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Looking through pictures of the garden in recent years, your editor is increasingly missing his family’s former home in the south of France. The Corsican hellebore, growing in both gardens, makes a direct link between the two locations.

As “winter is coming”, I am plunged into the realisation that we may soon be seeing snow in the garden again. All being well, we will be able to resume life as normal in the not too distant future, although parts of the continent are going back into lock-down as we go to press…

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GT NEWS

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/

Copy deadline for Spring 2022
Copy deadline for issue 18
1 February 2022 for distribution in March 2022
It has recently been reported that the Chancellor of the Exchequer has been thinking of changing the beginning of the tax year from April to January. It seems that the cost of this could be prohibitive and so the idea might well be stillborn. It got me thinking, though, of just how many annual beginnings there are. The academic year traditionally begins at the end of Summer. For many, psychologically, Spring is a time of new life and new beginnings. Our calendar year begins on the 1st of January, but even that is not so simple. The Gregorian calendar is far from universal. Some still use the Julian calendar, and the Chinese and Islamic calendars are totally different again.

In the garden, Autumn is not just a time of preparation for winter, taking in tender plants and protecting others from wind and rain. It is also a time for planning ahead, thinking of the year ahead, pouring over seed catalogues, and planting bulbs for next Spring. I have been busy in our own garden doing all of these things, and also ordering some new trees to mark the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee in 2022. For me, it also marks the completion of my first year as Chairman of the Gardens Trust. A time to look back and to look forward. What an eventful year it has been, and certainly not what I had been expecting before the pandemic struck. Life has seemed to comprise a constant round of zoom meetings. One misses the inter-action of personal contact with friends and colleagues. My wife and I now fear that we are in danger of losing our social skills and developing Fogo (a fear of going out). As we plan ahead, there is a growing realisation, though, that the pandemic is not going away and may be with us for some time to come. We will have to learn to live with it and make adjustments to try to keep ourselves as safe whilst resuming life as normally as we can.

In July, I had a meeting with chairs and representatives of County Gardens Trusts. The purpose was to discuss how we had all fared over the last year. The meeting was well-attended and most CGTs were represented. What came across was the sheer determination and resourcefulness shown by everyone present to find new ways to keep going. Some had even managed to increase their membership during the pandemic. We have very much appreciated the enthusiastic involvement of CGTs around the country in the Unforgettable Gardens online talks. Over the next year and through to December 2022, we have a full online programme and again CGTs will be involved in featuring Unforgettable Gardens from their area.

This next year marks the 50th anniversary of Garden History,* The Journal of the Gardens Trust. Volume 1, No. 1 appeared in September 1972. It was printed by offset lithography in black and white with the pages stapled together – staples that are now almost fifty years later showing distinct signs of age. The format changed to the one that we are all familiar with in, at first with plain blue covers with a photograph, or print, on the cover to entice us to venture inside. The Journal has a distinguished history and over the years has included many
important articles on garden history and garden conservation by distinguished experts. It is a veritable treasure trove. We intend to celebrate the milestone with a special anniversary edition. The plan is to select an article from each decade of the journal and republish it together with a short follow-up piece. There is no shortage of candidates for inclusion, and a small team comprising the Editor of the Journal, Dr Barbara Simms, myself, and two of our Trustees, Dr David Marsh and Dr Sally Jeffery is about to embark on the difficult task of selecting the chosen articles. We hope to publish the anniversary edition in the Autumn of next year. Further details will follow in due course.

The Editor of the first issue of the Journal was Dr Christopher Thacker. His editorial on page one began with a passage from Shakespeare’s *The Tempest*, followed by the observation that ‘We like Prospero have a lot to do.’ *Plus ça change plus c’est la même chose.* Fifty years on the Gardens Trust has a lot to do. The next year promises to be both challenging and exciting as, with the assistance of our National Lottery Heritage Fund grant, we seek to strengthen and broaden what we do and to reach a larger and wider audience. At a time of great environmental uncertainty, and with the Government currently re-thinking its approach to planning policy and reform, our work at the Gardens Trust is all the more important. Studying, researching, and recording our rich garden and landscape heritage is as important as ever, but we also need to be ever vigilant in our endeavours to protect and preserve that heritage for future generations.

* Strictly speaking there were also two published volumes of *Occasional Papers*, in 1969 and 1970, which spurred on the creation of the Journal, some articles having outgrown their home in our then *Quarterly Newsletter*. The first seven volumes of *Garden History* then fulfilled the dual role of journal and newsletter before settling into the format we maintain till today – allowing all volumes to be shelved within the same space. The whole run (save the last three years) is available as pdfs via our partner online academic platform JSTOR. And all volumes remain available, in some cases as new reprints, from our publishers, the Lavenham Press. Ed.

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**Garden History, Vol.1, no.1**

**September 1972**

**Editorial**

“I’ll to my book;  
For yet, ere supper-time, must I perform  
Much business appertaining” - *The Tempest*, III.ii.

We like Prospero have a lot to do. Our Society grows, and the *Newsletter* must grow with it to meet the demand for a more comprehensive periodical. This *Journal, Garden History*, is to incorporate the functions both of the *Newsletter* and of the *Occasional Papers* issued in 1969 and 1970. In other words, *Garden History* will continue to report on the activities of the Garden History Society, on visits, on meetings, on events and developments, and on publications related to our subject; to present “notes and queries” furthering the exchange of views and information, and short pieces to do with aspects of garden history. Now we shall also publish more extensive articles, previously restricted to the two *Occasional Papers*. When necessary, and when possible, illustrations will be included.

We welcome contributions to do with any part of garden history: notes, observations, queries and statements, short articles or long ones. Though we cannot promise to print everything which is submitted, this expansion is, we hope, a sound and sensible response to the mounting flow of material which comes in, both from members of the Society and from interested outsiders. In its way, the expansion matches our rising membership, and the widespread growth of interest in the whole subject of garden history.

There is “Much business appertaining”. Let us get on with it.

Christopher Thacker
Annual General Meeting of the Gardens Trust 2021

The Gardens Trust’s seventh AGM was held on 3 September 2021. Due to the continued uncertainty caused by the pandemic, the AGM was held by Zoom and Members were encouraged to attend and vote at the meeting. 61 Members attended the meeting and voting was carried out using Zoom polls. A total of 50 Proxy Forms were received: 45 from Individual Members and five from CGTs.

The deaths of the following members since the previous AGM were noted with sadness including: Miss Enid Cassen; Mrs Fiona Garnett (nee Crumley); Miss Sonia Crutchlow; Mrs De Ferranti; Dr F Harris; The Hon Lady Roberts; Dr Mary Swan; and Dr Anne Tupholme.

The Minutes of the sixth AGM (held on 5 September 2020) and the re-appointment of Averillo & Associates as Independent Examiners were agreed and the Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2020 were received.

Alan Baxter and Susan Campbell were re-elected as Vice Presidents for a further term of five years.

Virginia Hinze and David Lambert stepped down from the Board at the conclusion of the AGM, having completed six years as Trustees. In addition, Thadian Pillai decided to step down from the Board at the AGM. The Trust is grateful to all of them for their contributions during their time as Trustees.

In line with the retirement provisions in the Articles of Association, Peter Hughes retired and was re-elected a Trustee for a term of three years. Rachel Savage and Paul Titcombe, who were co-opted to the Board in March 2021, were elected as Trustees for a term of three years.

Following the formal voting section, Linden Groves gave an informative presentation on the staff and activities of the GT over the last year.

Maureen Nolan
Honorary Secretary

If you were unable to attend this year’s AGM on Friday 3 September, you can still watch the presentation given by Linden Groves, and the team, about the work of the Trust over the past year online, using this link: https://youtu.be/y4RnjUvY4r8

Your new Board, 2021
Peter Hughes QC – Christopher Blandford – Lisa Watson – Maureen Nolan
Sarah Dickinson – Dr David Marsh – Rachel Savage – Chloe Bennett – Joanna Davidson
Dr Marion Harney – Dr Sally Jeffrey – Peter Waine – Paul Titcombe
Gilly Drummond Volunteer of the Year 2021

Our congratulations go to Marcus Batty of Sussex Gardens Trust who was named as the Gilly Drummond Volunteer of the Year at the Gardens Trust AGM. Volunteers are at the heart of what we do, and this award recognises their invaluable work for the Gardens Trust and County Gardens Trusts around the country.

Each year, the Gardens Trust Board appoints a Judging Panel that includes an external judge, a previous award winner and a Board member. This year, the Judging Panel members were: Jenifer White (Chair); Kate Harwood; and Maureen Nolan.

The other volunteers who were nominated for the award were: Jane Bradney of Gloucestershire GT; Gwen Miles of Buckinghamshire GT; Sarah Rutherford of the Gardens Trust; Peter Woodrow of Norfolk GT; and Thomas Yellowley of Northumbria GT. All the nominations were of a high standard, but Marcus Batty was recommended unanimously by the judges.

Marcus was selected for his contribution to the Trust over the past decade, as Director, Trustee and Council member and recent Chairman. He helped develop a strategy for the Trust through a series of workshops, and guided Sussex GT through constitutional and organisational changes. Marcus supported their conservation group, contributed to education as a conference speaker, and conducted independent research. His impact on Communications as a frequent contributor to Sussex GT publications was noted, and particularly his original and substantive contribution of a regular series of Corona Bulletins for the edification, education and amusement of Sussex GT members.

Maureen Nolan
Honorary Secretary

Unforgettable Gardens is Go!

We are delighted that despite the challenges of the past year, our collaborative theme of Unforgettable Gardens has grown wings and is soaring!

This theme runs from 2020–23 and has been carefully chosen to help us all raise awareness of the importance of historic parks and gardens, the threats that they face, and the ways that we can all get involved in helping to protect them. We have become rather fond of our shorthand version of its key message: the 3 Vs — Value, Vulnerability and Volunteering and, of course, we’re not just focussing on the big national stars, but are just as interested in the lesser-known heroes, be they workhorse local parks or overgrown forgotten treasures.

You will not be surprised to read that County Gardens Trusts have swung into action!

We know of two CGTs planning a twinning event for Unforgettable Gardens. The first is being arranged by Avon GT. The new Chairman of Avon GT, Kay Ross, has had a long-term involvement with the restoration and promotion of William Champion’s Garden just outside Bristol at Warmley.

The grotto at William Champion’s Garden at Warmley.

Kay Ross
Champion was a successful 18th-century industrialist who created his own fantasy-style garden next to his house and brass milling works which included a grotto and an 8-metre-tall statue of Neptune standing in a lake. Around the same time the impressive gardens & grotto at Goldney Hall in Bristol, were built by Thomas Goldney, a business associate of William Champion. Avon GT propose to hold a twinning event which will highlight the two gardens to a new audience, and they hope this will result in volunteers to support one or both gardens. The second garden twinning event is between two non-conformist cemeteries — The Rosary in Norwich (the first non-conformist cemetery built outside London) and Histon Road Cemetery in Cambridge (designed by J. C. Loudon). Gin Warren of Cambridgeshire GT is going to deliver an online talk to members of both Cambridge and Norfolk GTs, as well congregations of the associated churches in both cities. Gin also proposes to lead exchange visits to both sites for anyone who’d like to visit and learn more. Throughout 2021, Hertfordshire GT members have been taking photographs of their county’s gardens in order to select 13 images for a calendar of Hertfordshire’s Unforgettable Gardens to celebrate their 30th anniversary in 2022. Buckinghamshire GT have come up with a similar idea to celebrate their 25th anniversary! Meanwhile, Sussex Gardens Trust started a new Twitter account and have been posting some of their county’s Unforgettable Gardens, often in collaboration with the owners or head gardeners. Berkshire GT is revisiting their ‘Ribbon of Green Walk’ across Reading, linking up several parks and other green historic places. Apart from being an educational leaflet, it forms part of the ‘Ribbon of Green’ mental health walks initiative.

Several county gardens trusts are using the Unforgettable Gardens theme to undertake new research and recording projects. For example, Kent GT is researching sites in Swale District Council, to form an inventory to be shared with this district council’s planning and conservation officers, as well providing heritage information for developers and other interested parties. London GT is now in the process of recruiting new volunteers to research or update entries for their inventory, this time in the Borough of Lewisham. Berkshire and Buckinghamshire GTs are researching public parks. The results of their research may be published on their websites or in pamphlets to distribute locally. Additionally, Buckinghamshire are researching the many artists’ gardens in their county.

Norfolk is mid-way through digitising town garden surveys carried out in the 1990s but until now, not easily accessible to the public. Using 21st century technology, a Norfolk GT member, who flies a drone camera, is recording many of their county’s gardens and public parks from the air, to form a record of how they look and are fazing today. Lastly, Essex GT, as well as starting to research for an inventory of parks and gardens in Thurrock District, have also badged lots of their talks and events as Unforgettable Gardens. Another great initiative is their appointment of an Artist in Residence, Jane Fredrick, who is recording their Unforgettable Gardens over a year and leading ‘tour n draw’ events for members and guests in some of Essex’s beautiful landscapes.

Heritage Open Days have added Unforgettable Gardens to their event ‘flavours’, and we are working together to help CGTs and others to run events in the next couple of years. English Heritage welcomed CGTs with our travelling Unforgettable Gardens exhibition to their ‘Blooming Gardens’ weekends this June. These took place at Belsay Hall, Northumberland; Osborne House, Isle of Wight; Brodsworth Hall, Yorkshire; Wrest Park, Bedfordshire; Audley End, Essex; Witley Court, Worcestershire; and Walmer Castle, Kent and at which the local CGTs ran stalls to share information about their work and gardens in that county. Each CGT was given two pull-up display banners by the Gardens Trust, based on the Unforgettable Gardens messages. We hold the artwork for these banners and are very happy to share them for free with anyone who might want to print copies for their own pop-up exhibitions.

