



GT NEWS

14 Autumn 2020

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Front cover image:
 The Jellicoe watercourse at the former Cadbury Factory, Moreton, Wirral enters the Historic England Register at Grade II. Every garden needs a champion, and Ed Bennis, Chairman of Cheshire Gardens Trust, has been just that person. Along with Annabel Downs and with support from the Gardens Trust and Cultural Landscape Foundation in the US, the campaign to register the site has paid off, now it just remains to protect it. The GHS visited on our Liverpool Summer Conference in 2008. See p.26/27.
 Photos by Charles Boot.

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GT NEWS

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Join Us

If you or someone you know is not a member, please join us!

Your support is vital in helping the Gardens Trust to protect and campaign for historic designed landscapes. Benefits include *GT News*, our journal *Garden History*, and access to exclusive member events.

A special rate is available to County Garden Trust members. Join today at: thegardenstrust.org/support-us/



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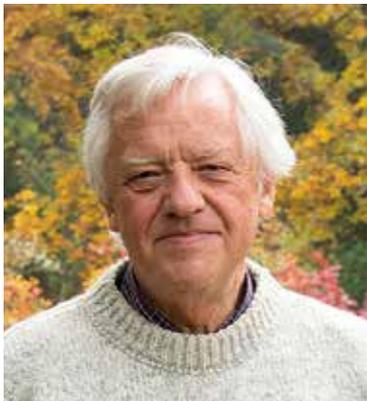
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From the Garden Chair

Peter Hughes



All enthusiastic gardeners know that the one thing they never have time to do is to sit down and admire their handiwork. So the title of this piece is an intended *double entendre*. I am hoping to make it a regular item during my time chairing the Gardens Trust.

In our garden in Cumbria, we have a number of seats. They are strategically placed to take advantage of different aspects of the garden. Some of them are painted red and these have attracted lots of favourable comments from visitors. No one has been so rude as to say that they do not approve. The idea came from a trip to Japan. It inspired me to install the first seat shown in the photograph. Others followed and now there are four dotted round the garden. There is never time, though, to tarry, sit down, and enjoy the views. Always the eye will fall on something that requires your immediate attention.

When Jim Bartos informed the Board of Directors that he would be stepping down as Chairman of the Trust in September after the AGM, we all

envisaged a conventional meeting in which Jim could be thanked appropriately for all that he did over the GT's first five years. Now that there is talk of a vaccine and the first glimmer of light at the end of a long tunnel, hopefully we may soon be able to start planning for face-to-face events, and an occasion to mark Jim's contribution. He hands on to me an organisation in strong heart and one which is well-placed to face the post-pandemic world.

Historians are likely to look back to 2020 as one of those years of fundamental change that stand out over the centuries, like 1066, 1485, 1789, and 1914. It is as if someone has pressed the accelerator on changes that would have happened over time but not all at once. The office will never be the same again. Neither will be the daily commute to work. Confined to their homes, people have re-discovered the importance of the countryside and open spaces. Their gardens have become havens from

the virus-infected world outside.

The GT has responded to the pandemic in ways that no one could have envisaged just a few months ago. The most impressive development has been the work done by David Marsh, assisted by an enthusiastic team of volunteers. From a standing start in March, he has put together an excellent and wide-ranging series of online talks and lectures. They are introducing the GT to a much wider audience, not only across the UK, but overseas as far away as New Zealand and Russia. We are working on a full programme for 2021 of lectures, and training courses on subjects such as conservation and planning for both amateur and professional audiences and this will continue to be an important part of our work for the future.

The pandemic has also enhanced the power of social media. It is not an unalloyed blessing, but it does provide opportunities to bring the GT to the attention of some



A 'Red Seat' in position at High Moss.

Peter Hughes

who would otherwise be unaware of our existence. We have staff and volunteers who look after our presence on social media. They do a terrific job and are helping to raise awareness amongst a younger and diverse audience. Recently, we passed the 2000 marker for our number of followers on Twitter. We have seen similar growth on both Facebook and Instagram.

There is, though, no substitute for the opportunity to visit and appreciate the variety and beauty of our great garden heritage. For much of 2020, historic gardens have been closed to visitors.

Although many did re-open after the first lockdown was lifted, some did not. The loss of income from admission charges and other sources of revenue has created financial difficulties for many in the heritage sector, but there is none with a higher profile than the National Trust. Deep concern has been caused by leaked details of its 're-set' programme. The impact of redundancies on the Trust's ability properly to conserve the gardens in its care is another source of huge concern. Some important and notable gardens have not re-opened and their futures are uncertain. The GT is collecting information to monitor the situation, and we have, so far, focused our attention on Rievaulx Terrace, a Grade I listed picturesque garden in Yorkshire, and The Kymin in Monmouth [*GHS news* 90, 2012, 15–16], neither of which have re-opened and in the case of The Kymin, where the resident custodians have been made redundant. I have written to the Director General of the Trust to raise our concern and await her response.

Black clouds can have silver linings, and a potential gain from the NT's financial problems is that it has caused it to put some



Peter Hughes

The view at Studley Royal, towards the site of the proposed new visitor facilities, right at the junction point between the 'Classical' and 'Chinese' gardens [see p.38].

of its future plans on hold. These include the proposed development of new visitor facilities at Studley Royal, to be sited alongside the canal gates. The plans are out of keeping with the site's World Heritage status and have caused grave concern. I went there in September, on a glorious late summer day, to look for myself. We will be keeping a close eye out for any revival of the proposal.

The National Trust and the Gardens Trust share the same

commitment to conservation. In the case of the NT it is enshrined in statute; to 'promote the permanent preservation for the benefit of the nation' of places in its care 'of beauty or historic interest'. We will do all we can to encourage the Trust to hold fast to it.

Every year, the GT holds a 'Meet-up' for CGT Chairs or representatives. In the past this has been held in London which has, understandably, discouraged some from attending. This year the event moved online. An impressive total of 30 of the 36 CGTs were represented. They came from all corners of the country, including the chairs of my own county, Cumbria, and the other most distant county, Cornwall. It provided an excellent opportunity for us all to share our thoughts on how to keep going during the pandemic. But what it also demonstrated is how for the future we can all keep in regular touch without having to trek long distances for meetings.

Keep well and keep safe.



Wiki Commons

The Ionic Temple at Rievaulx, 1758 near Helmsley, North Yorkshire

news & campaigns

The 2020 AGM of the Gardens Trust



The Garden Trust's sixth AGM was held on 5th September 2020 by zoom. Due to COVID-19 and the restrictions on public gatherings, the AGM was held as a closed meeting for Board members only. Members were encouraged to participate in the meeting by sending in their proxy votes. A total of 76 Proxy Forms were received from Individual Members and 19 from CGTs.

The deaths of the following members were noted with sadness: Peter Hayden (Vice President

of the GHS and the GT, former GHS Chairman and Treasurer); Ray Desmond (Life Vice President of the GHS and GT and founder member of the GHS); Andrew Semple; Herbert Robinson; Keith Honess; Gill West; and James Russell.

Due to the unusual circumstances this year, the meeting dealt with procedural matters only. Instead, written reports from the Board of Directors, Treasurer and Committee Chairs were incorporated into the notice of

the meeting. A Five Year Review written by James Bartos was tabled. Trustees agreed that this is an excellent record of the Trust's achievements during the five years since the merger.

The minutes of the fifth AGM (held on 7th September 2019) and the re-appointment of Averillo & Associates as Independent Examiners were agreed and the Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2019 were received.

Robert Peel, John Sales and Steffie Shields were re-elected as Vice Presidents for a further term of five years and James Bartos and Michael Symes were elected as Vice Presidents for an initial term of five years. Sarah Dickinson and Lisa Watson were re-appointed as Directors for a term of one year, which will bring their term of office to the maximum term of six years. James Bartos stood down as Chairman of the GT at the AGM and Christopher Blandford was elected as a Director.

At the close of the meeting, the outgoing chairman (**above left**) was presented with a book on the wines of Bordeaux and a case of wine from the region as a token of appreciation for all his hard work over the last five years.

A Five Year Review

Dr James Bartos, Chairman 2015–2020

The Gardens Trust, formed from the merger of the Garden History Society (GHS) and the Association of Gardens Trusts (AGT) at their AGMs in 2015, had at the outset the advantage of the resources and histories of both those organisations. The Business Plan that formed the basis of the merger stated a number of aims: to speak with a more powerful voice for the protection of designed landscapes; to play a key conservation role in the planning system as statutory consultee and through supporting the conservation efforts of the CGTs; to be an internationally recognised centre of excellence in the research and publication of garden history; and to be financially sustainable over the long term. The principle of voting equality between the two classes of individual members, inherited from the GHS, and County/Country Gardens Trust (CGT) members, inherited from the AGT, was enshrined in the new Articles.

Despite the history of its predecessor organisations, as a new organisation the Gardens Trust effectively started from a standing start, due to two factors: one was that two organisations had to be brought together to function as one, efficient organisation and the other was that a number of key decisions and projects had been deliberately deferred for a number of years due to the upcoming merger; these now had to be dealt with.

Restructuring

The first several years of the Trust involved a number of significant

restructurings. On the administrative side, our two administrators inherited respectively from the GHS and the AGT developed separate roles, with Lou Cooper becoming Administrator and Teresa Forey-Harrison becoming Finance Officer and CGT Co-Ordinator; three desks at the Cowcross Street offices were reduced to two; expensive outsourcing of bookkeeping was taken in-house by our Hon Treasurer, Lisa Watson; and new and more efficient arrangements were put in place with regard to online banking, insurance and other matters.

The Conservation effort was also significantly restructured, with the departure of the Principal Conservation Officer and increased roles for the Casework Manager, Alison Allighan, and Conservation Officer Margie Hoffnung, together with a more proactive role being taken by the Conservation Committee. Combined with increased involvement of the CGTs through the capacity building efforts of our Historic Landscape Project (HLP) officers, the conservation restructuring led to a significantly increased number of conservation case responses.

Both the conservation and the administrative restructuring created a considerably lower cost base for the Trust, but by creating smarter ways of working internally also created increased rather than reduced productivity.

Over time, other significant reorganisations occurred. The Admin and Finance Committee

took over responsibility for membership that had been the purview of a short-lived Membership Committee and also responsibility for the development and maintenance of our website. The original Events Committee and Education, Publications and Communications Committee increasingly found the distinction between events and education to be artificial; the Committees began to meet jointly in 2017 and became a single Committee in 2018, titled Education and Events. 2017 saw the creation of a new Trust-wide role of Strategic Development Officer, reporting into the Admin and Finance Committee, and the appointment of Linden Groves, previously heading the HLP, to that role. Tamsin McMillan then took on the leadership of the HLP, assisted by Margie Hoffnung and since 2019 also by Sally Bate. In 2017, we engaged a Communications Advisor, Susannah Charlton, to help the Trust achieve more efficient and effective external communications.

New Procedures and Infrastructure

As a new organisation, the Gardens Trust Board initially undertook some simple but crucial decisions, including notably the selection of a logo and of a three-word tagline, 'Research Conserve Campaign', both with a view to creating a new organisational identity.

All members of staff were put on new contracts with the same general provisions, and each member of staff was assigned a particular Board member as line

manager. We also initiated annual reviews for staff, involving written self-assessments and meetings with line managers, an important process both for the Trust as an employer and for the development and morale of staff.

Crucial to the development of the new organisation was the development of a new website. This involved a new design with the help of an outside firm specialising in charity websites and then a painstaking process of populating the website page by page with material that was either taken or adapted from the old GHS site or was newly written. The population process itself led to certain design changes, and there have been a few design enhancements since. In addition to its smart and up-to-date look, the new site has a huge range of functionality, serving as a platform to announce events and news, to enable the purchase of tickets for events, to be informative about our numerous activities, to serve as an archive for Trust publications, to be a hub resource for a vast range of HLP and conservation guidance and to permit someone to join or support us.

Our unique Conservation Casework Log, onto which weekly planning applications are logged, together with GT and CGT responses, was upgraded to a new platform and serves as a vital tool for us and other organisations.

We initiated a new annual budget and planning process, involving separate meetings between the Chairs and Vice Chairs of each committee with the GT Chair and Treasurer, leading to a balanced budget being produced at the beginning of the year. We also created much more detailed and precise management accounts that are now presented to the Board quarterly and that

also feed into improved and more transparent annual published accounts. These changes took several years to implement.

Expanded and New Activities

The first five years of the Trust saw both expanded and new activities across all areas in which the Trust engages.

The core logic of the merger was the working together of the Trust's professional conservation staff and the volunteers working on conservation and planning applications in the CGTs. Through the capacity building and training activities of the HLP, which substantially increased CGT volunteer involvement, and through a successful partnership between the Trust's conservation staff and CGTs, the amount of planning responses increased considerably... in 2016, the first full year of the Trust's operations, which itself benefitted significantly from the new structure, 257 written planning responses were submitted by the GT and CGTs plus 128 'no comment' responses; in 2019, 466 written planning responses were submitted by the GT and CGTs plus 604 'no comment' responses. Over the years, both Committee members and staff have been particularly involved in certain key sites of national importance, at pre-application stage, in negotiations to reach sensitive solutions or in campaigns to block harmful development. The Committee has also published various forms of guidance, including for local planning authorities with respect to their statutory responsibilities.

Early on, the Trust's Board took the decision to be a campaigning organisation, both with respect to particular sites and more broadly, hence the inclusion of the word 'Campaign' in the three-word tag

line. The Trust has campaigned for the protection of public parks, particularly in light of local government funding cuts, participating in a parliamentary enquiry on this topic as well as launching a report on the subject and acting as one of the founding organisations of the Parks Charter, a wake-up call to government. In 2017 we launched a campaign called 'Compiling the Record' to highlight important but overlooked designed landscapes of the post-war period. This has resulted in 2020 in Historic England adding 24 new entries for gardens and designed landscapes made between the 1960s and 1990 to its National Heritage List for England, thereby doubling the number of such sites that are now protected. This received a considerable amount of national publicity.

Also under our campaigning banner, in 2018 we organised a year-long celebration of the bicentenary of the death of Humphry Repton, involving CGTs and other groups around the country researching and publishing articles and books about sites where he worked and organising related events. With a very significant grant from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, we also launched a campaign in 2018 and 2019 called 'Sharing Repton: Historic Landscapes for All' that enabled us to pilot activities around the country to introduce new people and wider audiences to historic parks and gardens, accompanied by skill sharing amongst volunteers and written materials to help similar initiatives in the future. Both of the Repton campaigns were conceived and project managed by Linden Groves, in her role as Strategic Development Officer, as is our current campaign for 2020–22, 'Unforgettable Gardens'.

This will focus on what gardens and designed landscapes mean to people, the threats they face and how people can get involved to help save them for future generations. These themes have become particularly urgent with the advent of Covid-19 and its consequences.

Alongside and helping to enable our conservation and campaigning activities, the Trust's HLP has energetically pursued and expanded its mission to train and support CGT and other volunteers in conservation and planning issues. This involves multiple CGT networking meet-ups around the country; planning and research training days; one-on-one support of CGTs; and the provision of training and guidance materials. Beginning in 2016, the HLP has hosted an annual 'Historic Landscapes Assembly' with attendees from the GT, CGTs and external organisations. The Assembly has been held in London, Birmingham and York and has become an important hub event for the landscape heritage sector; in 2019 representatives from 19 external organisations attended. Beginning in 2018, the HLP has also facilitated an annual 'Chairs' Meet Up' amongst CGT Chairs and GT Board members. The HLP has also attracted training contracts from externally funded projects, demonstrating that the GT is viewed as a valued training partner.

The Events team has developed a very extensive and varied range of activities over the years that offer academic and more popular events illuminating garden history as well as conservation efforts. These include a Winter Lecture series, held variously in London, Bath and Birmingham; day-long study tours to important and interesting sites around the

country; and longer trips to places as near as Scotland and as far away as Japan and Australia. We have also hosted major conferences with partnering institutions, including a two-day conference on Chinese gardens and landscapes at Sheffield University and a joint symposium with the Garden Museum in London on new Repton research, to name but two. The annual Conference and AGM has settled into a two night and two day conference held in a different place each year that includes lectures, local visits and research papers presented by scholars at our 'New Research Symposium'.

