



[www.thegardenstrust.org](http://www.thegardenstrust.org)

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**Copy deadline for Summer issue 7: 14 May  
for distribution July 2018**

Our cover shows a detail of Humphry Repton's proposals for the gardens at Ashridge, courtesy of the J Paul Getty Trust (see p11)..



## Leaving a gift to The Gardens Trust

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

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

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

Name: .....

Address: .....

.....

.....

Email: .....

Phone: .....

Signature: .....

Date: .....

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

### General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)

Members may be aware that new regulations concerning data protection and how organisations hold personal information will be coming into force in May this year. The Gardens Trust takes data protection very seriously and takes every practicable measure to ensure members' personal data is held and managed safely and is accurate and up to date, according to the information provided to us.

Further information about data protection and the Gardens Trust will be in the next **GT news** and available on our website from May:

[www.thegardenstrust.org](http://www.thegardenstrust.org)

### 'Compiling the Record': an update on the Gardens Trust's project to identify and assess vulnerable mid to Late C20 designed landscapes for potential designation

The Gardens Trust is delighted to report that we have been commissioned by Historic England to undertake the further research stages for our partnership project 'Compiling the Record'.

Members may recall, or have attended, the very successful conference we held jointly with the Garden Museum last May, **Mid to Late C20 designed landscapes: Overlooked, undervalued and at risk?**, to highlight the vulnerability and lack of knowledge and understanding of these sites [see **GT news 5**, p33 to 35 for the report].

Our call for sites to be nominated on the GT website led to some 111 sites being put forward by 31 December 2017, a tremendous response for which we thank everyone, GT/CGT members, landscape professionals and the public, who contributed.

The GT will now carry out the next stages of the project comprising further research, particularly photographic, which will enable Historic England, through its convened panel of experts, to make a final decision on a site's eligibility for designation (through listing or registration) and inclusion on the National Heritage List for England (NHLE). The GT is most grateful to Jenifer White, HE's senior landscape adviser, for helping to bring this joint project to fruition.

The work will be carried on our behalf by Osmunda Projects director **Karen Fitzsimon** (who organised the May conference for the GT) and be

managed by Dr **Barbara Simms** (Editor of *Garden History*), both of whom are C20 landscapes specialists. Work will be done between now and mid-summer 2018, in accordance with HE's project management terms and conditions.

The commission is worth £8700 (inc.VAT!) and as it is a joint project between HE and the GT we will not benefit from any additional income. However, it is a very valuable commission in terms of raising our profile as offering professional and specialist skills in the field of garden history research. The eventual outcome will, we hope, present an opportunity for the GT and HE to celebrate and publicise newly listed, or registered, C20 designed landscapes; partnerships are the way forward!

If anyone would like additional information regarding the project, please contact Dr Barbara Simms via the GT office:

70 Cowcross Street, London EC1M 6EJ

or: [enquiries@thegardenstrust.org](mailto:enquiries@thegardenstrust.org)

Virginia Hinze

### The GT Historic Landscape Project: Training Season

#### Tamsin McMillan, HLP Officer

The Historic Landscape Project is the Gardens Trust's capacity building project for County Gardens Trusts. We are supported by Historic England and are very pleased to announce that we have just been awarded another two years' funding.

Winter is a fantastically busy time for the HLP, with Members' Meet Ups at monthly intervals, across the Country; our second, annual national networking event was held in November, 2017; and planning and conservation training days are being held in March and April. We're delighted that so many of you are able to come to these events and to share your CGT's vast reserves of experience. We're always astonished by your energy and achievements!

### Historic Landscapes Assembly, Birmingham 28 November 2017, report

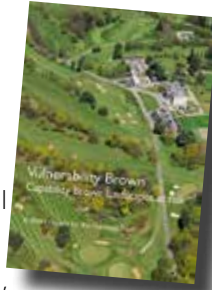
We were thrilled that our second annual Historic Landscapes Assembly, held at the Birmingham and Midland Institute on 28 November, was so well attended, not only by representatives from 25 CGTs but also by 21 external heritage organisations. Attendance has grown by 25%

## news and campaigns

since last year's inaugural Assembly in London: the Assembly is truly becoming the fantastic networking opportunity we hoped it would be.

