



Dude, who stole my park?



www.thegardenstrust.org

The Gardens Trust head office
70 Cowcross Street, London EC1M 6EJ
phone: 020 7608 2409
general email: enquiries@thegardenstrust.org
Company number: 03163187
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Copy deadline for Spring issue 9: 14 February for distribution mid March 2019

Our cover shows The Parade Ground in Hyde Park, the park's eastern side, in July 2018, then occupied by the British Summertime Festival sponsored by

Leaving a gift to The Gardens Trust

If you are thinking of remembering **The Gardens Trust** in your Will and would like to discuss the proposed legacy with us, or have already left the Trust a legacy in your Will you may wish to advise us — if so, you can use this form and send it (or a copy of it) to:

The Honorary Treasurer,
The Gardens Trust
70 Cowcross Street,
London EC1M 6EJ
— and we will then contact you.

- I have already included a legacy to **The Gardens Trust** in my Will
- I have instructed my solicitor to include a legacy to **The Gardens Trust** in my Will
- I would like to discuss a legacy to **The Gardens Trust** with you

Name:

Address:

.....

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.....

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Phone:

Signature:

Date:

If you remember **The Gardens Trust** in your Will you can support us well into the future with our work to protect and conserve the UK's unrivalled parks, gardens and designed landscapes

barclaycard (see p.4–6, Save Our Parks). Of course much of this area is **now** occupied by 'Winter Wonderland', 22 November to 6 January 2019...



Linden Groves

Humphry Happened!

The Celebrating Repton bicentenary year is drawing to a close, and what an exciting year it has been! As we were all somewhat recovering from the excitements of the Capability Brown Festival in 2016, it was somewhat late in 2017 before people started to gather and ask what would be done for the Humphry Repton bicentenary in 2018, but hey did everyone catch up fast!

The final round-up is still to be done, but in the course of the year there have been hundreds of Repton-themed study days, lectures, conferences, exhibitions and publications, details of which can be tracked from humphryrepton.org. Contributors have included the indefatigable County Gardens Trusts, the Royal Horticultural Society, the Garden Museum, Historic England, the Historic Gardens Foundation, and all manner of sites be they Woburn or Valleyfield. We cannot thank everyone enough for their enthusiasm, but have certainly taken on board the power of collaboration!

One of the spin-offs of the celebrations was our Heritage Lottery Funded project, *Sharing Repton: Historic Landscapes for All*, which is using the year as a springboard for work to pilot five simple activities to engage new supporters with historic parks and gardens and then share the learning so



that we can all benefit in future. This kind of outward-looking approach is going to be essential in the years to come if historic landscapes are to be valued and therefore conserved by future generations.

We had a super-busy autumn! Thanks to collaboration with **Northamptonshire Gardens Trust** we were able to welcome 27 guests (**above**) from the Victoria Community Centre in Wellingborough to Wicksteed Park at the start of September (see our fuller report overleaf).



A great September event for #sharinglandscapes, World Cultures Day with @VisitBroadland and Norfolk GT, entertainment, food and fun at Catton

The following weekend we supported Broadland District Council, Friends of Catton Park and Norfolk Gardens Trust to run a Heritage Open Day for

National Trust – Review of Appointing Bodies

The Gardens Trust narrowly missed retaining their seat on National Trust Council. Thank you to all our members and those of the County Gardens Trusts who supported us; despite receiving over 18,000 votes, we are disappointed to report that we lost our position on NT Council as an ‘Appointing Body’.

GT Members will recall that, at its recent AGM on 20 October, National Trust held a ballot as part of its review of nominating bodies to their Council; we were included on the ballot paper, but not as a ‘recommended’ organisation to remain on Council.

Our representative will therefore stand down

from NT Council in March 2021; until then we still have the chance to ensure that our views on historic designed landscapes continue to guide the National Trust’s work. Thereafter, this effectively means that the Government’s Statutory Consultee will no longer have a voice in representing over 250 historic designed landscapes in the care of National Trust.

Now, and even more after 2021, we all need to remain vigilant and work collaboratively with professionals, our members and County Gardens Trusts who have a major role to play in protecting these sites for future generations to enjoy.

Marion Harney

600 visitors at Catton Park in Norfolk. We ended September by launching the first of four research and recording workshops for new volunteers at Warley Woods in the Black Country, alongside a fabulous afternoon working with a local school.

October was not much quieter though, as London Parks & Gardens Trust with English Heritage hosted 44 guests from local refugee groups at Kenwood in London, where they were introduced to historic parks and the concept that we are all empowered to help protect them.

This project runs until the end of 2019 and is producing a flotilla of legacy materials so that others can use our experiences to find new supporters in their own areas.

To find out more, please contact:

sharinglandscapes@thegardenstrust.org or visit: thegardenstrust.org/campaigns/sharing-repton/

Linden Groves

Celebrating Repton at “the place where fun was invented”

Northamptonshire Gardens Trust hosted a Repton Family Picnic on a gloriously sunny Saturday 30 June at Wicksteed Park in Kettering.

This, the third annual Gardens Trust Family Picnic, was enjoyed by a wonderful mix of generations; grandparents, children, grandchildren and friends who took part in a range of different activities themed around this year of celebrating Humphry Repton, and the sun shone.

Tracey Clarke, the Community Link Manager for

Wicksteed Park and her volunteers took the group on a tour of the newly created lake, the famous water chute listed in 2016 by Historic England as a protected heritage site and the landscape towards Barton Hall. Here Stephen Radley brought to life the scenes from the Repton Red Book commissioned by Charles Tibbett for Barton Hall. Stephen, who is studying a PhD. at the University of Nottingham under the guidance of Professor Stephen Daniels, who wrote the definitive book on the celebrated landscape gardener, gave a fascinating insight into the reasoning behind the proposals, and the extent to which they were achieved (see **Stephen’s New Research Symposium contribution on p.35**).



Linden Groves

Enjoying Wicksteed Park, the day included paper boats, tree measuring and view framing



Linden Groves

Shade, hats, chairs picnic and smiles all round...

Following a picnic in the shade, 18th century games were played to include intra and inter generational tug-of-war, and for the creative a pot-decorating and planting activity, thanks to Linden Groves under her 'Hahahopscotch' *alter ego* (hahahopscotch.co.uk). A celebratory cake was

then presented and the event concluded, of course, with a ride on Wicksteed's famous model train.

Certainly, Charles Wicksteed would have agreed with Repton's statement, "For the honour of the country, let the parks and pleasure-grounds of England be ever open" and Humphry Repton may well have approved of Wicksteed offering a 'Gateway to Health and Happiness'.

Thank you to Humphry Repton and Charles Wicksteed for your love of landscape and for all those who contributed to such a fun time.

Carol Fitzgerald,
Northamptonshire Gardens Trust

Hosting the GT picnic 2019 and beyond

Would you like to host a future Gardens Trust Family Picnic in your area? If so, please contact:

lindengroves@thegardenstrust.org

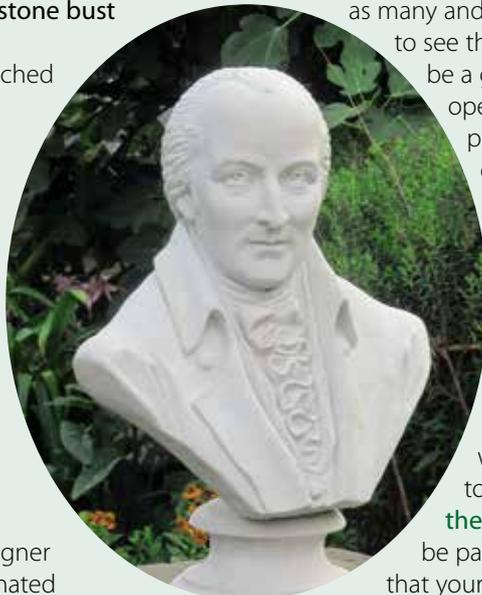
The Gardens Trust launches new 'Sharing Landscapes' competition

Could you win the Haddonstone bust of Humphry Repton?

The Gardens Trust has launched a new competition, called **Sharing Landscapes**, to encourage initiatives to welcome as many people as possible to visit historic parks and gardens. It is organised as part of our **Sharing Repton: Historic Landscapes for All** project, which is finding ways to engage wider audiences with historic parks and gardens.

The prize is a bust of 18th-century landscape designer Humphry Repton, kindly donated by Haddonstone, who marked the bicentenary of Repton's death by commissioning sculptor Hannah Northam to create the bust; a significant and important piece of work as no previous portrait bust exists.

The competition is open to anybody and the bust will be awarded for our favourite plan to get



as many and diverse people as possible

to see the bust. The winner could be a garden that plans to hold an open day with a twist, a public park that intends to actively encourage community groups to use its space, an individual working with a site to lead inclusive tours, a voluntary group planning an exhibition to reach new audiences; the sky's the limit!

To enter, please send no more than 1000 words and 3 pictures

to [sharinglandscapes@](mailto:sharinglandscapes@thegardenstrust.org)

thegardenstrust.org Judges will be particularly looking for evidence that your proposal is a plan rather than

idea, and for projects that consciously try to attract new audiences. **The closing date for applications is 30 March 2019.**

For more information, visit:

www.thegardenstrust.org, or follow:

[@thegardenstrust](https://www.facebook.com/thegardenstrust), [fb.com/thegardenstrust](https://www.facebook.com/thegardenstrust)

[#sharinglandscapes](https://www.facebook.com/thegardenstrust)



The Parks Charter

Unfortunately publication dates got in the way of our telling you about the then newly launched **Parks Charter** earlier this year. Over 100 organisations signed up to the Parks Charter in just its first ten days, and more are continuing to join every day. The Parks Charter has been adopted by The Daily Mail, and gone international, with the #ParksCharter and #SaveOurParks now appearing worldwide.

The Parks Charter is a wake-up call to government(s) to protect our parks because of the serious long-term damage being caused by budget cuts and lack of investment. Unless politicians act now, parks will go into serious decline, become problem spaces, and even risk being sold off.

The Gardens Trust was one of the founding organisations of the Parks Charter, as we have campaigned for the future of public parks for a long time. **David Lambert**, Trustee of The Gardens Trust, said 'Our heritage of public parks is a national treasure but, as a discretionary service, parks remain first in line for budget cuts.



The Royal Pavilion Gardens, Brighton, are now on Historic England's Heritage at Risk Register because of the over-use of the space and related anti-social behaviour problems

Eight years of austerity have seen disastrous reductions in staffing and maintenance. We need central government to recognise the scale of the problem and the risk to health it poses, with all the consequent human and financial cost.' Other groups who are involved include The Parks Alliance, Fields in Trust, Greenspace Scotland, Keep Britain Tidy and the National Federations of Parks and Green Spaces.

Protect Our parks

A wide range of local, community and national groups have already backed this call to protect our parks. Dave Morris, Chair of the National Federation of Parks and Green Spaces, said: 'We are very pleased that only 10 days after the launch over 100 organisations have already signed up to back the new Charter. Of these, seventeen are national organisations including the Open Spaces Society, Sport and Recreation Alliance, and Lantra.

This demonstrates the depth of feeling throughout the UK that our parks and green spaces need proper long term recognition, funding and protection so that they can provide the wide range of essential benefits every community deserves. We call on all organisations that care about the future of our parks to sign the Charter.'

The charter asks political leaders to adopt six points:

- Celebrate the central role well-run parks play in our neighbourhoods for all sections of our community.
- Recognise the right of every citizen to have access within walking distance to a good quality public green space.
- Endorse a legal duty for all public green space to be managed to a good standard.
- Embed effective protection from inappropriate development or use, or loss of any part of our parks.
- Ensure adequate long-term resources for ongoing maintenance, management and improvements.
- Encourage and enable community involvement and empowerment of local people and park users.

Find out more on: www.parkscharter.org.uk, and perhaps sign the petition: <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/229894/signatures/new>

Sign up for Gardens Trust news by email

If you are interested in receiving news about the Gardens Trust and early notification of events by email, please request this by sending a note of your name, email address and whether you are a member to Susannah Charlton, our Communications Adviser: susannahcharlton@thegardenstrust.org, but we do need your permission before we can email you...

Dawn of the Dark Ages; Public Parks At Risk

David Lambert, Director, The Parks Agency

This article forms part of Historic England's latest 'Online Debate', the seventh, on Public Parks. Guest edited by Jenifer White, National Landscape Adviser at Historic England, the debate "focuses on championing and protecting our public parks heritage, and the role of historic parks and green spaces in our towns and cities, and place making".

At the beginning of the year the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) announced the closure of its **Parks for People** programme. It has been a grant programme like no other, breaking new ground in ways that have helped to transform not only parks but ideas of what constitutes heritage and what counts as conservation.

No one can deny that parks have had a good run since the HLF launched the **Urban Parks Programme back** in 1996. Once unimaginable sums have been ploughed into parks; many have been transformed as has awareness of good-quality parks as an essential part of the social, economic and environmental ecology of the UK's towns and cities.

The end still came as a shock. No one foresaw it. What was foreseeable was the effect of the hollowing out of local authority services since 2010 in the name of austerity. Cuts of unprecedented levels have fallen unfairly on non-statutory services such as parks. Applications to the HLF may have declined but not because the need has been met. In many places, there is no one left to put the bids together, and no money left to make up the partnership funding.

It could hardly have come at a worse time, one year on from the House of Commons Select Committee inquiry into parks. The Committee report was in many ways a disappointment, and the Parks Action Group set up by the Government is struggling to make progress. The only source of significant funding available to parks was turned off just as national politicians gave some long-overdue recognition to their importance.

Austerity has left parks services worse than decimated — cuts not just of 10% but even of 90% have left them unable to function properly, scrambling for ill-conceived solutions put together with little regard for the long-term. There is a huge discrepancy in the level of cuts to

parks services, with the worst being in the north while the home counties have the least. Local authorities are desperate to find ways to generate more income or even to offload parks as liabilities they can no longer afford.

Perhaps most damning of all is the research by the HLF for its **State of UK Parks** report 2016. The research revealed that, such is the rate of decline resulting from austerity since 2010, by 2020 parks will be in a worse state than they were in the mid-1990s when HLF began its funding. That means that despite over £900 million invested by HLF, central government has effectively destroyed the long-term benefits of that investment.

In June, an alliance of concerned bodies, led by the National Federation of Parks and Green Spaces, launched a Charter for Parks at Westminster. The charter calls for:

- National action to secure access for all within walking distance to good quality public green space
- A legal duty for owners to maintain public green space to a good standard
- Protection for parks from inappropriate development

This is a commendable effort to cut through the prevarication. So far, there has been little response from the Government.

As with climate change, we have in many places passed the tipping point and have embarked on the inevitable spiral of decline. The last one, which saw such devastation to parks in the 1970s and 1980s, was halted and reversed almost entirely as a result of the munificence of the HLF. That particular knight in shining armour is not going to appear again.



Andrew Smith

Residual damage to Gunnersbury Park, West London, two months after 'Lovebox Festival'

Reports from the Annual General Meeting 2018

held at the University of Birmingham, Saturday 1 September 2018

Honorary Secretary's Report

The Gardens Trust's fourth Annual General Meeting was held at Birmingham University on Saturday 1 September 2018. There were fifty-eight attendees and thirty-three apologies for absence.

The Events Committee, especially Virginia Hinze, Directors and staff were thanked for all the preparations and arrangements for the Conference and AGM.

The Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2017 were laid before the members and Averillo & Associates were re-appointed as Independent Examiners.

Under the Trust's Articles of Association, one third of the Directors were required to stand down and offer themselves for re-election. Dr Marion Harney, Virginia Hinze, Dr Sally Jeffery and David Lambert stood down and were re-elected for a further three year term. Michael Dawson stood down at the AGM, resulting in a vacancy on the Board which was filled by Peter Hughes QC, who was elected a Director.

Minutes of the AGM, including reports from the Chairman, Honorary Treasurer and Committees, together with President's closing remarks, will form part of the papers for the 2019 AGM.

Reports on activities during the year from the Chairman, Treasurer, Directors, the Historic Landscape Project Officer and the Strategic Development Officer are provided below. There is also a report on the winners of the Gilly Drummond Volunteer of the Year Award.

Maureen Nolan, Honorary Secretary

Chairman's Report

Dr James Bartos, the Gardens Trust's Chairman, reported that 2017, the second full year of the Trust's existence, had been a very successful year. During the year the Trust consolidated its working practices and financial position and continued to create a platform for future development. The restructuring of operations over two years and multiple administrative cost savings meant that the Trust was operating with a significantly lower cost base than at the time of the merger. These cost reductions led to the small surplus for 2017, before investment gains, outlined in the Treasurer's report. Achieving a surplus is a significant financial milestone for the Trust and

demonstrates financial stability in the pursuit of the Trust's charitable objectives.