Volunteers are at the heart of everything we do, including volunteers in the CGTs, on the GT Board and Committees and otherwise supporting our activities. The annual Conference also provides an opportunity to present an annual 'Gilly Drummond Volunteer of the Year Award'.

In addition to the New Research Symposium, the Trust has continued to support excellence in research and its dissemination through our leading peer-reviewed semi-annual journal, *Garden History*, through our newsletter, *GT News*, now a revamped 48 pages in colour that is issued three times each year and through the annual 'Mavis Batey Essay Prize'.

A new educational initiative was begun in 2017 by Dr David Marsh, co-Chair of the Education and Events Committee, under the brand name 'Grapevine', designed to increase the range and spread of garden history courses across the country. Grapevine has proved extremely popular and has held one-day introductory courses to garden history across the country and more specialised courses at the Institute of Historical Research in London.

Over the years, our

communications effort has expanded into different media and has become much more organised and influential. We can now communicate on a rapid and organised basis through the website, through *GT News*, through a monthly *e-news* that began in 2018 sent to email lists vetted under GDPR and through organised social media postings on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram which are allocated to particular staff and volunteers. Additionally, Dr David Marsh publishes a weekly Gardens Trust 'blog', which can be accessed through the website.

Financial Stability

Subsequent to the first year of restructuring, our financial statements from 2017 onwards have consistently shown a small surplus each year, despite supporting hugely expanded activities. Our main on-going sources of income are grants from Historic England and membership income (individual and CGT), but we also have a diversified set of other important income sources, including: events; education; investment income; publications (back issues, JSTOR and royalties); and third party contracts where we benefit from a margin on the time worked. Additionally, we have had very significant project income from Historic England and the National Lottery Heritage Fund and other bodies where the amount of work we do is tailored to the project grant.

Investments have grown very significantly over the years through legacy giving that we have added to investments. It is a strategic objective of the Trust that investments should continue to grow in the future and, aside from the annual income that is generated, not be spent on annual expenses or projects.

Hand Over

Individual membership had shown a long decline over many years, both the original GHS membership and then the Gardens Trust membership. We have both a strategic and financial imperative to increase individual membership. As part of a membership drive, in 2018 we undertook an on-line membership survey, and in 2019 we launched a special offer to CGT members to also become GT members to support the work we do jointly. Through this and other general membership efforts we have seen an overall reversal in the trend to a positive trend in individual member numbers over 2019 and 2020. Various targeted drives will continue in coming years.

Succession planning

After five years, I stood down as Chairman of the Trust and as Board member at the 2020 AGM, held on September 5th, having come to the end of my current term on the Board. The Board elected Peter Hughes QC as Chairman, Peter having been

elected to the Board and the Admin and Finance Committee in 2018. A number of other Board members will come to the end of their terms in 2021. During 2020 we had a very successful advertisement and interview process, which resulted in the election of a new Board and Conservation Committee member to fill the Board vacancy created by my standing down and six additional highly qualified members to the Conservation and the Education and Events Committees.

2020

In 2020 we experienced the shock of Covid-19, the shutting down of events and the cancellation of our annual Conference, scheduled for early September. However, the Gardens Trust is in the fortunate position that most of our income streams remain intact, and we are not reducing staff hours or our level of activity. Most of our staff were already working from home, and our conservation effort

effectively continues as before. The HLP staff together with our Strategic Development Officer have seized the opportunity to further develop online training materials, to hold virtual meetings and to continue capacity building outreach through multiple platforms, including social media. The New Research Symposium was held through a webinar, and Grapevine courses moved on-line, proving to be hugely popular. Although coming together in person can be invaluable, and we look forward to the day when that will again be possible, we believe that these new internet-based methods of working will prove to be of lasting benefit.

I believe that the Gardens Trust has well fulfilled the aims of the merger that created it and that in the next five years it will come to even greater national prominence as an important heritage organisation, finding new ways of doing things and new audiences as it continues to research, conserve and campaign.

The Gardens Trust celebrates five successful years as its first Chair, Dr James Bartos, hands over the reins to Peter Hughes QC

On 5 September 2020 at the AGM of The Gardens Trust, Dr James Bartos stepped down as Chairman. He has led the charity from its formation five years ago and helped to establish it as the leading body for the conservation and protection of our historic gardens and parklands. The Board of the Gardens Trust has elected current Board member Peter Hughes QC as the next Chairman of the Trust.

Since 2015 the Gardens Trust

has tackled thousands of planning threats to historic parks and gardens, trained hundreds of volunteers, celebrated key figures such as ‘Capability’ Brown and Humphry Repton, held fun events that reached many people who were new to historic parks and gardens through its inclusive Lottery project, campaigned to save public park funding, launched a new website including over 300 guidance and research resources, and ran a groundbreaking project to

research and conserve undervalued 20th century landscapes.

As a statutory consultee in the planning system, the Gardens Trust has received nearly 10,000 planning consultations for England since 2015, and with its volunteer colleagues in the County Gardens Trusts has provided expert responses to around 4,000 potential threats to historic parks and gardens. Its ongoing efforts are helping to save important historic landscapes like Painshill in Surrey

and Kedleston in Staffordshire from damaging changes such as new roads, housing estates and misguided development. The Trust also provides advice to developers in the pre-planning and planning stages and has supported development that is sensitive to the historic significance of the site, as at Tottenham in Wiltshire.

In the last five years, our capacity-building officers have trained over 500 volunteers, on topics ranging from responding to planning applications, to heritage values, to social media.

During Jim's time as Chairman, the Trust has also acted as a campaigning body and as a hub organisation for the landscape heritage sector. For instance, we contributed to the parliamentary debate about the future of public park funding and we host an annual Assembly for the landscape sector, including for planning officers. One of the Trust's main objectives is to promote our national heritage to as wide and diverse an audience as possible. As part of a project called 'Sharing Repton' funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, we piloted five activities across the country, attended by 1,654 people, with more than another 1.5 million getting involved through media.

Underpinning all our activities has been excellence in research and scholarship. We publish the leading peer-reviewed journal *Garden History*, as well as *GT News*, and support research symposia and training days. We also offer lectures, educational courses, site visits and trips here and abroad.

The Gardens Trust is extremely proud of its achievements during its first five years and would like to thank Jim Bartos for his wise and firm leadership in steering us through.

Looking back on the past five years, Jim says, "It has been an honour and a privilege to be the first Chairman of the Gardens Trust since its formation from the merger five years ago of the Garden History Society and the Association of Gardens Trusts, then the umbrella organisation of the 36 County Gardens Trusts. Given this history, the Trust started with the great advantages of dedicated and experienced volunteers on the Board and the committees and a dedicated and professional staff. The early years involved very significant restructuring of our activities to create one efficient organisation. The logic of the merger, bringing together the expertise of a professional staff with volunteers in the counties, has worked, as evidenced by an exponentially larger number of planning applications that we have been able to deal with jointly. I am pleased to say that other goals of the merger have also been fulfilled: a much higher profile nationally for the Trust and 'living within our means', achieving small surpluses each year. I am confident that the Trust will have a great future and will play an important role in safeguarding and promoting the national landscape heritage."

Jim is succeeded as Chairman by Peter Hughes QC. Peter was a senior barrister and judge, and since his retirement has studied for a Master's degree in Garden and Landscape History. He lives in the Lake District, where he cares for an Arts and Crafts garden. Peter says, "This is a challenging time for historic parks and gardens. During lockdown, we have all come to appreciate more the value of our own gardens and the opportunity to enjoy our range of gardens and open spaces. They are a great part of our heritage but they are

vulnerable to change and lack of resources for their upkeep. They will be the focus of the Trust's new project 'Unforgettable Gardens'. Building on the sound foundation that Jim has created, our task for the future is to make the vital work of the Gardens Trust known to a much wider audience."

Dominic Cole, President of the Gardens Trust and past Chairman of the Garden History Society, says, "I am delighted that the Gardens Trust has had such a successful first five years and continues its great work in conserving our national heritage of parks and gardens, particularly those at risk. I am very impressed and thankful for the professionalism and dedication of our staff and volunteers and for the fantastic support from the County Gardens Trusts across the country. It is hugely important that our unique landscape heritage survives to be enjoyed by future generations."

Volunteer for the Gardens Trust

If you have an interest in further supporting the work of the Gardens Trust by volunteering to help, we would love to hear from you. This need not be time consuming, the amount of time you spend will be up to you. We can always use help in our communications efforts, organising events in different parts of the country, or indeed worldwide, tracking our planning successes or developing news stories.

If you would like to learn more, please contact our Administrator, Louise Cooper:

enquiries@thegardenstrust.org

Towards a 10-Year Vision for Places & Experiences

Version 2.1



Tony Berry, May 2020

Gardens

Gardens will increasingly change from being living museums for passive display, to places where diverse communities connect, relax, and share the job of gardening. Horticulture will become the purpose rather than just the means to a display and gardening heritage will be regarded as the activity rather than an historical asset.

Gardens will be places to escape from the world to seek tranquility and wellbeing, but also places of the world where contemporary challenges like climate change are acknowledged and tackled. Our gardens will reflect our distinctive values of beauty, history and maximum accessibility.

We'll be much bolder in our approach to garden design – with the confidence to extend tradition to the 21st Century to meet new visitor expectations. Where appropriate, this will mean developing a new, more relaxed, garden 'aesthetic' free from existing styles and expectations - so some gardens will become more playful in

themselves, rather than relying on generic add-on play areas for children and families.

Skills development and training will be an increasingly important purpose for our gardens. This will be across a wide range of interests from technical horticulture to artistic and wellbeing.

Built properties

The big shift we need to make is away from an asset-led approach (our primary role is to preserve and present the English Country House as a distinctive part of our national heritage) to an audience-led approach (we care for places that are rich in beauty, history and cultural value: our role is to make these attributes valuable and useful for as many people as possible).

That means we have to move away from the assumption that all houses are presented as 'country house former homes'. We'll still have some of these, but they'll be very clearly signalled as 'traditional' experiences for specific audiences. Many, however,

will be repurposed as public space in service of local audiences, as places to find out about craft, horticulture, history, architecture, and personal identity, and places to participate in and discover the things that interest our audiences (this will mean re-thinking the purpose of 'spirit of place').

Everywhere, though, we will move away from our narrow focus on family and art history, and explore the wider stories and connections that these places open up - from archaeology and local communities to colonial links and social history.

But we won't replace one way of presenting houses with a new standard approach: in the future, each of our historic buildings will define its own purpose, drawing on the things that make it most special and valuable. And we will re-vitalise our collections presentation offer to make it more accessible, with less on open display.

This is a two-page extract from the 17 page NT document.

The National Trust's 'Reset' and the Gardens Trust's unique conservation role

Peter Hughes, new Chairman of the Gardens Trust

Gardens Trust and County Gardens Trust members will have been reading with grave concern the recent comment and analysis in the media following the leak of a draft National Trust paper, 'Towards a 10-year Vision for Places and Experiences'. The exposure of this apparent new direction for the National Trust has rung alarm bells through the heritage sector. The glaring lack of reference to conservation as a guiding principle and clear suggestion that landscapes should be free from 'existing styles and expectations' has worrying connotations for future protection. We have included a number of links to the document, comment and analysis for ease of reference.

and responding to planning proposals for development, strongly objecting to those which will have a detrimental impact on the significance of these valuable and irreplaceable heritage assets. The GT supports sustainable future development and management that respects and illustrates a clear understanding of the significances of each place and embodies explicit conservation objectives and management of the unique qualities of each landscape so that these are preserved for future generations.

The National Trust (NT) is custodian of in excess of 200 of these nationally important registered landscapes (just a part of its wider portfolio of over

has underlined constructive and effective debate and helped to formulate sustainable solutions.

In recent years, the GT has, however, found it necessary to object strongly to proposed development within these landscapes where it is apparent that it is designed principally to extend visitor attraction while detrimental to the aesthetic and cultural impact and reading of the historic designed landscape. One particular example has been the objection to the proposed installation of cycle trails, introducing routes across central views in the numerous parklands affected. When diverted to existing historic tracks originally designed to enable enjoyment of the designed landscape some

"The Trust, is a noble thing, and humanly speaking – immortal.
There are some silly mortals connected with it; but they will pass."

Beatrix Potter

who donated 4000 acres of the Lake District, and her house, to the National Trust

The Gardens Trust has written directly to the Director-General, Hilary McGrady, expressing profound concern at the proposals which will manifest themselves in the loss of a significant number of curatorial and expert roles, regionally and centrally, taking with them the essential knowledge and understanding of the significance of the landscapes they are charged with protecting.

The Gardens Trust (GT), as the statutory consultee for in excess of 1700 registered historic parks and gardens in England and Wales, plays a key conservation role in the heritage sector, actively monitoring

250 parks and gardens) and the largest number of historic parks in single ownership in Europe. The continued evolution of these extraordinary landscapes over many years has resulted in close engagement between the GT Conservation Officers, supported by local County Gardens Trust planning experts, and the NT local conservation specialists and expert management teams. A shared ethos that the conservation of these 'brightest jewels' in the NT's crown will always be the overriding principle, while embracing a 21st century desire to open historic space to all,

of these trails went ahead with minimum impact, others were withdrawn when the detrimental impact on the general and desired enjoyment of these landscapes was acknowledged, but we continue to monitor alternative proposals. Another example, live before the Covid crisis, involves discussions with the NT regarding the World Heritage Site of Studley Royal Park including Fountains Abbey, Yorkshire, a Grade I landscape, where an additional development and renovation/enlargement of the Café Building & Lodge facilities at Canal Gates is proposed. While we agree that better interpretation

Historic Landscape Project update

at Studley Royal would be an improvement, in the GT's opinion the new building/development of additional visitor facilities at the location proposed would be contrary to the original Aislabie vision and represents a very unwelcome addition, harmful to the significance of this World Heritage Site affecting adversely one of the great set-piece historic garden views in the UK. ICOMOS-UK are also engaged in this debate. There are numerous other examples of the proposed inappropriate siting of visitor infrastructure, play areas and car parks.

The GT will continue its essential work as statutory consultee. Our response will continue to be on a case by case basis, but we will robustly defend our ethos. With much reduced resource in the NT, we would ask our members and those of the County Gardens Trusts to engage with their local NT contacts to ensure that we do everything that we can to help keep the essential curatorial research-based understanding of the significance of these treasured places high on the agenda in this debate. This is important in relation to NT parks and gardens

of local interest and significance as well as those which are on the National Heritage List Register of Parks and Gardens. Conservation is the careful management of change. It is about revealing and sharing the significance of places and ensuring that their special qualities are protected, enhanced, understood and enjoyed by present and future generations.

If you would like further information please don't hesitate to get in touch:
conservation@thegardenstrust.org

Historic Landscape Project update

Thank you, CGT volunteers!



County Gardens Trust volunteers at a Gardens Trust planning training day in Ripon last year.

With the start of lockdown at the end of March, the number of planning consultations arriving at the Gardens Trust plummeted which made us all slightly worried. Thankfully within a week, local planning authorities quickly and seamlessly moved their development management staff into working from home mode and if anything, the whole process seems to have gained pace.

Alison Allighan, Conservation Casework Manager, and Margie Hoffnung, Conservation Officer, both commented just how amazing the CGTs have been across the country during the pandemic, going the extra mile to ensure that as many things were responded to as possible – even managing to include the occasional site visit in their daily exercise in some cases! We want to say a heartfelt THANK

YOU from the Gardens Trust conservation team to all of you who support us so brilliantly – without you we just couldn't do our jobs.

Training for County Gardens Trusts goes on-line

Whilst the Gardens Trust's Historic Landscape Project is unable to host our usual physical events such as members' Meet Ups or training events, we

are determined to continue supporting County Gardens Trusts and their volunteers.

Through the spring and summer we have been re-releasing our training packages, covering a wide range of subjects, from conservation to research, working with schools to broadening your audience – we hope that you've found something of interest to you. Anyone can access these learning materials on our Resource Hub at: thegardenstrust.org/conservation/hlp-hub/training-materials/. If you would like to receive these packages directly, as well as invitations to our events, please email me at: tamsinmcmillan@thegardenstrust.org so that I can add you to our mailing list.