Highlights included:

- The launch, by GT Trustee **David Lambert**, of the GT's new report, **Vulnerability Brown**, which examines the pressures, including from planning applications, mineral extraction, and neglect, which threaten many of the 200 or so surviving 'Capability' Brown landscapes. The report makes clear how CGTs can get involved in protecting these precious landscapes, by making their research and understanding of these sites' significances available to those striving to conserve them.
- An update from **Karen Fitzsimon** about the GT/HE **Compiling the Record** initiative, which seeks to address the lack of 20th century designed landscapes on the National Heritage List for England. Nominations for new registration have poured in from across the country. These will be reviewed by Historic England and some will go on to be Registered [see [previous page](#) for more].
- **Jenifer White**, National Landscape Adviser for Historic England, updated us on numerous policies and initiatives, including the aims for HE's 2017-20 **Corporate Plan**, which, we were heartened to hear, continue to include support for capacity strengthening programmes such as our own Historic Landscape Project.



Jenifer gave thanks to CGTs who, by providing invaluable research and understanding of significances, have played a huge part in getting 14 new historic designed landscapes added to the *Register of Parks and Gardens* over the last year. She reported that there are 96 parks and gardens on the latest **Heritage at Risk Register**, published October 2017. Happily though, this figure represents a 15% reduction in sites on the HAR register, achieved partly by HE having awarded £10.5 million in grant aid to 260 projects.

Jenifer underlined how much HE values its partnership with the Gardens Trust and County

Gardens Trusts, working together to protect historic designed landscapes.

- **Elaine Willett**, Natural England's Senior Historic Environment Adviser, told the conference about NE's role as the Government's statutory advisor for the natural environment, conserving and enhancing the landscape including parkland, which has a huge amount to offer in pursuit of the goals of NE's Conservation Strategy for the 21st century (Conservation 21) to protect nature and landscapes. We also heard the latest on DEFRA and NE's agri-environment schemes.
- Volunteers from CGTs inspired us with their descriptions of recent work and planned endeavours. **Sally Miller** described how Hampshire Gardens Trust used their research at Bramshill Park, a police staff college until 2014, to successfully influence a large and complicated planning application there.



**Beryl Lott** (Lincolnshire Gardens Trust) and **Christine Addison** (Northamptonshire Gardens Trust) described a joint research and recording project for which the five East Midlands CGTs are currently preparing and HLF bid.

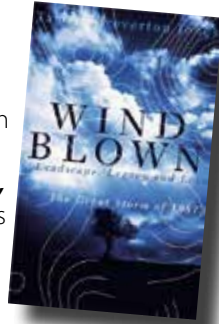
This project, which seeks to reach and train new audiences, will produce statements of significance of unregistered parks and gardens in the region. Initially, a two year pilot project will examine urban parks, country parks and other landscapes which are freely open to the public.



- One of the key themes of the Assembly was the legacy of the Great Storm of 1987. **Dominic Cole** (above), President of the Gardens Trust,

examined some of the positive aspects of the storm, which proved to be a catalyst in the way in which we think about landscape management and conservation and even opened up significant funding streams for work within historic landscapes.

- Our evening session speaker, author **Tamsin Treverton Jones**, took a more personal look at the storm, about which she has written ***Windblown: Landscape, Legacy and Loss, the Great Storm of 1987***. This new book describes how her father, artist **Terry Thomas**, created the Kew mural, from wood which had fallen at Kew during the storm. Presentations and further notes from the Assembly can be found on our resource hub, via the conservation tab.



### Members' Meet Ups

We've now reached the end of our Meet Up season, which runs from December to March. These one day events are free to attend and are open to members of any CGT and the Gardens Trust, no matter where in the country they are held. Each meeting includes updates from CGTs on their conservation, education and research and recording work; as well as a guest speaker from an external heritage organisation. Meet Ups have a friendly and informal atmosphere and all attendees are encouraged to chip in.