We are particularly pleased that Historic Houses are keen to get involved too, and we are currently working on a range of digital collaborations, including blog posts and regular social media content. All of this will be fantastic for raising awareness that even the most beautiful of gardens are vulnerable to threats and require careful care and conservation.

Another exciting collaboration is for the 2021 Loyal Johnson online exhibition, in partnership with RHS Libraries. Loyal and his friend Sam undertook an impressive 1500-mile journey in 1928. They arrived in Liverpool, from The States, and visited 60 gardens of note; most of the route
Calling Our Gardens Trust Members
Many of you are already enjoying our e-Bulletin and online lectures. But we still would like to contact you by email from time to time and need to ensure our Membership database is up to date.

We would be very grateful if you would confirm your current email address by emailing us at: enquiries@thegardenstrust.org including your name and postal address. Thank you very much.
It’s been a very exciting and busy first few months for me at the Gardens Trust. As I explore what we can achieve on the Engaging With Our Future project over the next year, I am very much looking forward to working with you all to find ways to reach new audiences that will help the Trust become a more resilient organisation that survives long into the future. I hope to help start us off on that journey by delivering a series of pilot projects that aim to increase membership, improve our wider community engagement and expand our reach to new audiences digitally.

I’ve begun by reviewing the Garden’s Trust’s social media platforms to see how we can improve our digital engagement; looking at what we currently do and how our online audience have been responding. We can do this quite easily by looking at analytics data from each of our social media platforms, each of which give us an idea of how many people viewed, liked or interacted with a post. I’m happy to report that we are doing well across all our platforms (Twitter, Instagram and Facebook) and from the data we can easily see some paths ahead that will hopefully lead to an improved digital engagement strategy and more people discovering us online.

You may have seen in July we took part in this year’s #LoveParks month, a campaign which aims to encourage people to value their local parks and share what they love so much about them. We shared a listicle (content shared as a list of individual posts) which was successful across all three platforms: some of these tweets were viewed almost 2000 times, our post about playgrounds was one of our top three posts on Facebook and amazingly, it helped increase interactions on Instagram by over 1000%! It’s clear from this success that pre-planned, consistent content based around a theme is how we can best improve our online presence. It’s also shown us that the GT Weekly List is a popular feature — we see an engagement rate of around 10% on these posts which is huge considering that average engagement online is between 2/3% (engagement is measured as a proportion of people who liked, retweeted or commented on a post). This also demonstrates how important it is to our audience that we continue to share the important work that we do and involve them in that process.

Social media analytics also give us a great insight into who our audience actually is online. It is interesting that over 70% of our followers are women and that we reach different age groups on different platforms — on Instagram our audience is largely aged between 35 to 44 (those aged 25 to 34 come second) and on Facebook 45 to 54. This clearly shows us that if we are to reach out to younger audiences in particular, Instagram will be our preferred platform. By using this data we can begin to plan what the future of our digital platforms will look like and test out some ideas. As entertaining, witty and quirky posts also tend to get more traction, we’ve begun celebrating #TopiaryTuesday on Twitter which, although not a totally new idea, aims to insert us into some fun conversations and increase engagement. We’re also looking into ways we can create a content bank of amazing photographs that will be visually appealing, as it is no surprise that these tend to work very well on Instagram.

We were also experimenting this October by taking part in Black History Month, highlighting the histories of Black figures involved with or inspired by gardens and horticulture in the past. Through a series of informative stories on Instagram and posts on Twitter that focused on a different figure each week — some of these may already be familiar to us but crucially some of these won’t be to a new, wider audience. By taking part in Black History Month we
Update on Victoria Tower Gardens
the fight goes on...

The London Gardens Trust (London GT) has been granted permission by the High Court to pursue its appeal against the Minister of Housing’s decision, following an inquiry before a Planning Inspector, to approve construction of the Holocaust Memorial and Learning Centre in Victoria Tower Gardens.

Permission to appeal was granted for a full hearing to consider the following points -
1. The correct legal way of evaluating harm to heritage asset.
2. Whether the Planning Inspector was right to require objectors to come up with detailed proposals for alternative locations – which the judge thinks put them into “an almost impossible position”.

Both are points of importance not only in relation the Victoria Tower Gardens but to the planning system in general. It is to be hoped that the appeal will provide the opportunity for judges to give guidance which will be of value for the future in relation to sensitive applications which may harmfully affect heritage assets including our parks and gardens.

The Gardens Trust, in its role as statutory consultee, had recommended that the proposal to site the Holocaust Memorial on Victoria Tower Gardens be refused, and the Planning Committee of the local authority, the Westminster City Council, unanimously refused consent on the grounds of the damage to part, the setting of the listed buildings and its status as a World Heritage Site. The Government then ‘called in the decision’ and the application was referred to a planning inquiry.

The Inspector recognised that his decision was finely balanced but in the end came down in favour of the proposal rather than the potential alternative site at the Imperial War Museum.

The Gardens Trust welcomes the initiative taken by London GT and the opportunity which the judicial review will now provide for this highly contentious proposal to be further considered and for clarification to be given on the wider issues that the case raises.

Peter Hughes
GT Chairman

will not only reach out to a whole new audience online but also demonstrate how diverse, varied and relevant garden and landscape history is to us all, no matter who we are or where we are from. If through events like Black History Month we can show people just how much of a welcoming and inclusive organisation we are, this may have the added effect of attracting a much wider, more diverse and larger range of members and volunteers; something which can only make the Gardens Trust and County Gardens Trusts stronger.

I look forward to updating you on the results of this in the coming months as well as the many other projects I’ll be involved in on the Engaging With Our Future project over the next year.

If you aren’t already following us on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram, please give us a like, share or follow!

Frankie Taylor

Conservation matters
GT protects Hampton Court landscape

The Gardens Trust conservation team have helped to protect the landscape setting of Hampton Court from an overbearing development, after a sustained campaign since 2018. Elmbridge Planning Committee have decisively refused the planning application for the site, which would have engulfed Hampton Court Station in East Molesey, directly opposite Grade I registered Hampton Court, and as seen here on the right in the illustration.

The old station, designed by Sir William Tite in the 1840s, acts as the herald of the Palace for rail visitors. It was sensitively designed in a Jacobean style to complement the Palace and was intended to offer visitors views of the Palace as well as being a feature of the Palace setting and views. This is an excellent result which protects the Palace, its gardens, and other related heritage assets in the conservation area from a dominant development of 97 residential units, a hotel, retail and associated services.

The Gardens Trust had strongly objected to proposals submitted in 2008 and 2018/19 and raised additional concerns with the Council after reviewing the case early this year. No adequate rigorous historic impact assessment had been submitted as part of the planning application, nor were night-time visualisations provided. We reiterated our strong objection to the latest planning application.

Damage to Hampton Court broader setting

In February historic environment consultant Dr Sarah Rutherford prepared a historic impact assessment (HIA) pro bono, to which we gave our full support. The assessment set out in detail the impact of the proposed development on each of the heritage assets that would be affected. It concluded that the development would result in substantial harm to the setting of twelve significant heritage assets, including Hampton Court Palace, its garden, park and the Thames landscape, as well as causing some harm to a further ten assets. It also pointed out that the building would exceed the 50ft limit imposed by the 1913 South Western Railways Act, and would be visible through the trees, as well as greatly increasing light emissions, when seen from Hampton Court Palace.

Birds eye sketch of proposed development at Hampton Court showing the existing railway station surrounded by the proposed new buildings.

Axonometric of proposed Hampton Court riverside development showing the true heights of proposed new buildings. Here again look at the existing railway station, dwarfed by the new development.
Site Visits Demonstrate Impact
Although there was an active Hampton Court Rescue Campaign locally and many heritage bodies had registered objections, we were concerned that Historic England had noted that the plans would cause only 'some harm' which could be mitigated by tree planting. With the benefit of Dr Rutherford's HIA, the Gardens Trust therefore began a lobbying campaign in April and Historic Royal Palaces (HRP) joined us in robustly objecting to the development.

Together with HRP we led site visits for the Elmbridge planning councillors around the palace and grounds and worked hard to ensure that they fully understood the detail of the Historic Impact Assessment and the true impact on the setting when viewed from the Palace and its grounds, and from Hampton Court station towards the Palace.

Planning Committee Refuses Development
The local authority's report for the planning committee recommended refusal and referenced both our initial objections, additional points and the details of the historic impact assessment. At the planning meeting none of the councillors spoke in favour of the development (there were two abstentions, as the Chair always abstains and one member had a conflict of interest).

Sarah Dickinson, Chair of the Conservation Committee of the Gardens Trust, said: ‘The Gardens Trust, the leading source of expertise on the value and significance of historic designed landscapes, is delighted to have worked successfully with our heritage partners to protect the exceptional historic landscape of Hampton Court Palace, its gardens and unique Arcadian setting. We engaged with those asked to determine the future of this place, sharing our knowledge and passion to help conserve and protect this heritage for the benefit and appreciation of current and future generations.’

The Gardens Trust is most grateful to Dr Sarah Rutherford for her work and to all those campaigners, local and national, who helped to keep the case in the public eye.

Developments encroaching on Registered Parks and Gardens

In recent months we have seen multiple cases of large-scale planning applications that place developments within or on the border of Registered Parks and Gardens (RPGs). These are typically outline applications that aim to establish whether the scale and nature of the proposals are acceptable to the local planning authority.

Applications we have been consulted on that highlight this trend are to be found at Wrest Park in Bedfordshire, Belford Hall in Northumberland, Prestwold Hall in Leicestershire, and Hulton Park in Bolton. They all comprise a mix of residential housing and public spaces, with all proposals including varied commercial and leisure developments. Whilst we will only be focusing on the first three proposals here, the developments at Hulton Park demonstrate that large developments in close proximity to RPGs continue to be proposals that we are regularly consulted on in recent months.

The impact that these types of proposals have upon designed landscapes are profound, as they can change the nature of the landscape and therefore how we interact with it. The urbanising impact of the developments would change the open agricultural setting of Wrest Park and the semi-rural outlook of Belford into more urban environments. Proposals for residential and commercial developments result in changes of access to parks and gardens: rights
of way are re-located to reflect changing infrastructure and areas of parkland or garden within the boundaries are altered by their proximity to developments. This may make it more difficult for us all to explore designed landscapes, and thus they risk becoming less understood and more open to future conservation threats.

The proposals at Belford Hall would see the outlook from historic circuit walks and carriage drives altered; thereby cutting visitors off from experiencing how the landscape was enjoyed in the past.

At Wrest Park, the proposals would place housing in the immediate vicinity of historic woodland, once more irreparably changing the use and feel of the designed and wider landscape.

A major factor we consider in our response to all applications is the visual impact of any development. In our response to the Belford Hall developments, we emphasised how the designed landscape creates a sense of anticipation on the approach from the Great North Road. The developments would undermine the sweeping landscape and thus detract from the intended impact that Dobson produced in his early-nineteenth-century alterations to the landscape. We see a similar case with Wrest Park, as the developments would permanently change the visual impact of the Ha-ha in the Old Deer Park.

Given the importance of minimising visual intrusion on designed landscapes, tree coverage is an essential element of assessing potential detriment. We noted that whilst some aspects of all the developments were partially screened, there were still areas of concern. At Wrest Park the tree coverage was insufficient to shield the proposed 11 to 12-metre-high buildings; meaning that the outlook across the historic parkland would be different to ‘Capability’ Brown’s designs.

Whilst the proposed housing at Prestwold Hall was limited to two storeys, we were concerned whether the tree coverage would be dense enough in winter to act as an effective screen. At Belford Hall, proposed housing within a new walled garden necessitated the reduction of woodland. Again, this risked opening the site to greater...
visual intrusion and changing the outlook of the historic designed landscape. Throughout these applications, there is a concern that little attention is given to previewing the developments from within the RPG. We therefore advised the use of photo montages and wire frames to simulate building heights and therefore their intrusion into the designed landscape. These tools help us to determine the extent to which harm may be caused, and thus shape our responses.

These three cases shed light on just a fraction of the considerations that the County Gardens Trusts and the Gardens Trust make on each consultation we respond to. In the case of Wrest Park, the application was withdrawn; Prestwold and Belford Halls are still to be determined. They highlight how with detailed local knowledge and commitment to research; we can help protect our designed landscapes.

Daniel Bowles
Assistant Conservation Casework Manager

Conservation Casework Update Summer 2021

Casework Consultations

Between 1 April and 14 June this year we received 509 new consultations compared with 281 over the same period last year. 282 consultations were responded to by the GT and CGTs over this period, compared with 215 in 2020 (total figures include no comments). A detailed breakdown of responses submitted for 2020–2021 and previous years is detailed opposite.

Work is on-going chasing up the local planning authorities who still do not recognise the GT statutory consultation procedure. Some have now updated their databases following further reminders but there are others who are clearly using lists which date back to the early years of the 21st century and seem incapable of amending them.

Casework Monitoring

We have now started work on reviewing former cases in an attempt to see what influence the GT and CGT responses has had on the final decisions reached by local planning authorities (lpas). It is a slow process as some of the more complex cases can take several years to resolve. Having started with January 2021 but finding very few outcomes to date, we have now moved back to 2020. It will probably take a few months before we have built up any meaningful data, however, a few early trends which appear to be emerging are:

•Whilst we were aware of a few instances where responses had not appeared on planning authority websites, this does appear to be slightly more widespread than we thought. As a result, we have set up a weekly monitoring system to ensure that missing responses are followed up quickly; more details below.

