastically taking on the task for the last six years, to the incoming Editor Charles Boot, for volunteering to edit the *NEWS* for now, and to Tim Richardson in his role as Chair of the Education and Publications Committee for co-ordinating the transition.

*Dominic Cole*  
London  
January 2009

## GHS Essay Prize 2009

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The fifth annual Garden History Society Essay Prize is under way, with entries to be submitted by 30 March. The prize is open to any student at a university or institute of higher education. Essays must be 5000 to 6000 words and the only restriction on subject matter is that it must be of relevance to garden history.

The prize was established to encourage vibrant, scholarly research and writing, which it certainly has done; previous prize-winning essays have encompassed an explanation of Wilton's Rainbow Fountain, an examination of the garden in a seventeenth century masque, the exposition of a lost eighteenth-century Royal garden and the role of gardens in the nineteenth-century treatment of mental illness.

The prize includes a cheque for £250, to be presented at the annual garden party in June, free membership of the Society for a year and consideration for publication in the peer-reviewed, scholarly Journal *Garden History*.

All previous winners have been accepted for publication and often the best of the non-winning entries are invited to submit to the Journal; several entries from last year's competition are currently in preparation for publication in forthcoming issues.

Previous winners are also making waves in the field of garden history; 2007 winner Paige Johnson went on to receive a coveted Robert Adam travel bursary to further her research on the Art Deco garden, while 2005 winner Dr Clare Hickman is now working as a research fellow at Bristol University where she is administering Dr Tim Mowl's Leverhulme Trust funded project to chart England's historic gardens and landscapes.

An entry form and the rules for submission can be found on our website or by mail from our London office, please enclose an SAE.

*Katie Campbell*

## Wet Journals

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We apologise that the last Journal, *Garden History* 36:2 (Winter 2008), apparently arrived in a wet and soggy state for many people; quite large numbers

## volunteer opportunity

Want to be more involved?

Do you have time to spare?

Volunteer invited to help with our annual Winter Lecture series.

You will be asked to assist us with:

- updating the press database
- sending out press releases
- issuing tickets
- attending as many as possible of the lectures to help coordinate them

Visits to the office in Cowcross Street, London, at times between September and March, will be necessary. Some computer literacy required.

In exchange you will get networking opportunities, a chance to develop transferable skills and, of course, free attendance at the lectures.

If you would like to find out more, please contact the GHS office, phone: 020 7608 2409, or email: [enquiries@gardenhistorysociety.org](mailto:enquiries@gardenhistorysociety.org)

it seems. We understand these Journals have now been replaced/sent out again where we have had complaints but if you have received a damaged copy please contact the printers for a replacement. It is a mystery how they came to be wet, but we hope it was a one-off. If it happens again we may have to consider using a different kind of bag.

*Barbara Simms*  
Editor, *Garden History*

## Back issues of *Garden History* & JSTOR

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Once again all of *Garden History* will soon be back in print. Thanks to some of the benefits of modern technology, and our relationship with JSTOR, whose very high quality scans we have been able to make use of, it is now possible to produce very small batches of those issues that we have run out of. We aim to maintain stocks of all issues, especially the themed ones, and they continue to sell on paper, at the maintained price of £15 (UK only) including postage and packing, overseas pricing on demand.

It is becoming apparent however that many readers of our Journal now do so online. Thanks

to JSTOR's 5282 institutional members, nearly all of our 1,348 published articles have now been at least looked at since we went on-line in 2005, with some 122,888 individual article viewings, some 45,344 of them then being printed off.

We still maintain our three-year cut off, so that to read the very latest articles you do have to be a member, but we feel our presence in JSTOR is considerably enhancing our educational role. If JSTOR did not exist, we would find it much more difficult to reach the ever expanding student body, and, thanks to Google, students in other disciplines are becoming aware of garden history. Incidentally the fee raised by our JSTOR membership is ploughed back into the Society's publications budget, as well as a proportion going to support the JSTOR mission.

The most read article remains *Ancient Mesopotamian Gardens and the Identification of the Hanging Gardens of Babylon Resolved* by Stephanie Dalley (21:1, Summer 1993), which 1,624 people have looked at, presumably not all of them in the US military...

*Ed & Pub*



You will have noticed that our website has not been functioning as well as it might have been in recent months. It has now been replaced with a new, much more interactive one, which should make the process of navigating it, and keeping it up date, much simpler both for the Society's officers and its users.

We are indebted to Stuart Clode, husband of our webmaster Kristina, for his hard work in making the necessary changes, and the time he has taken with the officers in showing them how to upgrade the new site.

This is now the third version of the website that we have created and we have high hopes for it; have a look and let us have your comments. New content will continue to be added in the coming months.

Following on from this, we should have news of the revived *Register of Research* in the next edition of *GHS NEWS*, possibly even in the next *GHS micro-news*.

*Ed & Pub*

## GHS events 2009

### *People and Places: Sustaining the Value of World Heritage Cultural Landscapes* **Susan Denyer**

The Gallery at Cowcross Street, EC1M 6EJ  
6.30pm, Wednesday 11 March

Susan Denyer, FSA, World Heritage Adviser, ICOMOS, & Secretary, ICOMOS-UK, considers examples of World Heritage cultural landscapes from around the world and shows how these sites could provide approaches that are relevant for other landscapes, both rural and urban, in the UK.

The Gallery, 70 Cowcross Street (nearest tube station Farringdon), doors open at 6pm. Tickets: £8, information line: 020 7490 2974 or buy on the door.

### **GHSS AGM**

Kirknewton House  
11am, Saturday 18 April

The Garden History Society in Scotland will hold its AGM at Kirknewton House, West Lothian. After the business of the day, and a sandwich lunch, there will be an opportunity to examine the external history of the house, which was reworked by Playfair, and to explore the grounds.

All GHS members are welcomed to GHSS events. Please contact Sue Hewer by email: [suehewer1@bopenworld.com](mailto:suehewer1@bopenworld.com), phone: 01575 560 259, or by letter (with SAE) to: Clintlaw Farmhouse, Lintrathen, Kirriemuir, Angus DD8 5JF

## Gardens of the Two Rivas Study Tour

*Last chance to book*

Monday 4 to Monday 11 May

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This study tour visits gardens in and around Menton and Genoa, with excursions to Monaco and Cap Ferrat from Menton, and along the coast in both directions from Genoa. The gardens are of varying scale, largely twentieth century in France, whereas in Genoa we shall see gardens, or vestiges of them, dating from the 16th to the 19th centuries and a vast monumental 19th-century cemetery. The condition of the gardens is variable, some are well-tended and recently restored, others lacking resources, and a few in a poor state but of no less interest to garden historians. Many are built into hillsides, but even though terraced, are quite steep, so a good level of fitness is suggested to enjoy this exciting tour.



*Planting spills down the hillside at Boccanegra, in a style Miss Ellen Willmott might still recognise*

The price per person sharing a twin or double room is £920, single supplement £120, both hotels are within walking distance of the stations.

To book, please make rapid contact with Jo Blair, or Jacqui Lotz, of Travel Editions:

joblair@traveleditions.co.uk, with a copy to jacqui@traveleditions.co.uk or: 0207 251 0045.

Charles Boot will answer any queries about the programme or transport: charles@bootc.net, or: 01494 715 737 for full details.

## GHSS at Gardening Scotland

Friday 29 to Sunday 31 May

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The Garden History Society in Scotland takes a stand at the major Scottish gardening event, aptly named *Gardening Scotland*, which is held at the Royal Highland Showground at Ingliston.

## GHS Summer Garden Party

The Geffrye Museum, London

Tuesday 2 June

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Application forms will be sent out in April. We look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible.



Geffrye Museum, London: photographer M Williams

*The Edwardian Garden at the Geffrye Museum, Venue for this year's summer Garden party*

## Visit to Highgrove

June

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A visit to the gardens of Highgrove, the home of HRH The Prince of Wales, near Tetbury in Gloucestershire, has been requested for June. A date and time-slot have yet to be allocated but we have asked that June 2, 18 and 24 be avoided. We will be informed of these details within the next few weeks. Places will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

Tickets are £15, including a donation to the charities supported by HRH The Prince of Wales.

This event is likely to be over-subscribed so contact us as soon as possible. Please email Robert Peel: rma.peel@btopenworld with a copy to Chloe Bennett: chloe.bennett1@btinternet.com or by post: Chloe Bennett, Dove House, 5 The Street, Thornham Magna, Eye, Suffolk IP23 8HP.

Westonbirt Arboretum, owned by the Forestry Commission, is only five miles away and is an ideal place to explore in conjunction with Highgrove.

### **GHS & NT Celebratory Conference**

*Graham Stuart Thomas VMH, OBE  
The Life and Works of a 20th Century  
Horticultural Icon*

Potters Heron Hotel, Ampfield & Mottisfont  
9.45am, Thursday 18 June

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Talks, music, roses and scent to celebrate the life and works of Graham Stuart Thomas. The full study day, starting with coffee at 9am includes talks by Tom Wright, John Sales, Anthony Thomas (Graham's nephew), Brent Elliott and Michael Marriott of David Austin Roses.

Based at Potters Heron Hotel, Winchester Road, Ampfield, Romsey SO51 9ZF the day includes a full programme of speakers, a buffet lunch and tea,



*GST's watercolour of "The deliciously scented 'Nymphenburgh' of 1954". Plate 115 from **The Graham Stuart Thomas Rose Book**, John Murray 1994*

then departs in late afternoon to Mottisfont for a reception on the lawns, with Madrigals, and tour of the rose gardens with Head Gardener, David Stone, based at Mottisfont since 1978. On trying an under-planting of alliums in the rose garden he received the comment, "By the way David... We are a rose garden, not an onion patch".

Price: £60. Applications with SAE to: Anne Richards, 5 The Knoll, Hereford HR1 1RU, or phone: 01432 354 479

### **GHS AGM & SUMMER CONFERENCE ECCENTRIC ACADEMICS, NON- CONFORMISTS & GRAND ESTATES; BOTANISING AND GARDENING AROUND CAMBRIDGE**

Robinson College, Cambridge  
Friday 3 July to Sunday 5 July

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The conference is based at Robinson College, Grange Road, Cambridge, CB3 9AN, a 1980's red brick college. It provides comfortable en-suite single room accommodation and conference facilities where the AGM, lectures and meals will be held. The twelve acres of gardens, created from several large gardens of previously private houses, are a lovely mixture of water, streams, woodland and lawns. The College's first bursar Henry Woolston (past Society Treasurer & Chairman) had a considerable influence on the planting.

#### **Friday 3 July**

The main conference, including an all day bookfair, begins with a buffet lunch followed by a welcome from Dominic Cole, the Society's Chairman, then an introductory lecture. After a break, the AGM takes place from 3 to 5pm, followed by a reception & the AGM Dinner.