However, cost savings can only be achieved once. While the Trust is currently financially viable, it is important that revenue continue at current levels, or indeed increase, for the Trust to remain financially sound while carrying out and expanding its various activities. A very important component of revenue is individual membership, and as has been previously discussed, individual membership has been declining for some years. As a strategic initiative led by Linden Groves, our Strategic Development Officer, the Trust intends actively to seek new members both amongst our existing constituencies such as County Gardens Trust members and amongst new constituencies. As a first step in this process, a survey has just been sent to existing members.

All areas of the Trust's activities showed huge energy and initiative and were very productive during 2017, as detailed in the Directors' and staff reports that follow. This is due to the dedication and hard work of the Board, Committees, other volunteers and staff. In 2017 the Trust continued to increase its national profile across the heritage



Dr James Bartos, the Gardens Trust Chairman addresses the Annual General Meeting 2018

Charles Boot

sector and to play a key role in conservation, education, research and capacity-building. 2018 should again prove to be a very active and financially sound year for the Trust.

Dr James Bartos, Chairman

Honorary Treasurer's Report

The third set of accounts for The Gardens Trust, covering the year to 31 December 2017, show that the Gardens Trust achieved a small surplus of £1,032, before investment gains, compared with a loss of (£32,212) in 2016 before investment gains. As explained last year, the size of the 2016 loss was due in part to income recorded in previous years for restricted expenditures of £27,488 that were spent and recorded as an expense in 2016 — so there was a mismatch of income and expenditure between years. Nonetheless, 2017 was the first year the Gardens Trust recorded a surplus before investment gains, a significant financial milestone for the Trust.

Investment income, comprising dividends and interest, increased by £2,699 to £14,111 in 2017 from £11,412 in 2016.

The hard work of those working to produce our events brought fruit in an increase of £3,315 in net income, bringing the total to £11,958 in 2017 from £8,823 in 2016. The offer of events included a trip to Sicily and another to Scotland.

Looking at expenditure, the cost of salaries and national insurance decreased in 2017 as a result of the conservation restructure in 2016. Office management costs declined by £4,631 to £12,709 in 2017 from £17,340 in 2016 due to a rationalisation of insurance costs, lower IT costs and lower rent, due to moving from three desks to two during the course of 2016. Other support costs went down considerably across a number of categories including: legal expenses; website development; and book keeping. As a result principally of the above factors, total expenditure, excluding events, declined by a remarkable £39,840.

On the Balance Sheet, investments increased by £21,039 to £395,054 at year end 2017 from £374,015 at year end 2016, due to capital appreciation as well as investment income. It is the intention of the Gardens Trust to continue to build up investments to generate a return to be used to help fund the Gardens Trust's activities and to protect against reduced grant funding.

As ever, we are grateful to Historic England for its

continuing support under their National Capacity Building Programme with grants for Statutory Casework, and also for Localism, which covers the Historic Landscape Project and support of the County Gardens Trusts. We have also benefitted from some smaller project-based funding from Historic England.

In summary, the new administrative systems, re-sourcing the insurance cover, bringing the previously outsourced bookkeeping in-house and the two offices together have all played their part in reducing costs. Having moved through the merger phase, the restructuring and the introduction of the new website, our legal and consultancy costs have been seriously reduced. In 2017 we were able to "live within our means" and 2018 will prove to be a very productive and exciting year.

Lisa Watson, Honorary Treasurer

Administration and Finance Committee

There are now three staff supporting the Administration and Finance Committee: Louise Cooper, Administrator; Teresa Forey-Harrison, Finance Officer and CGT Coordinator; and Linden Groves, Strategic Development Officer. During the year, Louise Cooper has been reviewing the records of the Trust and GHS/AGT, as part of the development of an archive policy, an important piece of work. Teresa Forey-Harrison has undertaken a review of the Trust's insurance arrangements during the year. Linden Groves has been running the **Celebrating Humphry Repton** campaign, including making a successful bid to the HLF for the **Sharing Repton** project. Linden has also been working with Susannah Charlton, Communications Adviser, to develop a communications strategy, an e-newsletter for members and a membership survey, which will commence in the Autumn of 2018.

Much work has also been undertaken by the Committee on the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR), which were all in place by the May deadline this year.

Mike Dawson is standing down from the Board at the end of a six year term, three years as the Vice Chairman of the AGT and then three years as Vice Chairman of The Gardens Trust.

Mike thanked Dominic Cole and Steffie Shields for promoting and supporting the merger process, all those on the Merger Project Board

Annual General Meeting 2018, reports

and the Transitional Committee (especially Jeremy Garnett from GHS), and to all the staff (Lou, Teresa, Linden, Margie, Alison, Tamsin and Susannah), who he commended as “the best possible team you could have”. Mike also thanked Jim Bartos, Maureen Nolan and Lisa Watson.

Michael Dawson, Chair

Conservation Committee

Marion Harney thanked everyone involved with the Trust’s planning and conservation work and emphasised how successful the Gardens Trust and the CGTs collaborative working on planning matters has been. Thanks were extended to all the CGT volunteers who respond to the bulk of planning applications received, ably supported and complemented by conservation staff, Margie Hoffnung and Alison Allighan.

Margie and Alison have enabled us to build and foster much closer links with many CGTs. The personal contact, attention and encouragement that they have provided, working effectively and efficiently together, with the CGTs, and also with our conservation volunteers, has enabled us to deal with the ever-increasing number of planning cases we receive.

We also introduced the new Casework Log last year and increased circulation of the weekly lists; many CGTs are now utilising these invaluable shared resources. The Log is a work in progress that will be improved and expanded over time and we hope to meet up with more CGTs over the coming year to develop further this useful asset.

Over the past year, we have had some notable successes and inevitably some failures too. In addition to the sterling work carried out by CGTs, some of our volunteer Conservation Committee members have been actively involved at specific sites of National interest, some of them resulting in landmark decisions and the revision or rethinking of contentious interventions in historic landscapes.

I would like to publicly thank all of the members of the Conservation Committee for their efforts and unstinting support in responding to casework, specific consultations from Government on revisions to the National Planning Policy Framework, Historic England’s consultation on *Conservation Principles*, and the Heritage Lottery Fund’s round table discussions on *Conservation Plan Guidance*, as well as their contributions to the *Strategic Funding Framework*, the online *Parks*

Alliance petition and consultation on *Park Run*.

On the campaigning front, we published an important new research report funded by Historic England titled *Vulnerability Brown: Capability Brown Landscapes At Risk*, which was launched successfully at the Landscape Institute AGM in Bristol and at our Historic Landscape Assembly in November 2017.

Work has already begun on producing a similar ‘at risk’ report on Repton sites with contributions from CGTs as a significant *Compiling the Record* type output from the Gardens Trust-led Repton 2018 celebrations. We hope that we may receive sufficient funding to publish this report both in a printed version, and online.

Finally, in its review of nominating bodies to their Council, National Trust has advised that the Gardens Trust will not be a ‘recommended’ organisation to remain on its reduced Council. This effectively means that the Government’s Statutory Consultee will no longer have a voice in representing over 250 historic landscapes in their ‘care’. I would like to make a personal plea to Gardens Trust and County Gardens Trust members who are also members of National Trust, to use their vote and encourage others to champion the Gardens Trust to remain an effective member of National Trust Council. We all need to remain vigilant and work collaboratively to protect these historic sites for future generations to enjoy.

Dr Marion Harney, Chair

Education, Publications and Communications Committee

The Education Committee (EPC) was quite small; everyone had a specific job and all those have continued seamlessly and seemingly effortlessly. As you will be aware, organising and producing our journal and newsletters is complicated and requires dedication so I’d like to thank editors Dr Barbara Simms and Charles Boot for their continued hard work and high standards.

There have been a few changes to the EPC. In the first change, it has been joined recently by our monthly e-newsletter edited by Sophie Bristow. This started in May and aims to act as a regular short update on whatever is going on throughout the Gardens Trust. Contributions and comments would be welcomed. It points up another area of slow progress — improving communication between the organisation and individual

members, both of the GT itself and of CGTs. You can also follow the Trust via Facebook and Twitter

The website is settling down and has undergone some improvements in updating. In particular, it is worth pointing out that it is now possible for 'non' staff to add events to the calendar. Although the additions are moderated before going live, it does mean that CGTs and other organisations can control the process.

One of the additions to the menu bar is a link to our blog which comes out every Saturday morning probably before you've had breakfast and unlike most blogs, it aims both to amuse and inform. The blog this week is about St Fiacre and if you have not seen it and have never heard of him, go and read about the Patron Saint of Gardening.

Global talent was revealed by the entries for the **14th Mavis Batey Essay Prize**. We contacted every relevant department in UK and Irish universities and branched out to include every relevant department in Australia, New Zealand and Canada. Despite that, we had far fewer entries than usual, though with three from Australia and another from Scotland. The unanimous winner was Joshua Goh, an undergraduate from the National University of Singapore, with a lively but scholarly account of the evolution of a national style of gardening in Singapore (to be published in a future edition of the journal. Two of the other candidates were also encouraged to consider revising and then submitting their work.

And of course, there was, as always, fascinating research highlighted in our **7th New Research Symposium**, organised by Dr Patrick Eyres and chaired on the day by Dr Oliver Cox, which was extremely well received. The main aims of the Symposium are to provide a professional forum for the presentation of new research in Garden History, and to encourage scholars whose material has yet to be published.

Another showcase for recent research is our joint annual weekend conference held at Rewley House, Oxford, with the University Department for Continuing Education. This year's subject was ***Wonders and Marvels: Water, Intellect and Science in 17th Century British Garden***, with a diverse range of topics and including a visit to the wonderful but virtually invisible and unknown C17th water garden at Hanwell Castle.

Next year's Conference is on **The Picturesque** and will be in honour of Michael Symes, and the

2020 conference will be on **Women Gardeners**. Our part in the planning and organisation is being undertaken by Oliver Cox.

Finally, last year the Gardens Trust's Board agreed to support **Grapevine**, an initiative designed to increase the range and spread of courses in garden history across the country. Over the course of the last year, we have continued courses in London and started them in Birmingham (at Winterbourne) and at Highbury, as well as a couple of individual sites. Bookings for initial courses in Bath and Bristol are under way and we are talking to several other potential venues and organisations for 2019. Despite a few cancellations, the underlying trend is positive and I am hopeful we will have an even better situation to report next year.

Dr David Marsh, Chair

Events Committee

Was 2017 the year we didn't even notice passing, sandwiched as it was between the celebrations for Capability Brown's birth in 2016 and Humphry Repton's death in 2018? Events did happen though and some of the highlights are worth picking out to illustrate how we are building on our experience of what members seem to like, what works well and, in particular, what strengthens our aim to engage in partnership with other heritage organisations in running many of our events.

Our ground-breaking joint conference with the Garden Museum in May on *Mid- late- C20th landscapes - 'Overlooked, Undervalued and At Risk?'* attracted significant landscape professionals from the Landscape Institute and Historic England. The associated project, to source nominations for sites meeting those criteria, produced a long list of 111 which, over the next couple of years, will be assessed for potential registration by Historic England. Thanks must go to Jenifer White for her support.

The lecture series, running from January to March, is the backbone of our GT winter events and where opportune, we link lectures with a later visit such as that to Lord Leverhulme's garden at Rivington. Two lectures in 2019 will be linked in this way – one on Hawksmoor's work at Castle Howard and one on Oxford Botanic Garden. A new venture in 2017, to be repeated in 2018, was our offer of two out-of-London lectures in

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Birmingham and one in Bath. These will feature a regionally-relevant topic.

Our main partnership events were with Sheffield University in a conference on new research on the history of Chinese gardens and landscapes and with the Landmark Trust in a visit to the gardens of Chipping Campden House. In 2018 we shall be partnering Norfolk County Gardens Trust in a two-day conference focused on Sheringham Hall as part of the GT's 'Celebrating Repton' year and the Landmark Trust again with a day in Halswell House's C18 garden and park.

Led by our dynamic duo, Robert Peel and Kristina Taylor, members enjoyed sold-out tours to Eastern Sicily and North-east Scotland, both tours contributing generous donations to the Trust for which we extend huge thanks to Robert and Kristina. These will be followed in 2018 with tours to Japan and northern Denmark and, with new organiser Doreen Wilson, to Northern Ireland.



Charles Boot

GT members enjoying the views in all directions, and a packed lunch, "all aboard" in Plymouth, 2017

The GT's Annual Conference, AGM and New Research Symposium, held in Plymouth, was organised to an extremely high standard by Devon Gardens Trust (our thanks to chair Dianne Long and DGT members). It was enjoyed by members and included: a memorable boat trip across Plymouth Sound to Mount Edgcumbe; an introduction to the issues of managing Saltram's gardens and park; and an exploration of Endsleigh's landscape enlivened by John Phibbs' revelation of Repton's dynamic and subtle treatment of its streams and waterfalls. However, a conference of this magnitude (4 days) is too resource-heavy for the Trust to deliver year on year so for 2018 we are offering a shorter event with flexible options for accommodation. We will be keen to hear what members think of this format.

Practising what we preach on partnership-working has brought a change to our Committee structure. The Events Committee has been meeting jointly with the Education, Publications and Communications Committee as an experiment since autumn 2017. This has improved the quality and range of knowledge, discussion and ideas for both parties so on that basis we sought Board approval in 2018 to constitute formally the new 'Education and Events Committee', chaired jointly by Dr David Marsh and Virginia Hinze (approval given in July 2018).

The last two events in 2018 will be: ***Discovering the Real Repton*** a joint symposium with the Garden Museum by and for CGT researchers (5 November) and a pre-Christmas lecture by Dr David Jacques on ***The Elizabethan Garden Reimagined and Reinvented Over Two Centuries***
Virginia Hinze, Chair

Historic Landscape Project

The Historic Landscape Project (HLP) is the Gardens Trust's capacity building programme, working to support the Gardens Trust and County Gardens Trust volunteers to enable them to engage more effectively in conservation management. I lead the project, with Margie Hoffnung, who also provides one-to-one CGT support, particularly with planning issues. We are also supported by the GT's Conservation Committee and by Linden Groves, Strategic Development Officer. Susannah Charlton, the recently-appointed Communications Adviser, helps us spread GT and HLP messages more effectively.

We are grateful to receive partial funding from Historic England, with the current grant being a two-year grant to March 2020. We are also looking to diversify our funding through other grant bodies and charging non-members and external organisations for certain events and training days and packages.

We continue to offer local and national networking events to CGTs, in the form of regional Meet Ups and the national Historic Landscapes Assembly. Meet Ups are low key gatherings of CGT and GT members, in which a static Agenda, covering Conservation, Education, and Research & Recording, is filled by items that CGTs bring to discuss, drawn out with a few key 'highlight' speakers from the CGTs and one external speaker. We held four in 2017-18, over the winter

months. Bookings for Meet Ups have increased significantly since they were launched in 2016.

In November, we held a successful second, annual Historic Landscapes Assembly in Birmingham. This is our major networking day, open to GT and CGT members and external landscape heritage organisations. It is satisfying to note the growth of this event's audience, from 68 attendees last year, to 85 this year. The audience comprised delegates from 23 CGTs and 11 external heritage organisations last year, and from 25 CGTs and 21 external organisations this. This last figure is indicative of the growing reputation and influence of the GT in the sector. This year's Assembly will be at the Hospitium, York, on 19 November, with the theme of 20th Century designed landscapes.

In October 2016 we launched a new, three-part planning training package. Part one was a gentle introduction to planning issues; Part two provided step-by-step training on writing a planning letter; and Part three, the infamous 'Full Monty', looking at the nitty gritty of planning policy and appeals. This has turned out to be a really popular package and a great way for CGTs to recruit new volunteers.



Charles Boot

Participants pause for a moment in Abington Park

Other recent training days have included a very popular **Public Parks** crisis training day, in Abington Park, Northampton, this April.

This year, over 200 CGT volunteers from 33 of the 36 CGTs have attended HLP training and networking days, as well as 50 attendees from 26 external organisations; twelve CGTs have been given 1:1 support; and our Conservation staff report that the combined planning responses submitted by the GT and CGTs have increased from 378 last year to 635 over the past year.

We continue to update our online support. The Resource Hub, on the GT website, contains over 400 documents, including presentations and handouts from our planning training days; and guidance from other organisations. Please may I repeat my plea from last year's AGM, to sign up for the discussion Forum and use it. It has great potential to connect CGTs and enable knowledge sharing.

We have recently merged the HLP Twitter account and Facebook page with those of the Gardens Trust, to promote greater unity and avoid duplication.

The HLP emailing list is a very effective way of reaching CGT members and has grown significantly during the year. Members receive a quarterly email update, which will be reformatted, to be more reader-friendly. Please do contact me to add yourself to the mailing list as we can save you time by sending emails directly.

Tamsin McMillan,
Historic Landscape Project Officer

Strategic Development

We were delighted to host the first 'Chairs Meet Up' in London in Spring, at which thoughts on increasing membership were discussed. We have been building a plan since then and in the autumn will start to actively strive to increase our membership numbers, beginning with those close to home, but then learning from this to look further afield. I'm sure that along the way we will need to look closely at what we do and why, and any thoughts you may wish to share would be greatly appreciated. I have already picked the brains of many of you and am grateful for all your advice.