We've also ventured into the world of webinars, launching a series of online training with a really engaging talk on 'Threats to

Historic Parks and Gardens' from our Conservation Officer, Margie Hoffnung. We'll be continuing the planning and conservation theme with our next few webinars, all on Mondays, at 2 to 3pm.

On Monday 7th December Helen Monger, Director of London Gardens Trust, takes us through the twists and turns of the Save Victoria Tower Gardens campaign, which led to a Judicial Review hearing in the High Court and may go to the Court of Appeal next. This will be a one hour session, of broad interest to campaigners and others.

On Monday 14th December Historic England's Victoria Thomson examines the potential impact of proposed changes to the planning system on historic designed landscapes, comparing the proposals with current strategy and looking at how the changes, if

implemented, could affect the future of our historic parks and gardens.

Although aimed at CGT volunteers, we welcome anyone with an interest. These events are free to attend and you can book via our events page: thegardenstrust.org/events

Our Historic Landscapes Assembly was hosted online this year, brought to you via three 90-minute webinars, on the 16th, 18th and 20th November. The Assembly brings together the Gardens Trust, County Gardens Trusts, and a wide range of professionals and volunteers from the historic landscape sector, to hear updates from those working at both national and local levels to research, conserve and celebrate our historic parks and gardens.

See you online!

Tamsin McMillan,
HLP Officer

Victoria Tower Gardens update

Helen Monger, Director of the London Gardens Trust

The Planning Inquiry has now been in session for over five weeks and is coming to an end this week [13th November]. We believe the Rule 6 party Barrister, Meyric Lewis, acting on behalf of the London Gardens Trust and fellow objectors Save Victoria Tower Gardens and The Thorney Island Society has landed some telling blows. Over 60 people have made representations to the Inquiry on both sides, with moving accounts from a number of Holocaust Survivors and their relatives, as well as high profile commentary from the likes of two former Prime Ministers, the former and current Archbishops of Canterbury; and others.

One of the Interested Parties who



spoke in support of the London Gardens Trust was Dr David Lambert [GT Board member],

who provided an eloquent exposition about the failures of the Government team and Historic

Unforgettable Gardens

England to: consult the Gardens Trust in the selection of the site; adequately assess the proposals against the tests in paragraph 97 of the NPPF and concluding “In my long experience, I can think of few more egregious examples of substantial harm, where the park is effectively disembowelled.”

Both the London Gardens Trust’s Patron, Hal Moggridge; and Chair of the Planning Group, Sally Prothero, submitted forceful evidence to the Inquiry and withstood intense cross-examination. A plethora of documents by all sides has been generated. For those interested in following the evidence more closely the documentation is available here: www.westminster.gov.uk/holocaust-memorial-inquiry-documents

Meanwhile, the decision of

the Inquiry will, we believe, not be finalised until after the legal process in the Court of Appeal has been resolved. The Trust’s Judicial Review in the High Court, found the Government’s handling processes to have been flawed but it did not support our main area of contention. The Trust has therefore applied for permission to appeal to the Court of Appeal and await its decision. The Trust believes there are several errors in the High Court judgment. The legal errors go to our central point that it is wrong that a member of the Government will make a planning decision (building a new Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre in Victoria Tower Gardens) on a matter that the whole Government is already committed to deliver. They made this promise without any reference to securing

planning permission. How can the Government be seen as impartial when judging their own case and weighing up the planning benefits? To achieve all this and see our mission through we desperately need more funds – so, if you are as concerned as we are about the potential trampling of planning laws and rules by the Government, please help us via Crowd Justice: www.crowdjustice.com/case/victoria-tower-gardens/ Or direct to the London Gardens Trust: office@londongardenstrust.org for bank details. We are extremely grateful to the Welsh Gardens Trust for their generous contribution, showing what CGTs can do by pulling together.

Helen will be discussing the case further at an online Event at 2pm, Monday 7 December [see p.xx].

Unforgettable Gardens in an unforgettable year

Starting our **Unforgettable Gardens** collaborative theme in 2020, the year of Covid, has turned out to be an interesting challenge! Our expectation was for joyful events to bring people together, be they garden historians or new to historic landscapes, and this has of course been put somewhat on the back burner. Although you can of course start planning for the future, and we have many achievable ideas for the kind of audience development events you might consider at thegardenstrust.org/conservation/hlp-hub/networking-materials/

Unforgettable Gardens will run as a theme for some years, to highlight

not only how fabulous historic parks and gardens are, but also the ways in which they are under threat, can be lost, need to be recorded and protected, and how we can all get involved. It will help highlight the

key role that the GT and the County Gardens Trusts have in conserving historic parks and gardens. We are also encouraging others to get involved and use the brand to highlight their own work or sites too.



SAVE OUR HERITAGE WITH
THE
GARDENS
TRUST



Despite the loss of physical events, there have been many positive aspects to developing Unforgettable Gardens in these extraordinary times. A much-appreciated extension to our earlier audience development Lottery project has enabled us to increase staff hours available for social media, where we have put out a small campaign using #unforgettablegardens to highlight the value of historic parks and gardens and the need to protect them, particularly celebrating volunteer effort. We were thrilled that this campaign was credited as being one of the inspirations behind the Treasury's £1.57 billion emergency funding package for

culture, arts and heritage.

We are now looking to the next stages of delivering Unforgettable Gardens despite the pandemic, and are delighted to be planning a range of exciting initiatives, all intended to celebrate our garden heritage whilst highlighting the effort that goes into its conservation. At a time when we know that historic parks and gardens are struggling, we would love to offer our support by helping to tell their story. We hope to be able to announce details of our plans shortly, but in the meantime, please do get in touch if you know a site or group that would benefit from being included: sallybate@thegardenstrust.org

We are of course also very happy to publicise any initiatives that you might undertake yourself using the brand of **Unforgettable Gardens**, details and the logo are available: thegardenstrust.org/campaigns/unforgettable-gardens-saving-our-garden-heritage/

And finally, do please get in touch if you can help with **Unforgettable Gardens** in any way. Perhaps you have PR skills, curatorial experience, media contacts, social media confidence, a good collection of photos, event organising experience, or an idea for an activity. Even if you want just to make a financial donation we would love to hear from you!

2020 Gilly Drummond Volunteer of the Year

Our congratulations go to Jane Patton of the Hereford and Worcester Gardens Trust, who won the **2020 Gilly Drummond Volunteer of the Year Award**.

Despite stiff competition from the eight other nominees, Jane was selected as the judges felt she had made an exceptional contribution to the Hereford and Worcester Gardens Trust, in particular in helping to establish the professional quality of the Trust's advisory work, as well as its authoritative research reputation.

At a special event held at Madingley Hall, Cambridgeshire, on Thursday 3 September 2020, to honour Philip Whaites, now retired Head Gardener from the National Trust's Wimpole Hall, and Richard Gant, current Head Gardener at Madingley Hall, Liz Whittle, Cambridgeshire



Jane Patton, winner 2020.

GT chair was able to present Judith Christie with her Gardens Trust **2019 Gilly Drummond Volunteer of the Year award**.

The award had been shared with Juliet Wilmot of Wiltshire GT but because of Covid-19 moving the obelisk was overlooked in March



Liz Whittle handing over the award to Judith Christie, joint winner 2019.

and it had only just arrived. We are not sure how it is going to make its way to this year's winner...

facebook and the Gardens Trust

The Gardens Trust has a facebook 'group' which was established in 2015 to embrace innovations in social media and to provide a platform for members of the group to see and share photographs, news and articles with the immediacy demanded by current lifestyles.

Even before Covid-19 struck, the popularity of the facebook group was growing, but throughout the summer the number of members, as well as articles and photographs posted, has grown exponentially, so that there are now over 850 members, with many articles

and posts being seen by a high proportion of this number. There is a very brief checking process before you can join the Group.

All content is peer reviewed and covers a wide range of garden related interest from all five continents. It includes items relating to plants, historic gardens, follies, urban parks, landscape and famous designers throughout the ages to the present day and so on.

As facebook is principally a visual medium, it is an especially good platform for The Gardens Trust, enabling the sharing of often stunning photographs of historic

gardens, plants and landscapes in a way that would not have been possible a few years ago.

The Gardens Trust also has a facebook 'page' The Gardens Trust Sharing Landscapes which concentrates on achieving the Gardens Trust's charitable aims, and publishes the weekly list of planning applications received affecting important landscapes and gardens, as well as a rapidly growing presence on Twitter [2000 following] and now Instagram too [250 following].

Letitia Yetman

Call for Papers 2021

our 11th New Research Symposium

Our New Research Symposium is open to all researchers and scholars, regardless of whether they are independent or attached to an academic institution. It has been a feature of the annual conference and AGM weekend for many years. However, due to Covid-19, it may take place via zoom, as it did very successfully this year, when the online audience was over double the size of that possible at the actual conference. There may well be scope to take the symposium on-line at an actual venue to reach that wider audience, we hope so.

Launched in 2011, the ten symposia so far have hosted papers from forty-two researchers. Many of these are members of County Gardens Trusts and a third have been scholars from overseas, all of whom we warmly welcome.

Researchers in all fields of activity

are encouraged to submit a 200-word proposal for a paper whose subject is as yet unpublished. Any subject relating to Garden History will be considered, for example: explorations of little known gardens, or aspects of botany, ecology, horticulture, archaeology, social history, architecture, design and sculpture.

The paper will be no longer than 20 minutes (approximately 2,000 to 2,500 words) and illustrated with a PowerPoint (or similar) slide presentation.

Applicants are asked to identify their status as an independent researcher and/or member of a County Gardens Trust, or their institutional affiliation, the academic programme of study and the award outcome; or both, where appropriate.

If it is possible for the conference

to take place, the Gardens Trust will reimburse each speaker £100 for personal expenses and provide lunch and tea on the NRS day, Saturday 4th September. Our intention is to meet at the Richmond Conference Room, Holiday Inn Darlington, A1Scotch Corner, Richmond DL10 6NR, in glorious North Yorkshire.

Our conference and AGM weekend provides an informal opportunity to meet the other speakers as well as members of The Gardens Trust's Committees and Board, and provides an attentive audience eager to learn more about your area of research.

Proposals should be sent to: newresearchsymposium@thegardenstrust.org by 6 pm, Sunday, 2nd May 2021, and full details can be found on our website.

from our contributors

50 Fabulous Features

A Gardens Trust and Land of the Fanns Project

Twigs Way



Volunteers gazing out onto the Fabulous Land of the Fanns from Bedfords Park during a site trip (pre Covid 19).

Rich seams of historic parkland and fantastic features from designed landscapes are not usually the first things that leap to people's minds when Dagenham, Grays, Thurrock and Brentwood are listed. However, anyone dismissing this incredibly varied region of

Thames Valley, reclaimed fen and northern wooded hills, would be missing out on centuries of heritage encompassing everything from formal Tudor 'canals', icehouses, eighteenth-century landscaping, memorial gardens, spas, and carefully integrated post-

war amenity playground design for the burgeoning population.

The Land of the Fanns project was set up to re-engage the local population with their heritage landscapes, whilst producing a series of reports which would highlight the regions riches and

50 Fabulous Features

help protect them from future neglect and development. The aim of the project to introduce and engage local volunteers in garden history more generally, leading on to training in focussed research and recording. Recognising that all too often it was fragmented or individual aspects of designed landscape which survived in the heavily populated area, the project focussed not on entire parks in the Brownian or Reptonian grandiose style, but instead on fifty individual elements of heritage – chosen by the volunteer themselves.

The 'Fifty Fabulous Features' project ticked the boxes of many things I most enjoy – history, research, writing and exploring local parks, woods and open spaces. The new skills learnt over the past year enable me to contribute to the important conservation of valued historic features in danger of disappearing for future generations.

Heather Hunter
LoF volunteer and editor

Known during Phase 1 as the 'Know It – Love It' project, an initial day-school over 40 people joined in an introduction to garden history and its aims, including a fabulous session on an A-Z of garden features (the Zebra House was simply inspired!!). The day included discussion on how people felt about the Land of the Fanns landscape and what threats they felt it was under, including some heart felt complaints about perceived neglect by councils and garden historians alike. By the end of the day many had signed up for the series of training outings to sites including Dagnams Park



Heather Hunter/Sonia Dewell

A Fabulous Veteran Sweet Chestnut once associated with Belhus Park, now on a piece of amenity green.

(a gem surrounded by a 1950s housing estates and much loved by its 'Friends' group), Belhus Park (At Risk, in multiple management, and sliced through by the M25), Warley Place, and Thorndon Park – the latter also currently in multiple ownership. Many also joined training sessions at the Essex Record Office and discovered the wealth of material

of all periods held there.

At each of the sites we visited the groups discussed the sorts of features one would look for, how to find out more about their history, how to assess their condition, and also what threats they were under and how better understanding and local involvement might result in enhanced protection and local appreciation.



Phil Lobley

Cash's Well a rare Essex 'survival' of the fashion for Fabulous Spa Waters.

As we moved into Part Two of the project (originally known as ‘55 Fabulous Features’ but truncated by Covid to ‘Fifty Fabulous Features’), a core team of about fifteen people had dedicated themselves to discovering and bringing back into the limelight historic ‘landscape design’ features scattered across the Land of the Fanns area.

Emphasis was on features that reflected the long history of the Land of the Fanns area and the shifting communities and changing cultures of the area. Our list swelled with local pride in 1950s playground ponds, park shelters, a long-forgotten Spa source, a possible Pulhamite rockery, railings around neglected private Quarry Gardens (the gardens themselves alas off-limits), abandoned ice houses, and of course the relict features of the larger designed parks of the area; Reptonian planting, Tudor ‘canal’ earthworks, old carriage drives now turned bridlepath, and veteran sweet chestnuts now divorced from their original parkland setting.

With an eye to future planning threats each volunteer was drilled in filling in the dreaded ‘Statements of Significance’ on which their feature might one day be assessed as part of a development application, a supposedly sympathetic re-landscaping, or a felling order. Soon assessing historic, evidential, aesthetic and communal significances became second nature. An early measure of success in new-learned skills was the challenging of an application for re-development of some areas of designed greenspace within a local housing estate. Although not actually one of our ‘features’ one of our volunteers used her skills and community action to argue the



Our Fabulous volunteers in Training at Warley Place.

case for retention of the Greens and won!

Taking part in this project has opened my eyes to the way in which features in a landscape, even an urban one, can provide a very tangible link to the history of a place and its people. It has been an inspiring project, especially the way we kept going during lockdown when it would have been so easy to give up. I’m looking forward to the next one.
Julia Crosby – LoF Volunteer

By the spring of 2020 the group was meeting once a month, often at sites which contained several little-known features which would then become the focus of research for one or more volunteers. Then, a week after the March meeting, Covid19 put a stop to visits both as a team and, for a while, even as individuals. The Essex Record Office closed and

the project itself was under threat. However, equipped with zoom and a portfolio of digital resources we decided to forge ahead! Using everything from scanned 18th-century books to detailed archive catalogue entries, along with the amazing National Library of Scotland on-line historic Ordnance Survey collection it seemed all history was available at the touch of a keyboard. Using satellite imagery and LiDAR we were able to ‘see’ our sites in even more detail than we would have done on the ground, and with the aid of a short additional training course (pre Covid) in GIS techniques several of the research group were able to start mapping out sites and features.

Using these techniques, and concentrated documentary research, additional features were recognised on sites which had been thought relatively well recorded already. Most notably at Belhus where earthworks and below ground archaeology of the Tudor and Stuart landscape gardening have now been recognised and will hopefully be the subject of further



Some of the Fabulous volunteers, discussing the relict steps at Bedfords Park.

I have always been fascinated by the tv programme Time Team, and their ability to ‘read the landscape’. Taking part with this project has taught me how to do that, to research its history, and to be able to understand what I have seen. During one of our classes, Twigs said that she would try and fit five years of studying into five days of tuition... by listening, taking notes, asking questions and discussing things, I have learned a great deal.

Sonia Dewell
LoF Volunteer

research in conjunction with Historic England.