Since we launched our Meet Ups last year, as a replacement for Regional Forums, interest in these networking opportunities has really grown and we were very pleased to welcome 20 attendees,

from six CGTs, to our Meet Up in Lancaster in December, 2017; and 20 individuals from eight CGTs to our Cambridge event, in January. The former session included research into Thomas Mawson landscapes in Lancashire; dealing with planning appeals (Shropshire); and the Yorkshire Gardens Trust's schools group; and an introduction to the work of the Heritage Trust Network, by guest speaker Benjamin Parker. In Cambridge, we were treated to useful advice on researching and publishing books (Norfolk Gardens Trust); planning issues in Lincolnshire; and Cambridgeshire GT's varied educational schemes, catering for all ages and levels of interest.

We will be reporting on the other two sessions held in Dorset and London in our next edition.

### National Meet Up for CGT Chairs

In March we ran an additional Meet Up in London, specifically for Chairs of the County Gardens Trusts to discuss issues critical to the management of their Trusts. We all enjoyed some lively discussions! More to follow...

### Historic Environment Forums

As you know, Margie and I have been looking for volunteers to represent their region's CGTs at Historic Environment Forums organised by Historic England. These occasional meetings (about four a year) offer a wonderful opportunity for CGTs to network with other heritage organisations, keeping themselves up to date with regional heritage conservation and management issues and growing the profile of CGTs at the same time.

We still need volunteers for three regions: the North-East, North-West, and East.

If you'd like to find out more, please get in touch with me or Margie (at the end of this section).

### HLP Training Days

We're now planning the last of our HE-funded training events for this financial year and looking to a more sustainable future for the HLP, in which alternative funding sources will allow us to repeat our much-requested training days and packages across the country.

'We were recently delighted to be asked to deliver a day on 'Sustainable Strategies: Managed Parks and Gardens' for UCL's MSc Built Environment: Sustainable Heritage. There were

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approximately 20 students not only from the UK but also India, China and Greece, so it was a fantastic opportunity to share skills across generations and continents. Generic versions of these course materials are now available for you to access and reuse in the Training Materials section of the Resource Hub.

The final part of our three part **Planning Application Training Package**, the 'Full Monty', was held at the Goods Shed in Tetbury, Gloucestershire, on 2 March 2018. This session will be reported on in the next issue, and included contributions from **Victoria Thomson**, Head of Planning Advice at HE, on significance and planning policy; **Chris Gallagher**, Historic Landscape Consultant, on dealing with planning appeals; and **Kate Harwood**, of Hertfordshire Gardens Trust, on her long-running involvement with planning issues at Panshanger.

**'THE PUBLIC PARKS CRISIS'**  
**HLP Training Day**  
**at Abington Park Museum,**  
**Northampton**  
**Thursday 26 April 2018**  
Full details and booking information on p16 in our Events section...



### HLP On-Line Resources Our Resource Hub

We regularly update our Resource Hub, located on the Gardens Trust website at: [thegardenstrust.org/conservation/hlp-hub/](http://thegardenstrust.org/conservation/hlp-hub/)

Here, you can find presentations and handouts from all our training and networking days, as well as up to date guidance by both the Gardens Trust and external heritage organisations, on all aspects of designed landscape research, conservation and education.

Recent additions include:

- Presentations from Members' Meet Ups in Lancaster and Cambridge etc
- Presentations and notes from our recent Historic Landscapes Assembly
- Support materials for CGTs planning Repton bicentenary events, see: 'Campaigns and Celebrations' and/or 'Humphry Repton 2018 Materials'.

Please get in touch if you would like me to add any materials from your CGT to the Hub. This is a great

way to share your Trust's knowledge and experience.

### HLP Website Forum

Got a CGT-related question or problem you think another CGT could help with? Then register for the GT's online Forum, at:

<http://thegardenstrust.org/conservation/forum/>

The more people who use the Forum, the greater the resource it will become.

