

Historic Landscape Project Email update for CGTs, July 2017

Dear CGT Chairs, main contacts and HLP mailing list,

As you know, the Historic Landscape Project is the Gardens Trust's capacity building project for County Gardens Trusts, with funding from Historic England. In an effort to keep the County Gardens Trusts up to date with the HLP's key messages and information we want to share, but not to bombard you with numerous emails, we are trying a new system. We're grouping everything into one email update, sent to you perhaps four times a year. We hope this works better for you.

You can expect to find here news of previous and upcoming HLP training and networking events; information about Gardens Trust conservation campaigns with which CGTs might like to be involved; updates on information-sharing platforms, including our Resource Hub; and news from external landscape heritage organisations, which is of relevance to the work of the CGTs. Information about Gardens Trust visits, talks and conferences will not generally be included here but is readily available on the Gardens Trust website <http://thegardenstrust.org/>.

Although this update is aimed principally at those who are actively volunteering for their CGT in some way, we are more than happy for it to have a wider audience, so please do forward it on far and wide, to anyone who may have an interest. You'll also be able to find this, and previous email updates, on our Resource Hub, under 'Networking', at <http://thegardenstrust.org/conservation/hlp-hub/>.

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

Changes to HLP Staffing

You may already have heard that we've recently had a slight reshuffle of staffing at the HLP.

As you will know, Linden Groves has been doing an absolutely fantastic job, leading and growing the project over several years, and supporting CGTs at meetings and training events across the country. She has become well-known to many of you, as an energetic champion of the CGTs and the incredible work you all do to conserve designed landscapes and help others to understand, care for and enjoy them.

Linden's role has evolved and she is now using her skills and huge experience not just to support the HLP, but also to work on strategic development across the Gardens Trust as a whole. Linden, whose new job title will be Strategic Development Officer, will continue to work closely with the HLP, guiding its development and also seeking additional funding to place the project on a more secure footing. Don't worry! – she's very much still around and is keen to maintain personal contact with CGTs, but will no longer be the first port of call for the majority of CGT enquiries.

I am now your main contact for queries as a full Historic Landscape Project Officer and will be taking over the day to day running of the HLP, and leading on the majority of HLP activities. I would like you to let me know how the HLP can best support your CGT in terms of training and networking.

Margie Hoffnung, who is the Gardens Trust's Conservation Officer, responding to planning applications affecting historic parks and gardens, will be increasing her work with the HLP. Many of you will already know her, as she has helped numerous CGTs with planning responses and has already been supporting the HLP for two years. Margie and I will be working together to continue offering training and networking opportunities and nurturing the partnerships between CGTs and other organisations; and Margie will also be offering one to one support for CGTs, where required.

So, as you can see, we are all still here, but have been slightly rearranged!

HLP NETWORKING EVENTS:

CGT Meet Ups

After the enthusiastic response to last year's three Meet Ups (which replaced the less CGT-led Regional Forums), in York, Swindon and London, we are currently planning a further four, in Lancaster, December; Cambridge, January; Dorset, February; and London, in March. As you can see, we're moving these around the country, to try and give as many of you as possible an opportunity to come along and share your experiences with members of other CGTs.

Meet Ups are free to attend and are open to members of any CGT, no matter where in the country they are held. Each meeting will include updates from CGTs on their conservation, education and research and recording work; as well as a guest speaker from an external heritage organisation. Meet Ups have a friendly and informal atmosphere and all attendees are encouraged to chip in.

Upcoming sessions will include:

- Lancashire Gardens Trust's research into Thomas Mawson sites in and around Lancaster.
- Norfolk Gardens Trust's research and publication of their book on Lancelot 'Capability' Brown.
- Cambridgeshire Gardens Trust's work with schools.
- Philip White, Chief Executive of Hestercombe Gardens Trust, speaking on the relocation of the Parks and Gardens UK Database to Hestercombe.

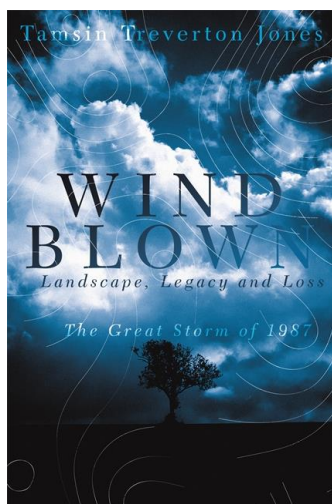
We'll be sending out further details very soon.

Historic Landscapes Assembly

We're excited to be planning our second annual Historic Landscapes Assembly, which will be held at the Birmingham and Midland Institute, Margaret Street, Birmingham, on Tuesday 28th November, 10am-8pm. Last year's inaugural event, in London, turned out to be a fantastic platform for CGTs and external landscape heritage organisations to update one-another on news, concerns and campaigns. I'm sure many long-lasting partnerships were forged that day. We plan to build upon this success year by year, making this a not to be missed event in the historic environment calendar.