#### **Saturday 4 July**

The day begins with a visit to the forty-acre **Cambridge Botanic Garden**, opened on this site in 1846. Half of it was laid out in the 1840s and the area still reflects its Victorian origins. The rest was developed from the 1950s.

Leaving Cambridge the next visit is to **Madingley Hall** and the American Cemetery at Madingley. The Hall originally dates from the sixteenth century but has been much altered in every century since. The university acquired the hall and grounds in 1948. The grounds still show

traces of Brown's work from the 1750s but now reflect twentieth and twenty-first century overlays.

**The Cambridge American Cemetery and Memorial**, Madingley, run by the American Battle Monuments Commission and dedicated in 1956, had as its architects, Perry, Shaw, Hepburn and Dean of Boston, Massachusetts and its landscape architects the Olmsted Brothers of Brookline, Boston.

The **Conference Dinner** is in college, that evening.

### Sunday 5 July

Visits will take place to the **Manor at Hemingford Grey**, Island Hall and Wimpole Hall. The Manor, an ancient medieval house with later additions was made famous by Lucy Boston's 'Green Knowe' children's novels. The grounds comprise a series of formal and semi-formal rooms and clipped yews.

**Island Hall**, Godmanchester, is a mid-eighteenth century house with three acres of gardens restored in the 1980s.

**Wimpole Hall**, begun in the seventeenth century, was extended on a huge scale in red brick in the eighteenth century. The grounds have seen all the principal phases of garden design from the grand formal to the Victorians, including Bridgeman 1720–25, Brown 1767–73 and Repton 1801–09. Sanderson Miller supplied a folly in the 1770s.

Coaches will leave Wimpole by 4.30pm and return to Robinson College via the railway station. Please check rail times before booking.

### Optional visits

Two short tours are being arranged to College Gardens. On Thursday afternoon to **Pembroke & Emmanuel College gardens** and on Friday morning to **Selwyn & Clare College gardens**. Please tick the box on your booking form to receive further details of these.

**Conference fee per person:** £392  
includes ensuite single rooms, all meals, entrances, lectures and coach travel

**Other options:**  
Early Bird Conference fee (by 2 April): £372  
Non-residential Conference fee: £238  
Extra nights (Thursday, Sunday) pp/per night: £70

- **Conference is a members only event.**



Chloe Bennett

*The Manor at Hemingford Grey*

- This programme is provisional and may be changed.
- All members are encouraged to attend the AGM even if they do not participate in the whole programme.
- Non-residential places are available for local members and individual days may also be booked.
- Additional nights may be added before and after the conference.
- Bookings close on 5 June 2009 but please could members book as soon as possible.
- In the event of cancellation any refunds will be at the organiser's discretion and will not include any costs incurred that cannot be recovered. Members are advised to take out personal travel insurance to guard against late cancellation, illness and protection of their personal effects.

To book the Conference (booking form enclosed), or for more details please contact: Chloe Bennett by email: [chloe.bennett1@btinternet.com](mailto:chloe.bennett1@btinternet.com) or with SAE: Chloe Bennett, Dove House, 5 The Street, Thornham Magna, Eye, Suffolk, IP23 8HB.

For details of other places to visit in Cambridge: [www.visitcambridge.org](http://www.visitcambridge.org) or phone [08712 268 006](tel:08712268006) for a Visitor Guide.

### **GHSS visit to Bonnington House** **Saturday 4 July**

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We are especially fortunate to be invited to visit Bonnington House, by Wilkieston, near Edinburgh, to explore this long-established designed landscape and to consider the exciting contemporary purpose to which it has now been put. Although significant traces remain of the compact formal landscape which has surrounded the house from the early 18th century, members will have the rare chance to hear from owner Robert Wilson about its recent transformation into Scotland's first sculpture park, to be known as Jupiter Artland. Among the works to be seen are a large new earthwork by Charles Jencks, a temple by Ian Hamilton Finlay, and installations by well-known artists such as Andy Goldsworthy, Anish Kapoor, Marc Quinn and Antony Gormley.

The cost will be £15 to include a light lunch and a contribution to the work of the charitable trust which is involved with the sculpture park. Car sharing from Edinburgh will be arranged as required. *Contact Sue Hewer, as opposite.*

### **Visit to Virginia Water & the Savill Gardens** **with London Parks and Gardens Trust** **Wednesday 8 July**

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A day visit to the various Royal landscapes south of Windsor; to include an introductory talk on the landscape by author Jane Roberts, and lunch at the Wheatsheaf Hotel.

Price; £30, further details of the programme will be available after 18 March from Robert Peel: rma.peel@btopenworld.com or 020 7121 8938. Or see the May *GHS micro-news*.

### **Gwent Arts and Crafts Study Weekend** **Saturday 5 & Sunday 6 September**

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This study weekend is based around gardens with a connection to Avray Tipping, the great *Country Life* author and proselytiser. Saturday starts with a visit to **Clytha Park**, with Sir Richard & Lady Hanbury Tension and Elisabeth Whittle (CADW & GHS), moves on to **Raglan Castle's** Tudor garden, and finally **High Glanau**, to see the gardens currently being restored to his designs as well as to see *Country Life* illustrated articles and publications by Tipping.

The visits on Sunday are to the recently rediscovered and excavated C19 Pulhamite underground garden at **Dewstow House**, the terraced garden at **Wyndcliffe Court**, also by Avray Tipping, and finally the innovative modern garden at **Veddw** created by a GHS member.

The weekend costs £84.50, not including accommodation. For further information, phone: 01432 354 479, or send an SAE for booking forms and accommodation suggestions to: Anne Richards, 5 The Knoll, Hereford, HR1 1RU

### **GHSS Historic Orchards Study Weekend** **Saturday 5 & Sunday 6 September**

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There have been commercial orchards on the Carse of Gowrie in Perth and Kinross since the sixteenth century. The past and future of these orchards will be the focus of a Study Weekend organised in collaboration with the Forestry Commission and the Perth and Kinross Countryside Trust. Based in Perth, the talks on the Saturday will cover

- an introduction to historic orchards and fruit varieties in Scotland
- a history of agriculture and fruit production on the Carse of Gowrie
- report on the findings of a survey of the orchards on the Carse
- a discussion concerning the historic and future importance of the orchards
- ways and means of ensuring the future of the orchards

On the Sunday, visits will be made to two important orchards on the Carse, one located at a former port on the River Tay, and a winery whose production is based on a variety of fruits from the local area.

On the Saturday evening, it is planned to offer an optional dinner which embraces the 'slow' ethos and exploits to the full the excellent local produce of the area. Perth is the first Cittaslow in Scotland, one of an international network of towns working towards a set of goals that aim to improve the quality of all aspects of life.

The cost is £55 to include the Saturday talks, the Sunday visits by coach, coffee, lunch and tea on the Saturday and lunch on the Sunday. Numbers will be limited to 60. Priority will be given to GHS(S) members until Friday 10 July when booking will be open to non-members.

*Contact Sue Hewer, as opposite.*



Forestry Commission Scotland

*Orchards on the Carse, Perth and Kinross, May 2008*  
*The orchards and occupants are also seen on the cover*

### **Gardens of the Isle of Wight Study Tour** **Saturday 19 & Sunday 20 September**

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The weekend will start on Saturday at **Osborne House** in East Cowes, with a tour of the recently restored gardens of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert's favourite summer retreat.

From Osborne we go to **North Court**, Shorwell, a Jacobean house set in 15 acres of terraced gardens packed with exotic and subtropical plants where there will be a guided tour of the gardens, followed by supper.

Sunday brings a visit the garden of **Haddon Lake House** where the earliest plantings date from the 1820s. The present owners purchased the site in 1975 and have added their own very exciting planting and design to this most interesting garden.

**Ventnor Botanic Gardens**, only opened in 1972, has flora from all over the world

Our final garden visit is to a private Victorian coastal villa and garden, near Ryde, which has survived remarkably intact. The house is thought to be designed by S.S. Teulon.

Cost: £96. This includes entrances to gardens, tours, transport to and from the gardens and Saturday supper. Lunches, which are available at Osborne and Ventnor Botanic Garden, are not included.

The tour will be based in the village of Shorwell in West Wight. Transport between the gardens will be by coach.

Ferry travel and accommodation to be booked separately. Some B&B's and hotels may quote a special price for ferry crossings so check with them before booking your ferry.

For booking form and further details including itinerary, accommodation and ferry details please contact: Chloe Bennett, Dove House, 5 The Street, Thornham Magna, Eye, Suffolk, IP23 8HB, please include an SAE, or email: [chloe.bennett1@btinternet.com](mailto:chloe.bennett1@btinternet.com)

### **GHSS Autumn Lectures**

We have two very different lectures organised for the autumn (details below), one in collaboration with the Architectural Heritage Society of Scotland and the other with the Friends of the Royal Botanic Garden in Edinburgh.

All GHS members are welcomed to GHSS events. Please contact **Sue Hewer** by email: [suehewer1@btopenworld.com](mailto:suehewer1@btopenworld.com), phone: 01575 560 259, or by letter (with SAE) to: Clintlaw Farmhouse, Lintrathen, Kirriemuir, Angus DD8 5JF

#### *The Botanic Cottage, Leith Walk*

**by James Simpson**

**Glasite Meeting House, Edinburgh**

**6.30pm, Monday 2 November**

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Edinburgh conservation architect, James Simpson says that "2009 has seen the rather extraordinary rescue, albeit in bits, of an apparently unremarkable little building on Leith Walk, with which most of us were familiar in a casual sort of way. Few of us knew, I certainly didn't, that it had been built in the 1760s as the Gardener's House for the Leith Walk Botanic Garden.

"Not only that, but it was designed by John Adam, no less, and commissioned by Professor John Hope, one of the fathers of the science of Botany, friend and correspondent of Linnaeus.

"Nor did we know until it was being closely

examined and recorded that the whole upper floor was Hope's Lecture Room in which such famous successors as William Roxburgh, first paid Superintendent of the Botanic Garden in Calcutta, learned his Botany."

The lecture will consider the building and the rather surprising and heart-warming story of its rescue. It may also, as a postscript, say something about the Calcutta Botanic Garden House, built for Roxburgh in the 1790s, with its "fine bowed verandah giving spectacular views over the Hooghly River."

See *GHS NEWS* 81, Spring 2008, p24–25  
£5 for members and £7 for non-members

### *A Natural History of the Garden* by Dr Keith Skeene

The Lecture Theatre, Royal Botanic Garden  
7.30pm, Thursday 10 December

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Dr Keith Skene, lecturer in the College of Life Sciences at the University of Dundee, explores the interaction between the outcome of the will of nature and will of man, within the context of the garden; how these great forces, human and natural, come into conflict in our anthropogenic green spaces, and how the evolution of humankind can be examined by a walk up the garden path.