•Unpicking some of the cases suggests that, although the GT/CGTs views and/or advice are not mentioned directly in the final planning officer’s report or decision notice, their influence has been more subtle in the progress of a case. This has resulted in cases being amended, withdrawn and resubmitted etc. and a result, a proposal which initially prompted an objection has become acceptable.

•In the case of Grade II sites in particular, where Historic England have been consulted they tend to issue a fairly generic no-comment response advising the local planning authority (lpa) to consult relevant historic specialists. In none of the cases studied so far have HE advised the lpa to consult the GT as the statutory consultee for these sites.

Casework in the north

Cases in this area which have raised particular concerns over the past couple of months are:

Wood and water’s edge, Grade I Wrest Park, Bedfordshire.
Conservation matters

Muncaster Castle
Cumbria Grade II*
The insertion of floor to ceiling windows and doors, together with a terrace in the former castle and laundry wall which forms the backdrop to an area of the gardens. It was felt that introducing such a dominant modern element, with accompanying reflection and glare, into this area of the landscape was inappropriate.

Belford Hall
Northumbria Grade II
Plans by Belford Golf club for housing, leisure and retail facilities, and holiday accommodation both adjacent to and within the Registered Park and Garden. This would have a serious detrimental impact on southward views from the Hall due to loss of tree cover within the parkland and the introduction of an urban element into this rural location.

Hulton Park
Greater Manchester Grade II
A scoping request was recently submitted for an enlarged development to that allowed at appeal in 2018 for: championship grade golf course resort (hotel, gym, spa, conference centre), clubhouse etc., walled kitchen garden, new lakes, restaurant, holiday accommodation, event space, golf academy with practice course, driving range, adventure golf course, and club house, residential development of up to 1,300 houses, health and wellbeing hub, local centre, convenience store, and food markets.

Work is ongoing to compare this scheme with the previous application which was objected to by the Gardens Trust and Lancashire GT.

Forestry Commission Consultations

The decision taken by the Forestry Commission to add the GT as a consultee in cases within RPGs is now starting to create problems for the GT and CGTs, both in overall workload and the quality of information supplied with the consultation. Whilst some CGTs are happy to take these consultations on, others are obviously not and they are currently having to be covered by the GT.

Alison Allighan
Conservation Casework Manager

Our team in the Privy Garden at Hampton Court, from left to right: Linden Groves, Teresa Forey-Harrison, Louise Cooper, Susannah Charlton, Tamsin McMillan, Daniel Bowles, Margie Hoffnung, Sally Bate and Frankie Taylor.
Conservation matters

Telecommunications monopoles threaten registered landscapes

There have been an increasing number of applications to erect telecommunications monopoles, either for broadband or, more recently, 5G coverage in or near registered landscapes. The infrastructure required includes the monopoles themselves, ranging in height from 7.5 to 25 metres, as well as their supporting cabinets and antennae. In the wrong place, these monopoles can intrude on the landscape.

We were recently consulted about a 20m monopole near grade I listed Grimsthorpe Castle in Lincolnshire. In our response we highlighted the importance of minimising the visual intrusion that equipment such as cabinets would bring. The views both within and from designed landscapes form an intrinsic part of their heritage, and therefore the visual impact needs to be considered when examining these consultations. However, we also stressed the importance of rural connectivity and how infrastructure developments are vital ways to meet the needs of local communities. This

Casework Logging
Following the increase in consultations we have received; our internal forwarding procedure has been reviewed to reflect changing CGT requirements. Planning website links have also been reviewed and will continue to be updated if required by those logging consultations and responses. The creation of a Response Tracker has helped us highlight cases where LPAs have not published our comments, thereby allowing for more effective casework monitoring.

Social Media
The GT conservation coverage on social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram) has increased since the March 2021 report. Our Twitter page now has 2,412 followers, the Facebook page has 214 Likes and 248 follows, and the Instagram page 1,111 followers. The weekly lists continue to be published across all platforms, with an average reach of 121 users (March to June). In addition to the weekly lists, content also highlights the consultation responses.

Furthermore, to boost the presence of the GT’s conservation role on social media additional posts have been drafted and circulated. These have identified recent themes such as glamping, 5G-masts, and developments encroaching on RPGs. The first of these thematic posts has also been included as Conservation News in the e-bulletin. As new themes emerge, they will be discussed amongst the Conservation team and posted. There has been an emphasis on avoiding posting about consultations that have not yet received a formal response to ensure that the GT are not giving our mixed messages. Conservation posts on social media consistently have the highest reach and are widely shared by both individuals and the CGTs.

Daniel Bowles
Assistant Conservation Casework Manager

A ‘camouflaged’ telecommunications monopole near Polegate, East Sussex.
Conservation matters

application was ultimately refused because of its proximity to the Castle, a Grade I heritage asset, and a lack of information about how its public benefit would outweigh the potential damage to the landscape.

At Norwich City (Earlham Road) Cemetery, our response reinforced how the monopole would encroach into the undeveloped land between the two sections of the cemetery. The proposed base cabinets would also obscure the ornamental railings that surround the cemetery, and the erection of the monopole would mean that historically significant trees would have to be protected. We concluded by stating how the damage to the cemetery would not be outweighed by the public benefit that the infrastructure would bring. This application was also refused, partly due to infrastructure’s detriment caused to the land between the two sections of the cemetery.

Finally, in the case of a 12-metre-high monopole at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, we demonstrated the visual impact of such a proposal on this designed landscape, which has world heritage status. The monopole would also have had an adverse impact on other heritage assets, such as Twickenham Bridge and the King’s Observatory. This was all noted in the decision to refuse this planning application.

These consultations, like those about applications for glamping sites, typify how our responses must consider a proposal’s impact on a historic park or garden, whilst also recognising the needs of local communities.

Gardens Trust: Supporting us

Our ongoing support is invaluable to us to continue our vital work protecting historic parks and gardens at this particularly challenging time. We have now added the facility to easily make donations from our website: 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
When Lancelot Brown bought the estate of Fenstanton and Hilton from Lord Northampton in 1767 he made a sound investment for his family. Researchers find it both surprising and tantalising that, for a man so much recorded and in the public eye, there is very little known of his activity at Fenstanton. This article uncovers more background and details of the Brown family in Fenstanton, their connections with the Cowling family and, in so doing, tries to set the record straight.

In the Norris Library and Museum, St Ives, there are the papers of Sidney Inskip Ladds (1867–1948).² He was an architect and historian and, alongside his supervision of the fabric of numerous churches in Huntingdonshire, he was one of the authors of the Victoria History of the County of Huntingdon.³ During his survey of Fenstanton Church, he recorded the large monument in the chancel for Lancelot Brown, his wife Bridget and two of their sons. Close to this and other Brown memorials are several monuments for the Cowling family. Inskip Ladds’ notes of September 1928 show that he sketched family trees for the Browns and Cowlings from the dates on the monuments.⁴ He
drew the trees alongside each other, and then connected them with a broken line from Mary Elizabeth Cowling (1756–1847) to the offspring of Lancelot and Bridget Brown. He seemed to be suggesting that Mary Elizabeth Cowling was an illegitimate daughter of Lancelot Brown. But what information had prompted this?

Inskip Ladds was guided around Fenstanton by a local expert, Miss Gertrude Peet, who spent much time in the Cambridge University Library researching the history and traditions of Fenstanton and Huntingdonshire. She lived in the Manor House and was particularly interested in the manorial history – especially its most famous Lord of the Manor, Lancelot Brown. She explained that her research had thrown up a conundrum. Firstly, why were the Cowling family commemorated in the chancel and buried in its vault – alongside the Brown family? And secondly why did Peter Cowling (husband of Mary Elizabeth) refer in his will to Rev. Thomas Brown (the youngest son of Lancelot) as his brother-in-law, and leave bequests to him and his son Rev. Robert Lancelot Brown, referring also to the latter as his nephew? This legal document, she believed, was irrefutable proof that the families were connected via Mary Elizabeth Cowling, but the details of the connection were frustratingly elusive. There seemed to be no record of Mary Elizabeth’s marriage to Peter Cowling in any parish registers, and thus no knowledge of her maiden name or origins. No other clues could be found in wills or family papers. Inskip Ladds did not elaborate or add notes to his dotted line, and

Gertrude Peet made no mention. There were numerous descendants and relations of Lancelot Brown, several of whom lived locally. And so the puzzle remained. Occasionally, over the years, historians became aware of it, but Jane Brown was the first to take it further in her biography of 2011, Lancelot ‘Capability’ Brown – The Omnipotent Magician 1716–1783. She noted that Mary Elizabeth Cowling had been a witness to the marriage of Peggy Brown (Lancelot’s second daughter) and James Rust in Fenstanton in 1788. But, of greater interest,
was the naming of Peter and Mary Elizabeth Cowling's son as Peter Lancelot: were these names chosen, in accordance with widespread custom of the time, as those of his grandfathers? With no evidence to disprove what seemed to be obvious, the dotted line became joined up. And from there, theories abounded. Perhaps the reason for buying the Fenstanton estate was that Mary Elizabeth could be hidden there as a child? Perhaps Lancelot kept his wife from visiting Fenstanton because of Mary Elizabeth? Whereas Inskip Ladds had left his papers to quiet posterity in the Norris Museum, in the 21st century the internet and social media spread the word far and wide, allowing theory to be transformed into fact.

On revisiting the Norris Museum Fenstanton file, we see that in October 1930, Ladds had strong reservations about the accuracy of Gertrude Peet’s accounts of Lancelot Brown’s Fenstanton life. Perhaps the hand that had guided his dotted line wasn’t so reliable after all? As he prepared the Fenstanton entry of the Victoria County History (VCH), Gertrude Peet insisted he record that Lancelot Brown lived in the Manor House – her house. But we see next to the line “The Manor House – ‘Capability’ Brown lived there”, that Ladds wrote in notes, to be shared with his fellow authors: “Has Miss Peet
given you her proofs of this? I know she says so, but I think you should check her statements.” And opposite, in the margin, he added: “Personally I should not accept it on her authority. I have heard her tell some very wild tales. Highly imaginative.” Yet, surprisingly, Gertrude Peet’s history won the day and there was published in the VCH in 1932:10 ‘Towards the east end of [Chequer Street] is the Manor House, a good 17th-century brick house with shaped gables at each end and a brick porch of two stories, now the residence of Miss G. M. Peet. Some of the internal fittings are original. This was the house in which Lancelot Brown, generally known as ‘Capability Brown’, lived after he obtained the manor from the Earl of Northampton in 1768.’ There was no evidence to support this authoritative statement in 1932, and none has emerged since. And until proof emerges that he did not live there, it will continue to be widely believed and repeated that Lancelot Brown lived in the Manor House in Chequer Street, Fenstanton.

Let us start with the illegitimacy theory. We find that Lancelot Brown’s reputation can now be restored. The theorists had assumed that if Mary Elizabeth’s husband, Peter Cowling, and Rev. Thomas Brown (Lancelot’s son) were brothers in law, she must be a Brown by birth; they also could be brothers in law if Thomas Brown was married to Peter Cowling’s sister, but as Peter Cowling did not have a sister, and as Thomas had married Susannah Dickens, that possibility was ruled out. And so, they, led by Gertrude Peet, jumped at the theory that Mary Elizabeth was a half-Brown, i.e. she was illegitimate. Everybody overlooked the only other possibility – that Mary Elizabeth and Susannah were sisters. Which is what they were. Mary Elizabeth Dickens is easily found as born in 1756 and her sister Susannah in 1760. They were the daughters of Rev. Charles Dickens,11 Rector of Hemingford Abbots, and their baptisms are recorded in the parish registers.12 The Hemingford Abbots parish registers have notable gaps13 in the second half of the 18th century – to the great irritation of family historians, who blame a succession of curates14 at the time. Although the marriage of Rev. Thomas Brown and Susannah Dickens on 22 January 1785 fell within this period, historians found it otherwise recorded in Venn’s Alumni Cantabrigienses15 and an obituary of 1830.16 For Mary Elizabeth and Peter Cowling, historians scoured parish registers far and wide looking for a marriage but drew a complete blank. Jane Brown posited the theory that they had married abroad. Instead, it was very close to home. An internet trawl of newspaper archives – so easy in 2021 – finds reports, for example in The European Magazine and London Review, of the marriage of Peter Cowling and Miss Dickens in Hemingford Abbots in November 1787. All was legitimate and very ordinary after all.

Peter Cowling’s brother-in-law, Rev. Thomas Brown, and his wife Susannah (Mary Elizabeth’s sister) are buried at Conington. This means that there are no direct family ties between those Browns and Cowlings who share the Fenstanton chancel and vault. And so, Gertrude Peet’s question as to why they are buried together, remains unanswered – as yet. When we look at the Cowling family in the next instalment, we may find the answer.

Bridget Flanagan

Author’s acknowledgement
The author would like to thank Lesley Akeroyd of the Norris Museum for her invaluable professional help and advice.