### GT Conservation Casework Log

Our Conservation Casework Manager, **Alison Allighan** (on the right, with **Barbara Moth**, Cheshire GT, below), has joined us at two of our



networking events, the **Historic Landscapes Assembly in Birmingham** and **Members' Meet Up in Lancashire**, to demonstrate the GT's updated online **Conservation Casework Log** (comprising over 20,000 cases, dealt with by the GT and CGTs since 2001) to volunteers involved in planning.

Alison is extremely pleased that so many have shown an interest in the Log: nine CGTs are now able to access the log and search for data.

London, Devon, Lancashire, Sussex, Avon and Staffordshire CGTs have also been given the necessary additional access, and with ongoing support from GT staff, and are now starting to add their own consultation responses and new cases.

If you'd like to find out more about the Log, please contact Alison at:

[conservation@thegardenstrust.org](mailto:conservation@thegardenstrust.org)

### Social Media

Thanks to those of you who have been following the HLP on Twitter and Facebook. We will shortly be merging our social media accounts with those

of the Gardens Trust, and shutting down the HLP accounts. We find social media invaluable for letting you know about all our training and networking events, so please do make sure that you Like and Follow them, so that you can continue to receive our news.

You can find links to both on our website.

### Keep in Touch with your HLP

As ever, do let us know how you think the Historic Landscape Project can best help to support your County Gardens Trust. Email me, Tamsin:

[tamsinmcmillan@thegardenstrust.org](mailto:tamsinmcmillan@thegardenstrust.org)

or Linden: [lindengroves@thegardenstrust.org](mailto:lindengroves@thegardenstrust.org)

or Margie: [margiehoffnung@thegardenstrust.org](mailto:margiehoffnung@thegardenstrust.org)



## A LIFE IN LANDSCAPES *from* PAGE TO GARDEN

### In Raptures over Repton

**Linden Groves, Strategic Development Officer for the Gardens Trust**

In the few months since I last updated you, the Humphry Repton bicentenary celebrations have exploded in the most fabulous ways. We **have** now an online Events calendar to showcase the hundreds of Reptonian activities to enjoy this year, from County Gardens Trusts, to Repton sites, to national organisations such as the Royal Horticultural Society and Heritage Open Days.

Back in January, the Gardens Trust hosted a meeting for Repton researchers at which some 35 delegates shared all kinds of fascinating titbits (watch this space for some previously unrecognised Repton sites!), prompting Repton

author Professor Stephen Daniels to declare that he had learnt more about Repton in that one hour than ever previously.

Do keep an eye on: [www.humphryrepton.org](http://www.humphryrepton.org) or follow us on twitter: [@humphryrepton](https://twitter.com/humphryrepton) or facebook: [facebook.com/HumphryRepton/](https://facebook.com/HumphryRepton/)

### HLF Funding for GT Repton project

In a new exciting development, the Garden Trust is delighted to announce that it has now been successful in winning a Heritage Lottery Fund grant for an additional Repton-based project. Running through to the end of 2019, 'Sharing Repton' will firstly deliver five different activities at five different Repton sites around the country using local volunteers and aimed at including participation from local communities.

It will additionally create an infrastructure of skill sharing, guidance materials and training workshops with a view to other groups being able to roll out this sort of local community event in the future.

To be added to the mailing list for updates on the Repton projects, please email: [repton@thegardenstrust.org](mailto:repton@thegardenstrust.org)

### In austerity Britain, people need parks

As part of the Gardens Trust's ongoing involvement in the future of public parks, it seems appropriate to reproduce here GT Trustee **David Lambert's** letter to The Guardian, 25 December. *Funding for public parks is being cut off just when they are needed more than ever to combat the stress of surviving in austerity Britain, says the Parks Agency.*

The quietly announced news that the Heritage Lottery Fund is closing its **Parks for People** funding programme comes as a shock. It should be a matter of huge concern, not only to the 90% of families with children who visit their local park at least once a month, but to all who care about the wellbeing of our towns and cities. Since it was set up in 1996, the programme has transformed hundreds of urban parks from no-go areas to thriving community assets, paying not just for repairs to bandstands, lakes, paths, gates and other features but also for new cafes, toilets, play areas and funding for new staff.