£3 for members, £5 for non-members

## *in memoriam*

### Cyril MacIntosh

May 1929 to January 2009

'Mac' passed away suddenly on Sunday 4 January 2009. He was a retired civil servant having served 43 years in the Ministry of Defence. Joining the GHS some 40 years ago, he attended many visits in his earlier years and wardened at Painshill for some time, alongside the late Hilda Marshall, another well-known GHS figure.

A devoted 'Mac' was a familiar figure at the Society's Annual Lectures and the Summer Party until the end of 2008.

*Kay King*

### Connie Byrom

Her many friends in the Garden History Society will be saddened to hear of the death of Connie Byrom; she died in Edinburgh on 20 January, aged 71. Connie was a staunch supporter of the GHS from its very early days and with her husband, John, attended the first Conference at Stowe, in 1968.

She was a member of the Scottish Group committee from 1988 to 1993, frequently making the journey South from Edinburgh to go to the AGM weekends. Connie was a very sympathetic person, always ready to laugh, extremely generous and kind and will be much missed.

Connie was born in Lancashire, gained a BA in Social Administration at Nottingham University, and subsequently an MA at Exeter. She moved to Edinburgh, where she was appointed sociologist to the Architectural Research Unit of the University. It was here, in 1964, that she met John and they married the following year.

When Frank Clark, the first President of the Society died in 1971, John took over from him as Director of the Edinburgh Landscape Architecture course. John's interest in shared open spaces kindled Connie's interest in garden history and led directly to her work on Edinburgh New Town gardens.

The history of Edinburgh New Town gardens proved a fertile subject for her. She was originally inspired to investigate by the realisation that many of the present-day garden committees still had old records, including early garden minute books, from which their story could be unearthed. They were the subject of her thesis for which she was awarded a doctorate in 1986. She continued her research on the gardens until in 2005, and after many vicissitudes, the Edinburgh publisher, Birlinn, brought out the great work of her life, *The Edinburgh New Town Gardens: 'Blessings as well as beauties'*.

She was very involved with the Edinburgh-based



Connie Byrom, 2006

Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society, which this year celebrates its two hundredth anniversary, serving on Council from 1992–96 and as the Society's archivist. She wrote a series of 9 articles on historical matters for the *Caledonian Journal*, and her final article will be published in the anniversary issue now in preparation. Connie was

also very interested in art and for some ten years was Chair of the Friends of the City Art Centre.

Those who knew Connie had tremendous respect for her knowledge and expertise. She had that special ability to identify and connect different strands of cultural influence, undertaking and pulling together what must have been long hours of painstaking research. This shines through in her book on the New Town gardens and in all her writings. Connie underplayed her considerable contribution to garden history, but no one should doubt her significance in helping to 'map' Scotland's landscape and identity, greatly advancing our knowledge of the subject. The publication of her outstanding book stands as testimony to her life and work.

Connie and John lived for almost all their married life in a delightful cottage-like double house on the edge of Holyrood Park, Edinburgh. The garden was kept rather wild and was always full of birds. They have five children, four of them boys, who must have kept her very busy, and her family was the central focus of her life.

*Anna Buxton and Fiona Jamieson*

## conservation notes

from our officers in England

### The Fate of the Heritage Protection Bill

To the surprise of many in the heritage sector, at the last minute the Government decided not to include the *Heritage Protection Bill* in the legislative framework set out in the Queen's Speech.

As regular readers of the *Conservation Notes* will realise, the development of this piece of over-arching legislation has been one of our principal concerns over the past few years. Others, including many members of staff at **English Heritage** (EH), have expended considerably more time and energy on this project, and it is perhaps a tribute to their careful work that most of the principal objectives enshrined in the draft *Bill* can still be met.

For our part, the loss of the *Bill* does not appear to be significantly detrimental. The proposed unified *Register of Heritage Assets*, with its more holistic approach to the historic environment, will still go ahead; and as the *Bill* proposed no change to

the status of historic landscapes in terms of statutory control, the status quo will essentially remain.

The Government has confirmed that it intends to go ahead with the revision of *Planning Policy Guidance Note 15 (PPG 15)* to bring it into line with the other *Planning Policy Statements*. We anticipate that consultation on the draft *PPS 15* will take place in April.

*PPG 15* advises planning authorities that the impact of proposed development on a registered site or its setting is a material consideration in the planning process. It also advises that local development frameworks and regional spatial strategies (local plans and county structure plans) should contain policies for the protection of registered sites from inappropriate development.

*PPG 15* is thus a key weapon in our fight to prevent damage to historic designed landscapes

which form part of our national heritage. We will therefore scrutinise the proposed wording of the new *PPS* very carefully to make sure that the Government makes good the commitment made in December by Culture Secretary, **Andy Burnham**, that “the Government is 100 per cent committed to preserving and protecting our precious historic environment”.

**English Heritage’s Strategic Designation Programme**

In the context of the loss of the Heritage Protection Bill, at least for the foreseeable future, EH has announced that it will undertake a programme of ‘strategic designation’ which will aim to plug some of the gaps in the existing designations. Speaking to the National Amenity Societies in December, **Dr Simon Thurley**, Chief Executive of EH said that the organisation would welcome suggestions from the societies, based on their specialist expertise, for types of site which could benefit from this strategic approach.



*The National Trust’s Weir House, Guildford, an early nineteenth century Villa*

We have taken up this invitation, and have recommended that such diverse areas as villa gardens, urban squares and walks (especially in provincial towns and cities), landscapes associated with educational establishments, seaside landscapes, mediaeval deer parks, post-War landscapes, and twentieth century cemetery and crematoria landscapes are all under-represented on the existing *EH Register of Parks and Gardens*.

We look forward to on-going dialogue with EH as the details of the strategic designation programme are refined in the coming months.

**Re-grading historic cemeteries on the *EH Register of Parks and Gardens***

As part of the process of bringing the *Register* up-to-date and into line with other national designations, EH has commissioned Dr Sarah Rutherford, Dr Harriet Jordan and Jonathan Lovie to examine the grading of registered cemeteries. At present none of the registered cemeteries is accorded a grade higher than II\*, with the majority being grade II.

This project will identify the most significant examples of this type of landscape; a process which will be beneficial in the planning context because



*Aldershot Military Cemetery: unlisted monument commemorating Lt Roy Maurice Gzowski, Queen’s Own Rifles of Canada, who died at Aldershot, 1910. This fine monument was made in terracotta by the Compton Potters’ Arts Guild, founded by Mary Watts, wife of the artist G F Watts at Compton, Surrey in 1895. It is one of the largest known examples of their work.*

many of these predominantly urban sites are under considerable threat through inappropriate proposals such as the sale of lodges, demolition of chapels or the removal of monuments and planting in the name of 'health and safety' and economy.

Where possible significant monuments will be identified for possible listing, and some additional sites may be recommended for assessment.

### Public Spending and the Future

We are very grateful to EH for their continued support, through the **National Capacity Building Programme**, for our statutory casework. However, given the general economic conditions, and the state of the public finances in particular, it would be naive to assume that there may not be significant changes in the funding regime after the end of the present public spending round in 2011–12.

We know that bodies such as EH will be required to make very significant savings, in addition to savings already made in the present spending round, and it would be little short of miraculous if this did not extend to the national amenity societies.

Challenging times are likely to lie ahead, and we will all have to devise new and more efficient ways of working together, both to make the voice of the heritage sector heard in Whitehall, and to ensure that we continue to conserve our heritage of designed landscapes.

## Casework in England

Despite the recession, we have continued to see a steady flow of planning consultations affecting registered parks and gardens; some of which have been breathtaking in their scope and insensitivity to the historic environment.

Three of the cases highlighted below relate to development or proposed development which would have a significant impact on the integrity of historic parkland forming part of a designed landscape. Two of these cases relate to Grade II\* registered landscapes; it is tempting to reflect that developers would be unlikely to adopt such a cavalier attitude to a Grade II\* listed building when bringing forward their proposals.

### Update on Greenwich Park and the Equestrian Olympics

In November the Society wrote to Lord Coe (Chairman, LOCOG), the Mayor of London and the Leader of the London Borough of Greenwich to express our profound concern at the likely impact of hosting this event in the Grade I registered Greenwich Park and the lack of any dialogue with the Society in its role as statutory consultee. Replies from all three, together with press coverage of the inquiry into the economics of the event, reveal a determination to press ahead with the Greenwich venue.

In his reply, Lord Coe states that LOCOG understands "the unique characteristics of the Park, and our responsibility to protect the ecology and the historic nature of the site". He also re-iterates a commitment guaranteeing that the Park will be returned to the Royal Parks "in the state in which it was received".

A planning application for the use of the Park is likely to be submitted to Greenwich Council in the autumn, and we will be responding in detail. While maintaining our objection in principle to what we consider to be the inappropriate use of this site, we will also endeavour to ensure that the necessary post-Games reinstatement benefits and enhances the historic character of the Park.

### Ball Clay extraction at Creech Grange, Dorset

Creech Grange is a remarkable and magical Grade II\* landscape set in the Purbeck Hills.



Jonathan Lovie

*The early eighteenth century canal and associated parterre at Creech Grange*



Jonathan Lovie

*Creech Grange: view towards the triumphal arch*

The gardens retain significant early eighteenth century elements, including a canal and avenue aligned on the house, formal woodland rides, and quintessential English parkland, all overlooked by an eighteenth century eye-catcher arch (now the property of the National Trust). The landscape has been sensitively and carefully managed by its owner, and is a great credit to his hard work over many years.

We were therefore astounded to discover that the Dorset Mineral Site Allocations proposals identify Creech Grange as a site for ball clay extraction. While historically there has been extraction in the vicinity, the present proposals would bring open-cast workings within the boundary of the Grade II\* landscape, and would almost certainly lead to the loss of eighteenth century ponds and woodland integral to the landscape design.

The Society has already protested in vehement terms at proposals, which if accepted, would amount to an act of national vandalism. We are also working closely with the Dorset Gardens Trust to establish whether, in the light of new evidence, the existing Register description and, more importantly, the boundary map, accurately reflect the extent of the designed landscape at Creech.

### A vulnerable villa landscape Oakwood, Bath

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As mentioned above, we are aware that the landscapes associated with late eighteenth and early nineteenth century villas are both under-represented on the Register, and vulnerable to development pressure. This was illustrated in stark terms by proposals for the erection of a new dwelling and pedestrian entrance at Oakwood, a Regency villa landscape which was recently added to the Register at Grade II. The new Pevsner for Bath (2003) comments that Oakwood (originally known as Smallcombe Villa), “is an unusual survival in Bath of a large Regency garden with water features, laid out by the landscape painter Benjamin Barker”. Barker began work on the site with his brother-in-law, the flower painter James Hewlett in 1814, and in 1817 the garden was considered of sufficient interest to be visited by Queen Charlotte.