References
2 Sidney Inskip Ladds, Fenstanton File, Norris Museum, St Ives, Camb., UMS/ FENST/33. Collection of notes and letters concerning early history etc. of Huntingdonshire to or from Miss G.M. Peet. (These folders include the History of Fenstanton and Folk Lore of Fenstanton.)
4 Sidney Inskip Ladds, Fenstanton File, op. cit. p. 66.
6 Will of Peter Cowling of Fenstanton died 1824, PROB11/1692/391, National Records Office.
7 Hunts Post, 17 September 1910. During a guided tour of Fenstanton Church, the Vicar, Rev. G.H. Frewer, remarked to a group of historians “that he wished he could find out some representatives of the [Brown] family as the tomb was getting out of repair.
8 Sidney Inskip Ladds, Fenstanton File, op. cit. p. 66.
10 Towards the east end of [Chequer Street] is the Manor House, a good 17th-century brick house with shaped gables at each end and a brick porch of two stories, now the residence of Miss G. M. Peet. Some of the internal fittings are original. This was the house in which Lancelot Brown, generally known as ‘Capability Brown’, lived after he obtained the manor from the Earl of Northampton in 1768.’ There was no evidence to support this authoritative statement in 1932, and none has emerged since. And until proof emerges that he did not live there, it will continue to be widely believed and repeated that Lancelot Brown lived in the Manor House in Chequer Street, Fenstanton.
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12 Sidney Inskip Ladds, Fenstanton File, Norris Museum, St Ives, Camb., UMS/ FENST/33. Collection of notes and letters concerning early history etc. of Huntingdonshire to or from Miss G.M. Peet. (These folders include the History of Fenstanton and Folk Lore of Fenstanton.)
14 Sidney Inskip Ladds, Fenstanton File, op. cit. p. 66.
He believed that the Rev Byrom Holland [Vicar of Hemingford Grey] and Col. Linton [Churchwarden and resident of Hemingford Abbots] were in some way connected to the family, but neither of those gentlemen felt justified in taking the repair in hand."


9 Sidney Inskip Ladds, Fenstanton File, op. cit. p. 76.


12 Mary Elizabeth Dickens, baptised Hemingford Abbots 14 November 1756, father Charles Dickens, Hemingford Abbots Parish Registers, Huntingdon Records Office.

13 The marriage registers are missing from 1762–1763 and from 1765–1797.

14 Four curates were appointed between 1769 and 1789.

15 Alumni Cantabrigienses by John Venn. 'Thomas Brown, Adm. pens. (age 18), 1780, St John's College.'


17 Northampton Mercury 10 November 1787: 'On Tuesday Se'nnight at Hemingford near Huntingdon, Peter Cowling Esq. of Fenstanton to Miss Dickens, daughter of Rev. Dickens.'

‘The European Magazine and London Review, 1787, Vol. 12, October & November, p 514: ‘P’eter Cowling Esq. of Fenstanton to Miss Dickens, daughter of Rev. Dr C. Dickens.’

**Parlington collapse**

At some point early this year, the little building at Parlington listed by Historic England as ‘The Shelter’ (often erroneously referred to as the Deer Shelter), already ruinous, collapsed further, and is barely now more than a pile of stones.

The circular Gothic limestone structure (Grade II) was designed by William Lindley of Doncaster, 1802–03. Lindley’s drawings and masons’ estimates for work variously refer to the building as a Temple, a Circular Cattle Shed, and a ‘circular building’; but the likelihood was that it functioned as a viewing point for Sir Thomas Gascoigne (owner of several famous race horses) and his guests to admire his mares and foals in the paddocks below.

The immediate cause of the collapse may well have been the succession of heavy rain, hard frosts, and snow in February and March2021; rumours of the collapse of the stonework could not easily be confirmed because the permissive path which passes near the building was closed during the Covid-19 lockdown. In reality, the collapse was ‘inevitable’ given that the building ‘has been subject to many decades of neglect by its owners, M&G Real Estate’; not my words, but those of Leeds CC Conservation Team.

At Grade II, it has little protection. The statutory powers of the council are limited, but conservation officers are in talks with the agent, AECOM, regarding consolidation/repair to ‘stop it getting any worse’: restoration would probably entail its destruction.

An inquiry to AECOM elicited a rather bland response: ‘Given the recent partial collapse, we have agreed with the LCC Conservation Officer that a revised structural report is required. This is now in preparation and will identify feasible stabilisation options.’

The inclusion of the Parlington estate (now with nine listed structures, including the II* Triumphal Arch) on the HE Register of Historic Parks and Gardens at Grade II in 2018 was challenged by M&G – something of a first for a historic landscape, it is thought. The site had been earmarked for development as part of the Leeds Site Allocations Plan, and the owners were clearly looking forward to lucrative profits from the building of several thousand houses and related infrastructure. M&G challenged the authority and expertise of HE, and resorted to submitting FOI requests for all correspondence between myself, Yorks GT and HE. Plans for development were withdrawn after the Examination by government inspectors, and so it is unlikely M&G feel very enthusiastic about the rescue of this little building.

Susan Kellerman
May 2021
Monks to Microscopes
the story of Norwich Botanists

The Norfolk Gardens Trust was delighted to attend the official opening of the new Norwich Botanists’ display garden in the churchyard of St Martin-at-Palace on 14 September. This super project, and the accompanying booklet, is the brainchild of Norfolk GT member George Ishmael, a chartered landscape architect with a background in urban design and ecologically sustainable landscapes. For several years George has worked with a dedicated team of volunteers, known as the ‘Heavenly Gardeners’, to revive and plant up several of the City’s historic churches to promote their green spaces and deter anti-social usage.

In Medieval times there were 52 churches within the city walls of Norwich and today 32 remain. One of these churches, St Martin-at-Palace, is the home to the Norwich Historic Churches Trust and it was here that the Heavenly Gardeners have created a special garden display to celebrate the rich contribution Norwich has made to the science of Botany. The garden project was made possible by a grant from Norfolk GT, and was opened by the Sheriff of Norwich, Caroline Jarrold – who is, happily enough, also a Norfolk GT member.

A series of timber markers topped by salvaged stone floral carvings have been placed under the tower, in a bed planted up with species to reflect the early apothecaries as well as native plants, particularly those first recorded in the area such as Tulip sylvestris in 1790 and woolly mullein, Verbascum pulverulentum, in 1745. Among the earliest botanists recognised are the monks who kept detailed account rolls for the Cathedral Priory gardens during the 14th century. From the 13th century, is the earliest recorded private herb garden belonging to a Jewish physician called Solomon in what is now White Lion Street. 18th-century botanists commemorated include Hugh Rose who translated Linnaeus’s Elements of Botany and Sir James Edward Smith FRS who went on to found the Linnean Society. Sir William Jackson Hooker was born in Magdalen Street in 1785 and was introduced by Smith to Sir Joseph Banks. Hooker later became the Director of Kew Gardens in 1841. Hooker in turn nurtured new botanists in the city, one such being John Lindley, later RHS Secretary and after who the RHS library is named. Women botanists include Joyce Mildred Lambert who studied the ecology of the Norfolk Broads revealing for the first time that they were formed from man-made peat diggings. Readers wishing to know more about the sixteen botanists commemorated can purchase the illustrated twelve-page booklet Monks to Microscopes – the story of Norwich Botanists from the Norwich Historic Churches Trust: Info@norwich-churches.org

Sally Bate
Vice Chair Norfolk GT

George Ishmael and Caroline Jarrold at the opening of the new garden.
There hasn’t been much good about the last eighteen months or so, as all the old familiar ways of working and socialising have been changed beyond recognition. But there have been a couple of really positive things to emerge. One has been the spread of zooming. I agree we may all feel a bit weary of sitting in front of a screen so much but on the other hand, when you sit in front of the screen and talk to people from the other side of the world, or even the other side of the country, and who you would never really get the chance to see without a major expensive time-consuming effort, it has to be a good thing. The other extraordinary thing is the way that it has revolutionised research. I know that digitisation was happening with amazing rapidity before Covid-19 but access to archives and physical collections has now never been easier as museums, galleries and other repositories have upped their game. There will be no going back, and a good thing too.

Francis Bacon, the Jacobean natural philosopher, argued that knowledge is power, a theme taken up by John Claudius Loudon the great democratise of horticulture and gardening two centuries later. Now that knowledge really is made available like this but its extraordinary what you can find. Whereas it might have meant a trip to the Rare Books room of the British Library to track down an obscure pamphlet or tract, many can be found digitally via their website or via archive.org. Many gardening magazines – certainly those where copyright has expired – can be accessed easily via the biodiversity heritage library, biodiversitylibrary.org. Usually such sites can be word-searched too. Images are now also much more easily available, although often still subject to copyright for other than personal or educational purposes. artuk.org has a database of virtually all the oil paintings in public hands, while watercolourworld.org is attempting to do a similar job with watercolours. Gallery collections like those of The Wellcome Foundation are wonderful places to start looking, and you can easily lose yourself in searching the collection sections of the V&A, British Museum, Historic England or the National Trust websites. Many organisations also produce excellent online research documents. I’ve often used Historic England’s research reports, and the RHS Lindley Library’s occasional papers and I’ve just discovered the ABC bulletin of the National Trust. I’m sure there are more – please let me know about your favourites!

And if you’re researching gardens or gardening on a wider scale than an individual site don’t overlook continental sources. For example the French National Library has digitised a huge swathe of its collections at gallica.bnf.fr while images from their mediaeval manuscript can be searched in a multitude of different ways at: mandrugore.bnf.fr/html/accueil.html In the Netherlands there is a great image database at rkd.nl/en/explore/images

And that’s just the free stuff. If you can afford the subscription then British Newspaper Archives britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk offer access to many historic local newspapers and add thousands of pages every week. It might be that a research group sub would pay off in days! Ancestry is highly commercial but, as you’ll be able to read in a couple of blog posts soon, I’ve already covered the cost by savings on journeys, often fruitless, to local record offices when I was trying to track down the families and business arrangement of some lesser known gardeners.

Sorry if I’m telling you things you already know — but maybe you could suggest other good online sources to me to share in a future GT News.
The sixth annual forum from the Gardens Trust, attracting delegates from across the heritage and landscape sector, with County Gardens Trusts right at its heart.

The Gardens Trust is committed to the protection of historic designed landscapes and this drive is reflected in our campaigns and publications and in our support for the work of our 8000 County Gardens Trust volunteers. Conservation in these times of stretched resources relies on the sharing of skills and information, and one of the Trust’s most vital roles is to facilitate the dissemination of up-to-date research and policy, helping national bodies, local authorities and heritage volunteers to share their knowledge and expertise so that they may more effectively protect the landscapes we love.

This year’s Assembly, brought to you online over three afternoons, again brings together those working for the protection of historic designed landscapes, whether as staff or volunteers, to discuss key issues demanding our collective attention.

Programme
1.30 to 3.30pm, Monday 15 November
• Welcome and Introduction from the Gardens Trust, Peter Hughes QC, Chairman, and Tamsin McMillan, Volunteer Support Officer.
• Update from the Gardens Trust’s Unforgettable Gardens campaign 2020–2023, Linden Groves, Strategic Development Officer, and Sally Bate, Volunteer Support Officer.
• Update from the National Trust, Andy Jasper, National Head of Gardens and Parklands.

1.30 to 3pm, Wednesday 17 November
• Update from Historic England, Jenifer White, National Landscape Adviser.
• Conservation Cases Round-up from the Gardens Trust Conservation Team.
• Supporting the Local Heritage List project, Barbara Moth, Cheshire Gardens Trust, and Dr James Dixon, Built Environment Officer, Cheshire West and Chester Council.

1.30 to 3pm, Friday 19 November
• Understanding and protecting 20th century designed landscapes, Annabel Downs, Landscape Architect.
• Fifty Fabulous Features: Building Foundations for Garden History in Thurrock and Havering, Twigs Way, Research Consultant in Designed Landscape.
• Update from the Parks Management Association, Paul Rabbitts, Head of Parks, Heritage and Culture, Watford Borough Council.

Tickets (which cover all three days): Free for Gardens Trust or County Gardens Trust Members, £5 each for Non-Members. Please indicate on your order form which days you will be attending.

If you would like to join the Gardens Trust or make a small donation to support our conservation work, please visit: thegardenstrust.org/support-us/

Please note, on booking for all our Courses and individual Lectures you will be sent a Zoom link two days prior to the start of the event — this will be the same link throughout if for a Course. If you do not receive this link please contact us: eventbrite@thegardenstrust.org

A link to the recorded session will be sent shortly after each session and will be available for use for one week, if you are unable to attend the original transmission, or would like to see it a second (or further) time.

We hope to see you there.
**Suppling the ‘Nobility and Gentry’ and the ‘Floral Public’: The Norwich Nurserymen and the Provincial Nursery Industry, c.1750-1860**

Louise Crawley

Plant Nurseries, Hunters & Pioneers series, #3 of 7

6pm, Monday 15 November

The Norwich Nursery was one of the largest nurseries in eastern England, connected to many of the notable estates and designed landscapes in the region, and yet these great logistical feats remain missing from many of our accounts of garden history. Following the Norwich Nursery’s extensive paper trail through the contemporary local press, we can piece together this regional giant of horticultural supply.

Louise explores the significance of the connection to Norwich, the vital demand from villa owners and ‘polite society’, as well as the logistical operation of a large provincial nursery as it transformed dramatically over the century.

£5 each, or all 7 for £28.

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**Shakespeare, Plants and Gardens**

A series of four online talks exploring the plants and gardens of Shakespeare on

**Tuesdays mornings @ 10am from 16 November**, £5 each or all four in the series for just £16.

‘Not of an Age, but for all Time’, what can we learn about gardens and gardening from the works of our greatest playwright? Throughout his plays, William Shakespeare uses many botanical images both to set the scene on the stage, as well as to illustrate more universal truths. This series of talks will take a wide-ranging view, looking at the various ways in which Shakespeare, and some of his contemporaries, employed a knowledge of plants, flowers and gardens to enhance the action on the stage and the stories being told, and giving us an insight into the world in which the people of the time lived, worked and gardened.

£5 each, or all 7 for £28.