It quickly became obvious that this was research that would prove invaluable to local planning authorities, Heritage Environment Records, Essex Gardens Trust and Historic England and a report bringing together all fifty features was created for that purpose. Further editing skills were taken on-board along with discovering and overcoming the complexity of copy-right issues, and the final report was completed in October 2020 and made available digitally through the Land of the Fanns and Thames Chase. Deborah Brady (Heritage Engagement Officer Thames Chase) commented that ‘The result of the volunteers

hard work, especially difficult in these challenging months, not to mention the intrusion on their own lives, is the production of one of the most useful documents about our landscape and the significance of those features, that will also help local councils in future planning.’

‘Fifty Fabulous Features’ relied entirely on the dedication and enthusiasm of its volunteer researchers. Whether it was the passion which the group brought to their area of Essex, or the effect of lockdown ‘leisure’, the sheer range of skills up-take and the quality of research which the volunteers demonstrated in the twelve months between that first Introductory Day and the final

writing up and editing of the ‘Fifty Fabulous Features Report’ was quite simply astounding.

Working with the Essex Gardens Trust led to several of the trainees joining the county based Gardens Trust, increasing membership and extending the trust’s reach into this area of Essex;

Thanks to their success, the Essex Gardens Trust has been awarded Land of the Fanns funding for an Inventory of Historic Parks and Garden of Thurrock to further enrich our understanding of the local heritage. Of course, we are hoping that the Fifty Fabulous Features team will stay with us as we embark on the next episode in highlighting the heritage of historic gardens.

Discussion of ‘One Man Went To Mow; a point of view’

Gin Warren, Cambridgeshire Gardens Trust

Judy Rossiter treated us to a thought-provoking, beautifully written piece in the May edition of Cambridgeshire GT’s Newsletter

[and the last issue of this one] on the management of ‘lawn’. Fate has delivered up further valuable information and reflections on

lawns or meadows from two Head Gardeners, Joakim Seiler (Gunnebo House, outside Gothenburg) and Steve Coghill

(King's College, Cambridge). I'd like to explore what Judy said about the care of grass close to high status buildings in the context of these two men's work and their views on what it is like for others to live at, work in, or visit their sites.

My understanding from these gentlemen's presentations (see below for links) gives these answers to her question 'How would we feel, as visitors to these sites, to find the grass uncut and possibly looking rather untidy?'

In brief:

Seiler: The grass and other plants (the space would become biodiverse) wouldn't be uncut, they would be scythed with an appropriate frequency for the local growing conditions (about three-weekly at Gunnebo in western Sweden). It would look perfectly acceptable, and visitors would actively enjoy the quiet and inherent interest of the methods used to tend the gardens. His prediction for ten years' time is that stately homes will be using robots or scything for their grass. People using power mowers will be a thing of the past.

Coghill: Several months of the year the northern part of the sown area west of the chapel and Gibbs Building ('the Back Lawn') would be floriferous with a mixture of annual and perennial flowers and native grasses. It would be mowed once a year with a power mower, at Lammastide. For a few weeks in August it would look brown but then it would green up so from a distance it would be easy on the eye and would only look 'characterful' (but interesting!) from close up. Visitors liked what they were able to see of it in 2020. In four years' time the Gardens Committee of the college will decide whether to return

the wildflower/hay meadow to formal lawn or whether to spread the meadow across the whole space. Steve hopes for the latter. St John's College has some of this year's King's seed and is going to create a hay meadow in the Wilderness. They are two of the several organisations whose aim is to create an ecological corridor through the middle of Cambridge.

Gunnebo House

To elaborate the summary above with more detail, an introduction to Gunnebo might help. It is a late-18th-century landscape. The house, garden, park and farm were conceived as one entity, a *ferme ornée*, by Carl Wilhelm Carlberg for the then owner, a Gothenburg merchant called John Hall. Carlberg, who also designed Gothenburg Cathedral, had recently returned there from a European Grand Tour. Gunnebo is currently owned by the City of Mölndal, which runs the whole site as a museum and cultural centre. Seiler's academic reading of 18C gardening books from Sweden and elsewhere, including the UK, has sought to answer the question *How did they do it back then?* and the practical work in which he has been leading his team has addressed the *How shall we do it now?* issue [Seiler's italics].

Seiler worked back and forth between historical sources (books and museum objects) and craft experiments. The craft work was often videoed while the craftsperson spoke a commentary about what they were doing, why, and how it felt, and the experience of doing it was meticulously recorded in diaries, with before-and-after stills of the results. This process has convinced him that the optimal way to manage the lawns close around the house at Gunnebo is by scything [right].

Seiler rejects what he terms *the management regime of the heritage garden*, which was in use by the municipality of Mölndal. I think he would say this is what the National Trust, English Heritage and many other historic high-status site owners do. Mölndal did seek to revive the 18th century at Gunnebo, but he feels that the previous regime produced a 'heritagized' image of a past time. In the 18th century the ideals, style and craft were modern and future oriented. Today this approach is a historical enterprise oriented to the past. They are not, and cannot be, the same.

Seiler calls his own approach, which he started to experiment with eight years ago, *the regime of meaningful management*. In this 'craft is not only a means to preserve historic gardens, to look back over history and to define values based on tangible and intangible cultural historical qualities' but also 'a meaningful activity in its own right for people



Sketch by John Hall the Younger, of Gunnebo House, showing scythe and hay rake as used in the late-18th century.



Joakim Seiler scything the grass at Gunnebo House.

of today. It encourages quality and combines good practices from different pasts with contemporary concerns for biodiversity and sustainability as well as people's sense of heritage and interest in learning from the past.'

Seiler acknowledges that using manual tools requires more skill than using power tools. I liked what Seiler said in his public PhD defence about his 'time gap' apprenticeship to John Abercrombie, by using his 1767 book, co-authored with Thomas Mawe, *Every Man His Own Gardener* (Palata Press, 2015) to learn how to use scythes, pruning hooks and so on. He also handled tools in the Nordic Museum in Stockholm to understand tacit information about, for instance, the feel of the angle of a scythe handle and the angle of the blade to the ground. Seiler worked with a blacksmith to make individual new tools, bought second-hand ones, and bought new mass-made ones when he could track them down. With the blacksmith he studied illustrations from a 1754 book by Peter Lundberg¹ which has a tool chart, sadly without measurements. So they made a handle of a billhook using Seiler's hand as the pattern, then made the blade in proportion.

He confirms that it is possible to learn/discover the method for scything well – preparation of the grass the previous early evening, then scything in the morning while the dew is still on it so the grass blades are heavy against the scythe blade; getting a feel for how frequently to stop and sharpen the scythe blade, and what it actually feels like to do that competently – without having a live tutor.

As with any craft skill, one gets more proficient with practice; beautiful effect, fast. They have

discovered that scything about every three weeks through the growing season suits the lawn close around Gunnebo House. Through the whole season, this requires no more person-hours of labour than the *regime of heritage gardening* did, uses no petrol or electricity, and needs much less capital investment in equipment. Gunnebo is a favourite trip out from Gothenburg for many people: visitors report liking the use of hand tools in the garden. They appreciate the quietness in contrast to power tools and no longer feel excluded by noise from areas of the garden where the gardeners are working. They find the results of hand tool use aesthetically pleasing and are excited by the increased biodiversity.

King's College Meadow

Steve Coghill and the King's Garden Committee's results and analysis are much less mature. The hay meadow was prepared and sown in September 2019 with a mixture of annual and perennial wildflower seeds and native grasses from Emorsgate Seeds of

Tilney All Saints. The first stage of the archaeology and historical study of the site reminded people that the area, near the river, was part of the heart of Viking and Medieval Cambridge before it was 'compulsorily purchased' by Henry VI. There was a church and graveyard on part of it, and it only became formal lawn in 1772. The burial ground tallies with the superficially unusual soil analysis which showed high levels of phosphate in the subsoil. Given wildflowers' preference for nutrient-poor soil the team were careful not to bring the phosphate up as they prepared the area² (full details of soil preparation and sowing technique are on the YouTube presentation, link below). The soil comprises sands, silts and large amounts of organic matter. It is a meadow, not pasture or lawn, because it is mowed once a year, at Lammastide, and no chemicals are used (hogweed, docks and thistles are pulled up because they will out-compete the wildflowers in the relatively high-nutrient soil). Anyone wishing to compare the three sorts of 'grass' on a very short walk can look at the formal lawn



The new meadow with King's Chapel and the Gibbs Building in the background as at June 2020.

(frequently close mown, chemicals used) in Front Court, pass the hay meadow, go over the river and see the pasture (grazed, naturally fertilized, no chemicals) that is Scholars' Piece.

The aims for this hay meadow are to be aesthetically pleasing, and so improve human wellbeing, and to be a small but highly visible step towards increasing biodiversity and reducing carbon dioxide emissions. Research and education are the *raison d'être* of King's College and so the meadow is being monitored by Dr Cicely Marshall, Prof. Geoff Moggridge and others from the points of view of botany and ecology, and the archaeology is being further studied. Thus, it seems to be on course to become one of the most intensively studied newly created meadows ever.

Monitoring the wellness of those living and working with the meadow has been slowed because so few people could interact with it during summer 2020 – the plan is to mow paths through it and install benches to tempt people to stroll in and wind down while enjoying its beauty. As well as being supplied to St John's, some of the 2020 seed harvest went back to Emorsgate, and some was said to be on sale at The Shop at King's, but there wasn't any available when I tried to buy some two days after the presentation.

The baseline plant species survey in 2019 showed a species density of 4.2 per square quarter metre with 22 species in total. These rose in 2020 to 11.2 and 64 respectively. Sweep netting for insects showed nine species per 20 paces rising to 13, and the total number of species going up from 22 to 29, with concomitant improvements for pollinators and moths specifically. Pitfall traps for invertebrates (which appear to be tiny versions of Pooh's Heffalump



A pollinator busy on the new King's College meadow.

traps, or even tinier versions of the trap into which David Douglas of Douglas-fir fame fell to his death in Hawaii in 1834) caught an average of 3.6 species per trap in 2019, and results for 2020, in hand now, look promising.

Covid will make it difficult for undergraduates in relevant disciplines to go on field trips, so they are likely to be recruited to 'meadow studies'. The bees whose hives are in the corner of Scholars' Pieces certainly produced a bumper crop of honey in 2020.

Steve Coghill, Cicely Marshall and Geoff Moggridge, the latter a member of King's Gardens Committee, hope that the decision in four years' time will be to spread the meadow all the way across the Back Lawn: they say that public reaction will feed into the decision, so they encourage us – and anyone else with a view – to send in feedback. So, back to Judy's question: How would we feel, as visitors to these sites, to find the grass uncut and possibly looking rather untidy? My personal answer would be: spiritually uplifted and intellectually stimulated by the combination of beauty and knowledge of what was

going on beyond that which my eyes were seeing, ears hearing and nose smelling.

And I'll finish my reflections on grass with the memory of a rather sad, sour passage in Gwen Raverat's *Period Piece*, about Queens' Green. She describes what she regarded as the Borough's sacrilegious levelling of Queens' Green, opposite her childhood home of Newnham Grange, as a tragedy. Apparently, before it was raised to match the levels of Silver Street and Queen's Road it was the most gorgeous, even, green old pasture, grazed over centuries.

Joakim Seiler was one of the four speakers at this year's GT New Research Symposium. We hope to include summary accounts of their contributions in our next issue.

Notes

- 1 Seiler, J. 2020. Management regimes for lawns and hedges in Historic Gardens: PhD thesis, University of Gothenburg. <https://gupea.uu.se/handle/2077/62813>, p.246.
- 2 Moggridge, G., Coghill, S. & Marshall, C. 2020. Cambridge Alumni Festival seminar on King's College Wildflower Meadow: www.youtube.com/

Best of England's Post-War Parks, Gardens and Landscapes Protected

Historic England, August 2020

From the grounds of Brunel housing estate in London, conceived to create space for children to climb and play, to York Gate Garden in Leeds, created by talented amateur designers the Spencer family as a great suburban Arts and Crafts garden. And from Beth Chatto's environmentally-sustainable garden in Essex to a memorial landscape to American President John F. Kennedy in Surrey, a huge variety of post-war gardens and landscapes were added to the National Heritage List for England on Friday 21 August 2020.

The newly announced protections by Historic England are the result of a three-year collaboration with The Gardens Trust. Thanks to suggestions from landscape professionals and members of the public, some of the best examples of landscapes designed between the end of the Second World War and the early 1990s have been identified for protection.

Those highlighted range from memorials, to the grounds of housing estates, institutions, and private houses, as well as commercial and industrial sites. Some also include associated structures, which have been listed.

The new listings at Grade II associated with the landscapes are the Awakening Sculpture at Roper's Garden in Chelsea, London, the slide in the children's playground at the Brunel Estate in London and the Jellicoe watercourse at the former Cadbury Factory on the Wirral.

Duncan Wilson, Chief Executive, Historic England says: From Broadwater Park, which gave out-of-town office staff a pleasant

place to stroll at lunchtime, to Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe's watercourse at the Cadbury factory, which delighted passing workers with its cascades and weirs, and Beth Chatto's masterpiece, the birthplace of a revolutionary planting style that continues to influence gardening today, each of the landscapes given protection today is special. Many demonstrate incredible thought and care for the people who would go on to use them, and others mark significant turning points in the history of English gardening. These past few months have taught us that our green open spaces improve the quality of the environment around us, are good for our wellbeing and give us breathing space. This project shines a light on some amazing landscapes that exist all over the country, celebrating how they enhance our lives, and helping to protect them for generations to come.

Dominic Cole, President of The Gardens Trust adds: We are delighted that our collaboration with Historic England has effectively doubled the number of registered post-war designed landscapes. This project was undertaken as part of the Garden Trust's mission to protect and promote appreciation of significant gardens, parks and landscapes of all periods. Inclusion on the Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England is vital to our ability to help such landscapes survive to delight future generations. Twentieth-century heritage landscapes have often been overlooked and undervalued

so we hope that these additions to the Register will throw a spotlight on the importance and quality of post-war designed landscapes.

Gardens (public & private)

Beth Chatto Gardens, Colchester, Essex, at Grade II

York Gate Garden, Leeds, West Yorkshire, at Grade II

Denmans Garden, Fontwell, West Sussex, at Grade II

Shute House, Shaftesbury, Dorset, at Grade II*

Memorial

Kennedy Memorial landscape, Runnymede, Surrey, at Grade II [isn't this in the United States, as we gave them the land? ed.]

Housing estates

Alexandra Road Park, Camden, Greater London, at Grade II*

Brunel Estate, Westminster, Greater London, at Grade II, slide in children's playground newly listed at Grade II

Golden Lane Estate, City of London, at Grade II

Water Gardens, Burwood Place, Edgware Road, Greater London, at Grade II

Churchill Gardens Estate, Pimlico, Greater London, at Grade II

Fieldend, Twickenham, Middlesex, at Grade II

Alton East & Alton West, Roehampton, Greater London, both at Grade II

Urban gardens and parks

Campbell Park, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, at Grade II

Harlow Town Park, Essex, at Grade II

Roper's Garden, Cheyne Walk, Chelsea, Greater London, at Grade II. 'Awakening' sculpture newly listed at Grade II
The Improvement Garden at Stockwood Park, Luton, Bedfordshire, at Grade II*

Institutional

St Catherine's College, Oxford, upgraded from Grade II to Grade I
Cummins Engine Factory landscape, Darlington, County Durham, at Grade II
Jellicoe watercourse at the former Cadbury Factory, Moreton, Wirral at Grade II

Commercial

Broadwater Park, Denham, Buckinghamshire at Grade II
Stockley Park, Uxbridge, Greater London at Grade II



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St Catherine's College, Oxford with a Barbara Hepworth sculpture within the landscape.

In addition to the individual sites added to the Register, Historic England has published a guide to

post-war designed landscapes, as part of its Introduction to Heritage Assets series: *Post-War Landscapes*.

If you would like to submit essays on any of the new listings we would be happy to publish them.

The Improvement Garden at Stockwood Park, Luton, Bedfordshire

Grade II* addition to the Historic England *Register of Parks and Gardens*

The Improvement Garden was designed in the 1980s by Ian Hamilton Finlay, and remarkably well-maintained, it is now the only complete garden remaining in England by this artist, poet and landscape designer. The garden's six sculptures and their setting integrate poetry, history and

nature, providing an overview of the themes that dominated Finlay's work.