Our Communications Adviser, Susannah Charlton, has just sent out a membership survey to all individual GT members for whom we have email addresses.

You will all be acutely aware that if we are to increase the numbers of members, supporters, or simply fans for Gardens Trusts' work, then we need to make sure that we are the kind of organisation that people want to support into the future, and we need to get better at being impactful for people beyond our comfortable garden history bubble.

However, I believe that is essential that we learn to reach out to wider communities, to share with them the brilliance of historic parks and gardens, but in turn to learn from them how to keep ourselves relevant in the 21st century.

Annual General Meeting 2018, reports

The Humphry Repton celebrations have been a major step forward in this. This time last year I was appealing to you all to think of doing something to mark his bicentenary in 2018. In the end, it was astonishing how the entire sector rose to the challenge and joined with us to organise hundreds of events, exhibitions, books and research projects all to celebrate Mr R. This has placed the Gardens Trust squarely in the centre of our sector, and we must make sure that we maintain this to maximise our influence.

It became clear though that most of the **Celebrating Repton** activities were very much of the traditional mould in which we are so comfortable. Formats that we are experienced in, talking to people like ourselves. That's not a criticism, we do certain things very well and we enjoy doing them, so let's jolly well carry on! Nevertheless, we do need to get better at also being relevant to wider audiences, so we applied for a Heritage Lottery Fund grant, and were delighted to receive £99,500. This will help us to pilot five activities to engage new audiences with historic parks and gardens, and then to deliver a whole load of skill sharing and training opportunities so that we can learn from the experience.

The project is called **Sharing Repton: Historic Landscapes for All**, and runs through to the end of 2019. It uses Humphry as a hook, but really isn't about him at all — it's about sharing our passion for historic landscapes in general. That we were given the grant is a testimony to the way in which organisations like the HLF see the value and potential of CGTs and the GT to make a massive difference in our world, but also the need for upskilling if we are to be successful.

I'm really excited by these activities — they are starting this week, and running through to 2019, and between them are producing a mountain of tips and templates that can be repeated by any of us in future. All of the materials, from method statements, to shopping lists, to template posters, will be available on our online Resource Hub, and I will also be out and about sharing the experiences and organising various training opportunities. This kind of thing is going to be critical if we are going to stay relevant, vibrant and, frankly, functioning, for the generations behind us.

Linden Groves,
Strategic Development Officer

The following matters were reported under Any Other Business:

Parks & Gardens UK Database Update

Philip White, Chief Executive of Hestercombe Gardens Trust reported on the Parks & Gardens UK database: In September 2016, the Parks & Gardens Database Trust, which had been set up to manage the site, ceased trading and the charity was wound up. In June 2017, the Hestercombe Gardens Trust took over stewardship of the site with the support of a Transition Funding grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The website was first created in 2016 with the benefit of a £1 million HLF grant but unfortunately did not have the capacity to fund ongoing maintenance. This eventually caught up with it so that when the Hestercombe Trust took over the database it is not an exaggeration to say that it was in a parlous state.

Since then, the site has been stabilised by moving it on to a new 'cloud'-based server, which as well as being totally secure has much lower running costs than previously. During this process the original website was kept live. The new version is now at the testing stage and will go live once it is certain it is running smoothly.

The aim must be to develop a system that is cheap to run but that is financially self-sustaining; otherwise we will end up where we were two years ago with the possibility that the website will end up being archived and unavailable.

In due course Hestercombe shall be writing to every County Gardens Trust offering the opportunity to piggy-back their reporting, databases, image collections, planning histories etc on to the P&G website with all the benefits of its very powerful search capacity, but with the possibility of controlled access and login for their own County Gardens Trust's members.

It is intended to offer a short menu of options to which individual County Gardens Trusts will be able to subscribe. The Hestercombe Gardens Trust is a charity and has no interest in making money out of Parks & Gardens, only that it should survive into the future and be sustainable in the long term. The more CGTs who join with us, the cheaper it will be.

Conservation Management Plans

Philip White continued that some present will know that the Heritage Lottery Fund holds several thousand Conservation Management Plans (CMPs)

in store in a lock-up at Heathrow. The HLF, in a bid to save storage costs, is having all its documents digitised and the hard copies, including conservation management plans, shredded.

The best way to ensure that this information stays within the public realm is that CMPs are uploaded on to Parks & Gardens where their invaluable information is available to all.

Historic England: Capability Brown Festival

Jennifer White of Historic England drew the attention of members to Historic England's new research report. This draws on the 2016 Capability Brown Festival research to offer the first ever catalogue of Brown's plans. The report highlights the opportunities to develop the catalogue and the value of digitising plans to enable further study and research about Brown's landscaping work and his team. The report is free and can be downloaded from the Historic England website.

The 14th Gilly Dummond Volunteer of the Year Award 2018

The annual Volunteer of the Year Award celebrates the dedication of people who have contributed to the work of the Gardens Trust or their CGT, adding to the enjoyment, learning and conservation of designed gardens, parks and landscapes.

The panel of judges this year comprised: Dr Patrick Eyres, Maureen Nolan and Steffie Shields.

The nominees for the Award were:
Sally Bate, Norfolk Gardens Trust
Jane Patton, Hereford & Worcester GT
Jill Plater, Essex Gardens Trust



Steffie Shields, Sally Bate with Gilly Drummond presenting the award. Inset: Jill Plater



Charles Boot

and, Susan Paul, Suffolk Gardens Trust
The judges commended all the nominees for volunteering hours of service to: garden conservation and planning; garden history research and publications; promoting their Trust events; and supporting their fellow members generously.

Normally, there is one overall winner of the Award, but all three judges were unable to differentiate between two outstanding, hard-working nominees. Both were considered equal contenders to share the Award, both deserving in the light of their long and loyal service to their local CGT and equal distinction as exemplary volunteers, particularly in the fields of research and publishing. The Award was thus presented jointly to Sally Bate and Jill Plater.

**Steffie Shields,
Vice President, The Gardens Trust**

Presentation to Michael Dawson

On behalf of the Board and the Gardens Trust, the Chairman presented Mike Dawson, the out-going Vice Chairman, with a token of the Trust's deep appreciation for his hard work in the years leading up to the merger and after the merger in his role as Chair of the Administration and Finance Committee of the Gardens Trust. James Bartos said that without Mike's patient and time-consuming work as the AGT 'point person' for the CGTs during the merger process, the merger would not have happened. In the three years since the merger, Mike had put in place many of the Trust's practices and procedures to enable it to run as an efficient and responsible organisation. The Chairman added that Mike had always approached all his roles in a good humoured and collegial manner and will be much missed.

Closing Remarks from Dominic Cole, President read by the Chairman

The meeting concluded with Closing Remarks from the Trust's President, Dominic Cole, in which he thanked various Board, Committee and staff members for their achievements during the year, noting in particular the outreach work with the CGTs, the Repton celebratory year, the 20th century landscapes project and educational and research activities. The President stated he had enjoyed meeting many of those present during the year and was sorry not to be able to attend the AGM.

GT Historic Landscape Project update

Tamsin McMillan, our HLP Officer, reports

Report on our Historic Landscapes Assembly

on Monday 19 November 2018, in York

The Hospitium, a characterful, 14th century building in York Museum Gardens, formerly part of St Mary's Abbey, was the perfect setting for our third annual Assembly. We're absolutely delighted by the success of this year's event, which brought CGT volunteers and professionals working in the historic landscapes sector together for an unprecedented day of networking and information sharing. The external audience for this event has grown over three years and now includes representatives of Historic England, English Heritage, Historic Environment Scotland, Natural England, the National Trust, Woodland Trust, local authorities, landscape architects, university students, and many others.

Speakers comprised an interesting mix of GT staff and CGT volunteers, as well as external landscape professionals. Delegates were updated on two of the GT's campaigns. The GT's Strategic Development Officer, Linden Groves, described the audience development successes of the HLF-funded Sharing Repton project; and Karen Fitzsimon updated us on Compiling the Record, the GT/HE campaign to identify mid to late 20th century landscapes suitable for Registration.



Our attentive audience at The Hospitium included Philip White of P&GUK and GT Chairman James Bartos in the front row

Sharing Repton, a two-year project, is using the buzz over Repton's bicentenary to encourage new audiences to visit and enjoy historic designed

landscapes. Its five pilot projects — easy to run events, which CGTs and other community groups could easily replicate, have had tremendous success. At Catton Park in Norfolk, for example, 60 attendees were expected, but over 600 came!

Karen took us through a sample of 20th century landscapes which have already been Registered, and this really highlighted the huge variety of site types from this period. Over 100 sites were nominated during the Compiling the Record project and those accepted for Registration will soon be revealed. Karen urged delegates to continue identifying and understanding C20 landscapes which, as the project strapline reminds us, are very often 'overlooked, undervalued and at risk'.

We were treated to conservation case studies from the London Parks and Gardens Trust and the Welsh Historic Gardens Trust. Helen Monger described the long and sensitive battle London PGT is waging against the inappropriate **Holocaust Memorial** proposed for Victoria Tower Gardens.



The approach to Penbryn 7, glorious planting interrupted only by the ubiquitous new parking notices. The campus is/was full of such plantings

Glynis Shaw and Caroline Palmer shared with us two sad cases of destruction and neglect: the ripping out of mid-20th century planting schemes at **Aberystwyth University** (above), including beds laid out by Brenda Colvin; and the decline of the John Summers Garden at the **Shotton Steel Headquarters** building.

thecuriouscribbler@gmail.com

Tamsin McMillan

Our long-standing allies, Historic England, Natural England and Parks and Gardens UK, updated us on the year's developments. **P&GUK**, now based at Hestercombe Gardens Trust, Somerset, is about to launch an updated website and database upon which researchers of historic parks and gardens will be able to deposit their reports. Philip White also told us about Hestercombe's plans to collect and digitise **Conservation Management Plans**, as an invaluable resource for managers and researchers of historic landscapes.

Jenifer White, Historic England's National Landscape Adviser, highlighted the success of HE's recent projects, including **100 Places** and **Immortalised** and looked at some of the new sites on the **Heritage at Risk Register**. Elaine Willett, Natural England's Historic Environment Senior Advisor, reminded delegates that they can have their say in shaping national policy, by getting involved in consultation such as Defra's **Glover Review of Protected Landscapes** (National Parks and AONBs). NE's plans to replace Countryside Stewardship schemes after Brexit are still under development and have been given the working title of **Environmental**



This bed **was** also planted with *Olearias*, *Choisya ternata* and *Eucryphia nymansensis*, all happily surviving this summer's drought, until...

Land Management (ELM). This will be open to a broader range of land managers, not just farmers, and will offer public money in exchange for delivering public goods and services. Margaret Nieke, NE's Lead Adviser for the Historic Environment and Protected Sites, ran through some casework highlights and concerns, the

latter including the potential to damage historic landscapes during concerts and other events which attract huge audiences. NE are working hard to 'manage event expectations and minimise damage'. **Flood management** is also high on NE's agenda and they are working with the National



Tamsin McMillan

Representatives from Natural England, the Woodland Trust and Historic England, in our lively Q&A session

Trust at Beningbrough Hall and other sites to consider natural flood control options, such as using parkland to store floodwater.

We were pleased to welcome new speakers: Saul Herbert, Senior Conservation Adviser from the Woodland Trust (WT); and Dave Morris, Chair of the National Federation of Parks and Green Spaces. The NFPGS is an umbrella group for approximately 6000 parks Friends groups and 70 area forums across the country. In these times of severe funding cuts for the upkeep of public parks, Friends groups — manned almost entirely by volunteers — are absolutely essential in the fight to protect and maintain parks. The Federation is also a campaigning organisation, working in partnership with other organisations on projects such as the **Parks Charter** (see p.5), which Dave encouraged all delegates to sign. Jenifer White also urged CGTs to work with Friends Groups to champion parks and celebrated the fact the Save our Parks campaign has reached a mainstream audience.

Saul Herbert told us about the Woodland Trust's work in responding to planning applications and how the recent amendments to the NPPF have elevated the protection of historic trees and woodlands. We heard about the **Ancient**

GT Historic Landscape Project update

Woodland Inventory, which already lists 13,000 ancient trees and 100,000 veterans — possibly a third of the UK's total resource. 50% of ancient trees are likely to be in wood pasture or parkland; landscapes which are hugely under-recorded, partly due to access issues. The WT seeks to remedy this. The WT works closely with the Ancient Tree Forum, with which CGTs could make useful links.

Landscape Architect **Kim Wilkie**, celebrated designer of 'Orpheus' at Boughton House, is well known for his understanding of landscape heritage and his ability to enhance historic landscapes with new designs. Kim closed proceedings with a summary of his design influences and architectural style and a thought-provoking examination of sustainable, holistic approaches to landscape design. Research has shown that, somewhat surprisingly, biodiversity in the UK was richest at the end of the 18th century, apparently due to increased use of land for grazing, which promoted good soil health and provided a range of habitats for wildlife. This is fascinating example of positive human intervention has been a major influence on Kim's design approach and he hopes that it will influence future land management.

Our Members' Meet Ups

Would you like to find out what CGT volunteers get up to in other counties? Want to share your CGT's triumphs and tragedies? Then come along to one of our Members' Meet Ups.

These one day events are free to attend and are open to all members of any CGT and the Gardens Trust, no matter where in the country they are held. Each meeting includes updates from CGTs on their conservation, education and outreach, and research and recording work; as well as a main speaker from an external heritage organisation or CGT. Meet Ups have a friendly and informal atmosphere and all attendees are encouraged to chip in. We encourage members who are not actively volunteering to come along too and learn more about the varied and valued voluntary work undertaken by CGTs.

We move our Meet Ups around the country, to try and reach as many CGTs as possible. Last year, we went to Lancashire, Dorset and London and this season, we will be in:

- **Leamington Spa**, Warwickshire, on 13 December, with a presentation from Community

- Engagement Consultant, Suzanne Carter
- **Newcastle Upon Tyne**, on 15 January 2019.
- **Grantham**, Lincolnshire, on 13 February 2019, including key speakers from Northamptonshire GT, about their community engagement event at Wicksteed Park (further details on p.19 & 20).
- And **Essex**, in March (venue TBC).

HLP Training Days

Conservation Casework Log Training

Alison Allighan, the GT's Conservation Casework Manager, continues to train the CGTs' planning volunteers on how to access, search and update the GT's Casework Log of nearly 25,000 planning cases affecting historic parks and gardens. So far, Alison has demonstrated the workings of the log to, and started to train, volunteers from seven CGTs, at our networking events. She will be continuing this offer at our Members' Meet Up in Newcastle, on 15 January (more details on p.22).

Historic Landscape Project online resources

Don't forget to make use of our online resources, including:

- The **Resource Hub** is under the **Conservation** tab on the GT website. There 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 other heritage organisations, on all aspects of designed landscape research, conservation and education. Please get in touch if you would like me to add any materials from your CGT to the Hub. This is a great way to share your Trust's knowledge and experience.
- The GT's online **Forum** is under the **Learning** tab on our website, for quick answers to CGT-related questions or problems.
- **Twitter** and **Facebook** (@thegardenstrust): we are finding social media invaluable for letting you know about all our training and networking events, so please do make sure that you Like and Follow us, so that you can continue to receive our latest and breaking news.

So, please do Keep in Touch

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

Gardens Trust events for 2018 and 2019

details and booking on our website [www.thegardenstrust.org / events](http://www.thegardenstrust.org/events)

Gardens Trust Winter Lecture Series: London

Our interesting and varied **Winter Lecture Series** will begin this year on Friday 7 December 2018 with a pre-Christmas Lecture in London by David Jacques. The London lectures will continue in the new year, on Wednesday evenings, from January to April. The whole series will be held as usual at The Gallery, Cowcross Street, London EC1M 6EJ.

Lectures start at 6.30pm, with wine served from 6pm.

You can book a season ticket for the whole

series, or book separately. Booking is online at no extra charge, by post or you can pay at the door. **Prices: £10 for GT and CGT members, £15 for non-members.** London season ticket: £45, non-members £75. Full details are available on our website and booking is open now. There is no printed booking form, but if you wish to book by post, please contact Sally Jeffery:

sally.jeffery2@gmail.com or phone: 07817 128147

Dr David Jacques,

The Elizabethan garden reimagined and reinvented over two centuries

at The Gallery, Cowcross Street, London
6.30pm, Friday 7 December 2018

David, the very well known Garden Historian and Conservationist, suggests that we don't really know what Elizabethan gardens were like; we have almost no images, and poets were general and metaphorical. That, however, has not stopped historians, architects and even garden historians imagining their design, decoration and detail. The very absence of hard fact has permitted unbridled speculation. Hence this talk is not about actual Elizabethan gardens, for there is little to say with confidence, but about how romantic-minded writers have repeatedly reinvented the idea of them to accord with their personal predilections concerning the customs, manners, moods and delights of the time.