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**Plants and Gardens in Shakespeare**

Jill Francis

Shakespeare series, #1 of 4

10am, Tuesday 16 November

‘I know a bank where the wild thyme blows, where oxlips and the nodding violet grows’. Throughout his plays, William Shakespeare makes many references to plants, flowers and gardens — both to set the scene, as here, as well as to illustrate more universal truths about the human condition in all its variety. This talk will look at Shakespeare’s references to plants, flowers and gardens and consider how such images reflected the assumed knowledge and cultural assumptions of the time, and what, therefore, we can learn about gardens and gardening of the time.

Cost: £5 each or all four for £16.

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**Golden Lane:**

Nothing of the Garden City

Elain Harwood and Clem Cecil

Why so Special? 9: C20 Public housing landscapes, #3 of 5

6pm, Tuesday 16 November

Geoffry Powell won a competition in 1952 for a housing estate for key workers in the City of London and thus was formed the firm of Chamberlin, Powell and Bon, better known as the architects of Barbican next door. This earlier estate epitomises the best of 1950s architecture as its successor does that of the 1960s and the landscaping is equally imaginative. The tiny site, subsequently extended, was intensely urban, surrounded by dereliction and covered in rubble which, when removed, revealed deep Victorian basements. How Geoffry Powell treated the spaces

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**Why So special? Iconic C20 Landscapes**

Our continuing 21-part series in association with FOLAR, on **Tuesday evenings @ 6pm from 7 September**.

FOLAR and The Gardens Trust are delighted to present a series of weekly online talks reviewing the 21 recently Registered Historic England post-war landscapes and gardens and their designers.
between the housing blocks, and a rooftop, is an interesting study of an architect with an enthusiasm for landscape design rather than a landscape specialist. Clem Cecil lived on Golden Lane Estate for ten years from 2010 and says “every day was a privilege. It is a manifestation of the best aspects of modernism. Thanks to the architects’ ingenious design approach, the units, even the small ones, feel spacious and full of light. There is an openness inherent in the design of the Estate - thanks to which there is an incredibly strong community. It is a harmonious and stimulating place to live, although management, overseen by the City of London, can be problematic, and alas the City doesn’t have the same respect for the design integrity of the estate as many of its residents.”

Cost: £5 each or all 5 for £21.25.

**Georgian Gardens: part 2**

Our second course (of three), on Georgian gardens and gardening, comprises six online talks on Thursday mornings @ 10am from 11 November, £30 for the series.

Our journey through Garden History has now taken us into the 18th century. There is so much of interest that we have divided it into three six-week sections. Firstly we examined the very late-17th century and early decades of the 18th, now we will explore the events and ideas of the mid-century, and our final part will look at the Landscape Garden itself, although there will be, of course, considerable overlap between the three sections.

In the second of our courses on the 18th-century garden we turn our attention to what inspired garden makers. There’s no doubt that one of the principal motivations for change was the Grand Tour which encouraged our attention to what inspired garden makers. There’s no doubt that one of the principal motivations for change was the Grand Tour which encouraged classical ideas, architecture and allusions to Arcadia but there was much more to it than that. Economics played its part too. The maintenance of formal geometric gardens was increasingly expensive, the elite were often spending more time and money in London and remodelling their estates in a more informal way allowed sheep and cattle to do the work previously done by human labour. The Georgian garden was, however, much more eclectic in style. As Britain’s trading network, and then colonies, spread around the globe they brought back ideas as well as goods. There was a fascination with the exotic, whether new plants from the Americas and the Cape, or luxury goods from China and Japan. It was matched by a reinvention of our national history and identity which led to an interest in primitive architecture, which also found its place in the garden. As a result the garden became a stage on which elite garden and estate owners could share their politics and their good taste and set an example for others to follow.

**William Kent: ‘Il Signor’ in Italy and England**

**Sally Jeffery**

**Georgian Gardens 2, #2 of 6**

William Kent trained as a painter in Italy where he spent ten years absorbing all sorts of impressions both from the ancient world and the art of the day. On his return he became one of the most influential designers of the early 18th century, with a distinctive style in drawing, garden design, architecture and many other things. He is perhaps best known for his work at Stowe and Chiswick.

**Beauty and Utility: Art, Craft and Recycling**

**Caroline Holmes**

**Where The Wildness Pleases**

Where The Wildness Pleases, in association with Kent & Sussex GTs and the NGS, #2 of 4

The legendary woodland of the High Weald conceals and reveals an array of architecture, settings and horticultural feasts which is why Caroline Holmes chose it for her book Where The Wildness Pleases –The English Garden Celebrated, July 2021. Join Caroline in the second of four celebratory talks that will [see p.30]
Now in its 11th year the Gardens Trust’s New Research Symposium provides a forum for new research on subjects related to garden history for all researchers and scholars, whether or not they are attached to an academic institution. This year we had so many interesting proposals that we decided to run it in two parts. Our first concentrated on 20th-century gardens and landscapes, while the second group of papers cover a much wider spectrum. Chaired by Stephen Smith, each presentation will last no longer than 20 minutes with a further 10 minutes allowed for questions.

Charlotte McLean
Megget Valley Reservoir: Before, Then and Now

Charlotte is a second-year PhD student at Manchester Metropolitan University researching the work of Scottish Landscape Architect Mark Turnbull. Her paper explores the history and future of the ‘largest earth embankment dam in Scotland’ and ‘one of the finest examples of integrated engineering and environmental design in Scotland, where landscape architects took a leading role.’ By drawing on archival documents, oral histories and site observations she will explore questions such as: What does Megget reveal about attitudes to the environment, infrastructure and amenity in post-war Scotland? What were the original design intentions and how successfully were/and are they realised? What is the legacy of the design thinking with respect to the current climate emergency and drive for new ‘green’ infrastructure to meet Britain’s zero carbon emissions targets?

Marilyn Brown
‘When the King Enjoys His Own Again’ or Leslie House: the garden you create when you win all the prizes at the Restoration

Marilyn Brown is an independent researcher and an archaeological investigator, retired from RCAHMS where she looked after aerial survey, and a board member of Scotland’s Landscape and Garden History.

John Leslie, seventh Earl and first and only Duke of Rothes, was born about 1630, a close contemporary of Charles II. After the execution of Charles I, the Earl of Rothes joined the party of Charles II and carried the sword of state at his coronation as King of Scotland at Scone. He followed Charles into England and fought and was captured at the Battle of Worcester. He spent the years before the Restoration in prison or under restraint before joining Charles II at Breda and returning to England in 1660.

Charles, while generally loathing Scots, rewarded the loyalty of those who had fought for him at Worcester, and Rothes was granted a pension of £1000 sterling per year and the offices of President of the Privy Council, Lord High Commissioner and Lord High Treasurer.

During the 1660s he built a new house in a classical style at Leslie in Fife on the site of one his family properties and surrounded it with avenues, courts and terraced gardens, decorated with statues and fountains, orchards and plantations, providing a visual expression of the re-establishment of order and authority.

Louise Crawley
‘Is This Not Quite Pastoral?’: Reinterpreting the Language of the Eighteenth Century Landscape Park

Louise is a member of the Norfolk Gardens Trust and the Norfolk Gardens Trust Research Group, currently researching for a PhD at the University of East Anglia, supervised by Professor Tom Williamson.

She writes ‘this paper is based on the research for my PhD, which uses unpublished British domestic travel writing to explore perceptions of landscape in the long eighteenth century. I shall argue that we need to reconsider our current understandings of the language contemporaries used to describe eighteenth-century designed landscapes, as
Dr Suzanne Moss is Head of Education and Learning at the Royal Horticultural Society and has recently completed a post-doctoral research fellowship at the University of York. Her research focuses on plants and gardens as sites of knowledge generation and considers their role in the cultures of natural philosophy in the eighteenth century. During the Enlightenment of the eighteenth century, the popularisation of natural philosophy – the field we would now call science – was part of scientific culture. Bacon, Newton and Locke had advanced the field and encouraged the occupation of natural philosophy as an activity of both professionals and amateurs. Between this and the exploration of the expanding new world, the opportunities must have seemed endless.

The field of natural philosophy was becoming more democratic, with coffee houses, societies, publications and public demonstrations breaking down boundaries of class and gender. Many gentlemen and gentlewomen, in addition to the professional class, held cabinets of natural history or experimental philosophy in an attempt to further knowledge and establish themselves as allied to the sphere.

At the same time, botany was at the forefront of scientific research – plants were the foundation of empire, and the collection and sale of plants was big business. Although the history of gardens is not usually considered alongside the history of science, it is clear that in many cases, the outside space of a country estate was part of the natural philosophy endeavour. This paper will look at evidence which places gardens firmly as elements of a natural philosophy collection, and therefore as sites of knowledge generation in the eighteenth century.

Tickets for the 11th GT New Research Symposium are free but donations are very welcome! Please go to: bit.ly/DonateGardensTrust

For too long, garden historiography has focused on the great published works of taste of this era, with less consideration of how others who visited designed landscapes perceived them. The influence of published works was undeniable in shaping the form of amateur travel writing, and how activities and approaches were undertaken, but the perceptions and reactions of the unpublished writer often show a very different and more immediate response to the landscape.

This paper will emphasise unpublished travel writing as a significant and yet underutilised resource for the garden historian whilst suggesting a reconsideration of the current direction of language-based analysis of gardens and designed landscapes.

Suzanne Moss
Gardens as sites of knowledge generation

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[cont’d from p. 28]

not only delve into thirty gardens to reveal their pleasing details but raise funds for the Kent and Sussex Garden Trusts as well as the National Garden Scheme.

Amongst the settings there are castles such as Hever, Penshurst, Scotney; rambling English country houses like Batemans, Borde Hill, Gravetye Manor, Great Dixter, Hole Park, Leonardslee, Nymans, Stonewall, Wakehurst Place; Wealden homes like Balmoral Cottage, Falconhurst, Hammerwood Park, High Beeches, Smallhythe Place and Standen, all offering contrasting inspirations in their dramatic landscapes and glorious plantings. Cost: £5 each or all 4 for £16.

Three generations of the Armstrong family of Hampshire: a nursery with links to Repton and Jane Austen, and a plant hunter in Australia and Timor

This was a large nursery ideally placed to supply the horticultural demands of the local gentry. Detailed records have revealed that the owner John Armstrong supplied all the plants for a walled garden and plantations designed by Repton at nearby Herriard Park and supplied shrubs to Frank Knight at Chawton House and the cottage in Chawton village occupied by his mother and his sister Jane Austen. However, John Armstrong was bankrupt by 1815, a not unusual event in the trade, although the nursery continued to flourish under new ownership. An intriguing postscript to the family history is the story of his son, another John Armstrong who became a plant hunter for Kew. Cost: £5, or all seven for £28.
Not Shakespeare
Jill Francis
Shakespeare series, #2 of 4
10am, Tuesday 23 November

What can be learned about early modern gardens and gardening from literary sources? Focusing on Shakespeare’s contemporaries: from the doggerel verse of Thomas Tusser through Spenser’s Faerie Queen to Ben Jonson’s country house poetry.

Cost: £5 each or all four for £16.

Riverside Living, Fresh Air and a Dan Dare Approach: Churchill Gardens
Dominic Cole & Jenifer White
Why so Special? 10: C20 Public housing landscapes, #4 of 5
6pm, Tuesday 23 November

Two young graduates from the AA won the competition to design Churchill Gardens after the Second World War. They looked to Germany for good examples of well-designed public housing and created a special place which, in turn, became an exemplar for others to follow. They were designing during the time of the space race which perhaps influenced the Flying Saucer playground, Accumulator Tower (using waste heat from Battersea Power Station) and their design for the Skylon at the Festival of Britain.

The landscape setting of the estate is now on the register of parks and gardens to complement the listing of most of the buildings. Our speakers will look at the protection of C20 landscapes through designation and some of the conservation challenges.

Cost: £5 each or all 5 for £21.25.

Boughton House: A Living Landscape
Charles Lister
Unforgettable Gardens with Northamptonshire GT, #4 of 4
7pm, Wednesday 24 November

This talk will concentrate on the evolution of the Designed Landscape and gardens at Boughton House. Starting with the grand schemes of the first Duke of Montagu who was emulating the stunning gardens he had seen on the continent as English Ambassador to Louis XIV, move through the periods of ‘benign neglect’ and conclude with the recent restoration work under the current Duke of Buccleuch and his father.

Cost: £5 each or all 4 for £16.

C18 Gardening Inspirations
David Marsh
Georgian Gardens 2, #3 of 6, 10am, Thursday 25 November

Discussing other gardens styles which were running in parallel with notions of Arcadia. Some of these, like Chinoiserie, came from the widening of global trade and the beginnings of empire, while others including those associated with ‘the rustic,’ ‘the primitive’, Druids, hermits and even the Gothic are associated with the reimagining of our national history and identity. Some were realistic, some wildly imaginative, some others whimsical. They all offer new insights into the way that gardening was perceived and appreciated in the mid and late 18th century.

Cost: £5 each or all 7 for £28.

Modern Japanese Gardens in Japan
Yoko Kawaguchi
Japanese Gardens series, in partnership with the Japanese Garden Society, #5 of 7
6:30pm, Thursday 25 November

The design of Japanese gardens has always had a symbiotic relationship with the architectural style of the buildings to which they are attached. It is not surprising, therefore, that the rapid westernisation of people’s way of life, which took place through the twentieth century, but especially after the Second World War, has had a profound influence on modern Japanese garden design.

The effect of this change was not just felt in the domestic sphere, but also in the use of public spaces.

This lecture will look at how changes both in the taste in plants and the expectations people have of their gardens have influenced garden design. More broadly, we will be examining how designers have addressed the issues raised by the pressures on space in modern cities.