The inspiration for the sculptures and design range from Greek mythology and Roman architecture to the grand landscape gardens of the 18th century. The design is a fine example of Finlay's

collaboration with the sculptors and carvers he used in his later career, and with the gifted Bob Burgoyne.

It is part of an important ensemble of buildings and garden design that has evolved over 300 years, including the Grade II listed 18th-century stable block and the 19th-century walled gardens and glasshouses.

A People's Arcadia

Kate Harwood

The magical garden laid out by Ian Hamilton Finlay at Stockwood Park echoes with

thoughts of Arcadia, Elysium, Art: of transgression and punishment, of bewitchment and

remembrance. Howard Hann was as visionary in commissioning Ian Hamilton Finlay to design a

new garden in Luton as the New Town Commissioners were in commissioning Geoffrey Jellicoe for the Hemel Water Gardens. Jellicoe looked to Carl Jung and Paul Klee, whilst Finlay looked to the classical world and to the 18th century.

Finlay was imbued with a sense of the ancient world as well as being a thoroughly modern poet who worked in the medium of stone and concrete. His own house, Stonypath, he renamed Little Sparta after battles with bureaucracy with the Athens of the North – Edinburgh. Finlay came up with ‘Six Proposals for the Improvement of Stockwood Park, Luton’ – echoes of Capability Brown – improving on Hann’s original idea of a sculpture garden by making it a themed space.

His designs adapt the paintings of Claude Lorraine, such an influence of landscape design in the 18th century, and were included to illustrate his ideas. Each of these ‘concrete poems’ would be a feature in the landscape; a mix of hard and soft materials and all engraved or carved. The initial idea was to put in one Improvement per year – council budgets permitting – until a timely grant from the Henry Moore Foundation of Perry Green enabled the suite to be completed and the garden opened in 1991, only a year after the first Improvements had been installed.

From the busy Discovery Centre, Arcadia draws you to peace and tranquillity until you come to a pair of urns (now only one remaining). The labels state that these are copies of William Kent urns from Great Linford Manor, Bucks, and Alexander Pope’s Twickenham garden, William Shenstone, poet and landscaper, was an influential person in Finlay’s thinking, with a concrete

wheelbarrow at Little Sparta in homage to Shenstone and an inscribed bench at Shenstone’s home, The Leasowes. Shenstone filled his landscape with urns in remembrance of friends. So here we have links to great 18th-century landscape figures and to the elegiac garden.

Once through the baffle hedges, the first Improvement which draws the eye is a group of resting stones, set in neatly clipped lawns¹, with ‘FLOCK’ engraved on one. Flock? Of what? Sheep come to mind – but a few steps further is the ha-ha. The sheep are the first trespassers, on the wrong side of the ha-ha. However, the inscription is also to the Pythagoreans, an ancient Greek philosophy school who believed man was like a flock directed by the gods. So is the flock one of people, there by divine direction?

The ha-ha itself is only a couple of small strips². It had been filled in earlier in the 20th century and Finlay had these parts re-excavated to highlight the dilemma of ‘FLOCK’.

Across the ha-ha is a slightly curved wall, not quite an exedra,

with a series of plaques: THE ERRATA OF OVID. Errata is used for corrected mistakes in the printed word – here they stand for humans transformed into the natural world of lowers, birds and so on. A litany of vices of gods and man: lust, cruelty, vanity, though it seems that the victims are often the ones punished. So we have ‘For DAPHNE read LAUREL’, ‘For PHILOMELA read NIGHTINGALE’, ‘For NARCISSUS read NARCISSUS’. But further clues are in the script and font used, ‘For ECHO read echo’.

Ovid’s Metamorphoses are the stuff of Renaissance gardens: the sheep petrifying into stone – or is it vice versa – in the Boboli grotto in Florence; the Elizabethan dining rooms within tree canopies; *giocchi d’acqua*, automata.

In a very 18th-century way the Errata’s significance is heightened by a screen of laurel planted on the mound (of excavated ha-ha earth) behind the wall. But the inscription of these ideas in stone is also from the 18th century – specifically from the Shenston’s habit of inscribing verses on seats and urns in his landscape at the Leasowes, recalling the urns at the start of the Improvements garden. Ian Hamilton Finlay and Nicholas Stone designed a bench at the Leasowes dedicated to Shenstone, using words by Robert Dodsley, who wrote a description of the landscape in 1765.

Opposite the Errata is a brick plinth with two column bases, inscribed ‘BETULA PENDULA’ and ‘SILVER BIRCH’. Although based on the dimensions of Perrault’s columns for the Louvre, it is little surprise when the graceful columns turn out to be a pair of silver birches, their bark reflecting real columns with erosion and lichens. But the capitals are waving gently in the



Originally designed for the Wilderness garden at Great Linford Manor c.1740. ‘Handcrafted by Chilstone in Kent’.

www.chilstone.com



'Stockwood Park overview', drawing by Chris Broughton from *New Arcadian Journal* 33/34 1992, p.82–83 within a border specially created for 'Ian Hamilton Finlay: Selected Landscapes', *NAJ* 61/62 in 2007.

breeze and murmuring in tune with those of the Birch Grove sheltering the head of Aphrodite, the presiding genius of this garden. 'Luton Culture: Aphrodite'.

The Birch Grove was formerly the scrub at the edge of the golf course, adapted by Finlay and meandering gently to a circle of very mature limes, seen on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map fenced off as a park clump. This brings to mind Kent's wandering rill at Rousham ending in the bath house pool. The singing of the birch leaves in the spring (in between the planes landing and taking off from Luton Airport) and the bristling³ in the autumn persuade the human trespasser that they are not alone in this god-inhabited arcadia.

Aphrodite is a herm and on the shaft are Three Anagrams of her

name – Three aspects of Dialect word used by John Clare (born 1793) in his poetry eg The Woodman goddess and woman, perhaps? She is a copy of a head of Demeter in the British Museum. In 2000 she was stolen, and Patrick Eyres arranged for a replacement⁴. Unfortunately, the British Museum seemed to have mislaid their cast so Patrick tracked down another copy in Germany. As presiding genius of the garden, Aphrodite is decidedly ambiguous. But another resonance is with *Midsummer Night's Dream* by Shakespeare where mortals and gods intermingle in a grove in Athens.

From these lofty realms the ruins of empire call with a heavy column buried in the ground, just the top protruding. The sort of column which would have graced a temple to the gods. The

capital is Corinthian, reminding the viewer of the legend of the invention of the design by Callimachus, a Greek architect and sculptor, who was inspired



'Luton Culture: Aphrodite', reborn 2008.

Patrick Eyres

A People's Arcadia

by the sight of a basket that had been left on the grave of a young girl. An acanthus plant had grown through the woven basket, mixing its spiny, deeply cut leaves with the weave of the basket. It is the only Improvement which has no special planting round it. Is this a *Memento Mori*, a warning against hubris, or just a bit of detritus? To the children of Stockwood Park it is a racing car.

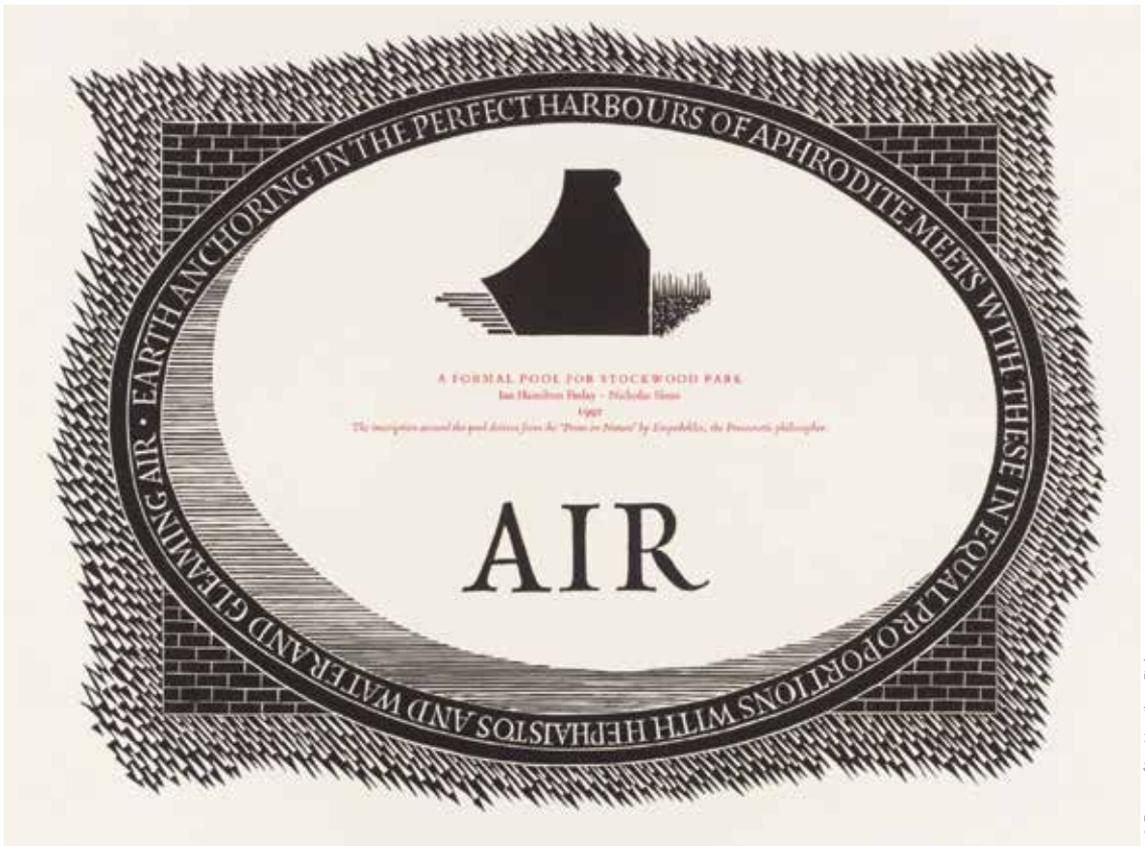
By now, the mind is teeming with references and connections and the real world calls. But not so fast. Challenging your swift exit to the tea room is a Weeping Ash with the plaque reading: 'I SING FOR THE MUSES AND MYSELF'. What on earth does that mean? All becomes clear



'Landscape with a buried capital', detail from Finlay's original for his 'Stockwood improvements', Wild Hawthorn Press, 1985.

when the reader recalls Emperor Justinian's (r361–363 AD) quotation of the 4th Century BC Greek, Ismenias. Justinian was known as the apostate because in a rapidly Christianising world he tried to keep the flame of classical culture alive and was worried by the iconoclasm of the early Christians. Basically it is the importance of keeping remembering alive – and a quotation is a memory made public; a public garden is a good place for that⁵. It is placed in a circular hedge to recall the rotunda temples, both in antiquity and in 18th-century gardens.

A final thought: this garden was a collaboration between Finlay, his wife Sue and Bob Burgoyne,



Ian Hamilton Finlay & Gary Hincks, detail from 'A Formal Pool for Stockwood Park, Luton', from 'The Garden Proposals', 1985–1992.

the Head Gardener. Another link to Rousham perhaps?⁶ Burgoyne certainly visited both Rousham and Little Sparta during the gestation of this garden.

Stockwood is indeed an Arcadia but one lacking only water, which all good Arcadias should have. Finlay came up with a final proposal for a pool, which was not implemented. Perhaps time to think about adding it in?

Further reading:

New Arcadian Journal s 33/34

(1992) and 61/62, (2007) Eyres, Patrick “Ian Hamilton Finlay and the cultural politics of neo-classical gardening” in *Garden History* 28:1 (2000). The Improvements can be seen on the Tate website: www.tate.org.uk/search?type=artwork&q=stockwood+park

Notes

The title of this article refers to a Lecture by Patrick Eyres at the Leeds City Art Gallery 1992 accompanying the exhibition ‘Ian Hamilton Finlay, instruments of Revolution’

¹ The neatness of the grass round the stones was specified by Finlay

² Other parts of the extant ha-ha are elsewhere in Stockwood Park

³ Dialect word used by John Clare (born 1793) in his poetry eg The Woodman

⁴ See *GHS news* 84, Summer 2009, p.28.

⁵ Gilonis, H ‘Stockwood Park: Thoughts on Ian Hamilton Finlay and landscape improvement’ in *New Arcadian Journal* 61/62 (2007), New Arcadian press.

⁶ Kent and John Maclary, the gardener, worked on Rousham together, particularly in Venus Vale where the planting is so important to realise Kent’s vision.

The gifted Bob Burgoyne

Felicity Brimblecombe

It is an extraordinarily ambitious and far-sighted commission from an urban local authority in the mid-1980s, initiated by the Master Gardener Robert Burgoyne as part of a series of formal, high-maintenance gardens rare in public parks during this period.’

This quote from the new HE listing highlights the collaboration between Ian Hamilton Finlay, his wife Sue Finlay, and Bob Burgoyne the Senior Parks Officer and Master Gardener at Luton Borough Council (the council purchased Stockwood in 1945). Ian produced the master plan for the inclusion of the six sculptures Tree Plaque, Flock of Stones, Buried Capital, The Herm of Aphrodite, Double Tree-Column Base, and The Errata of Ovid, as part of the garden landscape. Bob planned the planting scheme with Sue Finlay and executed the design.

Finlay was agoraphobic so Bob and some of his colleagues travelled to meet him in Scotland.

‘The Improvement Garden follows Finlay’s original design closely. In a letter of 12 February

1986 he wrote that “as much of the landscaping as possible should be done by Mr Bob Burgoyne and his staff. What is needed is a collaborative effort, in the classical tradition, with outside people involved only where stone carving and lettering need special skills.”

Finlay never actually visited the site as he rarely left home. The work was supervised instead by Bob Burgoyne whose ideas influenced the planting scheme and whose overall expertise proved invaluable. His excellent working relationship with Finlay and his commitment to the project were crucial to its overall success.’

Finlay did not specify any instructions for the perimeter planting which was partly determined by existing trees and further defined by the hedges planted by Bob Burgoyne.

An early suggested route started from the cedar tree over the ha-ha through the birch grove and up to the lime spinney before turning back to the mulberry where it was proposed to fix the plaque before its position on the ash tree was confirmed.



The Plaque on the now dying Ash tree.

The entrance was later changed by Bob Burgoyne to an opening between hedges from the Dutch Garden (one of the period gardens to the north-east), embellished by two large stone urns on plinths.

From the entrance through

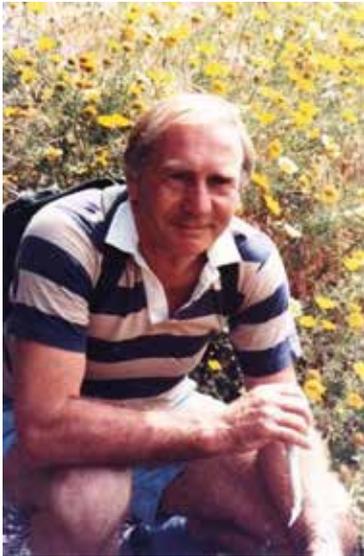
The Gifted Bob Burgoyne

the hedge of the Dutch Garden, the first sculpture to be seen is the TREE PLAQUE. This is attached to a pre-existing tree, an extraordinarily knotted ash which is unfortunately dying.

Bob Burgoyne's notes about the tree plaque and its location read:

The semi-circular clipped hedge around the back of the tree, which evokes a temple setting in a landscape park, was planted by Bob Burgoyne, as was the screen just beyond to the north-east, formed by a long clipped hedge incorporating two semicircles.

In the north-west corner of the garden is a magnificent cedar tree retained from the parkland, and a small winter garden planted by Bob Burgoyne in 1990s.



The Burgoyne family

Who was this impressive gardener?

Robert Bruce Burgoyne 1929–2018 was born in Luton to Leonard Bruce Burgoyne who as a young man walked from Aley Green to Luton Hoo and worked as a gardener. Employment in the hat industry in Luton was probably more lucrative and by 1911 Leonard was working there.



Charlotte Casella

The dying Weeping Ash, a tough decision for future conservation...