In objecting strongly to these proposals, John Clark commented that the proposed development would be completely unacceptable in design terms because it failed to respect the original design intention of this early nineteenth century Italianate villa garden which survives largely as it was originally laid out.

### Loss of historic parkland at Brislington House, Bristol

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Brislington House, on the outskirts of Bristol, is a fascinating Grade II\* landscape associated with a pioneering private lunatic asylum established by Dr Fox in 1804–06. This landscape sought to mirror the familiar pattern of the country house estate, with pleasure grounds and parkland surrounding the asylum, and offering plenty of opportunities for therapeutic activities.

Today the site is in divided ownership, with the asylum building converted to apartments, a school standing in the southern area of the park, and other areas in the ownership of some of the surviving cottages that were built by Fox to accommodate his most prestigious (and wealthy) patients.

The northern area of the park has survived essentially intact, but it was here that we were consulted on proposals for a regional training and education centre for construction skills, complete



*Brislington House, the entrance front & drive 1902*

with a practice digging area, hard standing for construction equipment, secure storage and two portakabins, all enclosed by 3m high security fencing. Not surprisingly, John Clark concluded, when responding for the Society, that the proposed development would do considerable harm to one of the few remaining areas of parkland in the historic designed landscape.

### **Loss of parkland at Putteridge Bury, Hertfordshire**

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This Grade II landscape near Luton is under considerable development pressure, and suffers further from straddling the boundary between two local authorities, each of which takes a different approach to the conservation and management of the site.

The most recent proposal saw a Luton Borough Council school applying to North Herts. District Council for permission to use part of the registered landscape for playing fields. Such a scheme would lead to an inevitable loss of character and historic interest at a site which has already suffered far more than its fair share of incremental damage. The Society has objected in the strongest terms, and **Linden Groves** is working closely with **Hertfordshire Gardens Trust** to monitor the situation.

### **Division of parkland at Horton Hall, Northamptonshire**

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The proposals at Brislington House and Putteridge Bury both highlight the danger sometimes posed by a division in ownership, which in turn leads to an increase in development pressure or

incremental change. At Horton Hall, a Grade II landscape near Northampton, we were alerted by a local resident to the sub-division of part of the historic park, and the apparent annexation of parkland for domestic gardens.

Horton may be familiar to some members as the site of **The Menagerie**, a mid-eighteenth century folly attributed to **Thomas Wright**, which was home to the late **Gervase Jackson-Stops**. Here he and his successors have created a remarkable late twentieth century garden within the surviving eighteenth century framework which is of considerable significance in its own right.

Although the main house, which had been remodelled by Wright, was demolished in the 1930s, other Wrightian landscape structures survive, including an Ionic temple and a triumphal arch (both converted to domestic use in the nineteenth century), together with an icehouse and a remarkable dam disguised as a bridge. Despite the loss of some other features of the rococo landscape, including, apparently, an artificial volcano, enough of this remarkable landscape survives to present a coherent picture, held together by its central bowl of parkland and serpentine water.

We shared the residents' concerns, therefore, when we learnt that areas of parkland adjoining twentieth century properties built on the site of the demolished mansion had been parcelled up and sold off to individual owners who had then erected fences around their new property. Elsewhere we noted that owners of houses built in an area of the former pleasure grounds known as **The Shrubbery** seemed to have removed historic planting in order to open-up views from their gardens. One particular case stood out where fences had been newly erected and earth moving had taken place; in an area which turns out to be the site of the early eighteenth century formal gardens which had been swept away by Thomas Wright.

Sadly, **South Northamptonshire District Council** did not share our view that these changes constituted 'operations' requiring planning consent; and they would need additional evidence before requiring an application for change of use from parkland to domestic garden.

This case highlights the relative weakness of the *Register* as a national designation, the problems faced by local government when considering

specialised issues such as historic landscapes, and the potentially enormous impact of incremental changes, which while perhaps apparently minor in themselves, have a significant cumulative effect.

We will continue to work closely with the local residents and the county gardens trust to monitor

this situation; and as with Creech Grange, we will consider whether, as new information emerges about this landscape, it is correctly graded.

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

## conservation notes from our officer in Scotland

### Policy & Legislation

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In Scotland, 2008 closed with the welcome announcement from the **Minister for Europe, External Affairs and Culture**, that a draft bill to amend existing heritage legislation would be circulated for consultation in the New Year. The government is also in the process of simplifying and streamlining the public sector; all 32 of Scotland's local authorities have now signed up to *Single Outcome Agreements* with central government, setting out what they are seeking to achieve, reflecting local needs. Over the next few months we shall begin to see the level of priority each has afforded historic environment resources.

On the planning front a Joint Working Agreement with **Historic Scotland (HS)** and the various planning authorities is being drawn up in relation to statutory casework and consultation, and a transfer of some powers from HS to local authorities has begun. A pilot scheme is currently under way in three authorities who have assumed responsibility for planning consultations relating to Category B-listed buildings. If successful this will be extended across the country with Historic Scotland only retaining responsibility for A-listed buildings. This reflects the situation with gardens and designed landscapes where HS is now only responsible for those included in the Inventory, local authorities assuming the role for the Regionally and Locally Significant Sites.

The *Scottish Historic Environment Policy* series, the *SHEPs* (including no. 3 *Gardens & Designed Landscapes*) have also been streamlined and incorporated into one single document, the *SHEP*. Finally, *Scottish Planning Policy 23: Planning and the Historic Environment (SPP 23)* was published in October replacing *National Planning Policy*

*Guidelines, NPPG 18: Planning and the Historic Environment, and NPPG 5: Archaeology and Planning.*

In the conservation office, although we welcome the attempts to streamline and simplify the planning process and the general public sector, we do have some concerns that this may lead to a reduction in protection of our historic assets, in particular gardens and designed landscapes, and we await the draft of the new heritage protection proposals with interest.

### Conservation Office

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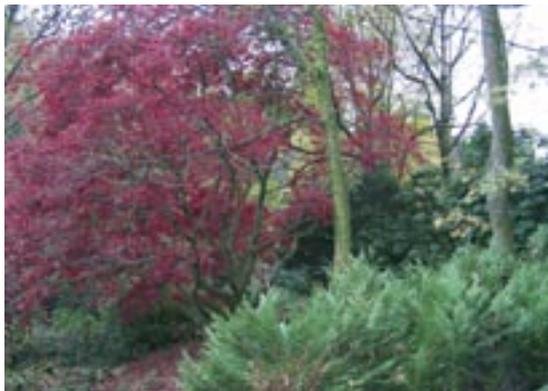
The number of consultations coming into the office over the past few months has reduced slightly. At present we are unsure whether this is due entirely to the current economic climate or whether the gradual move to **e-planning** in Scotland is affecting the number of consultations being sent directly to us. As we are not statutory consultees in Scotland we are not automatically consulted by every local authority, especially where a site is not included in the Inventory. We would therefore encourage all members in Scotland to remain vigilant in their local areas for development proposals likely to be damaging to any designed landscape.

## Casework in Scotland

### Cowden Castle Clackmannanshire

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In November, along with representatives of the **Japanese Garden Society of Scotland**, we visited



Alison Allighan

*Remnants of planting in Ella Christie's Shah-rak-uen gardens, at Cowden Castle*

the Japanese style gardens in the grounds of the former Cowden Castle, Dollar, guided by the owner **Sir Robert Stewart of Arndean**. The gardens, 'Shah-rak-uen' (the place of pleasure and delight) were created by his great aunt **Ella Christie**, and laid out by **Taki Honda** over six weeks in 1908 on 7.5 acres of formerly marshy ground.

Miss Christie also received advice about her gardens from **Professor Jiju Soya Suzuki**, a renowned garden designer working in Britain in the early 20th century, who declared the gardens to be 'the best in the western world', with the exception of one bridge which he advised replacing. This, Miss Christie duly did, and also realising the need for specialist care and maintenance of the planting, employed a Japanese gardener, **Matsuo**, in 1925. Matsuo was employed at Cowden until his death in 1937.

Ella Christie died in 1949 and despite the best efforts of Sir Robert the full task of maintaining them became only too obvious. The gardens were last opened to the public in 1955 but in the 1960s were all but destroyed by vandals; the bridges and tea house were set on fire and the shrines and lanterns demolished. The gardens have since been left to nature's care and now lie largely forgotten.

There have been many discussions about possible restoration of the gardens over the past twenty years, but aside from the question of financing such a project, one of the main problems of the site is its isolation and vulnerability to vandals (Cowden Castle has long since been demolished).

At one time it was considered by Historic Scotland for inclusion in the *Inventory* but then discounted largely due to its current condition. It appears unlikely that Clackmannanshire Council

would be prepared to grant planning permission for any dwelling house in the vicinity of the garden, probably a vital security measure if any major restoration work is to be considered.

During our visit we were surprised to find that many elements have survived, and autumn dieback provided an opportunity to locate some of the symbolic stones and remnants of features such as the teahouse and lanterns. Whilst some of the planting was identifiable, such as the evergreens and *Acer* species, we shall be making a return visit in late spring to try and identify further specimens.



Alison Allighan

*The currently overgrown Lake gives an idea of the scale of the Shah-rak-uen gardens, at Cowden Castle*

We were heartened by Sir Robert's plans for the coming year to clear the lake of excessive growth and open up this central feature again and whilst a full-scale restoration of the gardens might be impractical, small-scale operations such as this will do much to retain some the atmosphere of the gardens as a place of pleasure and delight at least in the short-term.

### **Cumbernauld House North Lanarkshire**

A very different landscape also visited last November were the grounds of Cumbernauld House. The house was designed in 1731 by **William Adam** (1689–1748), for the 6th Earl of Wigtown, **Lord Fleming of Cumbernauld**. The house is Category A-Listed and in the late 20th century used as offices by Cumbernauld Development Corporation and latterly, **North Lanarkshire Council** who now hope to sell the property to be developed as a hotel.



Alison Allighan

Currently empty; William Adam's Cumbernauld House,

Although the landscape to the north west of the house has been disturbed over the years by 19th century mining activities and a 20th century golf course layout, an initial survey suggests that areas to the south and east contain elements relating to much earlier landscapes. These include veteran Chestnut and Beech trees which may be part of the layout depicted on Roy's *Military Survey* c1750, and an embankment which may form part of the very early enclosure surrounding the former Cumbernauld Castle built in the 14th century, which is illustrated on Timothy Pont's late 16th century map (*Pont 32: East Central Lowlands*). Clearly this is a very sensitive garden area, which also includes the ruins of the former castle, and must be investigated further before any development of the house is allowed.