Cost: £5 each or all 7 for £28.
'12 Months of Flowers’. But you may not have heard of Daniel Grimwood who took over his nursery and continued the business well into the 19th century. It’s likely he would just have been a footnote in garden history books but for one thing: The Great Geranium Robbery. In 1795 someone stole a rare new introduction from South Africa from Grimwood’s glasshouses. A suspect was apprehended, and the case reached the Old Bailey. The court reports reveal far more than the outcome of the case, also giving a clear account of how the nursery trade operated, plants were acquired, propagated and sold and how much plants were valued.

Cost: £5, or all seven for £28.

Hubble, Bubble: Death by Shakespeare Kathryn Harkup Shakespeare series, #3 of 4
10am, Tuesday 30 November

The Bard killed off over 250 named characters, some of them in creatively chemical ways. This talk will look at Shakespeare’s plant-based poisons. Did he know his henbane from his hemlock? What was stirred into the witch’s cauldron? And what could have been dripped into Old Hamlet’s ear while he slept in his orchard?

Cost: £5 each or all five for £21.25.

‘A Story Still Told Set Firmly as Rocks in a Zen Garden’: Ireland’s Lafcadio Hearn Japanese Gardens Agnes Aylward Unforgettable Gardens in association with the Japanese Garden Society #1 of 3
6:30pm, Wednesday 1 December

The design, construction, and storyline of a unique biographical garden, which pays homage to the great 19th century chronicler of Japan, Patrick Lafcadio Hearn (1850–1904). The storyline of the garden traverses a circle in time over 160 years, from the childhood years of the writer, in Ireland, to the reconnaissance visit there of his great grandson, Professor Bon Koizumi, in 2012. A chance encounter with the speaker lead to the establishment of the Lafcadio Hearn Japanese Gardens, in Tramore, Ireland. The theme and design of the gardens reflect and mirror Hearn’s extraordinary journey through life, from West to East, and from his lonely early years in Ireland to the honour and fame he achieved in his later life in Japan.

Cost: £5 each or all five for £21.25.

The Economics of the 18th-century Garden Patrick Eyres Georgian Gardens 2, #4 of 6
10am, Thursday 2 December

Providing some answers to the question that confronts every volunteer guide ‘Where did the money come from?’ Through the example of selected landscape gardens created at different points in the ‘Long 18th Century’, a range of economic sources will be discussed – from agriculture and commerce to industry, warfare and slavery. The additional attraction of this talk is that most of the examples are in Yorkshire and, among other notable landscapes, Armley Park, Harewood, Wentworth Castle and Wentworth Woodhouse will be featured.

Cost: £30 for the series.

Islands of Peace: a Karesansui garden and community cultural project in Coventry Rebecca Bollands, Graham Hardman & Robert Ketchell Japanese Gardens series, in partnership with the Japanese Garden Society, #6 of 7
6:30pm, Friday 3 December

There is a newly constructed ‘Islands of Peace’ Japanese garden in the War Memorial Park, Coventry. The realisation of

Portsmouth Road (now Alton East) and Roehampton Lane (Alton West) were the best sites left within the old county of London for post-war housing. The London County Council, under pressure from within and without, formed a new Housing Division in its Architect’s Department specially to develop them, and the architects also took responsibility for the landscaping.

The two estates designed by two rival teams in the LCC Housing Division, are very different in style: the architects of Alton East had made extensive visits to Sweden, which inspired the form of the tower blocks, their layout and setting. By contrast Alton West retained and transformed the remains of a landscape by Capability Brown and superimposed a more formal architecture.

Cost: £5 each or all five for £21.25.
the garden came about through a collaboration between five Primary Schools in Coventry, two contractors, the War Memorial Park management, and volunteers from the Japanese Garden Society. Reflecting Coventry’s role as an International City of Peace, and its strong city to city link with Hiroshima, Rebecca Bollands will explain how these factors fed into a series of Japanese culture related projects for children at the schools. The culmination was learning about the dry stone, or karesansui, gardens of Japan, which ultimately led to the garden being constructed.

Designer Robert Ketchell will explain how he incorporated the children’s ideas in the final design for the garden. Project Manager for the construction, Graham Hardman, will then outline how the garden was constructed, involving the children where possible.

Cost: £5 each or all 7 for £28.

Thomas Backhouse, brother of the more famous James: the early years (1815–1854) of the Backhouse Nursery, York
Gillian Parker
Plant Nurseries, Hunters & Pioneers series, #6 of 7
6pm, Monday 6 December

In 1815, James Backhouse (1794–1869) and his brother Thomas (1792–1845) bought a long-established nursery in York to start their own business. Nine years later, James became a minister of the Society of Friends (Quakers) and embarked on a career of missionary work in England and abroad, including a ten-year visit to Australia and South Africa (1831–1841) during which he sent back botanical specimens and plants to Kew, Edinburgh, and York.

Despite his role in establishing and developing the business, especially in James’s absence, Thomas is rarely given credit for the work that allowed James’s son (also James, 1825–1890) to assume responsibility for the nursery when his father returned from Australia, and to turn it into a famous centre of rock garden and alpine plant expertise. This talk attempts to redress the balance by discussing the history of the two York nurseries that Backhouses acquired to form their own business, the development of their own nursery from 1815 to 1854, and some of the plants that they were growing, developing, and showing in the vigorous nursery environment of the early to mid-19th century.

Cost: £5, or all seven for £28.

Was Shakespeare a Gardener?
Jackie Bennett
in conjunction with the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust
Shakespeare series, #4 of 4
10am, Tuesday 7 December

Author Jackie Bennett explores the real gardens with which Shakespeare was associated – as a boy and as a man. The five Stratford-on-Avon gardens (and others in London and elsewhere) represent the different phases of his life and help to map out the biography of our national poet — and how he came to know so much about the plants, flowers and gardens of his time. Illustrated with images of the gardens as well as historical illustrations from the archive of the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust.

Cost: £5 each or all four for £16.

A 1960’s Japanese garden in the Cotswolds: The New House, Shipton-Under-Wychwood
Adrienne McStocker
Unforgettable Gardens in association with the Japanese Garden Society #2 of 3
6:30pm, Wednesday 8 December

A Japanese garden envelops a weekend retreat in a quiet village in the Cotswolds. This is the New House designed by Stout and Litchfield, exponents of humane modernism. The garden created by its owners, the artist Viacheslav Atroshenko and the barrister Milton Grundy, provides a beautiful and atmospheric setting for the modern house. Both the house and garden are listed by Historic England as Grade II*. Adrienne will review the creators’ vision for the garden and the influences on its design and execution. As we walk through the garden, you will be able to experience how the New House is a perfect synthesis of place, house, and garden.

Cost: £5 each or all 3 for £12.

The Politics of the 18th-Century Garden
Oliver Cox
Georgian Gardens 2, #5 of 6
10am, Thursday 9 December

Many 18th-century landscape gardens were rich in political significance and political symbolism. At times enduring, and at other times fleeting, these landscapes provide a valuable insight into the politics of the time. Local priorities, national politics and politics on the
imperial stage intersected and collided in some of the most characteristic landscapes of the age, from Stowe to Stourhead.

Cost: £30 for the series.

Tokachi Millennium Forest: a naturalistic garden in Japan
Dan Pearson
Japanese Gardens series, in partnership with the Japanese Garden Society, #7 of 7
6:30pm, Thursday 9 December

Thirty years ago, in an extraordinarily progressive move, Japanese media entrepreneur, Mitsushige Hayashi, bought 400 hectares of land in the Tokachi region of Hokkaido, the northernmost island of the archipelago, with the aim of offsetting the carbon footprint of his national newspaper business. Ten years later he invited internationally respected British landscape designer, Dan Pearson, to help design an ecological public park on the site that would allow visitors to reconnect with nature and preserve and improve a piece of land that had been lost to intensive forestry and agriculture. With the aim of safeguarding this place for a thousand years Mr Hayashi named it the Millennium Forest. This project is at the heart of the book Tokachi Millennium Forest: Pioneering a New Way of Gardening with Nature (Filbert Press, 2020), co-written by Pearson and Midori Shintani, Head Gardener at Tokachi Millennium Forest.

In this talk, Dan Pearson will discuss the design and development of the forest and gardens including the big thinking required to engage with such a large and unfamiliar site to a detailed examination of its cultivated areas. He will look at how traditional Japanese cultural practices have guided and influenced the process from nature worship and animism, the Japanese calendar of 72 seasons, the concept of satoyama as a guiding principle in the forest, and the use of traditional Japanese garden design methods such as shakkei, the borrowed view. He will also consider how a very naturalistic strand of European garden and planting design which prizes respect for the environment and ecology came to find a new natural home in Japan.

Cost: £5 each or all 7 for £28.

Caldwell’s Plants and People
Plant Nurseries, Hunters & Pioneers series, #7 of 7
Barbara Moth
6pm, Monday 13 December

A plant nursery established in Knutsford, Cheshire, in the 1750s became Caldwell’s Nurseries, and traded for over 200 years supplying seeds, plants, and tools to the great estates, workhouses, councils, local gardeners and Chester Zoo. Details of their trade in a range of business ledgers from the 1790s onwards provide a significant record of an early regional plant nursery. Seed measures, catalogues, postcards and photographs survive, which with the recorded recollections of the Caldwell family, staff and customers provide an insight into the business in the 20th century. The talk will focus on Caldwell’s late 18th-century network of customers and their purchases, the marketing and transport of goods, and the role of women and European workers in the business.

Cost: £5, or all seven for £28.

The Japanese Garden at Tatton Park
Graham Hardman
Unforgettable Gardens in association with the Japanese Garden Society #3 of 3
6:30pm, Wednesday 15 December

The Japanese garden at Tatton Park in East Cheshire is one of the oldest surviving gardens built before the First World War and is well known in Japan as one of the foremost Japanese gardens in the UK. The garden is part of 50 acres of landscaped gardens created by the Egerton family at Tatton Hall from the 18th to the 20th centuries. Starting with what the garden looks like today, the illustrated lecture will explore how the garden came into being, the influences on its design and show some rare photographs of its construction between 1910 and 1912. The garden survived until 1958 when the last Baron Egerton died without an heir, the Tatton estate being taken over by the National Trust in conjunction with Cheshire (now Cheshire East) County Council. How the garden was adapted from a private garden to being open to the public in the 1960s and its subsequent restoration in 2001 will be described. Finally,
the difficulties of caring for such a garden in today’s environment will be discussed as well as the involvement in recent years of the Japanese Garden Society. Cost: £5 each or all 3 for £12.

GT events 2022

Our programme for 2022 remains very much at the planning stages, but we have high hopes of finally getting out and about again and running our long-awaited Study Tours to Sicily and France and our Weekend Conference in North Yorkshire.

In the meantime, we are continuing our very popular range of courses and one-off lectures online. You will find details overleaf of our continuing series on the 21 newly registered mid-20th-century designed landscapes, both public and private, in collaboration with FOLAR, and our new series on the work in China by John Bradby Blake and his team of Chinese illustrators. We also have some new subjects to look forward to. Twigs Way will be presenting a series on ‘Forgotten Women’ in garden history, to be followed by one on the Islamic Garden, presented by Katie Campbell. Our on-going series on Unforgettable Gardens will remain a feature on Wednesdays, and the third part of our Thursday continuing course on the Georgian Garden in Garden History will have reached the later Georgians, concentrating on the creation of the English Landscape Garden. This will be complemented by a course led by Gabriel Wick on the Jardins Anglais in the 18th century, showing how gardens in France, and beyond, were influenced by their British counterparts. Our Garden History course aims to have reached the 19th century by mid-February. With much more to come.

So please keep watching our website for details, and checking your email box for more information. If you have signed on for our events before you can expect details via Eventbright of our programme, or check our monthly e-bulletin via mailchimp.

A People’s Arcadia: the Ian Hamilton Finlay Garden at Luton
Kate Harwood
Why so Special? 12: C20 Semi-public gardens, #1 of 4
6pm, Tuesday 11 January

Commissioned and funded by the local council, the garden is a complete programme of sculptures designed by Ian Hamilton Finlay and complemented by planting by Bob Burgoyne, Master Gardener at the council and very much in sympathy with Finlay’s vision.

The site is not only in a public park, but also in 18th-century parkland. The garden draws on the work of Claude Lorraine and the English Landscape Movement and is imbued with the classical world of deities drawn from Ovid’s Metamorphoses. This talk looks at the commissioning of the garden, its influences, other examples in Finlay’s oeuvre and its importance culminating with it being added to the Register. Luton Culture, who run the garden, have set up a small group to promote its rejuvenation with the help of HE and the speaker. Cost: £5 each, or all 4 for £17.

Roper’s Garden, London: A Meeting of Form, Function & Art
Ed Bennis
Why so Special? 13: C20 Semi-public gardens, #2 of 4
6pm, Tuesday 18 January

Originally Sir Thomas More’s orchard in the early-16th century, this is a modern urban space built in the aftermath of WW2. The buildings on the site were destroyed in 1941 and it remained essentially...
derelict until the 1960s. Peter Shepheard developed a sensitive and understated design utilising the basements of the destroyed buildings to provide a sheltered and sunken garden.

There are distinctive Shepheard elements such as path and kerb details often found in his other designs; a strong geometry of spatial form, and restrained planting of a knowledgeable plantsman. His love of nature, particularly birds, is seen in the bird boxes around the walls. Seating, shelter and ease of access are key functional elements. Shepheard uses All Saints Church (Chelsea Old Church) as a focal point outside of the site, while centre-stage is The Awakening by Gilbert Ledward. An unfinished sculpture by Jacob Epstein lies hidden, awaiting to be discovered by visitors.