He obviously still enjoyed growing his vegetables!

Robert's older sister, Kathleen born 1924, was in the Land Army at Luton Hoo in WW2. She signed up at 17 years old, below the minimum age of 18 much against her parents thoughts on the matter, however, when they found she would be working at a Luton Hoo they were fine about it, provided they met her on and off the bus! Once trained, she did not move away and lived in the Bothy in the Walled Garden where she worked for the Head Gardener Mr Daffurn as did her cousin Betty Flitton.

If it wasn't for the reduced staff at Luton Hoo during WW2 it would be highly likely that Robert would have been apprenticed as a gardener at Luton Hoo which had a reputation for producing highly skilled staff. Instead he did his training at small nursery along Dunstable Road between Luton & Dunstable before moving to the Parks Department in Luton.

A letter to the local newspaper was signed by Robert and three other gardeners which places him at Stockwood Park in 1950. Eventually he became Head Gardener before taking on a senior

role in Luton. He still retained responsibility for Stockwood Park as well as other aspects of Parks Management across the town.

Electoral Registers show Bob living in Parkland Drive adjacent to Stockwood Park and this fits with tales of him often returning after a day's work to do odd jobs (including building brick walls!) in the other areas around the Improvement Garden such as the Period Gardens.

A lot more needs to be discovered about this master gardener which we hope to share, especially further details of his major role in the implementation of Ian Hamilton Finlay's designs.

To start that process and consider the work needed to showcase

the Improvement Garden, Kate Harwood and Stockwood's current Head Gardener, Gary Hines, were joined for a damp tour by Bob's son, Bruce Burgoyne, and John Maddox. John was Director of Luton Leisure (including parks) throughout the conception and implementation of the garden. As both the boss, and a friend of Bob, he has agreed to document his important role in the birth of this garden to complement information from both the Burgoyne family and the current Head Gardener.

The key features of the garden are almost completely intact but in need of cleaning(?), and the surrounding, unplanned, vegetation removed or pruned.

The concept of planting birch trees to grow into classical columns is another of the Ian Finlay Improvements that requires similar attention. Unfortunately, a recently furloughed Head Gardener and a lack of volunteers have not helped the overall maintenance of his garden. The weeping ash is lingering on but needs replacing with another suitable large tree. All of which requires both finance and interested gardeners.

A video has been suggested to explain the garden which would be made, ideally, once The Improvements have been improved... Though visitors may not fully understand what is here, most do seem interested.

Stowe Gardens revisited

some *Olla Potrida*¹, from a furloughed Garden Historian

Richard W Wheeler

After some 30 years working on the restoration of the gardens at Stowe, I thought it might be quite instructive to draw together a number of themes, to give an anecdotal tour of the place. This seems particularly appropriate, since in the words of John Wilkes, the MP for Aylesbury in the 1760s (and an intimate of both Sir Francis Dashwood of West Wycombe and Earl Temple of Stowe) I am now entering my anecdotage...

First then, medieval Stowe: Twenty-five years ago, I was doing a lot of work transcribing the medieval and post-medieval charters of Oseney Abbey and the early papers of the Temple family when they were buying in their leases from the Crown, the owner of all the former ecclesiastical

lands after the Dissolution of the Monasteries. Amongst these documents, were numerous 'terriers' (records of land, rather than members of the canine variety), and amongst the terriers were numerous references to the *Bannerlands* on the borders of the parishes of Shalstone and Stowe. What on earth were banner lands? In the parish of North Marston where I then lived, not too far from Stowe, we had the *Clocklands* – land given in the eighteenth century to provide an income to maintain the church clock, but banner lands to maintain the banners or hatchments in the church? Improbable. However earlier this summer, working on the history of Bodiam Castle, I strayed into the next-but-one

parish of Battle, the town founded by William the Conqueror around a new Abbey, where the altar stone was laid on the spot where King Harold was slain in 1066. Appurtenant to the Abbey the King gave to the monks a roughly circular area of land one league in diameter. The league was, and is, an uncertain measure, but is based on how far a man (and I guess a woman) could walk in one hour. This varies over the country – and indeed varies in France as well, but at Battle it was three miles. And outside the town and its closes and open fields was the *Banlieu*, or *Banlieu lands* ... or perhaps *Bannerlands*?

Interestingly, many of the parishes around Bodiam all seem to follow this same pattern

Stowe Gardens revisited

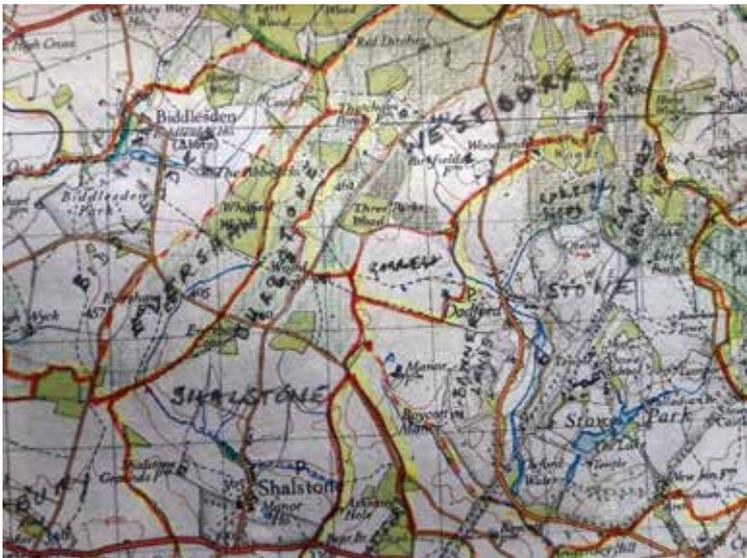
or variations of it. So Battle, Mountfield, Salehurst and Ewhurst are basically circular parishes one league in diameter, then half circles of Westfield and Brede and then little parishes squeezed in between these circles including Bodiam, Whatlington and Catsfield. I would love to have seen all the negotiations going on in the 11th and 12th centuries that resulted in these very distinctive parishes.

the boundaries of the Crown freehold parts of Whittlewood, together with isolated woods for the hamlets of Gorrell, Lamport and Boycott. And then as the wild card we find Catesby Abbey in Northamptonshire with its own little park squeezed in as a part of Westbury parish³ and covering most of what is now Parkfields Farm.

Next is a moving story about Stowe. And here although the

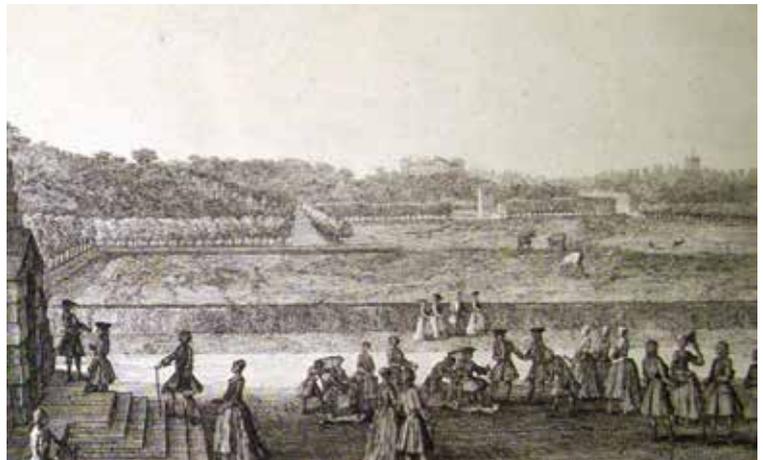
earth didn't move for us, the Golf Course did. After 30 years of very amicable disagreement Stowe School's little golf course around the gardens has broken free and moved out to the Lamport fields, where it is twice the size, and although still only nine fairways and greens, it now has 14 tees – so twice around and a new angle on every green. And the subsequent transformation of the gardens has been spectacular. The combination of Barry Smith and his new paling fences on the one hand, and dear old nature on the other, has brought back the Home Park as an area of delightful *ferme ornée* with sweeping grass paths encircling and crossing it.

Then on to the Queen's Theatre with Venus's Rotunda at the one end and the amphitheatre of the (very) late Queen on the other⁴ freed from the (one has to say, excellent) mowing regime of the greenkeepers, is in the early stages of returning to a landscape version of one the secret *cabinets* that are Stowe's riposte to those overworked and gaudy extravaganzas at Versailles. Concurrent with this will be the (at last) completion of the final quarter of the Sleeping Wood



Stowe and adjoining parishes, with annotations by Wheeler.

And we then find very much the same thing going on at Stowe, Lillingstone and Biddlesden, with Leuga parishes one league in diameter, and in between the parishes strips of assarting² fingering into the remains of Whittlewood forest. These assarts were divided between the parishes of the forest edge and those bordering on the diminutive River Ouse. So one finds strips of assarted land belong to Biddlesden, Evershaw, Shalstone, Westbury and Stowe lying adjacent to each other and running north- east towards



Stowe pupils coming out of the clubhouse to play on the Old Golf Course...

with its labyrinthine maze of paths leading to *La Belle au Bois Dormant* – the Beauty in the Sleeping Wood.⁵

The other section of the golf course crossed the vista from the South Front of the house. Originally called the Great Avenue (and perhaps we should return to this nomenclature) it was a double avenue of Abele Poplars under Bridgeman and Lord Cobham, which grew too big and blocked up the view. Earl Temple initially felled the inner rows then upon moving the Lake Pavilions further apart, felled the outer rows as well. The idea of the Great Avenue was again emulating Versailles with the Via Regia, the King's Road, leading straight from the Palace to the garden gate, and like Versailles was delineating our path through this earthly life, where we have free will and can follow our own mores – or not. But, of course, the straight and narrow path is really rather tedious, so all the action takes place in little theatres or stage sets among the bosquets on either side. At Versailles these are grandiloquent and very French, whereas at Stowe they divide between virtue on the one side and vice on the other – all with a good leavening of satire and some with quite heavy and very alarming (and indeed un-woke) humour. Then at Versailles one leaves this earthly life by the garden gate into eternity, represented by a great cruciform lake, whilst at Stowe the hereafter was represented by a near direct view of spire of Buckingham Church. In either case one leaves free will behind and is subject to the Divine. So with the Catholic faith represented by the formality of Versailles, the more libertarian Protestantism is represented by the landscape garden of Stowe. Indeed, in our Father's house are many mansions.

Iconology aside, one has to admire the perspicacity of the second Duke of Buckingham when, in his remodelling of the paths in the gardens for the visit of Queen Victoria, he opened a new route across the South Front from the Sleeping Wood to the Doric Arch. This sweeping path allows the visitor to see Princess Amelia's Arch on the other side of the avenue as they leave the wood, but not until they are exactly on the axis between the South Front steps and the Corinthian Arch on the hillside opposite, do they get the view of the Palladian Bridge and Stowe Castle framed by the Doric Arch as a picture ... 'more perfect than any of Albano'.⁶

This then takes us neatly on to the statues of the Nine Muses and the (not quite yet) statue of Apollo. And here one must pay huge tribute to the team that has been working on this project. They are Gillian Mason our intrepid curator who has examined and analysed in close detail every muse-y statue in England and come up with an extraordinarily convincing set of stony-faced women. In the eighteenth century



View through the Doric Arch, F Piper.

they were mocked as a set of nine cook-maids – which Gillian, quite correctly, suggests was because they all had their sleeves rolled up; the alternative suggestion might be that they are cross that Apollo is late in joining them and is in for a bad time when he finally arrives. Then there is Fred



Muses standing on the underground before arriving at Finmere Station!

Richard W. Wheeler

Markland, the poacher turned gamekeeper, building surveyor who seems to have worked in the past for most of the contractors doing the building restorations at Stowe over the last 30 years. His work at Stowe has been exemplary, thoughtful and always humorous. And of course, Barry Smith and his team. I have a picture of Barry and his gang from 1991 – little has changed except for one or two faces going and one or two coming. But the enthusiasm shines out from every one of them. What a bunch – I love them all.

RWW, ploughing a lonely furlough in Alvescot...

Notes:

- ¹ *Olla Potrida* is usually described along these lines: In medieval times soup was made in the Great Kitchen by gathering together all the still edible scraps of meat, vegetables, fat, and bread, boiled up for an hour or two, and then sieved and served at the High Table. More water was then added to the remaining detritus in the pot and boiled up again for two or three hours, sieved and served up in the Servants Hall. That which still remained in the pot was then mashed (if necessary but not essential) and fed to the scullions and stable boys. This was called *Olla Potrida*, and was just edible but barely nourishing.
- ² Assarting: clearance of waste land and conversion to arable or pasture, usually of a set width and then laddering close by

close into the waste.

- ³ Just to confuse the whole issue, now a part of Biddlesden Parish.
- ⁴ Queen Caroline, not only late and lamented, but also moved to the site of the Gibbs Building which moved to the Grecian Valley
- ⁵ *La Belle au Bois Dormant* – the Beauty in the Sleeping Wood, often mistranslated as the Sleeping Beauty, one of the transcriptions by Charles Perrault of European folk tales, published in the 17th century. Perrault also designed the labyrinth at Versailles, where each of the crossings depicted one of Aesop's Fables, with lead statues of the animals and water spouts to represent their words.
- ⁶ Horace Walpole.

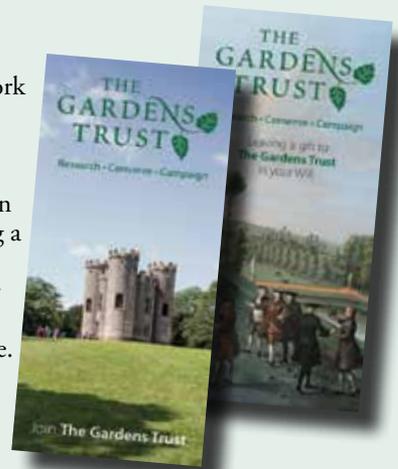
Your Support

Your ongoing support is invaluable to us to continue our vital work protecting historic parks and gardens.

Enclosed with our last mailing were our Legacy and Membership leaflets. Had you thought of membership as a gift for a friend or family member? Ring 01787 249286 and our team at Lavenham can help you organise this over the phone. If you might consider leaving a legacy to the Trust, contact: enquiries@thegardenstrust.org

We have now added the facility to easily make donations from our website, at <http://thegardenstrust.org/support-us/>

This promises to be a vital fund-raising tool now and for the future. We deeply appreciate all levels of support.
@thegardenstrust
#unforgettablegardens



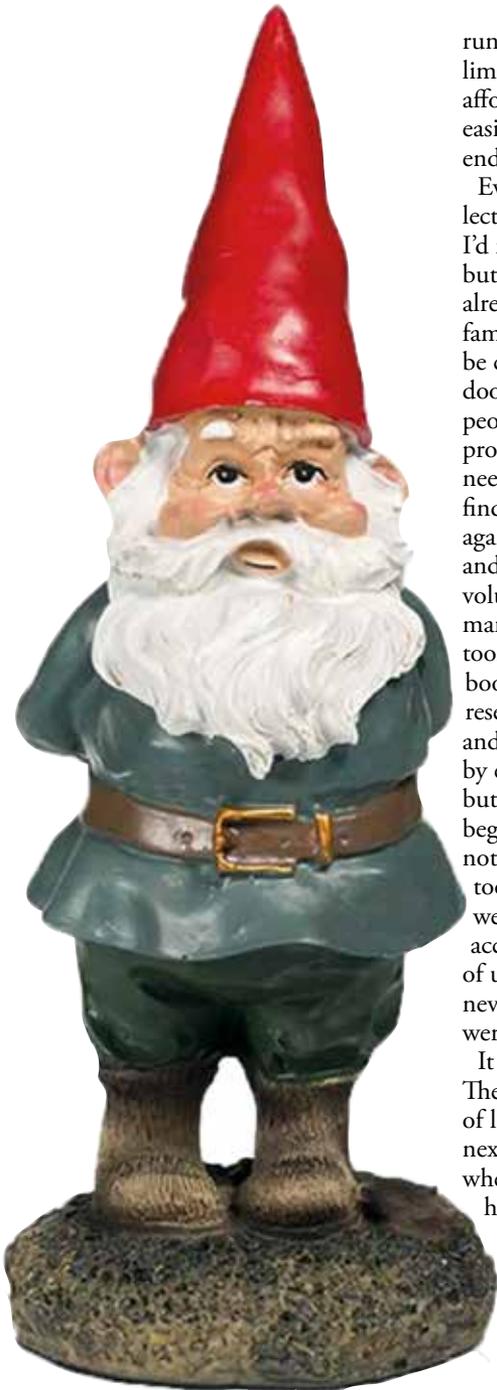
David Marsh takes his Shed on-line

Don't laugh at garden gnomes. They've helped put the Gardens Trust on the on-line map. And if you're confused by that here's how. Way back at the beginning of June I had a

conversation with Linden Groves our Development Officer about my plans for continuing the various courses I'd been running pre-Covid. Was there was any chance, she asked, of arranging

a lecture or two on line in the autumn, maybe one a month, if the pandemic continued?