Alison Allighan

One of the Veteran Chestnuts, Cumbernauld House

Currently alternative uses for Cumbernauld House are being suggested by the local community, keen to allow public access to both house and grounds. These include a museum devoted to the Adam family of architects, or a gallery commemorating the work of **Clementina Elphinstone-Fleming** (1822–65) a descendant of the 6th Earl of Wigtown. Clementina, later Lady Hawardan, was a prominent early Victorian Scottish photographer.

**Other notes**

Planning applications which have arrived in the conservation office include proposals to restore **Brucklay Castle** in Aberdeenshire, and the stabilisation of the remains of the Bishops Palace within the designed landscape of **Fetternear House** with the aid of an enabling development, also in Aberdeenshire.

In Callander near Stirling, plans to construct 47 houses on a site adjacent to the former **Callander Castle** have raised concerns as 18th century accounts of the castle record a garden layout in the area. Again this is a site that needs thorough archaeological investigation before any form of development is considered.

Finally in February, the findings of the *Scottish Borders Designed Landscapes Survey* were presented at a seminar in St Boswells. The survey undertaken by **Peter McGowan Associates** with **Christopher Dingwall**, was funded jointly by **Scottish Borders Council** and the **Forestry Commission Scotland** and undertaken in 2007 and 2008. It identifies the Nationally, Regionally and Locally significant sites, providing a database for planners, assesses the general condition of the sites and management issues, and forms the basis of a strategy to encourage better conservation and management of the landscapes.

Electronic copies of the survey report are available from Peter McGowan: [pma@ednet.co.uk](mailto:pma@ednet.co.uk)

Alison Allighan  
Conservation Officer  
Scotland

agenda & forum

In this edition I am (re)establishing two sections. **agenda** is for reports, short articles and news from the garden history world. **forum** is for member's appeals, requests for information etc. I would also like to reintroduce a **book notes** section, but space has run out...

Charles Boot

## agenda

a roundup of what's going on in garden history, parks and gardens

### The new Elizabethan garden at Kenilworth Castle

GHS visit, 17 June 2008

In 1975 a 'Tudor' garden was created at Kenilworth, based on Sir William Dugdale's plan of 1656. Since then the advance of garden archeological techniques has meant that a much more authentic recreation of the original garden is now possible. In 1984 EH became responsible for the care and maintenance of the castle and its grounds, and they have recently put in hand the ambitious recreation of the original garden, based on a detailed contemporary description left to us in a letter written by Robert Laneham, who was employed by the Earl of Leicester, together with comprehensive archaeological investigations by garden archaeologist Brian Dix, and research carried out by John Watkins and others.

The original garden had been made by Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, to impress and delight Queen Elizabeth I on her nine-day visit to the castle in July, 1575. It was a privy garden for the Queen's own use; Laneham had only been able to see it because he had found the garden gate open one day when the Queen was out hunting! Entering the garden through an archway from the castle above, the Queen would have seen the whole design laid out dramatically below her, and would then have descended to the high terrace walk. This walk now has fine copies of the original arbours constructed at each end of it, and steps lead down at either end of the steep grassy bank, as before, to the garden itself.

The garden was divided into four quarters edged with low latticed wooden fences and divided by walks of grass or sand. Each quarter had an obelisk in the centre, "rising pyramidically fifteen feet high" with an orb "of porphyry" on the top. The beds were planted with flowers, fragrant herbs, and fruit trees; apples, pears and cherries. The choice of plants in the modern garden at Kenilworth has been based on contemporary writings and illustrations, in particular from Thomas Tusser's *500 points of Good Husbandry and Plants for Various Uses* and from engravings by Vredeman de Vries.

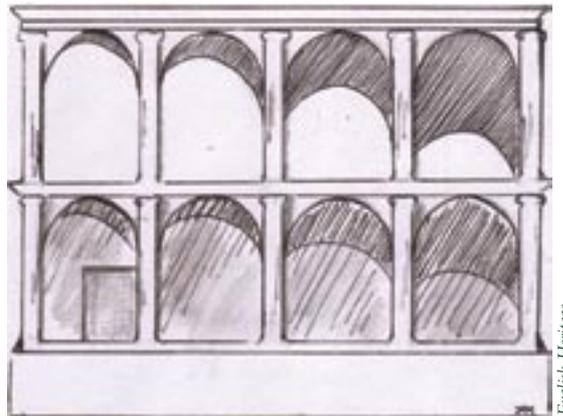


Jennifer Meir

*The reconstructed Elizabethan garden lying below the ruins of Kenilworth Castle*

An important discovery was that of the foundations of the great white marble fountain in the centre of the garden. Laneham describes how it "reared four feet high; from the midst whereof, a column upright, in shape of two Athlants ... with their hands upholding a fair-formed bowl of three feet over, from whence sun-dry fine pipes did lively distil continual streams in to the reservoir of the fountain ... wherein pleasantly playing to and fro ... [were] carp, tench, bream and for variety, perch and eel..." The design included statues of Neptune, Triton, and Proteus with their attendant marine creatures, also Doris with her daughters, and spouts of water could be turned on to spray unwary visitors; this fountain is being recreated.

He described the aviary (*below*) as being "beautified with great diamonds, emeralds, rubies



English Heritage

and sapphires ... and garnished with gold”, 20 foot high, 30 foot long, 14 foot broad; this has also been reconstructed. The terrace, aviary and obelisks are the earliest mention of such Italianate features in English gardens.

Truly Robert Dudley spared no expense in his efforts to please his Queen, and this was without considering the costs of pageants, and of boat trips across the mere (a lake about half a mile long adjacent to the south front of the castle) to feast at the Pleasance, a manor house surrounded by a double moat. Laneham finishes his letter with a paean of praise for, “a garden then so appointed, as wherein aloft upon sweet shadowed walk of terrace, in heat of summer, to feel the pleasant whisking wind above, or delectable coolness of the fountain-spring beneath, to taste of delicious strawberries, cherries and other fruits... to smell such fragrantcy of sweet odours... to hear such natural melodious music and tunes of birds ... all in such delectable variety ... to have such full fruition of so many of God’s blessings, by entire delight unto all senses (if all can take) at once...”

*Jennifer Meir*

John Watkins reports that the replica 18-foot high fountain, carved from Carrara marble, is nearly complete, with one panel left to carve, “Perhaps the garden is not as temporary as some reports might have suggested, the experience of making the replica suggests that the original version of the fountain would have taken about three years to construct”.

The garden will reopen in May 2009.

### **EH is searching for the ‘true’ carnation**

The bloom that seduced a Queen, and dazzled one of the most sophisticated royal courts in history with its heady exotic scent, delicate fringed petals and striking colours, is an essential component in the scheme to recreate the Elizabethan garden at Kenilworth Castle. A search is on to find carnation varieties that could have been grown by gardeners in the 16th century; thus an appeal to gardeners to find them.

It is easy to spot the true form as they have some striking characteristics; predominantly a spicy, exotic scent which, according to John Watkins “can be strong enough to make the eyes water”. The 16th century garden was highly sensual,

perfume was an essential part of the garden experience and the clove-scented carnation was an important ingredient, crucial in the heady summer cocktail of strawberries, roses, stocks, peonies and pinks. *Dianthus caryophyllus* grows wild in the mountains of Morocco and Southern Spain, it was cultivated and developed in Islamic gardens from the 15th century, finding its way to Istanbul, then to the West via Italian gardens, reaching England by the early 16th century. By 1600 around 60 varieties of carnation were recorded by Parkinson.

Two varieties have been sourced for Kenilworth so far thanks to the combined efforts of specialist nurseries such as Allwoods Nursery in Sussex and Southview Nurseries in Hampshire. Surprise finds emerging include one on the castle wall at Sherbourne and wild seed at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh, collected from the Atlas Mountains in Morocco.

John Watkins reports that EH have now found four collections of historic varieties, including one which dates back at least two generations taking it back to before the last war, one gardener having maintained her fathers’ collection going through the laborious process of taking cuttings, bringing them on and keeping the stock healthy.

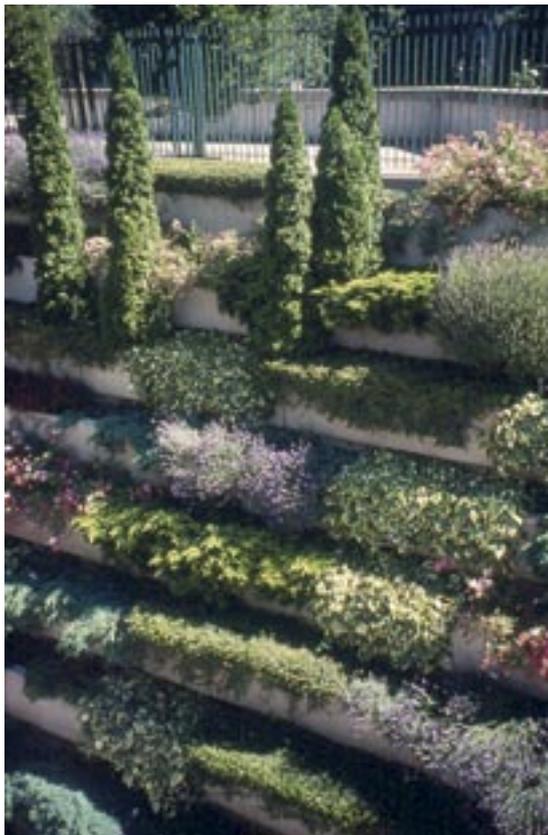
EH is also working with Whichford Pottery to recreate special carnation pots, based on a 16th century engraving.

If you have a carnation, or pink, you think EH ought to know about, phone: 0870 333 1181 or email: [customers@english-heritage.org.uk](mailto:customers@english-heritage.org.uk), ideally with a picture or a detailed description.

## **Landscape and Regeneration Symposium**

London, 24 & 25 October

Park-led regeneration involves major investment, so one of the first questions tends to be where does the money come from? Elizabeth Goodfellow Zagoroff looked at parks in New York and Boston before focusing on the Millennium Park, Chicago. A “sculpture park on steroids”, this brownfield site has become a huge attraction with key buildings such as the Gehry Art Institute, the Pritzker Music Hall, the Anne Lurie Garden, the Anish Kapoor Cloud Gate and many more; these were funded by benefactors, who in turn benefit from tax breaks



Hazel Conway

*Planting on a seven-story garage alongside the Viaduct des Arts, Paris*

for their generosity. By contrast the regeneration of Paris, through the creation of parks such as the Parc de Bercy, Parc André Citroën and les Viaducts des Arts, involved central and local government funding. In these park-led regeneration schemes the balance between subsidized social and private housing and the area and type of space to be provided was stipulated from the outset.