Cost: £5 each, or all 4 for £17.

The huge Portland stone slab that forms the John F Kennedy Memorial was listed Grade II in 1998. It is located on the fringe of a finger of woodland and set in an ‘acre of Runnymede’ on grazing land rising above the meadow. It is this, the rest of the site, that was recently added to Historic England’s register, although it is surely hard to find a design that is not more integrated with its landscape. The JFK Memorial soon became a celebrated landscape design, it was significant to Jellicoe’s career, and it has continued to attract widespread interest and praise. Like one of the swans gliding on the Thames below, however, many feet have paddled hard to help both create and keep this designed landscape sublime, and this talk will tell some of the stories that are part of its history.

Cost: £5 each, or all 4 for £17.
The Life and Work of John Bradby Blake (1745-1773): Rediscovering an Early European Encounter with the Plants of China

In February and March 2022, we have an exciting series of six talks by expert speakers on the exquisite drawings of Chinese plants produced by John Bradby Blake and his Chinese artists in the 1770s. These will take place from 6 to 7 pm, on Monday evenings from 7 March to 11 April, and can be booked on our website where you will find full details.

John Bradby Blake's life was short but exceptional. During a span of only three years in the southern Chinese port city of Canton, Blake and his Chinese artist(s) produced several hundred exquisite, botanically accurate, coloured drawings of Chinese plants, many of which were unknown in the West. Hidden from public view for more than two centuries, these singular and historically crucial collaborative artistic creations have only recently resurfaced.

This series of six illustrated talks, focussing on the botanical drawings, will lead you into a previously unknown world in London and Canton, which Blake participated in and shaped.

It will explore the many meanings of the material results of a rich and unique cross-cultural encounter which continued to reverberate for decades after his death.

Our speakers are: Sir Peter Crane FRS, Oak Spring Garden Foundation, Virginia, USA; Dr Jordan Goodman, University College, London, UK; Dr Josepha Richard, Courtauld Institute of Art, UK; Professor Winnie Wong, University of California, Berkeley, USA; Dr Yu-chih Lai, Institute of Modern History, Academia Sinica, Taiwan. They have worked closely together on the Blake drawings and associated, scattered manuscripts and texts (in Chinese and western languages), are experts in the fields of botany, art history, garden history and the history of science; and they come to you from the United Kingdom, the United States and Taiwan.

Cost: £5 each or all 6 for £24

Had he lived, Bradby Blake’s accomplishments would have ensured his election to the Royal Society. In this lecture I will situate Brady Blake in the surge of botanical exploration that characterized the late-eighteenth century and show how his story foreshadows those of later and more well-known botanical collectors who introduced plants from China into Europe, such as Reeves, Fortune, and later Wilson.”

Cost: £5 each or all 6 for £24
The Son, the Father and the Chinese Visitor: From London to Canton and Back Again
Dr Jordan Goodman
John Bradby Blake, #2 of 6
6pm, Monday 14 February

John Bradby Blake first arrived in Canton in 1767 and remained there for several months as an employee of the British East India Company before returning to London. At that time, European merchants, trading under their national East India companies, were confined to the port city as part of a set of regulations governing the conduct of foreign business. In 1770, Bradby Blake returned to Canton as a resident supercargo having prepared himself while away for his great challenge to document Chinese plants in a substantial series of coloured, botanically accurate, drawings by way of a unique collaborative east/west project. It absorbed all Bradby Blake’s free time but, tragically, ended in 1773 when he suddenly died at age twenty-eight.

Cantonese visitor to London who knew Bradby Blake in Canton, sought to complete the work that had begun in Canton and was incomplete. This lecture will discuss these aspects of Bradby Blake’s collaborative project in Canton and its posthumous continuation in London and look forward to the more detailed examination of his creative life and accomplishments in the following three lectures.

Cost: £5 each or all 6 for £24

Fieldend, Teddington (1961), A Span Housing Development: An International Context
Elain Harwood and Clem Cecil
Why so Special? 16: C20 Private Housing and Gardens, #1 of 6
6pm, Tuesday 15 February

When a group of young, well-informed and idealistic architect-designers and developers founded Span in the early 1950s their vision was to ‘span the gap between the suburban monotony of the typical speculative development and the architecturally designed, individually built residence that has become (for all but few) financially unattainable’. It set out to create an inspiring environment and provide an alternative way of life that promoted a community spirit. While the British context of this has been well explored in Barbara Simms’s Eric Lyons and Span (2006), by selecting one of their developments at Fieldend, Jan Woudstra compares and contrasts some selected international theories and examples regarding landscapes for housing, and the way they foresaw design for community development. This is contrasted with some remarks on present-day housing.

James Strike will discuss how the landscape of Fieldend influences the way residents of the estate live and interact. As there are 51 houses, there are invariably various opinions as to how the landscape is managed and what is planted. He will talk of the joys and benefits of living at Fieldend; how the layout and landscape led to everyone knowing each other, how it encourages children to play safely and the many community events of garden parties, music recitals, croquet and carol singing. James will also speak about the conflicts which arise, such as the size of the trees, children’s toys, the need for more colour, and the extent of meadow grass.

Cost: £5 each, or all six for £25:50.

John Bradby Blake and his Chinese go-betweens’ Chinese Flora
Dr Josepha Richard
John Bradby Blake, #3 of 6
6pm, Monday 21 February

The project, however, continued and entered its afterlife in London where now Captain John Blake, Bradby Blake’s influential father, together with Whang at Tong, a Cantonese visitor to London who knew Bradby Blake in Canton, sought to complete the work that had begun in Canton and was incomplete. This lecture will discuss these aspects of Bradby Blake’s collaborative project in Canton and its posthumous continuation in London and look forward to the more detailed examination of his creative life and accomplishments in the following three lectures.

Cost: £5 each or all 6 for £24
the latter merged his Chinese artistic training with models such as John Miller’s drawings of the Linnaean Sexual System. Meanwhile Bradby Blake took pains to provide as complete as possible a description of each plant he had selected either in European books or Chinese herbals such as the Compendium of Materia Medica or Bencao Gangmu, with the help of translator(s).

The plants were, when possible, grown in the East India Company premises in Canton or Macao, so as to let Mak Sau paint them from nature throughout their growth cycle. This talk will provide an in-depth look into Bradby Blake’s collaborative methods through a couple of specific examples.

Cost: £5 each or all 6 for £24

An Unexpected Floating Water Garden off Edgware Road
London: Burwood Place
Dominic Cole, Jan Woudstra and Cristina Refolo
Why so Special? 17: C20 Private Housing and Gardens, #2 of 6
6pm, Tuesday 22 February

When trying to understand the history of the tiny courtyard at the Sanderson Hotel Dominic Cole found out the planting had been designed by Philip Hicks and that another of his schemes was the water gardens in Edgware Road, so he had to visit — it was a revelation to discover this remarkable landscape of levels, planes, water and delightful planting. The use of space, textures and light was amazing. Attempts to ‘update’ the paving and planting have begun to erode the simplicity and beauty of the original design.

Jan Woudstra shows that the Water Garden at Burwood Place was part of a movement that saw its roots in the 19th-century re-imagination of the ‘Hanging Gardens of Babylon’. These iconic gardens were also a starting point as techniques improved, with the use of concrete and steel, for roof gardens. In the 20th century they were used as a reference to platform gardens, most famously in the raised decks of the architecture of futuristic cities. But what did these decks set out to do? What kinds of environments were envisaged? Burwood Place is but one of a whole series of responses. What was the intention here and what can we learn about life as it was supposed to be lived? What has happened since it was completed, with our perspective on how life is to be lived, and with this garden as a result? How can this garden be read today?

Cristina Refolo will provide an introduction to the restoration and rejuvenation of The Water Gardens, the design ethos, and the decisions made during the design process. Cristina will be talking about the rediscovery of the original relationship between the planters and the pond, and the intrinsic connection between the water and the concrete, which makes The Water Gardens a much more innovative and technologically advanced scheme than expected. In 2020 the restored scheme was presented with the Susdrain/Criria SuDS Small Scale Retrofit Award and The Landscape Institute Excellence in Horticulture and Planting Design Award.

Cost: £5 each, or all six for £25:

“Is Not This?” Unspoken questions and the pleasures of substitution
Professor Winnie Wong
John Bradby Blake, #4 of 6
6pm, Monday 28 February

In the mid-18th century, the city of Guangzhou (Canton), became the sole port of trade through which the Chinese plant commodity, tea, passed to Europe. The quest for the tea plant, as
a living or dried specimen, as a product of knowledge or of manufacture, as an illustration or painting, lay at the heart of European natural history projects in Canton, and especially Linnaeus’ project of plant substitution. In this context the city and its inhabitants flowered into a multiplicity of plants, plant names, ways to represent them, and commodities that they represented.

This paper examines several instructional moments in which Chinese and European merchants and naturalists asked questions of Canton’s painters, apothecaries, herbalists, gardeners, street sellers, shopkeepers, and books. While they never seemed to get a proper answer, this paper interrogates their questions: why they were asked, and why they were so often unspoken and unrecorded.

Cost: £5 each or all 6 for £24

An Uncharted Network: John Bradby Blake’s Botanical Drawings and the Chinese Court
Dr Yu-chih Lai
John Bradby Blake, #5 of 6
Dr Yu-chih Lai
6pm, Monday 7 March

As one of the earliest locally commissioned botanical drawings in Canton, John Bradby Blake’s four volumes of Chinese plants at the Oak Spring Garden Foundation show not only unprecedented quality in the most up-to-date Linnaean system but also an uncanny resemblance to the new trend of depicting plants in the eclectically mimetic style at the Qing court.

What were the relationships among the Hong merchants in Canton, high officials at court, Jesuits traveling from Canton to the court, and Bradby Blake, the resident supercargo in Canton, in developing a new way to see and represent botany in both the works at court and Bradby Blake’s drawings produced in Canton?

This paper attempts to navigate and weave the uncharted network that linked the foreign community in Canton and the court, and to explore how the ecclesiastically mimetic style in Bradby Blake’s drawings was made possible by hiring local Chinese painters to work with him. Hopefully, this talk will offer a glimpse of a lost piece to complete the puzzle by putting not only Canton, but also the Chinese court, back into the picture of global botanical exploration in the 18th century.

Cost: £5 each or all 6 for £24

The Beth Chatto Gardens, Past, Present and Future
David Ward
and Dr Chris Gibson
Why so Special? 18: C20 Private Housing and Gardens, #3 of 6
6pm, Tuesday 8 March

Who was Beth Chatto and what inspired her to create a series of gardens and a perennial plant nursery? David Ward has been working at these gardens for 38 years and has witnessed and been hands on shaping the growth and development of the different garden zones — from wet to dry, open to exposed. How will the character and dynamics of this garden continue without its original maker? What difference does it make to this garden having it on Historic England’s register? Beth’s mantra of ‘Right Plant, Right Place’ is not just about the practice of gardening plants. It is also reference to the network of beneficiaries of the right plants in the right places — insects, birds, mammals, indeed the whole spectrum of biodiversity. All gardens support wildlife, but some are better than others, and we believe because of the steps we have taken towards sustainability, ours is better than most. This talk will look at some of the wildlife surprises in our garden, and the steps we have taken to improve it still further.

Cost: £5 each, or all six for £25.50.

Panel Discussion about John Bradby Blake series
John Bradby Blake, #6 of 6
6pm, Monday 14 March

Jordan Goodman, Yu-chih Lai, Winnie Wong, Josepha Richard and Peter Crane in a general discussion which will engage with questions raised during the talks that cut across a number of
the topics explored and draw out future research into the remarkable collaborative East-West activities and networks that the Bradby Blake drawings and manuscripts have revealed.

Cost: £5 each or all 6 for £24

**Saving Denmans, West Sussex**

**Dr Barbara Simms and Gwendolyn van Paassche**

*Why so Special? 19: C20 Private Housing and Gardens, #4 of 6*

6pm, Tuesday 15 March

In 1980 John Brookes moved to Denmans, a West Sussex property that became not only his home but also his garden design school and experimental garden. The first part of this talk details the early history of the nineteenth-century site, once the home of the Denman family, and then the development of a market garden and later an ornamental garden by the Robinsons in the early post-war decades. Mrs Robinson’s innovative gravel garden formed the basis of Brookes’s garden, which introduced a stronger design, a pool to culminate the dry gravel streams and additional native and exotic plants. These experiments paralleled the design and planting concepts used in his clients’ gardens and those he outlined in articles, lectures and his books. In the four years before Brookes’s death in March 2018, Denmans went through a critical and potentially high-risk period. The second part of this talk focuses on the efforts to restore the garden starting in December 2017, how these efforts evolved after Brookes’s death and, looking to the future, what historic resources will be used to help create a conservation plan for the future.

Cost: £5 each, or all six for £25:50.

**York Gate Garden:**

**The Spencer Legacy**

**Ben Preston**

*Why so Special? 20: C20 Private Housing and Gardens, #5 of 6*

6pm, Tuesday 22 March

A wonderful Arts and Crafts style-garden that has become a Yorkshire treasure. The history of York Gate begins in 1951 when the Spencer family bought a 6-acre farm on the edge of Leeds, and now its current status is as one of the finest post-war small gardens in the country. Ben will share his philosophies on the importance of moving the garden forward while being true to its origins and the spirit of place. Once a family garden that opened occasionally for the National Garden Scheme to a busy garden open 5 days a week. He will look at how the garden has evolved to deal with these challenges.

Cost: £5 each, or all six for £25:50.