I took that as a bit of a challenge, so said yes. Then, of course, I began to panic a bit, after all who would



want to lecture remotely? Who would want to watch remotely? How long could we keep it up without running out of ideas? What would it cost to set up and

run? What were the technical limits/practicalities? Could we afford it? The last question was the easiest to answer because in the end how could we afford not to?

Everyone rallied round. The lecturers who worked on courses I'd run previously seemed keen but given that a lot of people had already started using zoom for family events they worried it could be chaotic. How could we stop doorbells ringing, dogs barking, people squabbling or interrupting proceedings. These lectures would need managing and that meant finding people to help do it. Once again an appeal paid dividends, and a group of eight brave souls volunteered to 'train' in how to manage meetings whilst another took on responsibility for handling bookings. I did some basic research on the zoom help pages and then we leapt in and learned by experience. It was indeed chaos but it was fun. Suddenly things began to fall into place and looked not just feasible but professional too. On Tuesday 23 June the GT went on-line with a zoom 'pro-account' that allowed an audience of up to a hundred, and we were never going to reach that number were we?

It all began with the gnomes. Their story was the first in a series of light-hearted lectures over the next six weeks. We were amazed when 84 people showed up to hear about the little men in red hats that first morning, and even more so when that number only increased, with some being sold out. These lectures were free, really to test the water, although we asked for donations to cover our costs. People were very generous and we raised about £2000. However if the GT was to remain on-line we needed to make the lectures sustainable longer-term, which

meant that we probably needed to charge. Would that have an impact on attendances? Much to my surprise it hasn't.

Now, thanks to a great team of volunteers and guest lecturers we have a pretty full programme of events. Tuesday mornings offer a series of lectures, loosely themed each month, while Thursday mornings are given over to garden history courses. We're also running some longer and more specialised courses aimed at those who really want to get a subject in depth. In addition we're running joint lecture series with a couple of county gardens trusts, and ran our New Research Symposium, usually one of the highlights of our Conference, as an on-line event this year. It attracted an international audience of nearly two hundred.

Has going on-line worked out? I know I shouldn't say it but yes, way beyond my initial expectations. I worried that we wouldn't get more than about twenty people needed to cover the costs of running each lecture but we've now regularly had audiences of well over 100 and our best performance has been 204. We're reaching people all over the country who couldn't ever get to lectures or courses in London or other major centres, and we're reaching out with special offers and discounts to attract new audiences. From the comfort of your own home you can now hear and question experts on a wide range of topics, and I can manage it from the comfort of my own home in France. Of course success has its price and it's meant we had to up our game and take out a license for audiences of up to 500. So do, please, come and join us, and let's see if we can reach that number by the end of next year, and then we'll have to think about getting a licence for audiences of a thousand!

GT events

Lectures
Conferences
Study Tours

Please note that after making your on-line booking you will be sent a zoom link two days prior to the start of the event. A link to the recorded session will be sent shortly afterwards, for those unable to see it on broadcast, or simply to watch again, though this lasts only for a limited period.

The Folly & the Ivy

Caroline Holmes

Mistletoe and More, Talks series

10am, Tuesday 1 December

Erasmus described folly as the seasoning of pleasure, an anticipation of the jolly season of Christmas with festoons of ivy. Ivy clad architectural follies from Mt Edgumbe to Biddulph Grange, inspirational swags and topiaries, horticultural light relief in the form of Misalliance and parties from Mr Fezziwig's Ball to Vicar and Gipsy fancy dress. As the German philosopher and cultural critic, Friedrich Nietzsche, with a moustache to rival any ivy swag, wrote, 'We should call every truth false which was not accompanied by some laughter'.

By zoom. £16 for all four talks in the series, or individually at £5.

Aislabie @ 350

Mark Newman

in association with Yorkshire GT

7pm, Friday 4 December

On the evening of his 350th birthday this talk will explore the life story of John Aislabie [right] – politician, entrepreneur, Chancellor of the Exchequer, national villain and, most significantly, outstanding landscape designer – and examine the now World Heritage Site he created at Studley Royal.

Understanding of Aislabie's achievements has developed very considerably following many years of National Trust research, including publication of Mark's *Wonder of the North: Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal* in 2015. This stand alone talk will take that work as a foundation, but also include, for the first time, fruits of further research (some only completed this summer) that have still more to reveal about John Aislabie's schemes for the grounds and the truly pioneering scope of his personal vision for landscape design.

By zoom. Cost £5, as above.

Planning Training Case Study: Victoria Tower Gardens Campaign

Helen Monger, London GT

2pm, Monday 7 December

The proposal to create a UK Holocaust Memorial was originally suggested in 2014 with the Prime Minister in 2016 announcing the chosen site as Victoria Tower Gardens [see p.16]. In 2017 the proposal to build this monument and an underground Learning Centre was submitted to Westminster City Council.



London Gardens Trust, and other heritage groups, are concerned about the potential impact of inappropriate development on the park's existing design, monuments and use.

Helen Monger, Director of London GT, takes us through the twists and turns of the 'Save Victoria Tower Gardens campaign', which led to a Judicial Review hearing in the High Court and may go to the Court of Appeal next.

Free, but please register in advance with Eventbrite, via the GT website.

Naked Ladies and the Scarlet Monster

David Marsh

Mistletoe and More, Talks series

10am, Tuesday 8 December

People like to fill their houses with flowers and plants at Christmas. Is this a new trend? Have the range of plants changed over the years? What does a Victorian Dean of Manchester have to do with naked ladies and why do we all know the name of the American ambassador to Mexico in 1828? This talk will do a roundup of some of our most popular seasonal plants in art and botanical history.

The Grand Tour

James Bolton

in association with Kent GT

6pm, Tuesday 8 December

The Perils and Pleasures of the 18th Century Traveller's Journey to Italy, this one-off talk follows the progress of the Grand Tourists through Europe, largely through contemporary paintings, and gives examples of the souvenirs they returned with



and tells of some of the difficulties facing the intrepid traveller in the pre-railway age.

John Evelyn's ventures into Europe were a bit different. Not only did he go very early (1641), but he went partly to avoid the Civil War. He also went with an inquiring mind (his family nickname was 'The Philosopher') that crossed the boundaries of art and science. He was excited by the gardens he saw, the horticultural practices, as well as the art and architecture of Holland, France, and above all, Italy. When he came back, he not only brought fabulous pieces of furniture, like the Evelyn Tables and Cabinet, but a host of landscape and gardening ideas, which were put into practice in such remarkable places as Sayes Court, Euston Hall and Albury Park.

By zoom. Cost £5, as above.

**Planning Training 6:
Planning for the future of
historic parks and gardens
Victoria Thompson**

2pm, Monday 14 December

Historic England's Victoria Thomson examines the potential impact of proposed changes to the planning system on historic designed landscapes. The Government's 'Planning for the Future' White Paper was published in August, seeking views on proposed reforms of the planning system in England. The intention is to replace the current planning system with a new one, to include streamlining and fast-tracking both plan-making and planning application procedures; and adopting a digital,

more illustrative format with land categorised into three areas, Growth, Renewal and Protected, each determining a specified approach to development.

Dr Victoria Thomson, Head of National Strategy at Historic England, compares the proposals with current strategy and looks at how the changes, if implemented, could affect the future of our historic parks and gardens.

Free, but please register in advance with Eventbrite, via our website.



**Wentworth Castle and
Wentworth Woodhouse:
Georgian rivals united
through 21st-century
restoration and public access
Patrick Eyres**

GT and London GT On-line
Winter Lecture Series 2020/21
6pm, Monday 14 December

The family rivalry was both dynastic and political. Until the mid-1740s, the Wentworth Castle dynasty was superior in aristocratic rank and cultural display. It was once the Hanoverian monarchy was securely embedded, that the Whigs at Wentworth Woodhouse began to eclipse their Tory cousins in social status and estate embellishment. We are fortunate that the rivals are being united by the endeavours of charitable trusts to conserve as a public amenity this magnificent legacy of competitive country house building and landscape gardening.

For over a decade, the

Wentworth Castle Heritage Trust restored the splendour of the mansion, estate buildings, gardens, park and monuments, and the future of Wentworth Castle Gardens is now secure in the care of the National Trust.

At Wentworth Woodhouse, the Fitzwilliam Wentworth Amenity Trust has restored the Georgian fabric of the landscape monuments and the four serpentine lakes, while the Wentworth Woodhouse

Preservation Trust is undertaking the Herculean task of re-roofing the gargantuan Palladian mansion.

Cost: £4 for GT and CGT members, £6 for non-members, otherwise details as above.

**Step into the Christmas Card
Caroline Holmes
Mistletoe and More, Talks series
10am, Tuesday 15 December**

For the last 150 years Christmas cards have been adorned with nativity scenes or holly, ivy and mistletoe, a rotund Father Christmas, hosiery, trees, with shouts of Noel, Noel. Sacred and profane, plant symbolism, carols that echo the sacred magic of the nativity scene, the lowing animals popularized by St Francis of Assisi, shepherds and kings, all playing their part and foretelling the future. There are also fashion plates, New Year wishes and cartoons. So what on earth do Christmas cards portray – are they tasteful or tasteless?

Mistletoe and the Druids**David Marsh****Mistletoe and More, Talks series**

10am, Tuesday 22 December

Mistletoe is a mysterious plant without any obvious source of food, without roots, that grows way above the Earth but is not blown away by the wind, that stays green when its hosts have lost their leaves, and that seems capable of spontaneous reproduction and continuing life. It must have been an extraordinary sight to those without our knowledge of its botany and ecology. It has medicinal uses so why was it disapproved of by Christians. How did it kill a Norse god? Where do the Druids come into the story, and what's it all got to do with a Lincolnshire vicar?



legendary status as a rock and alpine gardener and examines what was special about his approach. The content of his various books specifically devoted to rock gardening and his practical experience in the four gardens at Clapham are also studied.

4 weekly on-line talks, starting Thursday 5 January, £5 each or all 4 for £16.

Biodiversity & the Wild West End Project: Encouraging Birds, Bees & Bats into**the Heart of London****Tom Gray, Senior Ecological Consultant, Arup****GT and London GT On-line Lecture Series 2020/21**

6pm, Monday 11 January 2021

The Rescue of an Edwardian Rock Garden
Mike Myers**Man, Myth and Mountains: Reginald Farrer series****in association with Yorks GT**

7pm, Tuesday 12 January, 2021

Aysgarth Rock Garden is a rare surviving example of the work of alpine and rockery specialists James Backhouse and Son, created in the early 20th century for Frank Sayer Graham but it fell into decline after his death. Designed as a walk through grotto, its huge limestone blocks, low lintels and narrow winding paths, are complimented by cascading water, and exotic plants. It was listed in 1988 and Mike was asked to advise and assist with its restoration in 2002.

Farrer in the Alps and the Far East**John Page****Man, Myth and Mountains: Reginald Farrer series****in association with Yorks GT**

7pm, Tuesday 19 January, 2021

This session looks at Farrer's plant and seed collecting expeditions, together with his perilous adventures and eventual death in the field. Farrer's books based on these trips, embellished with examples of his botanical illustrations and enlivened with photographs taken at the time, are also discussed.

**The Integration of****Derek Jarman's Garden****Professor Michael Charlesworth, University of Texas****GT and London GT On-line Lecture Series 2020/21**

6pm, Monday 25 January 2021

Dungeness, Kent, presents a strange landscape that contains at least one strange garden. How can we comprehend the place and make sense of the garden? This talk will emphasize the way in which Derek Jarman's garden at Prospect Cottage was for him an act of integration: of his past with his present, his works in other media (painting and film) with making the garden; and of his new home with the territory around it, and even the past of that territory. All the while the garden set him towards a future, which was, however, tragically curtailed. The garden has therefore been quite rightly described as "a tribute to Jarman's defiant spirit".

Events 2021

We will be launching a series on twentieth century gardens and designed landscapes early in the new year, so please watch our website and your email inbox for details. And there is much more still to come...

The Power of Farrer**John Page****Man, Myth and Mountains:****Reginald Farrer, a four part series in association with Yorks Gardens Trust**

7pm, Tuesday 5 January, 2021

Reginald Farrer, 1880–1920, was an alpine plant collector, gardener, and garden writer, who single-handedly changed the way the anglophone world writes about garden plants. He was also a travel-writer, rock gardener, novelist, poet, and amateur water-colour painter, and became a Buddhist in 1908.

John Page's talk looks at the background to Farrer's rise to

**Plants, Books and Journeys:
the world of Reginald Farrer,
'well-known' Buddhist
Michael Charlesworth
Man, Myth and Mountains:
Reginald Farrer series
in association with Yorks GT**

7pm, Tuesday 26 January, 2021

This talk will trace the energy of Buddhist thought in varied works by Farrer. It will look particularly at his account of temples and ruined cities, In Old Ceylon (1908), and the extraordinary volume of war propaganda that he wrote in 1917–18 while employed at John Buchan's Department of Information, alongside his poetry and travel writing.

**Too Young to be Loved?
Post-war designed landscapes
of London and environs
Karen Fitzsimon CMLI,
landscape architect and
garden historian**

GT and London GT On-line
Winter Lecture Series 2020/21
6pm, Monday 8 February 2021

While the heritage value of post-war architecture is growing in appreciation, that of its designed landscapes is less understood. Despite Historic England's addition of 24 sites from this period to the National Heritage List for England by last summer, built works from these decades are disappearing at an alarming rate, and very few are protected. From public gardens to commercial landscapes, and everything in between, this illustrated talk will consider some of the amazing sites already protected and others that might merit our consideration.

Karen Fitzsimon has worked with the Gardens Trust on 'Compiling the Record' and is currently undertaking PhD research about Preben Jakobsen at School of Architecture and Cities, University of Westminster.



**Transatlantic Slavery's
Long Reach:
The impacts of direct and
indirect slavery connections
on eighteenth-century estate
gardens and parks in Britain**

**Dr Susanne Seymour,
Associate Professor in
the School of Geography
and Deputy Director of
the Institute for the Study
of Slavery, University of
Nottingham**
GT and London GT On-line
Winter Lecture Series 2020/21
6pm, Monday 22 February 2021

There is increasing evidence of a wide and deep connection of Britain and its people to transatlantic slavery which reaches beyond the port cities. This presentation introduces the range of direct and indirect economic, social, political and cultural impacts of slavery connections on landed estates before examining examples of eighteenth century garden and parkland design from the speaker's own research. These include Moccas Park and estate, Herefordshire, developed by Sir George Cornwall who was directly involved in slavery as owner of La Taste plantation, Grenada, and its enslaved African population. Two other Nottinghamshire examples illustrate the impacts of less direct involvement in slavery, at Welbeck Park and gardens owned by leading Whig politician, the 3rd Duke of Portland, and Thoresby Park owned by Sir Charles Pierrepont, veteran of the Royal Navy.

**Dinosaurs, Italian Terraces
and Future Sustainability:
Crystal Palace Park
Kathryn Whitmore, Associate
Landscape Architect, AECOM
and others**

GT and London GT On-line
Winter Lecture Series 2020/21
6pm, Monday 8 March 2021



**What is Wild?
Dr Kim Wilkie, Landscape
Architect**

GT and London GT On-line
Winter Lecture Series 2020/21
6pm, Monday 22 March 2021

Wild has become the reflex antidote to human destruction of the environment, but does it mean any more than just an absence of Homo sapiens? Historically wild meant hostile to humans; now it mostly means friendly to wildlife. How is that really achieved and where do human beings now fit within the concept? Do we shuffle off and abandon land or do we live in a better way?