Members Meet Up, Warwickshire in Leamington Spa, Warwickshire 10.30am to 4pm, Thursday 13 December 2018

An opportunity for Gardens Trust and County Gardens Trust members to meet each other and discuss ideas, skills and questions. Our Agenda will allow for discussions on CGT experiences of **Conservation, Outreach, and Research & Recording** and includes a talk from **Suzanne Carter**, Community Engagement Consultant, on the HLF-funded Sharing Repton 'Historic Landscapes for All' activity at Warley Woods, in the West Midlands. Suzanne will share invaluable advice on ways to build your CGT's membership and audience.



The 'Shakespeare' garden at New Place, Stratford-upon-Avon as imagined by Ernest Law in 1920

Meet-Ups are open to all members of any CGT and the Gardens Trust, no matter where in the country they are held. They have a friendly and informal atmosphere and all attendees are encouraged to chip in. Do please encourage your members who are not actively volunteering to come along too and learn more about the varied and valued voluntary work undertaken by CGTs nationwide.

Venue: Leamington Tennis Court Club, 50 Bedford Street, Leamington Spa, CV32 5DT

Free event, with a suggested donation of £7 towards lunchtime catering. Please email: tamsinmcmillan@thegardenstrust.org for more information or to book a place.

The Gardens Trust Events 2019

Members Meet Up, Newcastle at Discovery Museum, Newcastle Upon Tyne 10.30am to 4pm, Tuesday 15 January

Another opportunity for Gardens Trust and County Gardens Trust members to meet each other and discuss ideas, skills and questions. Our Agenda will allow for discussions on CGT experiences of **Conservation, Outreach, and Research & Recording**, (see also above).

Venue: Discovery Museum, Blandford Square, Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE1 4JA

Free event, with a suggested donation of £7 towards lunchtime catering. Please email: tamsinmcmillan@thegardenstrust.org for more information or to book a place.

London Lecture by Dr Anna Keay *The Elizabethan Garden at Kenilworth: its History and Restoration* at The Gallery, Cowcross Street, London 6.30pm, Wednesday 30 January

Anna, formerly Curatorial Director at English Heritage, now Director of the Landmark Trust, will discuss the remarkable garden created at Kenilworth Castle in the 1570s by Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester. Perhaps the best recorded Elizabethan 'Privy Garden', it was at the heart of Elizabeth I's long visit to the castle in 1575, and the subject of an ambitious restoration by English Heritage in 2009.

The talk will discuss the garden and its significance, the research and investigation process that informed the restoration project and the challenges and issues which were tackled in realising the re-created garden. Anna jointly edited *The Elizabethan Garden at Kenilworth* with John Watkins, published by EH in 2013.

London Winter Lecture Booking Details

Lectures start at 6.30pm, with a free glass of wine served from 6pm.

You can book a season ticket for the whole series, or book separately. Booking is online at no extra charge, by post or you can pay at the door. **Prices: £10 for GT and CGT members, £15 for non-members.** London season ticket: £45, non-members £75.

Full details are available on our website and booking is open now. There is no printed booking form, but if you wish to book by post, please contact Sally Jeffery: sally.jeffery2@gmail.com or phone: 07817 128 147

Members Meet Up, Lincolnshire 10.30am to 4pm, Wednesday 13 February At the Able Meeting Rooms, Grantham

Another opportunity for Gardens Trust and County Gardens Trust members to meet each other and discuss ideas, skills and questions. Our Agenda will allow for discussions on CGT experiences of **Conservation, Outreach, and Research & Recording**, and includes a presentation from Northamptonshire Gardens Trust on the success of their recent community engagement event at Wicksteed Park (see p.4).

Venue: Able Meeting Rooms, Unit 3, Hollis Road, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG31 7QH

Free event, with a suggested donation of £7 towards lunchtime catering. Please email: tamsinmcmillan@thegardenstrust.org for more information or to book a place.



Charles Boot

Spring in the restored 'Privy garden' at Kenilworth Castle, originally laid out for Queen Elizabeth I

London Lecture by Professor Simon Hiscock *Oxford Botanic Garden: Past, Present & Future* at The Gallery, Cowcross Street, London 6.30pm, Wednesday 20 February

Oxford Botanic Garden was founded in 1621 and is the oldest Botanic Garden in the UK. In his talk Simon, Director of the Botanic Garden and Arboretum, will reflect upon the Garden's history, its current status and challenges, and their ambitious plans for the future as we approach the Garden's 400th anniversary.

Booking details as previous Lecture, left.

We have organised an opportunity for a private visit to the Botanic Garden later this year as part of our **Annual Summer Conference in Oxford**, from 6 to 8 September (see p.27).

London Lecture by Dr Sally Jeffery
Nicholas Hawksmoor's designs for the Gardens of Castle Howard, North Yorkshire
at The Gallery, Cowcross Street, London
6.30pm, Wednesday 6 March

Among documents, formerly at Wilton House, are four sketches for streams and rockwork attributed to Nicholas Hawksmoor which have recently been identified as projects for the garden in Wray Wood, Castle Howard. This is an exciting discovery, as Hawksmoor is not known to have made any other drawings of this kind, and no other early images of features in this naturalistic woodland have so far come to light. Sally, an Architectural and Garden Historian and convenor of our London Lecture Series, will discuss the sketches and their place in the design for Wray Wood.

To link with this, a privileged visit to Castle Howard has been arranged for 11 July 2019, to hear more about the designs for Wray Wood, view items in the archives, visit the remaining pieces of sculpture and go inside the Temple of the Four Winds and the Mausoleum (details p.26).

'Protecting Historic Parks and Gardens, Part 1: a piece of cake', Training Day at Bramham Park, Wetherby, West Yorkshire Monday 12 March 2019

Every year, the Gardens Trust receives some 1,500 planning applications that may affect historic parks and gardens, and this figure is expected to rise. This free event will introduce some of the conservation and planning issues facing the historic parks and gardens we so enjoy, and offer ways in which we might help protect sites we care about.

By looking at a real site, Bramham Park (right), delegates will gain a broad understanding of key conservation issues and can think about and discuss what tools we could use to tackle possible threats. The day will explain just how important a role County Gardens Trusts play, and how the work they do helps The Gardens Trust protect the gardens we treasure. Delegates will leave with a fresh insight into historic parks and gardens, and some ideas as to how they can get involved.

To be followed by parts 2 and 3 of this planning training course, in 2019-20.

Visit the events page of our website to book a place and for news of other training events coming up in 2018-19. If you would like to



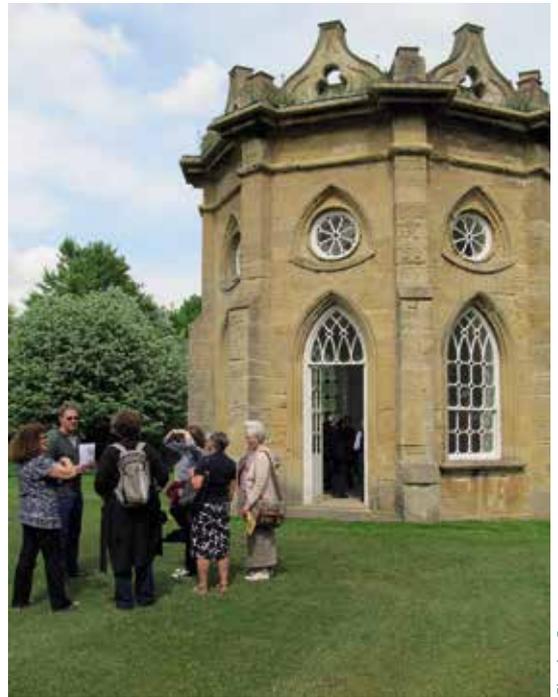
Sally Jeffery

View to the garden front of Castle Howard from Temple Terrace, Ray Wood lies to the right

receive email alerts from the GT and HLP about our events and other news, please email me: tamsinmcmillan@thegardenstrust.org to be added to our mailing list.

London lecture by Dr Barbara Simms
John Brookes: his landscape legacy
at The Gallery, Cowcross Street, London
6.30pm, Wednesday 27 March

Barbara is a lecturer at the Institute of Historical Research, University of London, the editor of our journal *Garden History* and a biographer of John Brookes (who died in March 2018).



Charles Boot

Gardens Trust and Yorkshire GT members listen to owner Nick Lane Fox on a previous visit to Bramham Park gardens

The Gardens Trust Events 2019



Barbara Simms

An Oxfordshire garden designed by John Brookes

John Brookes was most often associated with the **Room Outside**, the subject of his seminal 1969 book inspired by his early work in small London gardens. This talk will demonstrate how over the subsequent fifty years he remained at the forefront of design by creating distinctive gardens and landscapes increasingly based on ecological principles and designing in harmony with nature and the local vernacular, without losing sight of his belief that a garden is a place for use by people.

London lecture by Professor Tom Williamson *Studying Orchards in Eastern England* at The Gallery, Cowcross Street, London 6.30pm, Wednesday 10 April

Orchards have formed an important part of our culture for centuries, but investigations of their history are hampered by persistent myths concerning the age of particular examples, and about the antiquity of the fruit varieties they contain. These issues are currently being addressed by a research project based at the University of East Anglia in Norwich, Tom's academic base.

London Winter Lecture Booking Details

Lectures start at 6.30pm, with a free glass of wine served from 6pm.

You can book a season ticket for the whole series, or book separately. Booking is online at no extra charge, by post or you can pay at the door. **Prices: £10 for GT and CGT members, £15 for non-members.** London season ticket: £45, non-members £75.

Full details are available on our website and booking is open now. There is no printed booking form, but if you wish to book by post, please contact Sally Jeffery: sally.jeffery2@gmail.com or phone: 07817 128 147

Tom's talk will discuss the history of different kinds of orchard; farmhouse, institutional, commercial, and those which, in various periods, have formed elements in designed landscapes. It will also explore a range of related issues, including the age and origins of 'traditional' fruit varieties.

The GT Bath Lecture by Dr Marion Harney *The Pleasure Gardens of Bath* at the Museum of Bath 6:30pm, Thursday 11 April

Our second Gardens Trust Lecture in Bath, organised in association with the Museum of Bath Architecture, will be given by Dr Marion Harney, of the University of Bath, and Chair of our Conservation committee.



Marion Harney

The bridges over the Canal in Sydney Gardens

From the early eighteenth-century, Bath, uniquely among English cities, was devoted almost entirely to leisure and pleasure as well as being a health resort. Marion will discuss the varied aspects of the many Pleasure Gardens of Bath that were once such an important component of the city's entertainment. It will feature Sydney Gardens, the last to be established and the only Pleasure Garden remaining in Bath. Pleasure Gardens were designed around recreation and entertainment and were open to the public for a small entry charge.

All tickets: £8. Door open 6pm, lecture starts 6.30pm; includes a glass of wine. Advance booking can be made online at no extra charge using Eventbrite via the Gardens Trust website. Tickets can also be purchased from the Museum of Bath Architecture and at the door on the night. Venue: Museum of Bath Architecture, The Countess of Huntingdon's Chapel, The Paragon, The Vineyards, Bath BA1 5NA. Contact Sarah Fitzgerald: fitzgeraldatpen@aol.com or: 01747 840 895

GT Birmingham Spring Lecture by Joe Hawkins
Finding my place: The Rediscovery and
Restoration of Hagley Park
at the Birmingham and Midland Institute
6:30pm, Wednesday 17 April

In this illustrated talk Joe Hawkins MA, Head of Landscape at Hagley Hall Park, Worcestershire, will reveal his journey of discovery during the ongoing restoration of this once celebrated Georgian landscape, which had lain neglected for a century and a half. Hagley Park's main period



Joe Hawkins

View up the valley from the Palladian 'Bridge', Hagley, a C18th masterwork, now being restored

of development occurred from 1747 and in its heyday drew visitors from around the world. This ambitious restoration will return it to its 18th Century glory. The park has now been designated a Grade I registered park of exceptional national importance and Joe is currently writing up his PhD thesis on the park.

We will be visiting Hagley Park, with Joe Hawkins, on Wednesday 1 May 2019 (see overleaf).

Refreshments from 6pm with the lecture starting at 6.30pm. Venue: Birmingham and Midland Institute, 9 Margaret Street, Birmingham, B3 3BS. Booking and further details including ticket prices will be through Eventbrite via the GT website.

Contact Advolly Richmond: illex@advolly.co.uk

Study Tour to Palermo and the West of Sicily
Sunday 28 April to Sunday 5 May

This seven-day trip is designed to include landscapes, gardens and architecture from the Norman occupation of Sicily up to the 20th century, but also representatives of Phoenician, Elymian and Greek remains from the 5th century BC.



Robert Peel

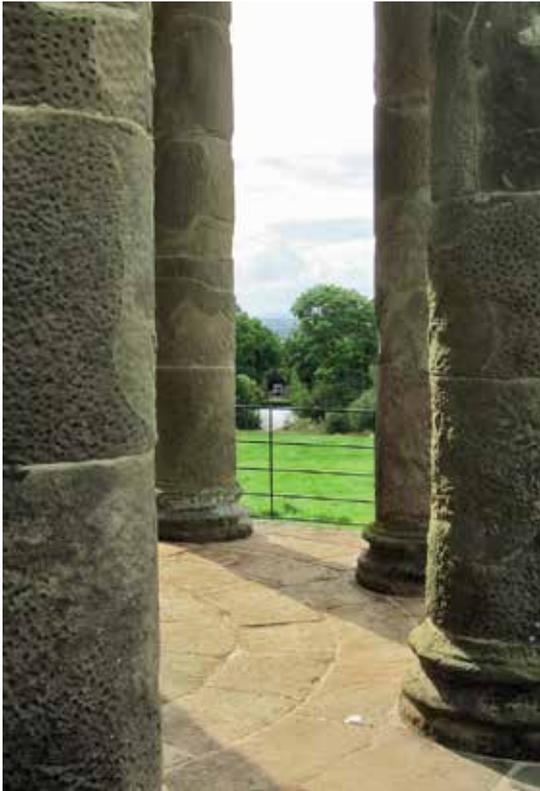
In the gardens of Villa Valguarnera, Bagheria

We shall spend five nights in Palermo and two nights in Trapani, and will visit, in addition, Bagheria, Segesta, Erice, Marsala, Mozia, Mazara and Selinunte. Gracious aristocratic villas and their historic surroundings will compete for your interest with Norman pleasure palaces and churches adorned with mosaics.

We shall visit Baroque and Art Nouveau buildings, the Palermo Botanic Gardens and other luxuriant green spaces, both private and public, displaying a huge range of exotic plants in this frost-free location. A private garden belonging to the Whitakers, the English family who led the Marsala wine trade and paid for the initial excavations of Phoenician Mozia, is also included.

The price, which presupposes a minimum of 20 participants, is €1,480 per person sharing a room (about £1,325 at current exchange rates) and includes all bed and breakfast in 4* hotels, all lunches and dinners, all land transport as part of the itinerary, all site entries and the services of English-speaking guides. It does not include air transport to Sicily. The single room supplement is €250 (about £220).

Please contact Robert Peel for a fuller programme and application form:
rma.peel@btopenworld.com



Charles Boot

View down from the Rotunda, at Hagley Park, towards the restored view and Padian 'Bridge'

Visit to Hagley Park with Joe Hawkins Hagley Hall Park, Worcestershire 2pm, Wednesday 1 May

A wonderful opportunity to see the restoration works in progress at Hagley Park, which have enabled long-lost views to be opened up once again to allow the 21st-century visitor to experience this 18th-century landscape as it was intended.

We will also be able to admire some of the restored landscape features including the Palladian 'Bridge'. Visitor accounts, literature, poetry, as well as studies in archaeology, hydrology and ecology have been drawn on to aid the restoration of this justly celebrated eighteenth-century landscape.

Our tour will be led by Joe Hawkins, Head of Landscape at Hagley Park, and speaker at our Birmingham Lecture on Wednesday 17 April (see [previous page](#) for details of the Lecture).

Please note that numbers are limited to 20 and early booking is recommended to avoid disappointment. Following our tour the afternoon will end with a cream tea at Hagley Hall.

Cost: £22. Book via the GT website.

How Green is My Valley? Gardens and Industry in South Wales WHGT 30th Anniversary Study Weekend Friday 10 to Sunday 12 May

A study weekend on the ornamental landscapes developed in the midst of the industrial revolution of South-east Wales, now enjoyed for recreation. From the late eighteenth century the area witnessed some of the greatest industrial activity in Europe, not only leading the world in iron production and coal extraction but also saw the world's first steam train.

Speakers are: **Dr Peter Wakelin** who opens the weekend with an introduction to the early development of the iron and coal industries and their impact on the landscape; and **Dianne Long** will explore the ornamental landscapes developed by the industrial entrepreneurs whose names still resonate through-out the Valleys today; the Hanburys, Homfrays, Crawshays and others. We will discover how industrial elements were incorporated into gardens, which then in turn provided infrastructure for the ironworks.