In London the first impetus to post industrial regeneration came in 1981 when the London Docklands Development Corporation was set up to regenerate the derelict docks and industrial sites; designated an Enterprise Zone, offering very favourable terms to developers. Since then the UK has seen a variety of approaches to the funding of regeneration, many of them inspired by HLF funding for the restoration/regeneration of historic parks. Regeneration is, or should be, about physical, social, economic and cultural change, underlining the difference between it and the 'clean sweep planning' of the 1960s & 70s. Alas the term is now tending to be hi-jacked by developers

and applied to single use developments.

David Lambert looked at the role of parks in place-making in the early LCC housing estates of the 1930s, at the post WW2 New Towns and the development of Milton Keynes as a forest city in the 1970s; the historic context to present-day park-led regeneration. The creation in 1996 of the HLF Urban Parks Programme sought to reverse the apparent terminal decline of our public parks. At last the historic, social and economic value of public parks began to be understood; recent developments call into question how much these lessons have been learned.

John Hopkins brought us up to date on the Olympic Park's design by Hargreaves Associates (involved in the design and long term legacy of the Sydney Olympics site). London's 2012 site involves the Lea River Park and 2.7 km of greenway. The skilful graphics, where the sun always shines and people stroll about, were very seductive; it was not clear what facilities would be available in the post-Olympics landscape and indeed why people would seek to visit for other than sporting reasons.

Ken Worpole, discussed the East London Green Grid, arguing that networks and parks represented two different worlds; Urban Greenspace (i.e. the Green Grid and Green networks) equals 'modern', whereas parks do not. People understood parks, but they did not understand grids and networks and indeed from some of the illustrations he showed, one could quite understand why they did not! The Lea Valley, Mile End Park and Burgess Parks are all linear parks criss-crossed by road and rail links. They are in other words collages, rather than unified landscapes and indicate that we are moving into a world of networks. In discussion, many of the points raised questioned both the Olympics site and the Green Grid proposals. Were they in effect a 'colonial' exercise? In the present economic situation many argued for a revised plan for the whole Olympic site, so that sustainability and recyclability were emphasised. Did we really need iconic buildings when wonderful temporary structures were available?

On the second day, Axel Griesinger looked at the contribution of Erwin Barth to park design in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the environmental issues of the 1960s, the influences of the moon landing, megastructures and the development in landscape design of what came

to be known as the 'technological sublime'. This found expression in the Munich Olympics site, 1972 with Frei Otto's translucent tent spanning the stadia and halls. The aim was to create Olympia in a park, set in a landscape that Grzimek called 'democratic green'. Other parks were made on sites to have a minimum impact on what was already in existence. It culminated in the creation of a dramatic series of landscapes within the vast area of the Ruhr coal and steel industries: Landschaftspark Duisberg Nord (Emscher Park) is an astonishing landscape. Indeed to anyone used to the diktats of Health and Safety in the UK it is a wonderfully liberating experience!

When Isabelle van Groenningen was looking for a location to set up a nursery and school in Berlin she came upon the Royal Gardeners' Training Institute, Berlin, founded by Peter Lenné in 1826 as a gardening school and nursery, to educate professional gardeners. Astonishingly much of the site survived, including a range of glasshouses; it is now the focus for a thriving business. While German Garden Festivals are immensely popular, they do not necessarily provide ideas which ordinary people could translate to their own gardens; flat dwellers do not experience gardens at a personal level, yet they are often passionate about plants, whether on balconies, or indoors. Isabelle and her partner developed strategies here to help people clarify their ideas and this important historic site is now being well used.

In 'The Garden Festival as Creator of New Landscape' Patricia White focused on two landscapes created in Thuringia in 2007. The site of one of these was formerly an area of open cast uranium mining. From this hostile environment a new landscape was created with allotments, gardens, an artificial beach, play areas and a gravestone and memorial display; a feature which is very popular! On the other site a new dramatic landscape was created on two sides of a valley, which at the same time retained memories of the past mining activities. This site also features the longest wooden pedestrian bridge in Europe, the Dragon's Tail. There are cafes and beer gardens associated with both site, but no shops. 1.5m visitors came in 2007.

Garden Tourism is now big business; in the UK its value is estimated at some £200m p.a. Dominic Cole gave us some statistics: there are 150,000 gardens to visit in the UK, which are visited by



Hazel Conway

*Landschaftspark Duisberg Nord (Emscher Park)*

64% of the population. It is not just about paying customers; Hampstead Heath has 7.2m visitors p.a. Allison Wainwright focused on the remediation of a landfill site in Kent, formerly a ragstone quarry and subsequently a tip for household waste; a popular 20ha community park and garden has been created. Much of challenge in such projects lies in raising the funding and many sources went towards the completion of this successful scheme.

By the end of the 1990s the promenade at Hornsea was in a very sad state. Simon Ward, of W.S. Atkins, showed how the investment of £1m for its restoration, had not only provided an exciting new seafront attraction, but was also attracting visitors. Viewing platforms enabled people to look out to sea and along the coast, new lighting meant that the whole area felt safer; strong, simple landscaping and materials gave a modern feel. Paths crossing the grass alongside the promenade, mirrored the groins below and the grass was 'sculpted' into gentle waves which were easy to cut, while at the same time giving a green 'seascape'.

Discussion then focused on some the fantastic landscapes that had been presented and the skills of landscape architects. Do clients always have sufficient confidence in these skills? Perhaps they also need courses in the possibilities of the subject? Landscape brings together issues of sustainability, ecology, identity and memory and they can be truly amazing.

The seminar was supported by EH, and was expertly organised by Dr Janet Waymark.

*Hazel Conway*

The March 2009 issue of *The Victorian* has articles by Hazel Conway, David Lambert and others on the recent restoration of Public Parks.

## The Landscape Institute Library & Archive is under threat of dispersal

“Without a library and archive at its heart a learning institution becomes no more than a trade union for its members.”

*Charles McKean, Professor of Scottish Architectural History, University of Dundee.*

With this phrase, Professor McKean defines the impact on a learned institution should it be separated from its cultural heritage, and specifically what could happen to an institute of practising and academic professionals that has established a reputation out of years of experience and debate. This is the situation facing the Landscape Institute which represents Landscape Architects, Landscape Managers and Landscape Scientists; those concerned with the environment and working to conserve, develop and plan better places for us to live in, work in and enjoy, sometimes even celebrate. In the UK, membership is just over five and a half thousand, including those practising abroad, corporate members and other professional institutions. For each landscape architect in the UK there are some twenty architects.

The Landscape Institute was granted Royal Chartership in 1997, a coming of age some sixty years after its birth and a huge achievement that owes thanks to the group of twelve who looked forward into the future in 1929. Sylvia Crowe was made a Dame in 1973, Geoffrey Jellicoe was knighted in 1979, and is to be recognised in 2009 by a Blue Plaque that will go on to his former home in Grove Terrace, Hampstead. Peter Shephard was knighted in 1980 and former librarian Sheila Harvey became an MBE in 2008 recognising over forty years of service.

The Landscape Institute holds the largest single current and historic collection of books, journals, articles and original design drawings dedicated to landscape architecture in the UK and includes original drawings prepared by some of those founder members. The Institute Archive holds over 3,000 drawings and is complemented by a library that gives context to this body of work; what was happening at the time, what was the Government policy of the day and what Landscape Architects were doing to address significant Environmental Challenges.



*The Landscape Institute Archive*

*D174. Detail from a student project by Margaret Maxwell at university of Liverpool; she later joined Shephard Bridgwater*

Today members, and indeed anybody else researching landscape issues, have free access to this remarkable resource. It is used by a diverse range of researchers, from students studying the subject to academics from all over the world, but for how much longer?

In late 2008 members were informed by the Landscape Institute that, ‘due to a financial crisis facing the Institute’, there would have to be cuts in expenditure “across the board” of the Institute’s operations. One such cut was to consider disposal of the Archive and Library, and the archivist was made redundant in January 2009.

In November 2008 a quorate of members called for an Extraordinary General Meeting to request the Institute reconsider the idea of disposal and to raise awareness (to the Executive) that members strongly valued the archive and library and wished it to remain intact, including staff, as an integral element of the organisation. The EGM was constituted for 22 January 2009; some 150 members attended, including three past Presidents and a number of Fellows. This remarkable gathering attracted members from far and wide, Wales, Ireland, Scotland, north England and demonstrated the passion and high regard held for the work of both the Archivist and Librarian.

Past President Hal Moggeridge (OBE, VMH)



D184. Bridgwater, Shepherd and Epstein; Great Aviary London Zoo, 1962 sketch by Peter Shepherd

delivered an heroic address which was received in determined silence by the Executive. He presented the chief executive with a rare copy of a booklet he had written and researched at the LI library, recording the origins of the Landscape Institute and the International Federation of Landscape Architects. He encouraged the chief executive to read the booklet and then safeguard it in the Institute library for future reference.

The vote went in favour of saving the Archive, the Library and the staff post. But this does not guarantee that these are safe because Trustees have the final say.

The prospect of dispersal of these invaluable collections aroused the attention of a broad church of supporters, including President of the GHS, Lady Lucinda Lambton; past president, Sir Roy Strong; Christopher Woodward, Director The Garden Museum; Christine Lalumia, Deputy Director The Geffrye Museum (GHS Council member); Ed Bennis ; Sheila Harvey MBE; Charles Birnbaum, The Cultural Landscape Foundation and Inga Grimsey, Director of the RHS.

Discussions with ‘potential recipients of the Archive’ revealed that whilst some might be willing to take on curation of the Archive (in fact a few would ‘bite off our hands’ to get hold of it), each of these organisations urged LI members to lobby the Institute for retention of the Archive and Library as it is the cultural heart and collective memory of Landscape Architects everywhere.

So: whither the Landscape Institute? We can sit back and allow this to happen or, in the words of



D186. Sylvia Crowe and Associates; The Flower Garden, Canberra; c.1965. Do you know who this drawing is by? If so please let us know

aesthete Sir Harold Acton: “fight the philistine”. We have a choice and it is our choice, as members of the LI, to fight.

In 1895 The Royal Horticultural Society sold its library whilst facing a financial crisis, they are still today buying back books that once formed a part of its collection then. As is known by free thinkers the world over the disposal, deliberate or otherwise, of a Library or Archive is undertaken by the philistine for fiscal or other reasons. It does not benefit advancement, understanding, peace or knowledge; values that are irreplaceable.

*Dominic Cole,  
an extract from a letter to his fellow LI members*



D195: Peter Youngman, Sizewell B Power station, cover to landscape report, 1963 drawing by Harold White

## Isamu Noguchi: 1904–88

Noguchi was one of the most significant modern sculptors and garden makers of the 20th century. He was moved by the spiritual simplicity of stones and garden making in Japan, and this was an enduring influence throughout his life and work. On searching for the meaning of sculpture he said: “This I had found in the rocks of gardens as the essential projection of time. Trees pass, the rocks remain. Erode. How else may the enduring be manifest?”