**Shute House**

**Dr Kate Feluś**

*Why so Special? 21: C20 Private Housing and Gardens, #6 of 6*

6pm, Tuesday 29 March

The garden of Shute House on the Wiltshire/Dorset border is one of the best known of Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe’s private commissions and regarded by many as his finest work. He worked there for almost 25 years. The garden is divided into a series of spaces, but water is the defining element. Fundamental to the design was the splitting of the water into two separate courses of contrasting characters, one formal and one more natural. The garden is renowned because of its designer, but it was truly a collaboration with his clients. Michael and Anne Tree shaped the original design more than has been previously acknowledged and this talk focuses on Anne Tree’s contribution in particular.

Cost: £5 each, or all six for £25:50.
Following our successful Study Tour to Western Sicily in Spring 2019 (see our report on the study tour p.38, *GT news* 10, Summer 2019), Robert Peel and Cassandra Funsten prepared another Study Tour for members of the Gardens Trust in Spring 2020. This looks finally to be going ahead in the coming Spring, 2022. Revised dates are now in place for early April 2022.

If anyone wishes to join the Study Tour group for our long-awaited trip, please contact Robert Peel to learn if there are still any places available: rma.peel@btopenworld.com

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, as before, 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 Sicily’s many designed landscapes.

Contact Robert Peel: rma.peel@btopenworld.com

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**Study Tour to Palermo and the West of Sicily**

**Now rescheduled for Sunday 3 to Sunday 10 April 2022 — UPDATE**

Garden of church of San Giovanni degli Eremiti, Palermo.

Gardens Trust Events 2022

Garden of church of San Giovanni degli Eremiti, Palermo.

prickly planting at Villa Valguarnera, Bagheria.
The Gardens Trust North Yorkshire weekend
North Yorkshire explored 2022
The Gardens Trust North Yorkshire weekend 2022 will be held in and around Richmond and Wensleydale over the weekend of Friday 2 to Sunday 4 September

Members are probably now aware that our North Yorkshire weekend is back on track for the first weekend in September 2022, and we are delighted to have the local knowledge and assistance of the Yorkshire GT’s researchers and of Val Hepworth in particular, in guiding us over the weekend and contributing their specialist knowledge to our Conference.

Centred on Wensleydale and the picturesque Georgian town of Richmond, all our visits are to privately-owned historic listed or registered estates and we’ll have access to many areas not normally open to the public.

We will be based, as originally planned, at the Holiday Inn just off the A1(M)/A66 at Scotch Corner (DL10 6NR) and offers ample conference facilities and on-site parking. Darlington station is twenty minutes away by frequent local express bus or taxi to the hotel. Our aim is to keep prices as for 2020, but some venues may pass on small increases – we will let you know in good time.

There are just eighty residential places available at the Holiday Inn (with some sharing rooms) plus provision for day-attendance. Additional overnight accommodation (on a self-book basis) may be available at the nearby Scotch Corner Travelodge.

Booking will now open on the GT website (via Eventbrite) in February 2022 and probably close at the start of August 2022.

Details of the fully revised itinerary will be available on Eventbrite when you book and also published in our GT News 18 Spring 2022 issue. See GT News 12 Spring 2020 for previous details and costings. If you have any queries meanwhile, or have a special need to book by email or post, contact our Organiser 
Virginia Hinze: vchinze99@gmail.com or: 01273 844 819

While our intention, at this stage is to broadly follow the previous programme, we have decided to separate the AGM and New Research Symposium from the weekend as they has taken off so well online, and so we will have more time for garden visiting.

Our North Yorkshire weekend will remain the same opportunity to catch up with old friends and to meet new members that have formed such a part of the GHS and CGT and GT Conferences in summers past.

The outline programme (tbc) will include on the Friday:
A private guided tour with owner Richard Lawson and Val Hepworth of the Picturesque landscape of Temple Grounds with its Green Walk and Culloden Tower, OR a tour of Richmond’s Georgian theatre which houses the Woodland Scene, reputed to be the oldest surviving stage scenery in the world and visit to a plantsman’s hidden gem at Millgate House. On our return to the hotel we will have a lecture by Louise Wickham MA, Yorkshire GT head of research and author of Gardens in History: A Political Perspective (2012) exploring the inspiration behind designed landscapes in the North Riding of Yorkshire.

On the Saturday we will visit Aske Hall's designed landscape with, provisionally, a welcome from Lord Ronaldshay and a guided walk with Val Hepworth and Janette Ray of the landscape, which Capability Brown visited and had surveyed in 1769, with its William Kent temple. An afternoon visit, still to be confirmed will be followed by our special Saturday night dinner at The Station, housed in Richmond’s Victorian Railway Station building;

On Sunday we have a visit to Constable Burton, a grade I listed house built 1762–67 by John Carr of York for Sir Marmaduke Wyvill and still the home of the Wyvill family who will guide us, along with their long-standing head gardener. Lunch will be at 14th-century Bolton Castle in the Great Hall and we will view its historically-informed re-created gardens. Our final visit will be to Bolton Hall for a guided walk with Yorks GT volunteers and Val Hepworth around the Hall’s gardens. Much of their late C17th formality is still apparent having survived, perhaps due to absent owners, both the extravagancies of the ‘Landscape Movement’ and minor alterations in the C19th.

While it is our intention to fulfil the programme we must include a caveat: Government Covid regulations beyond our control may require alteration to the content, management or even size of the event. We will endeavour to keep you well-informed.

Delegate cancellation arrangements: Refunds by personal application up to closure of booking; full refunds if the entire event is cancelled.

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Gardens Trust Events 2022

Study Tour to France

Jardins à la Française: origins, variations, reinventions

UPDATE

Tuesday 27 September to Saturday 1 October 2022

Our twice postponed Gardens Trust Study Tour to Loire Valley landscapes will now take place from Tuesday 27 September to Saturday 1 October 2022, and last five days rather than the previously advertised four. Dr David Marsh and GT Vice President Robert Peel will meet the morning Eurostar at Gare du Nord and, en route for Orleans, we shall visit Fontainebleau and Courances. We start the next day with a tour of the new gardens at Chambord, which will be followed by a visit to Chateau de Beauregard before we stay at Amboise for three nights. We will have a full day at the International Garden Festival at Chaumont, followed the next day by visits to three other local sites: Chateaux de La Bourdaisiere and Gaillard, and the Pagoda of Chanteloup. Our last day visit will be at Chateau de Valmer, just across the Loire, before the return to Paris and the evening Eurostar.

Once a hunting lodge of François I, then a minister’s residence in the 16th and 17th centuries, Beauregard has been continually enhanced throughout the centuries. The most recent addition is the Jardin des Portraits designed by the renowned landscaper Gilles Clément, lower right in our picture.

Costs depend upon numbers, from £855 per person for thirty people to £990 per person for twenty people sharing accommodation, with a single room supplement. This includes bed and breakfast accommodation, lunch or dinner each day, coach travel on five days and all site visits with guidance where applicable. It does not include travel from UK to Paris and back. For more information and a more detailed programme, please contact Robert Peel, who will also direct you to the Success Tours booking online: rma.peel@btopenworld.com

other news & events in brief

Benton End saved

The Garden Museum and the Pinchbeck Charitable Trust will revive and restore the former Suffolk house and garden of artist-gardener Sir Cedric Morris (1889–1982) as a new centre of gardening, art, and creativity. The Pinchbeck Charitable Trust acquired Benton End and has now transferred ownership of the house, a private home since Morris’ death in 1982, to the Museum.
In 1940, Cedric Morris and his partner the artist Arthur Lett Haines bought a 16th century manor house outside Hadleigh in Suffolk called Benton End. There they established the East Anglian School of Painting and Drawing – a sanctuary for a diverse range of influential artists, writers, musicians, and botanists of the 20th century. Morris made a garden as influential in its day as Sissinghurst for the irises he bred there; it became one of the first modern gardens of naturalistic design, developed as it was for the study of the unusual plants Morris chose with his keen artist’s eye. The revived Benton End will similarly aim to support and inspire artists and gardeners of all ages and to encourage freedom of invention, enthusiasm, and enjoyment, following in spirit the original ethos of Morris and Haines. The Garden Museum plans to begin work renewing Morris’ garden in 2022. Redeveloping the house will be a longer-term project, aiming to restore Benton End’s post-war bohemian glamour and atmosphere, build an exhibition gallery and spaces for learning dedicated to the art of the garden, and to make the building more accessible. gardenmuseum.org.uk

42nd Annual National Conference of the Australian Garden History Society: Hobart
Friday 11 to Sunday 13 November 2022

The next AGHS national conference will be held in Hobart in November 2022, followed by a fourth optional day of garden visits. Trisha Dixon will lead pre and post conference tours. The conference theme is ‘Landscape on the Edge’ which deals with Tasmania’s geographical and geological location and its indigenous first inhabitants on the edge of mainland Australia, as well as its location in colonial times at the edge of the ‘civilised’ world. The other edge aspect is our precarious position in a changing climate. These edge conditions have, and are, shaping our cultural landscapes and gardens. Our speakers will address these edge characteristics and show how they have influenced the landscapes, gardens and plants of Tasmania, and how in contemporary times the challenge of our changing climate is being addressed.

Our garden visits will include significant gardens in Hobart, on the slopes of kunyani/Mt Wellington, up the Derwent Valley and on Bruny Island for the optional day. Trisha’s pre and post conference tours will be based in Launceston and visit private properties and gardens of special interest in the north of Tasmania.

The conference venue will be Wrest Point. Special rates for delegate accommodation will be available at Wrest Point and other locations. The conference committee and I look forward to welcoming you to Hobart in 2022.

Prue Slatyer
Convenor, Hobart Conference

Enticing Paths – A Treasury of Norfolk Gardens and Gardening

Enticing Paths is the latest book to be published by the Norfolk Gardens Trust. Described by Country Life as a “…480-page blockbuster, with an air of a bumper annual for lovers of garden history…” it covers a wealth of subjects from internationally renowned parklands to secret gardens as well as the personalities who have shaped our garden heritage. Each chapter, written by an expert in their field, focusses on a different subject and includes the gardens at Sandringham, the Parterre at Blickling and the founding father of snowdrop breeders, Heyrick Greatorex. The editor, Roger Last, has selected a wonderfully varied array
The Gardens Trust officers

of topics and one chapter that captures the eye immediately is that on Maurice Mason, renowned plant collector and impassioned plantsman. He created “…one of the finest botanical gardens of the country, containing an immensely interesting collection of trees and shrubs, and a vast collection of plants under glass, most of which Mr Mason has himself collected in the wild on his annual expeditions to various parts of the world.”

Norfolk may not have been considered to be a leading light in its plant collections in the last century, but Maurice Mason’s collection of trees and shrubs defied this view and “…became one of the most notable in the country”. This chapter, with its host of excellent photographs, is an informative and compelling tribute to a remarkable plantsman.

“...one of the finest botanical gardens of the country, containing an immensely interesting collection of trees and shrubs, and a vast collection of plants under glass, most of which Mr Mason has himself collected in the wild on his annual expeditions to various parts of the world.”

Eastern Daily Press

Another engaging chapter focusses on the St George and the Dragon fountain at Holkham Hall – unique in Norfolk for its size and magnificence – and asks the question, how do you get a spectacular water feature to work in an age before electricity and in a landscape clearly lacking in hills? The answer is detailed and fascinating.

Enticing Paths is brimming with photographs, prints and drawings and at first, you’ll want to flick through and read at random. But wherever you start, you’ll soon be engrossed in this magnificent and fascinating book.

Enticing Paths costs £30
Available from the Norfolk GT: rogerlloydngt@gmail.com

The magnificent St George and the Dragon fountain at Holkham Hall.
GT events
diary 2021–2022

See our Events pages for details of all the online events. Covid-19 permitting we resume Study Tours in April 2022.

7pm, from Wednesday 3 November Unforgettable Gardens Northamptonshire, with Northants GT [4 sessions]
10am, from Thursday 11 November Georgian Gardens: part 2 [6 sessions]
6pm, from Monday 15 November Plant Nurseries, Hunters & Pioneers series [4 sessions remaining]
1:30pm, 15, 17 and 19 November GT Historic Landscapes Assembly 2021
10am, from Tuesday 16 November Shakespeare and Gardens series [4 sessions]
6pm, from Tuesday 16 November Why so Special? C20 Public housing landscapes [3 sessions remaining]
7pm, from Friday 19 November Where The Wildness Pleases series, in association with Kent & Sussex GTs and the NGS [occasional series]
4pm, Saturday 20 November GT 11th New Research Symposium, part 2
6:30pm, from Thursday 25 November Japanese Gardens series, in partnership with the Japanese Garden Society [3 sessions remaining]
6:30pm, from Wednesday 1 December Unforgettable Gardens with the Japanese Garden Society [3 sessions]

2022

6pm, from Tuesday 11 January Why so Special? C20 Semi-public gardens [4 sessions]
6pm, from Monday 7 February The life and work of John Bradby Blake series [6 sessions]
6pm, from Tuesday 15 February Why so Special? C20 Private Housing and Gardens [6 sessions]
Sunday 3 to Sunday 10 April GT Study Tour to Palermo and the West of Sicily
Friday 2 to Sunday 4 September GT North Yorkshire Gardens and Landscapes Weekend
Tuesday 27 September to Saturday 1 October GT Study Tour to France

Details and booking information for all these events can be found inside on pages 26 to 44. This is a rapidly evolving programme so please keep an eye on our website for updates: thegardenstrust.org/events-archive/
Always check our e-Bulletin for the very latest programme details and information.
Please sign up for the e-Bulletin via our website.
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