Dafydd Elis-Thomas, Minister for Culture, Tourism and Sport, will be our guest speaker at the Angel Hotel on Saturday evening.

Visits include: **Pontypool Park**, locally known as the People's Park, the Grade II site of 64 hectares has American Gardens, Ice Houses and a Shell Grotto all now restored. A footpath from the park leads to the Folly Tower. **Cyfarthfa Park**, the Grade II* park covers 65 hectares in a prominent position overlooking the town of Merthyr Tydfil and the Cyfarthfa Ironworks. **Bedwellty Park**, its Grade II 26-acre Victorian garden and park was designed as a Dutch garden around which one could walk or ride without being confronted by gate, fence or outside features. There is an unusual listed icehouse, a rock grotto and the Long Shelter, a listed structure built for the Chartist movement. **Blaenavon**, UNESCO World Heritage, and birthplace of the industrial revolution.

Early arrivals on Friday will be offered a guided tour of the **Priory Church of St Mary**, Abergavenny, noted for its outstanding mediaeval monuments including the glorious wooden fifteenth century figure of Jesse.

Booking forms and further details will be available in the New Year at: www.whgt.wales

Address your enquiries to Elaine Davey: elainemdavey@gmail.com



West Wycombe's south façade, showing the trees planted to give the effect that each face is a different temple. To the left again is the 'Temple of Apollo', with St Lawrence's church high on the hill behind.

Secrets and Scandal at West Wycombe Park, Buckinghamshire, with Richard Wheeler 10.30am to 4pm, Thursday 30 May

The National Trust's specialist in Garden History, Richard Wheeler, who knows this landscape intimately, will reveal all in conducting us around the Dashwood family's Buckinghamshire estate where we shall explore the C18th Park, the Dashwood Mausoleum, St Lawrence's Church and The Hell Fire Caves.

This promises to be an especially exciting and informative day during which Richard will thrill us with the scandalous stories of the Dashwood Family who have lived at West Wycombe for over 300 years and enlighten us about the stunning landscape gardens' history. Richard will give us a short introduction in the Village Hall after which we will visit the Mausoleum (Grade I) with its famous Golden Ball, the Church of St Lawrence, and the Hell Fire Caves. The flamboyant Sir Francis Dashwood, 2nd Baronet famously founded the Dilettanti Society and the Hell Fire Club which met here.

After lunch, at the Village Hall, we will head to West Wycombe Park where Richard will lead a walk through the landscape that reflects the wealth and personality of its creator. We may admire the views and the ornamental buildings and features along the routes of the eighteenth-century paths and rides including the Temple of the Four Winds based on an engraving of the second century tower in Athens, the three temples near the house (Diana, Apollo and Round), Daphne's Temple and the hidden surprise at Kitty's Lodge. The lake is the dominant feature of the park with its Music Temple, situated on the middle of three islands, the focal point of the lake. The National Trust has recently repaired the cascade on the north side of the lake and reinstated the fountain in the water gardens.

The Buckinghamshire Gardens Trust's research and recording project has recently re-examined Humphry Repton's involvement at West Wycombe

The Gardens Trust Events 2019

and volunteers from Bucks GT will be on hand to describe their findings (see also Humphry Repton in Buckinghamshire & Beyond, the Trust's recent publication available from the Bucks GT:

www.bucksgardenstrust.org.uk

Cost for members: from £45, includes refreshments. Book through the GT website.

The Picturesque Garden in England In honour of Michael Symes at Rewley House, Oxford Friday 31 May to Sunday 2 June

Held in association with The Department of Continuing Education, University of Oxford, our annual weekend conference takes as its theme, the Picturesque Garden. The Picturesque is one of England's most distinctive contributions to garden history, but it is difficult to define. What is the Picturesque? How does it relate to wider perceptions of the landscape? How did people try to create it? How was it received at the time, and how has it been received subsequently? And how are Picturesque gardens managed today?

Our weekend event, held in honour of **Michael Symes** on the occasion of his retirement from co-running our annual Oxford conference, will seek to provide some answers.



Trustees of the Bedford Estates

Repton's proposal for a Chinese garden at Woburn

There will be a coach trip to Woburn Abbey. The entrance charge for Woburn is included in the tuition fee for the course, along with the cost of the coach. There will be much standing and walking over uneven ground. Please come with suitable footwear and prepared for all weathers.

On Friday 31 May

Registration opens from 6pm, for those who have booked for dinner. Dinner is followed at 6pm with a

talk by **Tom Williamson** on *What is the Picturesque?*

Saturday 1 June 2019

Breakfast is followed by talks from **Stephen Daniels** on *Picturesque Landscape*; **Fiona Stafford** on *Crooked, twisted, blasted trees or tall, straight and flourishing*; **Keir Davidson** on *Humphry Repton at Woburn Abbey*. We then depart for Woburn Abbey and a guided tour of the gardens there. Dinner on arrival back at Rewley House is followed by a talk by **Amy Lim**, *"There is a charm sometimes in having a little fear mingled with one's admiration": sensation and fantasy at Stowe.*

Sunday 2 June 2019

Following breakfast we will hear talks by **Dale Townsend** on *The Peripatetic picturesque: domestic tourism and landscape, 1750–1850*; **Oliver Cox** on *Christopher Hussey, Scotney Castle and the Picturesque: studies in a point of view*; and **Ben Cowell** on *The Picturesque in the 21st century* to be followed by lunch after which the course disperses.

Accommodation

Accommodation for this weekend is at Rewley House for Friday and Saturday nights only. Depending on availability it may also be possible to extend your stay, please enquire at the time of booking for availability and prices. All bedrooms are modern, comfortably furnished and each room has tea and coffee making facilities, Freeview television, and Free WiFi and private bath or shower rooms.

Basic fee: £159, full details on click through. Please use the 'Book now' button on the GT web site. Alternatively, please contact Rewley House to obtain an application form: Rewley House, 1 Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JA, stating the Course code: O18P131HCR, email: ppdayweek@conted.ox.ac.uk or phone: +44 (0)1865 270380. Applications already being accepted.

Visit to Castle Howard Archive and Gardens: Nicholas Hawksmoor and the garden in Wray Wood

10.30am to 4.30pm, Thursday 11 July 2019

Booking is now open for this special day visit to Castle Howard to study the work of Nicholas Hawksmoor as designer of garden features and garden buildings. Early booking is recommended since a number of places have already been taken and we expect it to fill up fast.

The day's events will be led by Dr Chris Ridgway, Curator at Castle Howard, and Dr Sally Jeffery, who has been researching Hawksmoor's work on the gardens (see also [p.21](#), for Sally's London Lecture). Our day will focus on Wray Wood where recent research reveals that Hawksmoor made designs for elaborate rockwork and watercourses and pedestals for some of the many statues, as well as designs for the two Temples on its east wall and for the Mausoleum nearby.



andrewswalks.co.uk

The Temple of the Four Winds, finished in 1730s

We begin with a welcome by Chris and a private view of items in the Castle Howard archives which relate to the design of Wray Wood and the buildings there and nearby. These will include bills, accounts, lists of statues, maps, and drawings for the temples and mausoleum. We will also see copies of recently-identified Hawksmoor drawings for rockwork and streams in Wray Wood (which are not kept at Castle Howard) and Sally will speak about them.

Before lunch, we will look at two of the important statues from Wray Wood which are no longer *in situ* — the Apollo and his original plinth, and the Venus from the now demolished Temple of Venus.

Lunch will be in the Courtyard Café, followed by a walk through Wray Wood, a view of the site of the Apollo, the surviving statue plinths, a visit to the Temple of the Four Winds (designs made by Hawksmoor, but built to those of Vanbrugh), and a visit to the Mausoleum, both of which will be opened for us. The day will end with tea and a discussion.

Tickets: £70 for GT and CGT members; £90 for non-members. Full details are available on The Gardens Trust website. For further information: sally.jeffery2@gmail.com or: 07817 128147

Picturesque Landscapes around the Clyde Gardens of the West coast of Scotland **Saturday 15 to Friday 21 June 2019**

Very nearly Sold Out

Comprising seven days, with six nights, our study tour will be led by Kristina Taylor and Robert Peel with Christopher Dingwall participating on our first full day at the Falls of Clyde.

The programme appeared in **GT news 7**.

Contact Kristina Taylor:
wowkristina@hotmail.com

The Gardens Trust's Annual Conference and AGM 2019 is heading to Oxford **Friday 6 to Sunday 8 September 2019**

Our weekend Annual Conference will be based in the historic surroundings of **The Queen's College**, in the very heart of the city. We are busy devising an exciting mix of talks and exclusive guided visits to private college gardens illuminated by the latest research, presented 'live', and to private landscape parks and gardens around Oxford.

The weekend will also allow us to re-visit some of **Mavis Batey's** work and the gardens she knew and loved so well. New and recently-joined GT members may not be aware of the role that Mavis (now immortalised in the title of our Annual Essay prize) played in establishing our forerunner the Garden History Society, and of driving its campaigning and conservation activities. She cut her campaigning teeth with the Campaign to Protect Rural England while living in Christchurch College, of which her husband was the bursar. And as we all know, Alice's sparring partner the Cheshire Cat appeared on the branch of a tree in the Deanery Garden at Christ Church...



The Ashmolean Museum

South View of Christ Church college from the Meadows; one time site for the Oxford Bypass!



Steffie Shields

Mavis Batey, still very much on top form at her 90th Birthday party at Petworth House gardens

Mavis was the GHS President from 1985 until 2000, and then a Life Vice President of the Society till her death in 2013. Her previous astonishing career may also not be known to everyone, "she was the last of the Bletchley 'break-in' experts, codebreakers who cracked new codes and ciphers. She unravelled the Enigma ciphers that led to victory in the Battle of Cape Matapan in 1941, the Navy's first fleet action since Trafalgar, and played a key role in breaking the astonishingly complex Abwehr (German secret service) Enigma machine". Her published writing ranged from *The English Garden Tour: A View into the Past* (with David Lambert (1990) to *Alice's Adventures in Oxford* (Pitkin Pictorial 1980).

Add to all that an exclusive guided tour of the **Oxford Botanic Garden** with its Director Professor Simon Hiscock, the GT's ever-popular and highly-regarded **New Research Symposium**, a drinks reception, gala dinner and overnight accommodation in the 'ancient and modern' quads and buildings of The Queen's College, what could be more blissful a weekend for garden historians?

More details and booking information soon, watch out in the E-News, GT website and Facebook page.

Gardens of Victoria and Tasmania, Australia November 2019

Direct flights now connect London to Perth which should be our port of entry. There Caroline Grant can unlock for us the secrets of Western Australia with its flora that is so distinct from that further east.



Peter Hyatt

A part of the Australian Botanic Garden, made in a former quarry, Cranbourne, Victoria

A few days in Sydney with Craig Burton will guarantee us a fascinating acquaintance of the city where European settlement in Australia began, followed by a discovery of the fine landscapes, mighty stands of eucalypts (there are 700 varieties Australia-wide) and the perhaps not so English gardens of Victoria with Trisha Dixon. Depending upon the length of our stay in those three destinations will determine if we have time for the southern island of Tasmania too. It is envisaged that the whole trip will last two weeks requiring a minimum of fifteen to participate.

Expressions of interest (not commitment at this stage since costs have not yet been established) to Robert Peel: rma.peel@btopenworld.com

Sign up for Gardens Trust events news

To receive early notification of events by email, please send a note of your name, email address and whether you are a member to Susannah Charlton: susannahcharlton@thegardenstrust.org

Grapevine garden history courses 2019

courses in association with the Gardens Trust: gardenhistorygrapevine.wordpress.com

Plants in Garden History: 2

10.30 to 1pm Tuesdays, from 15 January 2019

This is the second of our courses about Plants in Garden History. It is complementary rather than a follow on to the course currently running, so you do not need to have attended in the autumn term to enjoy it! As usual courses will be based at the Institute of Historical Research in Bloomsbury, which is the world's leading centre for research into all aspects of History, and runs the country's only MA course in Garden History.

Classes will be small [max size 16] with lively illustrated lectures, visits, opportunities for discussion and further personal reading & research suggestions if you wish.

The class will normally be held at the IHR on Tuesday mornings from 10.30am to 1pm, but there are also four off-site visits including two to Kew which are planned to be all day.

The course fee is £291.61 [includes Eventbrite's booking fee]. Please note that neither the costs of admission to Kew or transport are included. This allows you the flexibility of making your own travel arrangements, and taking advantage of concessionary prices where appropriate. Visits will



Kew Botanic Gardens

Kew's recently restored and re-opened Temperate House (1860), home of many horticultural treasures

go ahead whatever the weather; so come prepared!

We often have a waiting list for places on our courses so if you book a place but are unable to use it for any reason, then email us and we will try and resell it if we can. In that case we will be happy to refund your payment, otherwise we regret we cannot offer a refund. In the unlikely event of a cancellation of a lecture for any reason we will endeavour to arrange a replacement session as soon as possible.

Provisional Programme

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| Tuesday 15 January | Introduction and 'The Oriental Connection' with David Marsh |
| Tuesday 22 January | 'Hans Sloane' with Mark Spencer |
| Tuesday 29 January | Visit to Natural History Museum; Herbarium with Mark Spencer |
| Tuesday 5 February | tbc with Mark Spencer |
| Tuesday 12 February | All Day Visit to Kew; Economic Botany Collection (tbc) & Marianne North and Shirley Sherwood Galleries with Letta Jones |
| Tuesday 19 February | 'Botanical Art' with Lucy Smith; Botanical Illustrator at Kew |
| Tuesday 26 February | 'Kew and Plant Hunting' with Letta Jones |
| Tuesday 5 March | 'The Oriental Connection' (continued)- David |
| Tuesday 12 March | Visit to Natural History Museum; The Reeves Collection (tbc) with David Marsh |
| Tuesday 19 March | Nick Bailey, previously Head Gardener at Chelsea Physic Garden, author and presenter on <i>Gardeners' World</i> . 'Chelsea Physic Garden: Diversifying Collections and developing the site for a contemporary audience' |
| Tuesday 26 March | All Day Visit to Kew; morning to Library (tbc), and plant hunter archives
Afternoon, 'Plant Hunter Walk' with Letta Jones |
| Tuesday 2 April | 'Legacy & Summing Up' plus feedback with Letta Jones |

Cost: £291.61, via Eventbrite.

From the Back of the Shed - Serendipity & the Animal Kingdom

David Marsh

How are dead dogs, mechanical elephants, fruit-eating chickens, cow sheds and musical pigeons, to say nothing of topiary lions, connected? And what's it got to do with the Gardens Trust? The answer is obvious if you read my piece in the last issue of **GT news**, they're all topics that have been covered in our blog.

I'm often asked how I choose topics and it might be difficult at first glance to see how and why I picked this particular collection. The answer is almost always serendipity. I think I must have a magnetic attraction for quirkiness and for off-the-wall ideas. It could be a book review, a by-product of some research for a class I'm teaching, a chance conversation or something overheard and of course seeing something unusual. They can all provide grist to the mill. And of course one thing leads to another.

I went to a not very exciting lecture, but there was a passing reference which caught my attention about a drunken elephant owned by James I. I couldn't quite believe it so went to discover more. The story was true. James was given an elephant by the king of Spain and was told that to keep it warm it should be given wine to drink rather than water. Poor Jumbo didn't last long. Of course I also discovered that there was at least one elephant in mediaeval Britain, and that it was drawn by Matthew Paris, a monk at St Albans Abbey (**below**).



That led to a quick look at elephants in our gardens which included discovering that the Duke of Devonshire kept an elephant (amongst

many other creatures) in the grounds of Chiswick House which he introduced to the Tsar of Russia. Even more extraordinary was the discovery that there were several mechanical elephants including some kept in public parks. Don't believe me? Go and read the post.

On another occasion a mention of Lady Dorothy Neville, a Tory grandee in the late 19th century led to the discovery that she had been the centre of a 'sex scandal' as a teenager, before being married off to an older man and then discovered gardening. Apart from creating one of the largest collection of exotic plants at her Dangstein estate in Hampshire she founded an orchestra. However it didn't have human players but avian ones. Wondering how? Go and read the post.

One set of birds led to another. Watching some chickens arguing over some figs led to a piece on housing for poultry and the discovery of wealthy eccentrics (and Queen Victoria) spending fortunes on building pyramids or imitation Swiss chalets for their poultry; several of them are large enough to be turned into holiday lets for humans.



Royal Collection

Windsor Home Park: The Aviary and Poultry Farm. Caleb Stanley, 1845

From chicken sheds it was just a short step to cowsheds, especially as in the course of researching some Repton-related pieces for the bicentenary I discovered his plans at Port Eliot and then noticed that John Soane had been working there too, and had even designed a cowshed. How could I not follow that up? And of course that led to the discovery of cowsheds by other great architects including Robert Adam and William Kent.