Born in Los Angeles his upbringing was unusual and difficult as a result of being the illegitimate son of American authoress, Leonie Gilmour, and a celebrated Japanese poet. Leonie took him to Japan in 1907 where she found that his father had married a Japanese, starting another family. In traditional Japan Noguchi was seen as an embarrassment and an outcast. His father rarely saw him and he was brought up by his mother in Japan. In 1918 he was sent to school in Indiana, USA and then moved to Columbia University in New York, where he trained as a sculptor. His sense of belonging to a place or culture was always tortured and he straddled the two countries never really being wholly part of one or the other.

While travelling around Europe in 1927 on a scholarship he became an assistant to Brancusi in Paris. This experience had a profound influence on his work. His piece ‘helix of the endless’ (right) makes direct reference to Brancusi. In 1930 he travelled to Peking where he spent seven months studying brush painting and finally returned to Japan the following year where he had a difficult reunion with his father. He was now a successful sculptor with a reputation for theatre sets, which he designed for Martha Graham in New York.

After WW2 he was welcomed in Japan and he began learning about Japanese garden making particularly the designs of the 14th-century Muso Soseki, whose most celebrated garden can be seen at the Moss Temple in Kyoto. In 1957 he returned again to Japan to look for stones for a new commission, the UNESCO garden in Paris. In Japan designers go ‘fishing’ for stones, an important process in garden making. This involves searching shorelines, mountain gullies, riverbeds and remote islands. It can take many months. Noguchi took with him Mirei Shigemori, himself to become Japan’s most celebrated modern garden

designer. Shigemori helped Noguchi to lay out the eighty stones from which fifty were selected and sent on to Marseille by ship. It was on this trip that Noguchi found the village of Mure, near Takamatsu on the island of Shikoku, famous for the carving of the fine hard granites from local quarries.

The making of the garden in Paris, completed in 1959, was a traumatic and difficult process. The design kept changing. The Japanese workers refused to place the rocks where Noguchi wanted them; he offended their traditions. Reaction to the finished garden was mixed as the Japanese considered it not to be authentic and Europeans found it rather austere. At the time Noguchi suggested that it would be better appreciated in 25 years when the trees had grown and matured. Despite these initial reactions it has been extremely influential and marked a new direction in landscape design, harmonising architecture, sculpture and horticulture with both Western and Eastern influences.



Kristina Taylor

Charmed with Mure and the possibilities of working with Japanese masons brought Noguchi back in 1966. He mentored Masatoshi Izumi,

the younger son of the owner of the largest stonecutting factory. Because of the success of their collaboration Noguchi decided to establish a studio in 1969 where they completed the first of an ongoing series of large-scale basalt sculptures. Izumi worked from Noguchi's small maquettes producing larger sculptures using both local and imported stone. As the studio expanded Noguchi came to the island frequently to inspect work and make suggestions on how to proceed. Mechanical stonecutters were rejected for traditional techniques and Izumi would chisel out the design and have the stone hand polished giving a more subtle finish.



Kristina Taylor

When Noguchi was in Mure he would work alongside his masons in the 'stone circle'. They were dazzled by his technique and speed of execution considering it a privilege to follow the master. The circle (above) was his workshop, a 1300m2 open-air yard. It is surrounded by a beautiful metre high stone wall resembling retaining walls on a river dyke. The borrowed landscape and setting add to the spiritual qualities of this particular work place which is in contrast to the other factories nearby.

Noguchi said: "stone is directly linked to the core of the matter. It is a molecular conglomeration... If you strike a stone it echoes back with the spirit of existence within us. It is the echo of the whole universe."

Noguchi's house at Mure was an old merchant's house due to be torn down for road improvement. It was moved, reassembled and restored to its original design to enable him live on site, when he came each autumn and spring. In 1983 he began to create a garden. It appeared simple: a persimmon tree, which blossomed in autumn,

standing within a bamboo grove in front of a rough-hewn rock wall. Six long, narrow pieces of local stone, as if sunk into the ground, were arranged in a gently sinuous row across the lawn. The hillside behind the stone circle is an extension of this garden. From here there is a view of the Inland Sea and on it a sculpture created by Isumi into which some of Noguchi's ashes were placed into a small concealed hole in the middle.

Kristina Taylor

The house, sculpting circle and gardens are now preserved as a museum. It is one of the most spiritual and uplifting modern landscapes in Japan. It can be visited this autumn: [www.japanesegardentours.com](http://www.japanesegardentours.com) or contact Kristina Taylor: [whitejasmine@talktalk.net](mailto:whitejasmine@talktalk.net)

The major exhibition of works by Noguchi (including the helix) continues at the Yorkshire Sculpture Park until 4 May and is unlikely to be repeated. Works large and small fill both the gardens and new underground gallery. It will be followed by another major retrospective on British artist Peter Randall-Page, opening on 27 June.

### The Herefordshire Pomona

In recent times there has been a revival of interest in old varieties of fruit trees (note the popularity and success of the GHS Fruit Study Day last November). During the late nineteenth century too, for instance in and around the county of Herefordshire, where there was growing concern about the poor state of many of the orchards. Over a period of about ten years The Woolhope Naturalists' Field Club of Hereford (founded in 1851) kept a detailed record of varieties of apples and pears then being grown in Herefordshire, and had an annual exhibition to which were invited experienced pomologists to judge the fruits and try to identify them. One such was Dr Robert Hogg, Vice President of the Royal Horticultural Society, editor of the *RHS Journal*, writer of *The Fruit Manual*, who, together with Dr Henry Graves Bull, Physician to Hereford Infirmary, a past president and enthusiastic member of the Woolhope Club, produced *The Herefordshire Pomona*.

Two fine artists, Alice Blanche Ellis and Bull's daughter, Edith Elizabeth, painted 'from Nature' the apples and pears shown at the autumn exhibitions. The details are exquisite, mouth-

watering and honest, nothing excluded, not even blemishes afflicting some varieties. Hogg meticulously describes them, including the possible origin, history and, in the case of cider apples, a chemical analysis of the juice. Bull, who also acted as the coordinator and editor, drew cross-sections of each fruit.



The Marcher Apple Network/Richard Wheeler

*The Foxwhelp apple: an old cider apple. The cider makers I talk to all suck in their cheeks when I tell them I have some Foxwhelp. "You will know about it when you drink Foxwhelp" they say... Richard Wheeler*

Nobility and local gentry paid for the book by subscription. It was published in seven parts starting in 1878, fifteen shillings for the first part, twenty-one shillings for each of the rest. On completion, in 1885, it was bound together to form *The Herefordshire Pomona*, six hundred copies in all.

Still today it is a valuable resource, often referred to by members of The Marcher Apple Network (MAN), who are concerned with promoting awareness of biodiversity and identifying and propagating locally grown old varieties of apples and pears.

To purchase an original copy would cost many thousands of pounds, but it is now possible for anyone to see the whole book, beautifully reproduced on CD Rom, all 77 coloured plates, as well as the cross sections and text descriptions of 432 varieties of fruit. This is available from The MAN, price £16, by sending a cheque (payable to The Marcher Apple Network) to Mr D Kempton,

Brook House, Hopesay, Craven Arms, Shropshire, SY7 8HD. Further information is on the MAN website: [www.marcherapple.net](http://www.marcherapple.net).

*Ruth Brownlow*

## Public Consultations on planning for the future of the Thames and its watershed

On 22 January, Rachel Hill of the Environment Agency presented the current stage in the development of the Thames Estuary 2100 study at Chiswick Pier House in West London. This study began in 2001, and, following new research is now about to enter another period of public consultation. For three months from April 2009, the public will be asked to comment on a number of possible strategies that will become the tidal flood risk management plan for London and the Thames estuary to the end of the century.



Richard Jennings

*Chiswick Mall on 7 October 2006*

New research findings include revised estimates of potential tidal surges (lower than previously thought), flood flows originating from rainfall, and a reduced estimate of likely rise in sea level. This means that the present Thames Barrier (operated by the Environment Agency and critical for flood protection in London) will have a longer useful life than previously thought. The outcome of this effort will affect both the appearance and flood security of the historic Thames landscape.

Issues such as balancing periodic flooding against the impacts of raising the height of flood defences, and the use or abandonment of low lying riverside

lands as flood water retention areas have the potential to alter the landscape of the tidal Thames.

On 22 December 2008, a second study was released for public comment. The Environment Agency's Thames River Basin District Water Framework Directive is open for comment 22 until June. This study involves all aspects

of planning for the Thames basin, and like the Thames Estuary 2100 plan, has the potential to alter the landscape character of the Thames landscape.

*Tess Canfield*

More information is available from:  
[www.environment-agency.gov.uk/wfd](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/wfd).

## forum

for member's appeals, requests for information etc.

### **Gardens and gardening in nineteenth-century Sheffield**

Jan Woudstra writes:

The Department of Landscape, in Sheffield, is currently undertaking a study into the gardening culture in Sheffield from the late eighteenth to the early twentieth centuries. This is to be done primarily through the analysis of postcards and historic photographs, as well as local newspapers which document events and provide information on gardening. We are currently trying to gather other gardening literature, periodicals such as those edited by Joseph Harrison and Robert Marnock were sometime published in Sheffield, but there were also more popular accounts intended for villa owners and allotment garden holders. It is this literature that we are trying to trace and for which we are appealing for help from members. Does anyone know of, or possess nineteenth century gardening manuals published in Sheffield? We would very much like to hear from you, with details of titles and any dates indicated.

Please phone: 0114 222 0609 or  
[j.woudstra@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:j.woudstra@sheffield.ac.uk)

Department of Landscape, University of Sheffield, The Crookesmoor Building, Conduit Road, Sheffield S10 1FL

### **Mea Allen**

Ruth Boreham writes:

I have developed an interest in Mea Allan after researching in her papers at the Imperial War Museum. I was delighted to find links with Scotland (where I currently live) and Suffolk (where I was born and brought up) in Mea's life. I

am very keen to do more research into her career and life. I am keen to track down her papers, other than those at the Imperial War Museum, and wondered if there was anyone in the Society who knew Mea and would be willing to talk to me?

Either phone: 07761 711 700, email: [ruth.boreham@talk21.com](mailto:ruth.boreham@talk21.com) or [www.ruthresearch.co.uk](http://www.ruthresearch.co.uk)

### **Folly Bridge, Bewdley**

Jo Bloom asks "Can anyone confirm that this Folly Bridge is by 'Capability' Brown?"

This fine little bridge (*below*) is situated in Bewdley, Worcestershire (then Shropshire, when it was built). It is, I am sure, a part of Brown's garden design for Spring Grove House which is now the site of Bewdley Safari Park. The Folly Bridge clearly shows on 1885 maps, though I have not yet been able to date its build.