Austerity has hit parks departments particularly hard. As a non-statutory service, parks have been in the frontline of the cuts since 2010, with budgets falling on average by 40% — and in

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some cases by far more. Newcastle upon Tyne has seen a 90% fall, resulting in unprecedented plans to transfer the city's parks to a charitable trust. Elsewhere, councils such as Knowsley are selling parks for development to fund future maintenance. Users have seen the impact in terms of loss of staff, reduced tidiness and increases in antisocial behaviour. Politicians, of course, have not.

Now the one dedicated source of funding for public parks has been cut off without warning. The HLF will continue to fund parks but in competition with other, elite, forms of heritage — and that will mean less money available. Money aside, the signal this decision gives that parks are marginal, or do not matter, could not be worse timed or further from the truth. Research by the HLF has revealed that by 2020 parks will be in a worse state than they were in the mid-1990s when HLF began its funding.

Good-quality parks are needed more than ever to combat the stress of surviving in austerity Britain, and the loss of Parks for People is another lurch into a spiral of decline which this time could prove terminal for many places.

By David Lambert, Dr Stewart Harding, The Parks Agency; Ian Baggott, Communities First Partnership; Dr Anna Barker, University of Leeds; Matthew Bradbury, The Parks Alliance; Professor Robert Lee, The North West Parks Friends Forum; Dominic Liptrot, Lost Art; Anna Minton, author; Peter Neal, consultant; Paul Rabbitts, head of parks, Watford borough council; Dr Sid Sullivan; Professor Ken Worpole.

**The Parks Agency, Stroud, Gloucestershire**

### Copies of our report **Uncertain Prospects available**

We have just reprinted more copies of our recent report into the current state of Public Parks.

At the end of November 2016, we launched our new report written by Dr Katy Layton Jones, *Uncertain Prospects*, celebrating the parks renaissance which has been achieved since 1993, but warning of the desperate future many now face as a result of local authority spending cuts. The effect of these varies widely between authorities — some are predicting an end to parks maintenance within the next couple



of years, others are seeking to make parks self-financing, while others are throwing their weight behind the voluntary sector.

It is a tumultuous time and it seemed right that we should issue a campaigning document in defence of these historic landscapes. The report was launched at the Gardens Trust's first **Historic Landscapes Assembly** on 24 November 2016 and is still available to download, or in printed form from our London Office.

The Garden History Society was among the first to draw attention to the problems facing historic urban parks in the early 1990s when, long-standing members of the GHS will recall, we published *Public Prospects: Urban parks under threat*, the report on public parks jointly with the Victorian Society in 1993. It played its part in raising awareness of the historic importance of parks and the threats they were facing.

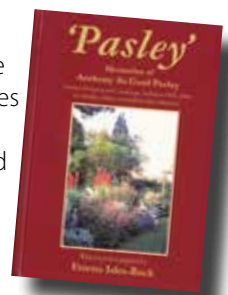
*It is so sad, and the timing ironic, that we have to report the death of one of the coauthors of that original report Dr Hazel Conway, her obituary appears later in this edition (see p31).*

### 'Pasley' donation

The Trust was delighted to receive a generous donation from the sales of the recent book 'Pasley'. It is so good to know that our dear friend Anthony du Gard Pasley is still contributing to the work of the Trust from beyond the grave.

See our previous edition for details about the recently published book. **'Pasley', Memories of Anthony du Gard Pasley, Garden Designer and Landscape Architect, 1929–2009** by clients, ex-students and friends. Compiled and written by Emma Isles-Buck. At £16 + p&p from independent book shops; Bailey Hill, Castle Cary 01963 350917, Halls of Tunbridge Wells 01732 547531 and Barnetts of Wadhurst on 01892 783566

You can make a more conventional bequest to the Trust by filling in the form on page 2 of this newsletter, or using a copy.