On a more mundane level I was lecturing on Tudor royal gardens, where a principal feature was the display of royal beasts. I thought they'd vanished along with the Tudors, but discovered that a set had been recreated for the queen's coronation in 1953 and that I'd seen them then (carried aloft on my father's shoulders). They are now on display at Kew. But what I only realised recently was that a set of royal beasts was planted, yes planted, at Hall Place at Bexley, and although

like many animals they were difficult to control and got a bit out of hand they can still be seen roaming the grounds.

There's plenty more in our blog about animals in the garden; everything from bees and beehives, to fish and fishing temples, and from rabbits and their warren houses to fish and fishing temples. If you have any more ideas about potential subjects then get in touch. I'm always on the lookout for new ideas...

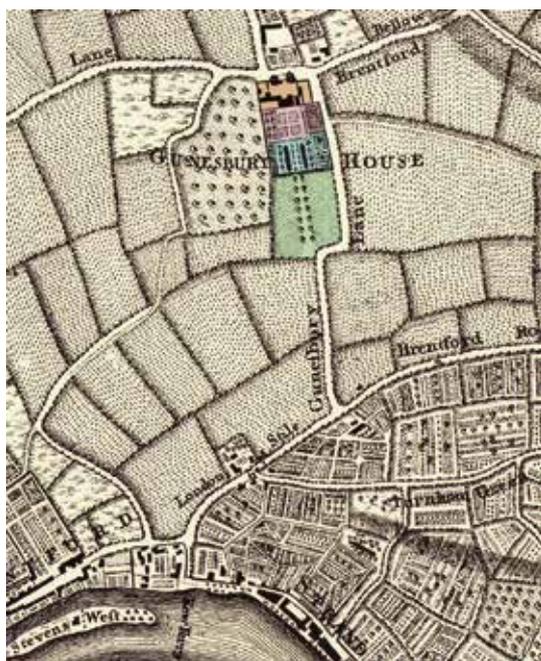
Restoring Gunnersbury Park, Ealing

Val Bott

The first phase of restoration on the Gunnersbury estate was completed with the re-opening of Gunnersbury Park Museum in June 2018. An investment of over £21m has been supported by lottery grants from the Parks for People and HLF Heritage Grants schemes, around £10m from Ealing and Hounslow Councils (which jointly own the estate) and a number of other charitable grants. Both landscape and structures have been carefully restored/conserved. Jan Anderson, landscape architect, and Chris Ellis, head gardener, have overseen the garden works. Much remains to be done and funds still need to be raised but substantial sport facilities are being built on the former Brentford Common Field in the west of the Park and a study of options for future uses of the Small Mansion and Stables, supported by Historic England and the Architectural Heritage Fund, will be completed by the end of 2018.

The agricultural estate was owned by comfortably off lawyers and City merchants from the mediaeval period onwards. Wealthy lawyer Sir John Maynard transformed it with a Palladian mansion and a formal walled garden in 1658–1660. His descendants eventually found it too expensive to maintain and in 1739 Henry Furnese, a merchant, MP and art collector, purchased it. With advice from William Kent he upgraded the mansion and softened the formal landscape. He created a park from an area of farmland, built the Temple and Round Pond and established a new walled kitchen garden to the northwest. The Temple has been restored and the Round Pond revitalised, relined with clay excavated from the V&A's new basement.

Princess Amelia bought mansion, park and gardens in 1762, added numerous decorative



Rocque's map of the Environs of London, 1746, showing the Gunnersbury estate in relation to Brentford and Kew Ferry, the terraced levels tinted to show the then structure of the garden

garden buildings and threw spectacular parties but after her death the estate proved hard to sell. In 1800 the mansion was demolished and 13 building plots laid out. Two purchasers bought plots 1 and 2 and in 1802 moved into their new villas (today called the Small Mansion and the Large Mansion). Both invested enthusiastically in their gardens. In the northeast corner, the Small Mansion's grounds included 'Princess Amelia's Bath-house'. This and the adjoining terraces,

agenda



Vai Bott

Left: Looking east along the garden terrace front of the Large Mansion. Lionel de Rothschild is posing amongst the summer planting in his 6½hp Bardon, 1902. Right: The Large Mansion and terrace today, newly restored, with benches made to the design of those installed for the public park in the 1920s.

gothicised in the 1830s, have been immaculately restored. The grotto within the bathhouse awaits specialist refurbishment. In the nearby community garden volunteers have cultivated vegetables and created small plots to demonstrate past gardening styles.

The Horseshoe Pond, which replaced two straight canals in the 1750s, was divided between plots 1 and 2 with a sham bridge on the boundary. The Large Mansion was bought by Nathan Mayer Rothschild in 1835; after his death the following year his widow Hannah threw herself into a major refurbishment, re-aligning the drive to the villa, remodelling the entrance lodge and enhancing the 18th-century walled garden to produce spectacular quantities of exotic fruits and flowers for summer bedding and cutting for the villa and their London townhouse. She commissioned designs from Sydney Smirke to remodel the house, build new stables (still awaiting funding) and create an elegant Orangery.

A later generation of Rothschilds purchased the Small Mansion and reunited the estate. Half of the Horseshoe has been re-created, as a setting for the beautifully restored Orangery, and re-planted water-lilies from the French Latour-Marliac nursery favoured by the Rothschilds. Archways, stairs and balustrades have been reinstated along the terrace behind the mansions.



Vai Bott

Capel Manor College students planting old varieties of apples and pears, including the Williams Pear, propagated at the Chiswick Nursery in the early 1800s. The newly-restored buttressed wall of the 1660s garden is on the right.

Students from Capel Manor College's Gunnersbury Centre (in Furnese's walled garden) have worked with the head gardener, planting a rockery, creating an orchard and upgrading the Italian Garden behind the Temple; they will continue to have an active role.

The 1920s pitch and putt course with its scattered conifers occupied an irregular oval meadow, said to have been a stock pen for the Rothschilds. This has been closed and its boundary railing removed to open up the heart of the park for gentle strolling. Replicas of the 1920s benches from the early days of the Park and chunky seats carved from felled trees have been provided and Benugo are providing an excellent service in the new timber-clad café.

Mud dredged from the Round Pond was spread on open ground to the south; future archaeologists will wonder at the apparent 'ritual deposit' of golf and tennis balls there, revealed when the Pond was emptied! Seeded as a wild flower meadow, its stunning displays over the last two summers have been warmly welcomed and much tweeted.

The management of the estate has been transferred to a community interest company,

wholly owned by the two local authorities. It faces two big issues: raising sufficient income, without damaging the estate or alienating long-term users, to cope with savage cuts to local authority funding in the next few years, and balancing the vision of parkland as open space for quiet enjoyment with the income-generating events and facilities which may be essential to its survival.

Park: open daily, Museum: closed Mondays.

From your Editor

I have received excellent reports on many of our activities this year with many spectacular illustrations. To include them all I would need at least twice the space that I have available, even in this newly expanded edition of **GT news**, so I have created a new section under the Research tab of our website for **Event Reports**. There you will find illustrated accounts of our Japan, Denmark and Northern Ireland Study Tours and

more of what happened during our Summer Conference weekend.

It should prove possible to add archive accounts of earlier Tours and other events, with more illustrations than it is possible to include in our paper based editions.

My thanks, and apologies, to the disappointed authors, but I hope they will forgive this; the text account of the Japan tour alone takes ten of our **news** style pages...

Charles Boot

Report on visit to Halswell House, Somerset, 16 July 2018

Report by Mike Cousins

My last visit to Halswell was in February 1989, the house was suffering, the park and its buildings more so; Robin Hood's Hut (1765) was collapsing, with 'trespassers will be prosecuted signs', from one of which a mock noose was hanging, a nice touch I thought, and the Temple of Harmony (1764) gasping for survival through a swathe of greenery, and a target for vandals. All that has changed. Whilst the Temple received early attention through a separate trust, and the future of the Hut has been secured by the Landmark Trust, both of whom have done outstanding jobs in terms of restoration, it has been the arrival of Edward Strachan and his team that has brought about the broader plan for the future of the estate.

Edward acquired the property and 30 acres at the end of 2013. The house is in a state of refurbishment, all of it, from its Tudor past to its eighteenth-century makeover, but it still made for a perfect reception area with a well-prepared set of displays including maps, archival images and accompanying texts, and of course tea/coffee and biscuits. Edward gave a brief overview of Halswell, introducing the group to his resident team members including Roy Bolton and Ann

Manders. As the house is very much a working site at present, a safety talk preceded a tour of the principal rooms of the house, concluding with access to the rooftop to take in the panorama and lie of the estate and its buildings. Not the largest of parks, it does, however, benefit from retaining much of Charles Kemey's-Tynte's layout, which he started to realise from around 1740, right through to the time of his death in 1785. The plan is to restore it to this period.

Indeed it is Edward's vision to restore or reinstate one feature every year: the Rotunda (or 'Mrs Busby's Temple on the Lawn', 1755) was the first to benefit, now a far cry from my pictures of nearly thirty years ago showing it shrouded in plastic sheeting and chicken mesh. This marked the start of our tour of the grounds; the nearby 'Rock Work' screen (1754), which shows similarities with a Thomas Wright sketch in the Avery, still awaits attention in the future. However, the forecast for rain forced a hasty change of itinerary, which, as it turned out, proved a fortuitous decision, so the next stop was Robin Hood's Hut, a gothic eyecatcher after a design by Henry Keene, but with whispers of Batty Langley throughout. We

agenda



Mike Cousins

Halswell's Robin Hood' hut in 1989, note the noose near the warning (and architect's?) signs...

were fortunate that the Landmark Trust had reserved access for the visit, it being one of their many popular holiday lets, and Caroline Stanford (Landmark's historian) took us through its history and restoration, including the practicalities that had to be considered for appropriate re-use of the building; even members of the Halswell team had not been inside before.

Returning via the house for lunch, the afternoon tour started by visiting some of the restoration works nearer the house, and ... rain. Downpour over, we continued with the former gatehouse and manège/stables; these lesser buildings should not be overlooked as they were clearly well-conceived and adapted to fit with an overall plan. The conclusion of the day meant driving to, and parking up, near the Temple of Harmony. It is here where the Kemeys-Tynte's layout has suffered through the loss of several features: the Druid's Temple (1756), the Horse Monument (1765), but more noticeably, Mill Wood, a key aspect of the landscape with meandering paths,



Helen Senior

The Bathstone Bridge as described and illustrated by Helen Senior in **GHS news 92** Summer 2013...



Ian Sumner

... and as restored by the Landmark Trust in 2003

and a stream running through it, tripping over various cascades. Replanting of the wood has been carried out, respecting plans of 1756 and 1771, although mindful of continued access for future restoration projects of which the Bathstone Bridge (1755) is the most recent example (**below**). Exactly investigated, and beautifully restored (minus the term-like statues at present), it derives from a sketch by Wright (also in the Avery), and the question mark over its date has now been resolved. Restoration of the Nymphaeum and Neptune's Arch will hopefully follow.

Archaeological studies are a constant in all of the work at Halswell. The Druid's Temple which also owes its origins to Wright (frontispiece of *Designs of Arbours*), was built by the surveyor Jacob De Wilstar; its site is known and has been excavated. But the limited amount of contemporary evidence equally proves to be one of the major challenges for all the features on the estate, and there are many questions still to be answered. We know that



Mike Cousins

... and now, its restoration nearing completion; awaiting Terms, see **GHS news 92**, p.15-17.

Copplestone Warre Bampfylde was a frequent visitor to Halswell, and, as a friend of Kemeys-Tynte, gave him advice on the arrangement of water there. But did he actually apply any of his artful skills there, in the same manner as nearby Hestercombe?

The visit culminated with refreshments at the Temple of Harmony as the clouds started to

disappear. Sitting in the sun in the portico of a temple, drinking wine in the company of such enthusiasts and talking about their dreams for Halswell ... somewhat surreal, but I could get used to it. With thanks to Sally Jeffery for facilitating the visit, and Edward Strachan our congenial host.

A Landscape of Aspiration: Charles Tibbits, Humphry Repton and Barton Hall, Northamptonshire

Stephen Radley, based on his New Research Symposium presentation, 2 September 2018



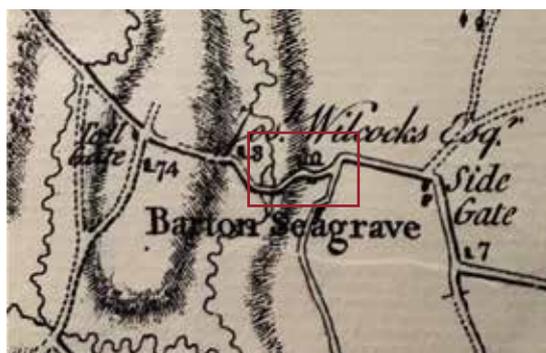
Charles Tibbits was born in 1764. His father John was a partner in Newnham, Everett, Drummond, Tibbits & Tanner, a bank in Lombard St, London. The family had roots on the Northamptonshire and Warwickshire border where John owned a small estate. In 1791 he secured a good marriage for Charles with Mary Woodyear. She was from a distinguished gentry family from the West Riding of Yorkshire. John gave Charles control of the family's affairs and within two years Charles bought Barton Hall in Barton Seagrave and invited Repton to design a new parkland and pleasure ground. This paper describes Repton's proposals for Barton Hall, a modest 'Gentry Landscape', and shows the extent to which they were implemented. It links the proposals for Barton Hall with other Repton designs in Northamptonshire and explains Charles Tibbits' decision to move his family to Barton Hall.

Barton Seagrave is a small village in central Northamptonshire about two miles south-east of Kettering along the turnpike roads that ran east-west between Cambridgeshire and Warwickshire

and north-south between Bedfordshire and Leicestershire. Barton Hall had been improved in the late 1720s and was unchanged in 1794. By May 1794 Humphry Repton had delivered a 'Red Book' to Charles Tibbits with a plan for a parkland of about 30 acres.

At Barton Hall there are three elements to Repton's plan. First, the parkland contains a circuit walk. The circuit began in woodland to the north of the Hall, turned west and descended a slope to the river. The walk continued south on a new long, narrow, wooded island created by a new branch of the river before returning to the Hall. Openings onto the river allowed views up to the Hall in the tradition of the 1760s circuit at Kedleston Hall.

The river Ise is narrow and can't be seen from the Hall so Repton's new [eastern] channel provided two lengths of river that could be viewed longitudinally. This also created, with the pasture slope down to the river, the open middle



Eyre & Jefferys, *The County of Northampton*, 2nd edn. 1791. Wicksteed Park abuts to the southwest.



Stephen's drawing based on Repton's proposal of 1794 (note change in scale from E&J to left)

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ground of a picturesque view from the house. Repton was aware that Charles was working to a budget. A footnote explains the cost of digging the new channel. Repton explained to his client the aesthetic value of the modest cost of the river alterations. Elsewhere in Northamptonshire he was less cost-conscious. At Laxton Hall (1806) Repton was thought to be 'very extravagant'.

Repton wanted to move the Turnpike Road so that the approach, the views and the pleasure ground of the Hall were a fit with Charles Tibbitts' status as a county gentleman. He also proposed removing an avenue of trees and establishing a 'perforated boundary' with partial screening. This would have improved the way the Hall was seen by visitors and travellers on the new road as well as allowing views out into the countryside and obscuring the village.

Third, he proposed modernization of the terrace that looked over the parkland towards the river. He suggested building a 'Green House' on the lawn near the house. He gave no details about the terrace and drew only a rough sketch of the Green House.



John Borlase Tibbitts' estate book, post 1842.

Charles Tibbitts' response to Repton's ideas was underwhelming. An avenue of trees was removed by selective thinning. The woodland walk was created and it would have been possible to make a circuit of the parkland. But there was no new river channel or island and the turnpike road was not moved. Charles Tibbitts was given property to the value of £10,000 when his son married Horatia Charlotte Lockwood in 1817. This may have enabled him to build the Orangery which probably dates from the early 1820s. Like the Dolben family at Finedon Hall, Charles may have

employed Repton primarily for the status of owning a 'Red Book'.

At Barton Hall Repton designed a modest parkland and circuit walk for a minor gentleman. Like all Repton sites in Northamptonshire, it was surrounded by a perforated, partial belt of woodland allowing views out to the appropriated countryside and hiding the village. In a county that Repton believed was lacking in picturesque scenery he did his best to create a picturesque landscape using the same foreground, middle ground, background formula. This was evident in early commissions at Finedon and Barton Seagrave and in later work at Harlestone Park and Laxton. What was most common was his underlying principle. For Repton, the character of the landscape, the scale of the buildings, parkland, water and woodland must fit physically in the landscape and with the social status of the owner.

The time and space during ritual, like a marriage ceremony, in which the participant(s) has left the pre-ritual state and has yet to enter the new state that will characterize their future is known as 'liminal space'. It's a location in time and space in which a transition occurs. Charles Tibbitts' purchase and improvement of Barton Hall, rather than anywhere else, can be seen as a liminal space and this informs our understanding of the role of the improvement of the landscape in the changing social dynamics at the turn of the nineteenth century.