Although a part of Spring Grove House gardens, it is situated at the bottom of a series of artificial waterfalls, with holding chambers, and garden ruins that were designed by Gertrude Jekyll for



Jo Bloom

Mrs. Wakeman-Newport in 1912. It now lies within a wooded area of Sandbourne House (demolished 1971). I have the plans from Berkley, USA, and am still investigating the woodland area.

I am keen to have the Folly Bridge recognized as it's been left hidden due to a bypass being cut through the grounds around 30 to 40 years ago. The pool is in the route of Riddings Brook which was the cause of several devastating floods in the last 20 months. I am concerned that it may be affected if plans are drawn for flood alleviation without the importance of the Bridge being recognized. No Council documents exist on it, and I do not believe anyone actually understands what it 'could' be!

I can offer a guided tour for any visitors,  
Cheers, Jo Bloom  
Email: Jbloomer69@aol.com

### **The Serviceable Ghost: the forgotten role of the gardener in England from 1600–1730** Sally O'Halloran writes:

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I am a PhD student in the landscape department at the University of Sheffield. My primary research is archival and at the moment I am looking specifically at contracts. I have compiled details of the most known contracts including; Hampton Court, Chatsworth, Knole, Wentworth, Oatlands, Kirby Hall etc but obviously the more I can see and transcribe the more accurate and balanced my interpretation will be; you may know of archives that I have not heard about yet.

Thanking you, Sally O'Halloran  
arp07so@sheffield.ac.uk

### **Ralph Hancock**

Robin Hull asks whether you can help?

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"I am researching the life and work of Ralph Hancock FRHS (1893–1950). Hancock was a landscape architect and multiple gold medal winner at the Chelsea Flower Show both pre- and post-war. Hancock is most famously remembered for his design of the Roof Gardens on top of Derry and Toms in London's Kensington. He also designed extensive roof gardens on the Rockefeller Center, New York, and also the world famous promenade on Fifth Avenue.

"Despite Hancock's success in the 1920s, 30s and 40s, little is known of his other work both

here and in the US (where he lived between 1930 and 1936). A favourite of the Queen Mother, Hancock worked mainly in the Arts and Crafts style although in the years before his death he had become interested in the Italianate style. I am looking for any information about Hancock and his work such as original designs, drawings, photographs etc.

Faithfully, Robin Hull

17 Bellefield Road, Orpington BR5 2DH, or email: robin.hull@gmail.com or via the Ralph Hancock website: www.ralphhancock.com

### **Victorian and Edwardian public parks in Ireland**

Dr Joanna Brück, University College Dublin

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I am currently starting a research project focusing on the potential these hold for interpreting concepts of class, gender and cultural identity in the context of British imperialism. As *heteropeias*, landscapes in which orders of value could be marked out and idealised relationships created, parks gave material form to the discourse in which ideas of Ireland and its inhabitants were constructed.



Dr Joanna Brück

The project aims to examine surviving elements of these historic landscapes including statuary, bandstands, gatehouses, ponds, terraces and drinking fountains, employing research methodologies and interpretative frameworks drawn from historical archaeology, cultural

geography, architectural history and art history.

As an archaeologist and prehistorian, however, this is an entirely new research direction for me. I am familiar with the work of Hazel Conway, Hilary Taylor and Harriet Jordan on British public parks, but would much appreciate any contacts or references that readers might be able to suggest, particularly on public parks of this date in the Americas, India, Australia or other former European colonies.

Email Joanna: Joanna.Bruck@ucd.ie

### **Elizabeth and her German Garden**

Jennifer Walker writes:

I have recently visited Nassenheide, the setting for the book (1898) by Elizabeth von Arnim, which was then in Germany.

The garden (or site of) is now in Poland and the original Schloss, or castle, a heap of overgrown rubble. However, enough remains of the original outbuildings and land to make it worth while to researchers. The land is now sold and the buyer unknown. Would anyone be interested in helping to do something to record what remains before it is possibly destroyed?

Many famous visitors went to the garden, including E M Forster and Hugh Walpole. It is a piece of our heritage and would be worth investigating.

Email Jennifer: jennifer.walker@dsl.pipex.com

### **St Ann's Allotments, Nottingham**

Mo Cooper writes:

St Ann's is probably the oldest and largest area of Victorian detached town gardens in the country and has been listed with a Grade II\* by English Heritage. We are active in preserving the heritage of the site, with the support of the Heritage Lottery Fund, and will be setting up historical display plots to include: a 19th-century detached town garden, Dig for Victory, early 20th-century rose garden, global garden, orchard and 'a millennium mix-up'. We will also develop a nursery to propagate some of the historical plants.

We are researching what plants were grown, when, and how gardens would have been set out for the different time periods. If anyone has any good references or examples of developing this type of work, or has any information on our

allotments we'd love to hear from you. We are particularly keen to hear about anyone who knows about the St Ann's Rose Show.

Regards, Mo Cooper

Heritage and Outreach, St Ann's Allotments, STAA Ltd., 3 John Folman Business Centre, Hungerhill Road, Nottingham NG3 4NB or [www.staa-allotments.org.uk](http://www.staa-allotments.org.uk)

Contact the heritage project, phone: 0115 911 0207 or email:

[mo\\_heritage@staa-allotments.org.uk](mailto:mo_heritage@staa-allotments.org.uk)

### **Can anyone help to identify this garden?**

Kate Felus asks:

These photographs of Polish airmen were probably taken just before or just after the start of the Second World War. The garden(s?) is probably in Poland, but may possibly be elsewhere in eastern Europe, France or even England.

Email Kate: [kate@historicalscapes.co.uk](mailto:kate@historicalscapes.co.uk)



Kate Felus



Kate Felus

Items sent in for inclusion in the **forum** may also appear on the Society's website

## new members

1 October to 31 December 2008

### Member/Joint Member

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Mrs Gillian Beer, Somerset  
Mrs Rosemary Bishop, Worcestershire  
Mrs Caroline Bowdler, Bedfordshire  
Mrs Mary Bowen, Aberdeenshire  
Mrs Mary Buckle, Hertfordshire  
Mrs Christopher Evans, Dorset  
Ms Victoria Evans, West Midlands  
Mr Bernard Farrell, Surrey  
Mr Ian Farrell, East Sussex  
Ms Vanessa Fell, Oxford  
Mrs Francine Gee, Surrey  
Mr Peter Godwin, Oxfordshire  
Miss Maria Greenhill, Buckinghamshire  
Mrs Marion Harney, Avon  
Miss Victoria Haslam, Nottinghamshire  
Mr Gary Hill, Middlesex  
Mrs Elizabeth Hope, Surrey  
Mr John Horsey, Somerset  
Mrs Dorothy Jackson, Devon  
Ms Maggie Kneen, Cheshire  
Ms Irene Lawson, Argentina  
Mr Simon Oliphant, Essex  
Mr Nicholas G Rouse, Essex  
Ms Briar Siligh, London  
Ms Miriam Silver, London  
Miss Claire Troy, Surrey  
Mrs Frances Jane Wilkins, Dumfries  
Mrs Karen Williamson, Hertfordshire

### Student/Junior

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Ms Jane Bywaters, London  
Mrs Karen King, Avon  
Mrs Rachel Parkin, Sheffield  
Miss Lesley Smith, Bristol

### Corporate/Library

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Plumpton College, East Sussex  
The Cultural Landscape Foundation, USA

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Mr Ray Desmond, Mr Peter Hayden,  
Dr Niall Manning, Mr John Sales,  
The Dowager Marchioness of Salisbury,  
Mr Tim Smit, Dr Christopher Thacker

**Chair of Council:** Dominic Cole

### Members of Council:

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Ruth Brownlow  
Dr Katie Campbell  
Susan Campbell  
Dominic Cole (*Chairman*)  
Colin Ellis (*Chair, Finance and General Purposes*)  
Peter Fitch (*Treasurer, GHSS*)  
Elizabeth Goodfellow Zagoroff  
Christine Lalumia  
Robert Peel (*Vice-Chair, Council; Chair, Events*)  
Tim Richardson (*Chair, Education & Publications*)  
Dr Colin Treen  
John West (*Chair, GHSS*)  
Richard Wheeler (*Chair, Conservation*)

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**Honorary Treasurer:** Colin Ellis

**Administrator:** Louise Cooper

**Conservation Policy Advisor &**

**Principal Conservation Officer, England:**

Jonathan Lovie

**Conservation Officers, England:**

John Clark, Linden Groves, Alison Hampshire

**Conservation Officer, Scotland:**

Alison Allighan

**Conservation Casework Manager:**

Linden Groves

**Editor GARDEN HISTORY:**

Dr Barbara Simms

**Editor GHS NEWS:** Charles Boot

**Honorary Librarian:** Charles Boot

**Website Manager:** Kristina Clode

**GHS representative on NT Council:**

Pamela Paterson

**Honorary Secretary, GHSS:** John Ellis

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## stop press

London Open Squares Weekend, Saturday 13 & Sunday 14 June

The London Parks and Gardens Trust are looking for volunteers to help staff garden squares.

Contact Charlotte Buchanan if you could offer assistance, phone: 07792 145 707,

or email: [buchanancharlotte@hotmail.com](mailto:buchanancharlotte@hotmail.com) .

## GHS events diary

Wednesday 4–18 March	Brazilian Odyssey Study Tour
Wednesday 11 March	<i>People and Places</i> Susan Denyer, London
Saturday 18 April	GHSS: AGM & visit to Kirknewton House
Monday 4–11 May	Gardens of the Two Riviéras Study Tour
Thursday 29–31 May	GHSS at <i>Gardening Scotland</i>
Tuesday 2 June	Summer Garden Party, Geffrye Museum, London
tb, June	Highgrove visit
Thursday 18 June	Graham Stuart Thomas Celebration, Mottisfont
Friday 3 July	AGM, Robinson College, Cambridge
Friday 3–5 July	Summer Conference, Robinson College, Cambridge
Saturday 4 July	GHSS: visit to Bonnington House
Wednesday 8 July	Royal Landscapes, Virginia Water & Savill Gardens, Windsor
Saturday 5–6 September	Gwent Arts & Crafts Weekend Study Tour
Saturday 5–6 September	GHSS: Historic Orchards Study Weekend
Saturday 19–20 September	Gardens of the Isle of Wight Study Tour
2 November	GHSS: <i>The Botanic Cottage, Leith Walk</i> James Simpson
10 December	GHSS: <i>A Natural History of the Garden</i> Dr Keith Skeene

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

GHS NEWS copy deadlines are: 31 July 2009 & 31 January 2010, for distribution in September and March

GHS *micro-news* copy deadlines are: 10 April & 10 October 2009, for distribution in May and November