Cost: £4 for GT and CGT members, £6 for non-members, otherwise details as above.

Study Tour to Palermo and the West of Sicily

Following our successful study tour to Western Sicily in Spring 2019 (see p.38, *GT news* 10), Robert Peel and Cassandra Funsten prepared another one there for members of the Gardens Trust in Spring 2020 – alas this had to be postponed, and remains so, until we know the situation regarding international travel and proposed vaccinations. The same programme of visits will be included, with five nights in Palermo, a day in Bagheria, and two nights in Trapani, from where to visit Segesta, Mozia, Marsala, Mazara and Selinunte.

The aim is to give a full appreciation of the range of landscapes and

gardens in western Sicily and the architectural heritage in its varied manifestations through the centuries, from classical Greek, through Norman, medieval, baroque, neo-classical and Liberty style.

Sicily's climate permits a hedonistic mix of Mediterranean and exotic plants from temperate and tropical parts of other continents, as well as a rich range of wild flowers, especially prominent in the archaeological sites we visit.

Cassandra is based in Palermo and her knowledge of the gardens and plants of the city allows a thorough appreciation of the art and botany of its designed landscapes.

Although **FULLY BOOKED** at



It almost seems unbelievable – no masks!

the time we published our previous issues, a very limited number of places may become available.

Revised dates awaiting for when it will be safe and appropriate to travel to Sicily. For further information, contact Robert Peel: rma.peel@btopenworld.com

The Gardens Trust Annual Conference New Research Symposium and AGM 2021

in and around Richmond and Wensleydale, North Yorkshire

Mid-day, Friday 3 September to Sunday 5 September 2021

This year's Conference in North Yorkshire was postponed due to the current and continuing uncertainty, but we begin to hope.

Given the huge amount of organisation undertaken to set up this year's event it is with some relief, and many thanks to all involved, that we are able, at least provisionally, to make a similar offering for next year, when we hope you will be able to join us, "same time, same place".

So as a reminder to add the date to your diary, here is an outline of the programme, again. We are now aiming to meet up in the Yorkshire Dales at the beginning of September next year (2021), in partnership with Val Hepworth and the Yorkshire County Gardens Trust, centring on Wensleydale and the picturesque Georgian

town of Richmond. All our visits are to privately-owned and run historic listed or registered estates. We will have access to many areas not normally open to the public.



Autumn at Millgate House

Outline programme

Friday 3 September

Arrive at hotel mid-day, lunch available. Afternoon excursions, by coach, to Richmond. Two alternative visits are offered:

A Tour of **Temple Grounds** and its Picturesque landscape.

B Tour of Richmond's **Georgian Theatre**, followed by **Millgate House** plantsman's garden tour.

Return to hotels for bar and dinner and lecture on the inspiration behind the designed landscapes of North Yorkshire.

Saturday 4 September

Morning visit to **Aske Hall**, with elements by Kent and Brown, lunch at the hotel followed by the **New Research Symposium 2021** and **AGM**. Conference Dinner at **The Station**, housed in Richmond's Victorian Railway Station.

Sunday 5 September

Morning visit to **Constable Burton**, lunchtime visit to **Bolton Castle** and final afternoon visit to **Bolton Hall**. Return to Hotel.

The full Conference programme plus a request for any dietary requirements and CGT affiliations will be sent to delegates nearer the time. We will be based at the

Holiday Inn just off the A1(M)/A66 at Scotch Corner (DL10 6NR) which has been attractively refurbished and updated (with efficient double glazing) and offers ample conference facilities and on-site parking. Darlington station is 20 minutes away by frequent local express bus or taxi to the hotel.

Final confirmation of the event

and full details and prices will appear in next year's spring issue of *GT News* and, of course, on the website. We aim to be able to hold prices as advertised for 2020, see *GT News* issue 12. Booking will probably close in early August 2021.

Contact Virginia Hinze: vchinze99@gmail.com or: 01273 844 819

Study Tour to France

Jardins à la Française: origins, variations, reinventions

Friday 17 to Monday 20 September 2021 — **UPDATE**

Our postponed long-weekend study trip to central France will now run from Friday 17 to Monday 20 September 2021, and will still be led by landscape historian, author and curator, **Dr Gabriel Wick** with Robert Peel as organiser. The plan is now to meet our coach in central Paris on Friday morning and drive to **Fontainebleau**, a key site in the development of the classical French gardens in the late-16th and early-17th centuries. From there to **Chateau de Courances**, home of the Ganay family, with its renaissance water-gardens, reinterpreted by Henri and Achille Duchêne in the early-20th century, and restored by the family in the post-war period.

We will then spend the night in Orléans, before travelling along the River Loire, to the newly reconstituted early 18th-century garden at the **Chateau de Chambord**, and the **Chateau de Chaumont** with its long-running International Garden Festival. We will also visit the **Pagoda of Chanteloup**, that poignant fragment of one of France's lost 18th-century gardens.

We shall overnight in Tours,



Chateau de Chambord

The recent epic re(?)creation of the gardens at Chateau de Chambord. You can download a pdf (in English) detailing the process from their website. It seems that the French have more faith in the power of history and expertise than some...

which is conveniently located to tour the gardens of three other chateaux, **Lude**, **Lathan** and **Grand Lucé**, each significant for their history as well as their pragmatic and ecologically driven approaches to planting and maintenance.

Finally, on Monday we shall visit **Chateau de Valmer** with its terraced-gardens, vineyards and potager, and enjoy a wine tasting before heading back to Paris to connect with the evening *Eurostar*.

Full details appeared in our



Chateau de Chambord

Spring issue, and we hope that the Covid 19 situation will have stabilised by next Autumn, proposed vaccinations allowing.

All enquiries to Robert Peel: rma.peel@btopenworld.com

in memoriam



Peter Storrie 1942–2020

Peter was a great encouragement when I began to work in the field of historic designed landscapes. Our paths crossed through Warwickshire Gardens Trust, with whom Peter had recently been working unstintingly on the public enquiry into a proposed hotel and golf course development in Grade I registered Warwick Castle Park. The Trust's success at the enquiry, due in no small part to Peter's generous contribution of time and professional expertise, gave the Trust impetus to begin its early recording of historic landscapes in the county, and particularly to the conference held in 1994 arranged by, among others, Jennifer Meir and Hazel Fryer, which examined the work of 'Capability' Brown in Warwickshire. As Chairman of Warwickshire Gardens Trust Peter helped to consolidate the Trust's work; and as his vice chairman, and later as chairman I greatly valued his enthusiasm and support for our work and events.

I was also privileged to have the opportunity to work with Peter in his professional capacity as a

town planner. The confidence he showed in my research which was used to inform a number of his commissions in the late 1990s was a great boost, and laid the foundation for my future work. He helped to show that not only did historic landscapes matter, but that they were worth fighting for through both the designation and planning systems; and no one could have wanted a better guide and mentor when faced with the daunting prospect of a first public planning enquiry.

Coincidentally we both moved on to be associated with English Heritage in the late 1990s. Peter as a greatly valued member of the Historic Landscapes Advisory Panel; while I was given the opportunity to work on the Register Upgrade Programme as a consultant Register Inspector. Peter was always interested in what we were doing, in our successes and problems, and frequently contributed helpful advice. I think particularly of his insights as a town planner, which helped to highlight the value and significance of the chain of

public parks in the heart of Royal Leamington Spa as an aesthetic and historic group, and which helped to secure the inclusion of all of these parks on the Register.

Although Peter worked on a much wider stage, as indicated by his role at English Heritage, but it is with Leamington, where he and his wife Janet made their home, that he will be particularly associated. Together they championed the town's heritage and sought to conserve its special character and significance through their contributions to various local groups and societies such as the Leamington Society and the Friends of Pump Room Gardens.

Peter's interests extended beyond landscapes and heritage to encompass many things (including his role as Chairman of the Invicta Car Club for over ten years) – something which ensured he was always well-informed, excellent company.

It is no exaggeration to say that Peter was – and remains – an inspiration.

Jonathan Lovie

Gas Kimishima died spring 2020

Gas, seemingly only known by his self-given nickname, was a bit of an enigma, appropriately enough. Gas found that after moving to England, he became somewhat homesick for Japan, but that he could find solace in ancient wood fired Japanese pottery and poetry – the two are similarly spelt. His quest for a touch of his home country led him to acquire a broad knowledge about medieval

Japanese wood fired ceramic art. Wanting to understand the pottery he loved at its innermost levels, he delved far beyond simply studying pieces and identifying techniques. He began building his own wood fired kilns – Anagama – and making pottery to fire in them.

Members who remember Gas's lovely presentation at the Garden History Society winter lecture in 2004 will be sad to hear that Gas

died in April 2020 after a few years of illness.

I first met Gas when he was building a wood-fired kiln for his traditional wood fired pottery in the woods behind my cousin's house in Aldbury, near Tring in Hertfordshire. He was a very beautiful human being with a big smile and twinkle in his eye and was absolutely passionate about doing things properly with a total

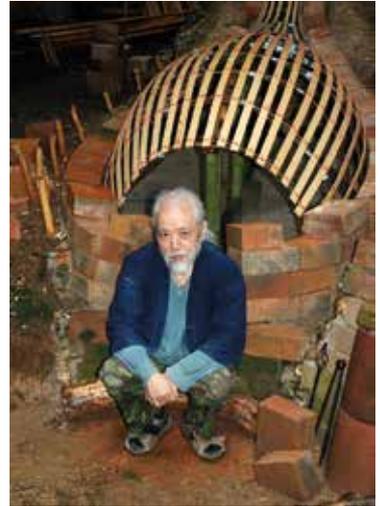
commitment to being polite to our environment. He might not have been the first choice of someone to give a presentation to the Garden History Society, but I knew that he would captivate our members with his lively and impassioned knowledge of traditional wood firing and following with a demonstration of Ikebana flower arranging to go with his pots.

He researched and visited many archaeological Japanese kiln sites to understand how it was done and held many workshops around the world to teach and make 'Anagama' kilns – the one in my cousin's woods took a year to make. All the while he was making the kiln he was cutting and

stacking the wood to fire the kiln – the stacks were in themselves exquisite works of art, only to disappear in the five days it took to fire the kiln and keep it burning.

I count myself very lucky to have bought three of his beautiful pieces at absurdly low prices for the quality of his work. His pots would have cost much more than I could have afforded had I bought them in Japan where his talent and skill would be highly regarded. But that was his point. He said that the beauty and feel of a piece brought joy and satisfaction, "even when a piece is heavier than it looks, if it 'feels right' it will feel right." And it does. Thankyou Gas.

Dominic Cole and others



Gas in front of one of his Anagama, or Whale kilns as he often called them.

other events & news in brief

Calling all amateur architecture photographers from the C20 Society

The Harry Page 2020 Photo Competition is now open. We are delighted to announce that the 8th Harry Page Photography Competition is now open for entries. The competition was established in 2013 in memory of Harry Page, a passionate photographer and keen C20 member. The competition is open to C20 members and non-members. The closing date for entries is 31 December 2020.

The BACSA Manual: A Practical Handbook for the Care of Old Tombs and Cemeteries in South Asia

One of the legacies of the British period in South Asia is the large number of cemeteries

containing European burials. These cemeteries are now part of the heritage of India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and other South Asian countries. These old cemeteries need regular and effective care to preserve this unique window into part of South Asia's own history. BACSA, the British Association for Cemeteries in South Asia is dedicated to assisting with restoration/conservation in a practical and financial way.

The BACSA Manual has been written to provide guidance in the care and maintenance of these ageing structures. It will be of particular assistance where skilled knowledge is lacking and can be downloaded free of charge from the BACSA website from January 2021. It is also translated into Hindi, Urdu and Bangla three of the many local languages there.

Constance Spry: gardener and florist 1886–1960

Shane Connolly, Floral Designer and Guest Curator of the Garden Museum's upcoming Constance Spry exhibition is guest curating an exhibition celebrating Constance Spry and her legacy of flowers, at the Garden Museum. It was originally due to open this month but a certain pandemic changed that plan.

Thanks to funding from the Garden Museum's Culture Recovery Fund grant, generously given by Arts Council England, happily we are now back on track and the exhibition is scheduled to open 31 March 2021. And he wants to ask for your help.

Do you know anyone who trained/worked with Constance Spry? (One proviso: though her school continued until 2008,

officers

Spry died in 1960, so Shane really wants to speak with people who were there pre-1960). Do you know anyone who owns some of Spry's furniture or antique urns? In her lifetime she built up an extraordinary collection of beautiful things, most of which were sold privately and at auction over the years. Specifically, does anyone know the whereabouts of a beautiful floral needlepoint carpet, made by Spry during the war? Or perhaps the single known portrait painted of her in 1953 by M Forestier Walker and sold at Bonhams in 2009?

Please contact Shane directly if you can help with the project: shane@shaneconnolly.co.uk

New project uses technology to bring stories of forgotten botanical garden back to life

A lost landmark of Leeds has been brought back to life

in 'A Garden Through Time', a project which has created a new map and interactive audio walk of the Headingley Zoological and Botanical Gardens.

Few traces remain of the public gardens, which were open between 1840 and 1858 and located adjacent to the historic Headingley Cricket Ground. However, the site was once the location of an ambitious, but ill-fated, publicly funded project to build a botanical garden to rival those of Edinburgh and Kew, including zoological specimens from around the world.

The project brings together artists, historians and local residents to explore the social history of this fascinating venture in a way that can be enjoyed online or on foot.

It features original contributions exploring hidden historical narratives of the local area from a variety of perspectives, including an



appearance from legendary circus owner Pablo Fanque and musings from the bear, whose pit still stands on what is now Cardigan Road.

The project was led by writer and storyteller Mathew Bellwood, with audio producer Rosie Parsons and was generously funded by Leeds Inspired, a part of Leeds City Council, which collaborates with local arts and community groups.

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GT events diary 2020 and 2021

- Tuesday 1 December Caroline Holmes on *The Folly & the Ivy*
Friday 4 December Mark Newman on *Aislabie @ 350*
Monday 7 December Helen Monger, Planning Training Case Study: Victoria Tower Gardens Campaign
Tuesday 8 December David Marsh on *Naked Ladies and the Scarlet Monster*
Tuesday 8 December James Bolton on *The Grand Tour*
Monday 14 December Victoria Thompson, Planning Training 6: Planning for the future of historic parks and gardens
Monday 14 December Dr Patrick Eyres on *Wentworth Castle and Wentworth Woodhouse*
Tuesday 15 December Caroline Holmes on *Step into the Christmas Card*
Tuesday 22 December David Marsh on *Mistletoe and the Druids*

2021

- Tuesday 5 January John Page on *The Power of Farrer*
Monday 11 January Tom Gray on *Biodiversity & the Wild West End Project*
Tuesday 12 January Mike Myers on *The Rescue of an Edwardian Rock Garden*
Tuesday 19 January John Page on *Farrer in the Alps and the Far East*
Monday 25 January Michael Charlesworth on *The Integration of Derek Jarman's Garden*
Tuesday 26 January Michael Charlesworth on *Plants, Books and Journeys: the world of Reginald Farrer, 'well-known' Buddhist*
Monday 8 February Karen Fitzsimon on *Too Young to be Loved? Post-war designed landscapes of London and environs*
Monday 22 February Susanne Seymour on *Transatlantic Slavery's Long Reach: The impacts of direct and indirect slavery connections on eighteenth century estate gardens and parks in Britain*
Monday 8 March Kathryn Whitmore on *Dinosaurs, Italian Terraces and Future Sustainability: Crystal Palace Park*
Monday 22 March Kim Wilkie on *What is Wild?*

- TBC** Return to Sicily, Gardens Trust Study Tour
3 to 5 September Summer Conference NRS and AGM 2021, North Yorkshire
17 to 20 September Study Tour to France, *Jardins à la Française*: possibly re-booted

Details and booking information for all these events can be found inside on pages 38 to 43, or look at our website for updates: thegardenstrust.org/events-archive/

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 publications schedule

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