Aerial photograph of Barton Seagrave, undated; though before the modern housing to the north and east that encroaches, but does not overlay, Repton's proposals. The Hall is now a hotel.

Charles Tibbitts had been set up as a county gentleman by his banker father. The family came from the edge, geographically and socially. Barton Hall is alongside a major county and regional crossroads. This paper suggests that

Charles Tibbits bought this particular Hall to raise the profile of his family on the social scene of the county. He wanted to place his family at the centre, literally and metaphorically, of Northamptonshire gentry life. He bought Barton Hall, conspicuous as it was by the turnpike road, so that he could reveal his social ambition and be seen by his would-be peers. He employed the most fashionable landscaper of the day, did not over-reach himself financially and waited to see if his family's status would be transformed.

He was successful. In 1804 he became the first Tibbits to be appointed High Sheriff of Northamptonshire. Charles married his only son Richard John, to Horatia Charlotte Lockwood. The Lockwood's were an established gentry family from Dews Hall in Essex. However, Horatia's uncle on her mother's side was Charles Manners-Sutton, the Archbishop of Canterbury. The social standing of Richard John Tibbits of Barton Seagrave was such that he was married by his wife's uncle, the Archbishop of Canterbury in his chapel at Lambeth Palace.

Three Cathedrals of Trees: from allegory to architecture

Camilla Allen, based on her New Research Symposium presentation, 2 September 2018

Camilla is a doctoral student in the Department of Landscape at the University of Sheffield where she is in the final stages of writing a thesis on the British forester and environmentalist Richard St. Barbe Baker, founder of the Men of the Trees and forgotten figure behind Africa's Great Green Wall. Her thesis draws upon previously unstudied archival material relating to Baker, critiquing and contextualising his own autobiography in light of sources which have previously been excluded from the narrative. It is research that she started at the end of her MA degree and for which she was awarded a University Scholarship to continue as a thesis, titled *Richard St. Barbe Baker: The Making of the Man of the Trees*.

Her paper, 'Three Cathedrals of Trees: From allegory to architecture' explored the history of Britain's three cathedrals of trees: one in Glencruitten Scotland, a second in Whipsnade, and the third in Newlands, Milton Keynes. The research on Tree Cathedrals is something that she has been doing alongside the main body of her doctorate, and demonstrates a neglected category of twentieth-century designed landscapes. Her talk traced the origins of these three unusual tree planting arrangements. In doing so Camilla demonstrated the connections between the poetry of Alexander Pope, the experimentation of Sir James Hall, and the theories of Simon Schama and Robert Pogue Harrison as set out in her abstract:

There are three formal Cathedrals of Trees in Britain: distinct and unusual places of worship, burial, contemplation and recreation; little-known, yet constantly growing and evolving. Two



The Glencruitten Cathedral of Trees in the 1920s

were created in the years immediately after the Great War: the first in Glencruitten near the port town of Oban in Scotland by businessman and philanthropist Alexander Mackay; the second on the edge of the village of Whipsnade in Bedfordshire by an accountant, E.K. Blyth; and over fifty years later, a third was added in the form of the Newlands Tree Cathedral in Milton Keynes by the landscape architect Neil Higson. This paper combines the distinct stories of these three Cathedrals of Trees, contextualising them in the historical studies of groves, alongside unstudied archival material relating to each site and asks, are they expressions of garden art, architecture or landscape and what do we know of their past, present and future? And, importantly, do these Cathedrals of Trees provide us with a form that has the potential to connect humankind to the natural and the spiritual through their highly contrived and extraordinary spatial structure?

Camilla's first introduction to these little-known

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designed landscapes came through her study of the Men of the Trees journal, *Trees*, published from 1936 onwards. In its first edition was a news article which described the planting of the Glencruitten Cathedral of Trees by Alexander Mackay created in the previous decade. Having studied Landscape Architecture, Camilla was immediately fascinated by this strange form, one which would have any manager or designer wondering about its evolution, care and appearance. But, back in 2015 there was no evidence online that the cathedral still existed, with only a cruciform shape visible in the satellite view of the area east of Oban on Google Maps.

Research Symposium created the catalyst for developing the research and reading already underway on tree cathedrals, and shaped its direction of enquiry so as to address the three forms as examples of 'arboreal architecture'; where trees have replaced the built elements of cathedrals to create places of memorial and worship for both private and public use. Although the evidence which links the three sites is scant, there are important themes which connect the three: the two interwar Tree Cathedrals have recently been proclaimed as war memorials, but there is little to suggest that that was their



The Mackay family

Alexander Mackay's granddaughter in the Tree Cathedral in the 1960s

An online call for information ultimately confirmed the survival, though it was six months before the great granddaughter of Alexander Mackay got in touch to say that she and her family were working to restore and publicise the cathedral of trees. Since then, Camilla has been able to visit Glencruitten prior to its initial restoration and she has subsequently made her way to the two English tree cathedrals. Having a paper accepted for the Gardens Trust New



Camilla Allen

The Glencruitten Tree Cathedral today, before restoration and replanting get underway...

primary purpose. Instead, there is demonstrably a personal intention, with a great deal of context provided by the epoch-defining conflict of the Great War and the healing power of trees.

Upon completion of her thesis, Camilla hopes to publish her research on Baker as a monograph, coinciding with the 100th anniversary of the formation of the Men of the Trees in Kenya in 1922, and in Britain in 1924, as well as developing her research on Tree Cathedrals into a longer

paper or book. She has contributed a chapter titled 'Groves as metaphor for the fragmented redwood forests of California' to *A History of Groves* (London: Routledge, 2018) edited by Jan Woudstra and Colin Roth, and is working on a paper with Biblical Scholar Robin Hamon on Baker's interpretation of the Bible.

These strands of research ably demonstrate the wealth of enquiry that started with Baker and the Men of the Trees. Their activities in Britain and overseas often end in rather unexpected and interesting places. One future thread is the Men of the Trees activity in relation to the aborted Coronation of Edward VIII and the tree planting

which marked that of George VI. The early journals of the society, whose objective was 'to plant and protect trees everywhere' trumpeted the creation of commemorative plantings for the coronation which were also undertaken by other organisations across the country. It is the intention to approach the various regional groups of the Gardens Trust to see whether collaboration in this project is feasible, and any early expressions of interest would be greatly welcomed by Camilla.

Contact Camilla: cjallen1@sheffield.ac.uk

Our other two presentations will appear in our next issue *GT news* 9 Spring 2019

Report on 'Champion Trees and the Lost Gardens of Yester', 6 September

Niall Manning

We were fortunate to visit Yester on a day of bright autumnal sunshine. An hour of illustrated talks took place at noon in the Village Hall and participants had a choice of joining the two-hour walk around the estate in the morning or afternoon.



Kristina Taylor

Arts and Crafts entrance gate to gardens c 1900

The first talk was given by Stephanie Leith, East Lothian archaeologist, who outlined the early history of the estate beginning with the granting of the Manor of Yester to the Anglo Norman Hugh Gifford by King David 1 of Scots in the 12th century when the first castle was built. In 1421 the collegiate church was founded and in 1582 the old tower house was built.

Kristina Taylor took up the story. In 1653 John Hay, 2nd Earl of Tweeddale succeeds to the estate. Considerable developments on the estate follow including extensive tree planting, the

erection of a wall, eight miles in circumference to enclose the park and the laying-out of enclosed gardens south of the house. These features are documented on John Adair's manuscript map of East Lothian in 1682. Five large oil paintings were commissioned for the house probably in 1690. These are listed in a 1976 Sotheby's sale catalogue and attributed to the Dutch artist James de Witt, but with no evidence to support this attribution. These paintings are very striking and show extensive formal gardens, a mount with a domed arbour on its summit and a cascade complete with a cascade house, fountains and several formal ponds. It would seem likely that these paintings were commissioned to document the gardens as they existed, rather than some form of proposal or capriccio. Shortly after the succession of the second Marquess in 1697 a new house was started designed by Alexander Macgill and James Smith. The old house was probably demolished by c.1705/06 but the formal gardens were still there several decades later as described by visitors including John Macky (1723), although the cascade is not mentioned. Certainly by the time of Bishop Pococke's visit in 1760 the formal gardens had been replaced by a more fashionable landscape of a "fine lawn with large trees interspersed". The suggested location of the cascade and ponds to the south-west of the house is intriguing as Kristina noted the absence of a good natural supply of water in this part of the park. Later OS maps show a mill lade

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in this area. So, there appears to be a long history of bringing water here. The 19th century also brought the construction of the walled garden in 1824 and the planting of exotic North American trees in 1871. Two sets of beautiful ironwork gates, in the park and at the entrance to the walled garden, date from the early 20th century and resemble the work of Thomas Hadden.

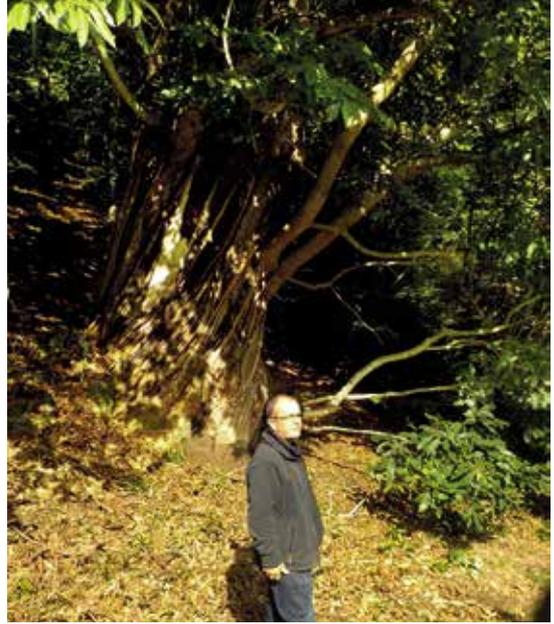


The restored gardener's house and revived apple espaliers in the walled garden.

Our third talk was given by Victoria Fletcher local historian and a member of the Hay family who lived in Yester with her extended family during the War. Her vivid memories include abundant produce from the walled garden and dairy; and a menagerie of animals and poultry. She recalled adventures in the more neglected parts of the park with ponds and bridges, now long gone.

The walk around the estate was led by Donald Rodger arboricultural consultant who is advising the current owners and is also involved in research on Heritage Trees throughout Scotland. Kristina and Stephanie provided input and on the afternoon walk we were joined by the Estate Manager and some of her staff. The lime avenue leading to the entrance gates was probably planted in 1680. Inside the gates are several fine specimens of North American exotics including *Abies procera*, *Pseudotsuga mensiezii*, *Sequoiadendron giganteum* and *Tsuga heterophylla*.

Going further up the avenue recent clearance has revealed an old yew tree with layering branches and strikingly contorted trunks. Nearby in a beechwood is a Champion Scotland beech 41m high and across the avenue a Morinda weeping spruce (*Picea smithiana*), another Scotland Champion. Nearer



Donald Rodger with sweet chestnut planted c.1680 measuring 6.38m girth and showing regeneration.

the House are several European larch possibly planted in 1739 (and said to come from Blair Atholl) and a magnificent variegated purple beech (*Fagus sylvaticus* 'purpurea tricolor') 22m high which is a Champion in Britain and Ireland.



There are several old pollarded sycamore trees in the park (**above**). The most memorable is a wonderful tree near the church, which was admired by John Claudius Loudon in 1837.

Altogether an excellent day. Written information provided, including a timeline and tree list, was very helpful. Dividing the participants into a morning and afternoon walk ensured a much better experience. Special thanks to Kristina, Stephanie and Donald for organising the day and to the owners Gareth and Nicola Woods for permission to visit. The event will hopefully stimulate further archival research and archaeological investigation into the complex history of this outstanding designed landscape.

other exhibitions, courses and events

please note these are **not** GT events, appropriate contact details are given for each event

The Enchanted Garden at the William Morris Gallery, London, E17 4PP continues to 27 January 2019

The exhibition explores how Morris's contemporaries and subsequent generations of artists, from the Pre-Raphaelites to the Bloomsbury Group, have responded to the allure of garden spaces, using them as stages for the magical, menacing and romantic. Many works in the exhibition reference real gardens that still enchant visitors today, including Morris's Red House and Kelmscott Manor, which supplied endless inspiration for him, his family and friends.

Featured artists include Claude Monet, Lucian Pissarro, Edward Burne-Jones, Stanley Spencer, Beatrix Potter, Cicely Mary Barker, Roger Fry and Vanessa Bell.

10am to 5pm, Tuesday to Sunday. Free.

Repton Revealed at the Garden Museum, London continues to 4 February 2019

This stunning exhibition celebrates Humphry Repton and his rare and beautiful Red Books; this exhibition brings together 24 Red Books and other watercolour paintings, many never publicly displayed before.

Entry to exhibition is included with your ticket to the Museum. Daily: 10.30am to 5pm, Saturdays 4pm (closed 1st Monday of month, 23 December to 2 January). Cost: £10, concessions available.



I am Ashurbanipal: King of the World at The British Museum, London continues to 24 February 2019

Ashurbanipal was king of the Neo-Assyrian empire. At the time of his reign (668–c. 631 BC) it was the largest empire in the world, stretching from Cyprus in the west to Iran in the east, and at one point it even included Egypt. Its capital Nineveh (in modern-day Iraq) was the world's largest city. This is at a time when the Greek city-states (like Athens and Sparta) were still in their infancy, and Rome was just a small settlement.

Assyrian reliefs were once brilliantly coloured, with the walls of great palaces and temples being covered in these intricate technicolour depictions. After thousands of years only small traces of pigment survive, but they can give us clues to



The British Museum

how the Assyrians decorated their impressive sculptures and reliefs. Our illustration gives an impression of these colours as they might have originally appeared in situ.

Cost: £17, concessions available.

LPGT Winter Lecture Series at 70 Cowcross Street, London EC1M 6EJ

Val Bott
Gunnersbury Park and its Gardens (see p.31)
7pm, Monday 10 December 2018

Paula Henderson
Gardens of the Great Strand Palaces
7pm, Monday 14 January

Lynn Parker
*Plant Drawings at
the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew*
7pm, Monday 11 February

Jeremy Rye
*The Shirley Wilderness:
an Early Ecological Garden*
7pm, Monday 11 March

All lectures are from 7pm to 8pm on Monday evenings. Doors open 6.30pm, for a glass of wine. Cost: £10 LPGT members, £12 otherwise, available online or on door

Nature's Wonders: Mary Somerset, Duchess of Beaufort, and the Circle of London Plant Collectors in the later 17th Century and beyond Study Day at Fulham Palace, London SW6 6EA 10am to 3.45pm, Tuesday 11 December 2018

The later years of the 17th and the early 18th century saw an intense interest in botany and plant

other exhibitions, courses and events

collecting, in particular of tender exotics. Pre-eminent among London collectors were the Duchess of Beaufort at Beaufort House in Chelsea, Bishop Henry Compton at Fulham Palace (where the Head Gardener was George London), and Queen Mary at Hampton Court. They and the gardeners and botanists who advised them also made herbariums, parts of which found their way into the vast collections of Sir Hans Sloane, which formed the basis for the foundation of the British Museum in 1759.



Bishop Henry Compton, 1632–1713

Our speakers are: Professor Mark Laird on *The Duchess of Beaufort's Last Years in London, 1708-1714*; Michael Lear on *Bishop Compton's C17th and early C18th Plantings at Fulham Palace and the Restoration Project*; Dr Terry Gough on *Queen Mary II's Exotics at Hampton Court Palace*; Dr Mark Spencer on *Herbariums and the Early Modern Garden*. In the Chair: Dr Todd Longstaffe-Gowan, Gardens Advisor to Historic Royal Palaces

After lunch we will visit the ongoing restoration of Compton's plantings with Head Gardener Lucy Hart.

Arrival: 10am (coffee and registration) for 10.15am start in the Drawing Room. Cost: £65 (including lunch and refreshments).

Book online or phone: 0207 839 3969.

Introduction to Garden History Course at Highbury, 4 Yew Tree Road, Birmingham B138QR

9.45am to 4.30pm, Tuesdays in January 2019

A new Course, with Tutors: Dr Jill Francis (Worcester University) and Advolly Richmond (The Gardens Trust)

Tuesday January 15

Session 1: Introduction to the course: What is a garden? What is garden history? How do we 'do' it?

Session 2: Elizabethan gardens, with case studies including the Elizabethan garden at Kenilworth, New Place Garden at Stratford-upon-Avon and Lyvedon New Bield in Northamptonshire.

Tuesday January 22

Session 1: Gardening in the seventeenth century, focussing on changes brought about by the voyages of discovery in to the New World and the rise of 'conspicuous consumption'.

Session 2: The eighteenth century: Arcadia, Rococo and the landscape garden. With debate: 'Capability' Brown, Vandal or Visionary?