This year's Assembly will include:

- Updates from the Gardens Trust on the Brown at Risk Report; Humphry Repton 2018 celebrations; and a campaign to record mid to late 20th Century landscapes;
- Updates from Historic England, Natural England and P&GUK;
- Case studies of conservation and research and recording project from two CGTs;
- Dominic Cole, President of the Gardens Trust, speaking about the legacy of the 1987 Great Storm.
- And, in a new addition to the Assembly, an evening lecture (with wine and nibbles!) and book-signing by Tamsin Treverton-Jones, author of 'Windblown: Landscape, Legacy and Loss, The Great Storm of 1987'.



Tamsin Treverton-Jones (photo by Owen McNeir) and her new book, 'Windblown'

Tickets will be £10 each. I'll let you know as soon as they're available. If any CGTs would like to include promotional material in our delegates' packs, please get in touch.

Historic Environment Forums

CGT Meet Ups are a great way for you to meet and network amongst yourselves, but it's really important that CGTs have the chance to network with external local contacts too. To this end, we'd like to encourage regular CGT attendance at regional Historic Environment Forums. HEFs provide a chance for major organisations and regional networks – public,

private and voluntary – with an interest in the local historic environment to come together and:

- Promote the importance of the historic environment in decision making;
- Act as a catalyst for improving co-operation and partnership in managing each region's historic and cultural assets; and
- Stimulate debate about how the historic environment should be protected, managed and appreciated.

Each region holds about four HEFs a year. We know that many of you already attend these, as active and committed members, and that's great, but in order to reach those of you who may not be able to get to the HEFs, we're asking for a handful of volunteers to sign up to represent the CGTs in their region, ensuring that at least one attends each HEF, and then report the key messages back to their region. Margie and I will also attend at least one Forum per year in each region. If you would like to volunteer as a regional representative, or would like more information, please contact me.

HLP TRAINING DAYS:

We'll start delivering our CGT training days from autumn onwards. We're planning a **training workshop on Public Parks** and the problems they face due to funding cuts during this period of austerity – an issue about which, of course, the Gardens Trust feels strongly. You'll learn how the crisis came about, how parks have been affected and what your CGT can do to help to protect your local parks. Speakers will include David Lambert, director of the Parks Agency and Gardens Trust Board Member; and Katy Layton-Jones, of the University of Leicester. Together, David and Katy have provided evidence to the House of Commons Select Committee inquiry into the future of public parks and produced the Gardens Trust's accompanying report, *Uncertain Prospects* <http://thegardenstrust.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/uncertain-prospects-2.pdf>.



The final part of our **three-part planning application training package** is planned for the autumn/winter. As with parts one and two, this will be held in the South-West or West Midlands, enabling those who came to the earlier training days in the region to progress to the final level. Part Three, a no-frills, more serious session, which we've named the 'Full Monty', will be most suitable for those who already have some experience of responding to planning applications. You'll leave this session knowing everything you ever wanted to, and more, about the planning system in England.

Next year, the HLP will be seeking funding to repeat this training package elsewhere in the country.

Please get in touch if you're interested in booking a place on either day.

Resource Hub

As ever, keep an eye on our Resource Hub, which you can find on the Gardens Trust website at <http://thegardenstrust.org/conservation/hlp-hub/>. Here, you can find presentations and handouts from all our training and networking days, as well as up to date guidance by both the Gardens Trust and external heritage organisations, on all aspects of designed landscape research, conservation and education.

The CGT publications page that we set up for the 2017 Capability Brown Festival has now been extended to other CGT publications (not newsletters) <http://thegardenstrust.org/publications/cgt-publications/>. Please send me details of any publications you would like me to publicise on the Hub.

Website Forum

We need as many people as possible to register and use the Gardens Trust's new online Forum for CGTs, in order to make it a really useful platform for sharing knowledge and experience. You can find a link to the Forum on the home page of the website, or click here <http://thegardenstrust.org/conservation/forum/>.

A few problems with registering have been reported to us and we're working to sort these out. In the meantime, it would be really useful if you could let me know the details of any issues you've had, so that we can get everything running smoothly.

Repton Bicentenary 2018

We are delighted that the Gardens Trust is leading national efforts to celebrate the bicentenary of Humphry Repton in 2018, thanks to funding from Historic England. This is intended as a collaborative celebration and we are primarily encouraging and linking those planning to mark the year with research, events or other initiatives. We are delighted to

have hired a (very part time) Communications Adviser for the GT, Susannah Charlton, and she is cutting her teeth by setting up a Repton web page, social media and Events Calendar. Kate Harwood has kindly agreed to reprise her Capability Brown role as light-touch CGT research coordinator for Repton research. Linden Groves is working hard to seek additional funding in order to deliver more exciting Repton initiatives throughout 2018 itself.