Tuesday January 29

Session 1: The nineteenth century: including the gardens at Highbury and an illustrated walk around the grounds.

Session 2: Basic research skills: using archival material from Highbury, how do we go about finding out more about gardens and landscapes?

Cost: £150 for 3 sessions, with lunches & refreshments, £75 for NUS registered students. To book see: chamberlainhighburytrust.co.uk

RBGE Diploma Course in Garden History in association with The Gardens Trust from March 2019

The 2019–2021 Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh online Diploma in Garden History will be commencing in March 2019. The diploma offers a strong foundation, mainly focused on the history of British gardening and garden design as well as the conservation of British gardens and other designed landscapes.

The diploma comprises five units:

- The history of British garden design
- Italian gardens and their influence

- c. Historical aspects of gardening
- d. Victorian horticulture
- e. Conservation of gardens and designed landscapes

From the general survey of the growth, development and change of garden design in the first unit, the second explores the development and influence of Italian gardens on British garden design over the centuries. In the third unit, consideration is given to plant introduction by some of the pioneering plant collectors who were responsible for establishing many of the most influential plants in garden design. It also addresses the fascinating development of various valuable culinary and ornamental plants. The fourth unit focusses on the Victorian period, the influence and achievements of key figures and the legacy of their approaches to garden design. The final unit takes the knowledge and principles studied in the former units and applies them to the multifarious issues connected with the conservation and restoration of gardens and designed landscapes.

The overall aim of the course is to provide a firm but broad understanding of garden history and to furnish the student with the skills to explore all aspects of the subject. We also seek to create a context in which to make links to related fields of enquiry such as the history of art, architecture and botanical science.

The course is fully supported online and offers a blend of online learning in your own time with four study periods of two or three days based at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh.

Students will receive membership of the Gardens Trust for the two year's duration of the course.

For further details and an application form please look at: onlinecourses.rbge.ac.uk/index.php/courses/rbge-diploma-in-garden-history

Gardens of Viterbo with 'The Garden Historians' Tuesday 7 to Friday 10 May 2019

Lead by Deborah Trentham our tour takes us to the north of Rome, where in the hills and mountains of Lazio are some of the most stunning Renaissance gardens in the whole of Italy, made for the rich and powerful families, for princes and for men of the church. Gardens which expressed the interest in poetry, revealed in imagery relating to Ovid and Ariosto, secret gardens hidden away and flamboyant parterres



ready for parties and fireworks. Enjoy the peace and tranquillity of Bolsena, staying on the shores of the lake, in the Palazzo Il Vesconte.

The tour includes Villa Lante, the Palazzo Farnese, Castello Ruspoli with the owner Princess Claudia Ruspoli, Bomarzo and the Sacro Bosco, Isola Bisentina, with its Palazzi and churches once owned by the Farnese family.

Cost £900, not including flights. See: www.thegardenhistorians.co.uk for full details.

Garden History short courses at Denman, Oxfordshire

Denman is the WI's centre for learning, offering a wealth of opportunities to learn new skills on day schools and residential courses with a variety of garden related courses, apparently open to men as well! The courses are set in Marcham Park, its house and 100 acres of land. All residential courses include accommodation in an en-suite, uniquely decorated room, all meals and refreshments breaks, and hours of tutor-lead workshops. there are many more than I can include here.

History and Heritage: Basildon Park Monday 29 April to Wednesday 1 May

A chance to explore the historic house and gardens of this NT C18 house, purchased and refurbished by Lord and Lady Iliffe in the 1950's.

Cost: £370 (WI member), £405 (others) Oxford College Gardens: in two parts

Wednesday 1 May to Friday 3 May Explore the history and development of Oxford college gardens from their monastic foundations to the present day. The course includes visits to several gardens and others will be experienced through discussion and colourful presentations.

Cost: £370 (WI member), £405 (others) See: www.denman.org.uk

other exhibitions, courses and events and in brief

English Landscape Gardens: 1650 to the Present Day (Online Course) from Wednesday 8 May to Friday 19 July

The Oxford based on-line course in ten units, devised by Tim Richardson, re-starts for another year, with Jill Sinclair as course tutor.

See: www.conted.ox.ac.uk Code: O18P473HIV
EU fee: £270, non-EU fee: £295

The Sixth Garden Museum Literary Festival at Houghton Hall & Gardens, Norfolk Friday 21 & Saturday 22 June

Apparently Early-Bird tickets are already on sale, so contact the Museum...

See: gardenmuseum.org.uk or: 020 7401 8865

in brief

contributions from all our members and readers are warmly welcomed by the editor

New 'Rising Path' opens at Cambridge University Botanic Garden

The Rising Path is part of the Garden's Understanding Plant Diversity Project, a three year project supported by The Monument Trust, which aims to revitalise the contemporary relevance of the Garden's Systematic Beds for researchers, teachers and visitors by offering exciting new ways to explore how plant diversity is identified and organised; the science of plant taxonomy.



The Rising Path itself winds up to a viewing platform. From here visitors will be able to see for the first time the full extent and layout of the Systematic Beds from a three-metre high vantage point. In addition, accompanying interpretation at rest points placed along the path highlight the innovations that allowed plants to leave the water for life on land and to proliferate into the 400,000 species known today.

Professor Beverley Glover, CUBG Director says "We are thrilled to be opening the Rising Path to the public. This innovative structure is a key part of an ongoing project to re-examine, re-interpret

and re-display our Systematic Beds which will help visitors, students and scientists to understand more about plants, how they are related, and why this is so important for science."

Proposed Dean Valley Renovation: update Second Phase Feasibility Study published

The Second Phase Feasibility Study completes a suite of documents which Dean Valley Regeneration Ltd, a Scottish charity, have commissioned which outline the scope and costings for restoration work to the Dean Valley designed landscape owned by City of Edinburgh Council (CEC) and additional abandoned land.

This unique and special valley, with the Water of Leith running through it, is one of the City's green lungs and lies within our Edinburgh World Heritage site. The aim has been that by producing these studies and documents it will encourage CEC to apply for Heritage Lottery Fund grants which will bring the landscape up to Green Flag standard. Land Use Consultants have produced an informative report with proposals and photographs indicating the amount of work required. It complements the original First Phase Feasibility Study, see: deanvalley.org.uk

Writer-in-Residence for Essex Gardens Trust

The Essex Gardens Trust has appointed **Bella D'Arcy Reed** as Writer-in-Residence. The Trust believes it is the first Gardens Trust to create such a post. 'We have asked Bella not just to write for us herself, but to encourage creative writing about gardens and the landscape' says Chairman Thadian Pillai. 'We expect her to come up with some brilliant ideas!' Bella acted as Editor for the Trust's new-look Journal and is delighted to

accept the post. 'I am absolutely thrilled with it, as I love writing about gardens and I enjoy reading about how they, and the landscape, affect people. I am looking forward to working with the Trust very much, and presenting my ideas and working with people.'

HLF and NT launch Future Parks Accelerator

The new £10million Accelerator initiative aims to secure the future of urban parks and green spaces. The HLF have joined forces with National Trust to find and back ambitious and sustainable solutions to protect and enhance public parks and green spaces.

Open for expressions of Interest, Future Parks Accelerator (FPA) is a UK-wide £10m strategic initiative. It will enable up to eight local authorities and communities to develop and implement bold and innovative funding and management solutions for all their green spaces across, against a challenging backdrop of financial uncertainty.

The FPA will support places to grow the contribution parks make to civic life whilst becoming financially sustainable. It will involve discovering how parks and green spaces could be better used, managed and funded to serve community needs and aspirations now and over the next generation. "Our ambition is simple, we want to grow and secure the future of our public parks..." says Ros Kerslake, HLF's CEO.

With grant funding and support from a team of experts, the places chosen to be FPA pioneers will work together to catalyse and share innovation, learn rapidly together and build their capacity to lead for ambitious change both in their place and to benefit the rest of the UK.

It will encourage new partnerships whilst supporting the role of local authorities as vital owners, funders and co-managers of green spaces. It will promote an holistic approach, ensuring that all parks and green spaces in an area are protected and enhanced to deliver quality and fair access to green spaces for free for everyone. The initiative will run over two years and combine £5m in HLF grant funding with £5m in value of National Trust expertise.

Entries closed in November, and the decisions on which places will receive support will be made in February 2019. Find out more about Future Parks Accelerator by visiting the HLF parks webpage: www.hlf.org.uk

Seven parks are celebrating a £11.4million National Lottery investment

They range from expansive country parks spanning over 300 acres to historic urban parks of just 40 acres, plus there's an elegant Victorian seaside gardens. All will now be restored, rejuvenated and reimagined following news of National Lottery investment, which is funded jointly by HLF and the Big Lottery Fund.

These important spaces will be sustained for the future by restoring historic features and planting; creating new facilities including play areas, cafes and toilets; and improving habitats for wildlife.

- Durlston Country Park near Swanage is a cliff-top National Nature Reserve (NNR) and one of the UK's best sites for wildlife. It is located within the Durlston Park Estate, which was developed in the late 19th century by George Burt, who bought land around Durlston Head with the aim of creating a park and housing development. The park was created but the houses were never built.



- The Mount Pavilion and its Grade II registered gardens in Fleetwood, Lancashire (above) are a local landmarks. They were designed by the eminent architect and landscape designer Decimus Burton in the 1800s. This funding will enable the pavilion to be restored and brought back into regular use as an education centre, exhibition space and a function room for public events and receptions.
- Aden Country Park in Mintlaw in Aberdeenshire was originally the site of a medieval deer

in brief

monastery and for more than 200 years, the home and gardens of the Russell family. During the Second World War, it was used as an army barracks. After the war the house was left to fall into ruin. Aberdeenshire Council recognised its value as an area of stunning natural beauty with a wide diversity of architectural features, habitats and woodlands and purchased it in 1974. It was designated a country park the following year.

- Headstone Manor Park in London spans 23 hectares and is all that remains of the much larger, ancient 'Heggston' farm, which was first recorded from 1300. Farming continued on the land up until 1928, when it was purchased by the then local authority, Hendon Rural District Council, to create a public park.
- Faversham Recreation Ground in Faversham, Kent was established in 1860 by a local solicitor, Henry Wreight, who bequeathed his £70,000 estate. A bandstand was added towards the end of the 19th century, and sporting events began to be held on the rec.
- Great Linford Manor Park in Milton Keynes covers an area of 16 hectares and was the grounds of a former manor house. Its landscape includes 17th and 18th-century features including the water gardens and a wilderness garden believed to have been the work of Richard Woods, a contemporary of 'Capability' Brown.



Vic Cleveley

Gorsedd stone circle at Bailey Hill in Mold

- Bailey Hill Park in Mold, Flintshire surrounds the extensive remains of the 11th-century Mold Castle. Built by the Lords of Molsdale, it has an illustrious history: destroyed by Llywelyn ab Iorwerth (Prince of Gwynedd) in 1199 and repaired; it was taken by Dafydd ap Llywelyn (Prince of Wales) in 1245; and reclaimed by

Edward I in 1276. It was established as a park in the 1920s by Mold Urban District Council and works at the time included the addition of gates, tennis courts and cenotaph. The Gorsedd Stone Circles were erected in 1923 for the proclamation of Welsh Cultural festival: the National Eisteddfod, which was repeated again in 1990.

Major accessions to repositories in 2017 relating to Horticulture [grrrr!]

Local Archives

Berkshire Record Office

Sunningdale and District Gardening Association: records 1936-2016 (D/EX2661)

Denbighshire Archives

Henllan Flower Show Committee: records including minutes, programmes, correspondence and related papers 1972-2014 (DD/DM/1914)

Derbyshire Record Office

Sir Joseph Paxton (1801-1865), politician, architect and landscape gardener: deeds, abstracts of title and other papers relating to his Matlock and Derbyshire estates c1618-1899 (D8074)

Devon Archives and Local Studies Service (South West Heritage Trust)

Ide Gardening Club: records 1979-2008 (ZAKE)

East Sussex Record Office

Wivelsfield Gardening Club: records 1981-2013 (12986)

Gloucestershire Archives

Beale-Browne family of Salperton: Hazelton House slides relating mainly to garden and planting, with property records 1942-1964 (D269)

Coln, Hatherop, Eastleach, Quenington and Southrop Garden Club: records including minutes, accounts and activity files 1986-2014 (D14300)

Hampshire Archives and Local Studies

Hampshire Federation of Horticultural Societies: minutes and news bulletins 1961-2010 (54A17)

Kent History and Library Centre

Maidstone Horticultural Society: minutes, financial records, programmes of events, show schedules, members' handbook and history of the society 1935-2013 (Acc/2017/51)

Norfolk Record Office

Great Yarmouth Flower Club: minutes 1954-2009 (SO 372)

Norfolk Agricultural Association: additional financial records 1896-1992 (ACC 2017/64)

Norwich and Norfolk Licensed Victuallers Association: records 1953–1991 (Acc 2016/276)
Albert Hazell (1907–2009), MP, President of the National Union of Agricultural Workers: additional family and professional papers c1960–1979 (ACC 2017/59)

Nottinghamshire Archives

Farnsfield and District Horticultural Society: records including minutes, trophy winners register, accounts, programmes, photographs and correspondence 1990–2016 (9237)

Orkney Archive

East Mainland Horticultural Society: books of prize winners 1951–2015 (D149)

Powys Archives

Llandrindod Wells Horticultural Society: records including minutes, membership list, photograph albums and news cuttings 1947–2105 (R/DX/70)

Watton Allotment Association, Breconshire: records including minutes, membership lists, waiting lists, copies of tenancy agreements and correspondence 1994–2016 (B/SOC/35)

Suffolk Record Office, Ipswich Branch

Watermill Farm, Middleton: ledgers, National Agricultural Service Advisory leaflets, and local branch of National Farmers Union circulars 1947–2013 (HD3076)

Stowmarket and District Beekeepers Association: minute books and exhibitors and prizes awarded at Honey Show 1947–1998 (GC855)

Suffolk Beekeepers Association: minutes, members lists, reports and accounts 1907–2007 (GC850)

West Sussex Record Office

Papers and slides by A Delves relating to Wisteria on the old Royal West Sussex Hospital, believed to be the earliest example in Britain c1990–1999 (18972)

Wirral Archives Service

Heswall Flower Club: committee minutes, accounts correspondence and photographs 1966–2016 (2306)

National Archives

National Library of Scotland, Manuscript Collections

Norah Mears (1887–1967), landscape gardener: letters 1908–1931 (Acc.13852)

University Archives

Trinity College, Dublin

Hubert Marshal Butler (1900–1991), writer and market gardener: personal and literary papers 1950–1991 (TCD MS11564)

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Strategic Development Officer:

Linden Groves

HLP Officer: Tamsin McMillan

Editors

Editor *Garden History*: Dr Barbara Simms

Editor *GT news*: Charles Boot

Membership enquiries

phone: 01787 249 286

email: membership@thegardenstrust.org

GDPR: enquiries@thegardenstrust.org

GT events diary 2018 and 2019

7 December 2018	London Lecture by Dr David Jacques on The Elizabethan Garden reimagined
13 December	Members Meet Up, Warwickshire
2019	
15 January 2019	Members Meet Up, Newcastle
15 January	Grapevine — Plants in Garden History: 2, London Course starts
30 January	London Lecture by Dr Anna Keay on The Elizabethan Garden at Kenilworth
13 February	Members Meet Up, Lincolnshire
20 February	London Lecture by Professor Simon Hiscock on The Oxford Botanic Garden
6 March	London Lecture by Dr Sally Jeffery on Hawksmoor at Castle Howard
12 March	Protecting Historic Parks and Gardens Training Day at Bramham Park, W. Yorks
27 March	London Lecture by Dr Barbara Simms on John Brookes
30 March	Sharing Landscapes competition closing date (see p.5)
10 April	London Lecture by Professor Tom Williamson on Studying Orchards
11 April	Bath Lecture by Dr Marion Harney on The Pleasure Gardens of Bath
17 April	Birmingham Spring Lecture by Joe Hawkins MA on Hagley Park
28 April to 5 May	Study Tour to Palermo and the West of Sicily
1 May	Visit to Hagley Park, Worcestershire, with Joe Hawkins MA
10 to 12 May	Industrialists' Landscapes Conference, South Wales
30 May	Secrets and Scandal at West Wycombe Park, visit
31 May to 2 June	The Picturesque Garden in England, at Rewley House, Oxford
15 to 21 June	Picturesque Landscapes around the Clyde, and the West Coast of Scotland
11 July	Visit to Castle Howard Archive and Gardens, North Yorkshire
6 to 8 September	AGM and Annual Conference, Oxford
7 September	Annual General Meeting, The Queen's College, Oxford
November	Gardens of Victoria and Tasmania, Australia

Details and booking information for all these events can be found inside on pages 19 to 29, or look at our website: www.thegardenstrust/events for updates

GT news correspondence and items to The Gardens Trust head office, headed **GT news** or email the editor Charles Boot: news@thegardenstrust.org

Please make a note of our new publications schedule

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