If you would like to link with this celebration, obtain permission to use the official logo, or simply find out more, please look at <http://thegardenstrust.org/news/celebrating-humphry-repton-2018/> or email lindengroves@thegardenstrust.org.



Celebrating Humphry Repton 2018 - The Gardens Trust

thegardenstrust.org

In 2018 we will be celebrating the work of Humphry Repton, the last great landscape designer of the eighteenth century. 2018 is the bicentenary of his death in March ...

Casework Log

As you know, Alison Allighan, the Gardens Trust's Conservation Casework Manager, has recently launched a new online Casework Log, comprising all planning applications and other consultations dealt with by the GT and CGTs since 2001 – over 20,000 cases! The new Log will enable all CGTs to access all this existing data and to add their own cases and responses.

Alison will be giving demonstrations on how to use the Casework Log during the Gardens Trust's Annual Conference at the University of Plymouth, from 31st August to 3rd September. Please do seek her out if you'd like to learn more.

OTHER HISTORIC DESIGNED LANDSCAPE EVENTS AND CAMPAIGNS

You can find information about all the Gardens Trust's events and campaigns on our website, at <http://thegardenstrust.org/>. We would, however, like to draw your attention to two GT initiatives, which may be of particular interest, as well as a campaign from the Twentieth Century Society:

The Gardens Trust Annual Conference 2017

The GT's Annual Conference and AGM, this year entitled '*Blest Elysium*' – *Sustainable?* will be based at the University of Plymouth, from Thursday 31 August – Sunday 3 September 2017. It will combine lectures and visits in and around the city, exploring eighteenth century landscapes developed on earlier gardens, a Victorian public park, memorial and twentieth century civic spaces. It will discuss themes and challenges faced by professionals, custodians and managers working in such historic landscapes. How can conservation be balanced with ensuring they are sustainable and relevant in the twenty-first century?



As well as its fantastic educational value, the conference weekend is a wonderful opportunity to get to know other CGT volunteers from across the country. You can find more details at <http://thegardenstrust.org/event/gardens-trust-annual-conference-2017/>.

Mid to Late C20 designed landscapes: Overlooked, undervalued and at risk?

A message from Virginia Hinze, Gardens Trust Board Member and Chair of Events Committee

**CALLING ALL COUNTY GARDENS TRUSTS: HELP THE GARDENS TRUST TO IDENTIFY
NEGLECTED MID TO LATE C20 DESIGNED LANDSCAPES**

Are there late C20 designed gardens, landscaped housing areas, major civic and industrial sites or cemeteries, hospitals and country parks in your local area that are, or might become, at risk of change or loss and that you think worthy of recognition through being added to Historic England's National Heritage List?



Hounslow Civic Centre by Preben Jakobsen 1977.

Image copyright Landscape Institute / Museum of English Rural Life

The Gardens Trust would now like your help in identifying and informing us about these often unrecognised and neglected mid to late C20 designed landscapes – those laid out between the mid-1960s and 1990. We have launched a campaign called *Compiling the Record – the Essential Mid to Late C20 Landscapes*. If you'd like to suggest a site that might be worth assessing for potential inclusion on the National List we'd love to hear from you!

It's very easy to tell us too: log onto the Gardens Trust website (www.thegardenstrust.org) and on the tab 'News and Campaigns' click on 'Compiling the Record' and fill in the online form at the end of the Campaign information to nominate your site. We only need the basic information at this stage:

- the name and address of the site;
- what it is – and to help you decide this, we give you a list of categories or typologies;
- the designer, if you know the name;
- the date of design, again if you have this information,
- a short summary of why you think it is – or might be – important.

Do collect all the information you can find though and do take photographs! We may need these later. *The current deadline for submitting your form(s) is 31st October 2017.* There is full information on the GT website so don't delay, nominate your site today.

Identifying C20 Conservation Areas

A message from the Twentieth Century Society

To mark the 50th anniversary of conservation areas this year, the Twentieth Century Society has been awarded a grant by Historic England to research which areas of primarily twentieth-century development are currently conservation areas and whether other areas would benefit from being designated, or should be valued for contributing to the

architectural or historic interest of conservation areas of older buildings. The project aims to produce information and guidance for heritage professionals, planners, local authorities and the public. There will be a seminar to share the results at the end of the year.

If you know of areas of C20th built heritage (from 1914) that are already a conservation area, or that you think should be considered for designation, please email C20ConservationAreas@gmail.com.

Keep in Touch

As ever, do let us know how you think the Historic Landscape Project can best help to support your County Gardens Trust. Email me tamsinmcmillan@thegardenstrust.org, Linden lindengroves@thegardenstrust.org or Margie margiehoffnung@thegardenstrust.org.

Best wishes,

Tamsin

Tamsin McMillan
Historic Landscape Project Officer