### Claude Hitching 'Pulham Champion' honoured by the Gardens Trust

To our friend Claude Hitching, on the eve of his 'retirement' as the expert on Pulham and Pulhamite, the Gardens Trust would like to record



our thanks for all his research and work as a champion of the Pulhams.

Dr James Bartos, the Trust's Chairman says, "The [www.pulham.org.uk](http://www.pulham.org.uk) web site was a most innovative development and has proved the value of networking and sharing research online. Over the last 15 years our knowledge of these gardens, rock works, fountains, balustrades and terracotta has grown enormously. It has been great to see so many Pulham gardens restored" during the same period, in large part due to the enthusiasm Claude has brought to their 'research and recording'.

We are delighted to offer Honorary Life Membership in the Gardens Trust to Claude as a great thank you for all his work championing the work of the Pulham family and its workforce.

Incidentally, retirement might be putting it too strongly. In his latest offering Claude says, "Times are changing. ... The days when website addresses had to end with [.co.uk](http://.co.uk), [.com](http://.com) or [.org.uk](http://.org.uk) are apparently over, and we now have a much wider and more imaginative choice of suffixes from which to choose. I had never thought much about this before, but, when someone suggested to me that I could now use [.rocks](http://.rocks) as a suffix, the bells began to ring.

"So that's why I have decided to change the name of my website to [pulham.rocks](http://pulham.rocks). I just



thought this had rather more 'zing' to it, and I hope you will agree. And that's all you need. ... and, amazingly, it already seems to be attracting more traffic to the site, so who's complaining?

"Why not check it out for yourself?"

And, why not join the Trust on our visit to **Rivington** later this year (see p16) and celebrate more of the Pulham's works there.

As Claude reports "the forthcoming restoration project at Lever Park, Rivington, where James (3) created the spectacular cascades in the 'Grand Ravine' according to the designs of Thomas Mawson, and later came back to create the 'Japanese Garden'. John Harris Consulting were appointed consultants on all aspects of the restoration of the Pulhams' work" at Rivington.

"John wrote again in December and January to say that he had almost completed his 'Stage 1 Report', and was currently writing an artistic guide on the work of the Pulhams that he hopes may prove beneficial to the potential conservers of Pulham rock scenery."

### ENTRIES ARE INVITED for the 14th Annual Mavis Batey Essay Prize

Our annual essay competition is intended to encourage vibrant, scholarly writing and new research, especially by those who have not yet had their work published. It is open to any student, worldwide, registered in a *bona-fide* university or institute of higher education, or who has recently graduated from such an institution.

Submissions must be 5,000 to 6,000 words and the only restriction on subject matter is that it must be of relevance to garden history. The prize includes an award of £250, free membership of The Gardens Trust for a year and consideration for publication in our peer-reviewed, scholarly journal *Garden History*. All previous winners have been accepted for publication, and often the best of the non-winning entries are invited to submit to the journal as well.

For further details see:

[thegardenstrust.org/research/prize/](http://thegardenstrust.org/research/prize/)

Any further enquiries can be made to:

[essayprize@thegardenstrust.org](mailto:essayprize@thegardenstrust.org)

**Submissions close on Friday 18 May 2018**

### Election of Gardens Trust Board Members

The Gardens Trust is managed by a Board consisting of up to twelve Directors nominated by the existing Board and elected by Trust members at the Annual General Meeting.

The Board currently meets four times a year in central London. Board members normally also attend one of the committees of the Trust, although this is not a requirement of Board membership.

Anyone interested in being considered to be nominated for election to the Board should please contact, by **Friday 25 May 2018**, the Trust's Secretary Maureen Nolan for an informal discussion: [honsec@thegardenstrust.org](mailto:honsec@thegardenstrust.org)

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### **The Gardens Trust 8th New Research Symposium 2018 CALL FOR PAPERS at Highbury Hall, Birmingham B13 8QG 11am, Sunday 2 September**

The New Research Symposium is a stimulating extra dimension to the Annual General Meeting weekend. It is open to all researchers and scholars, regardless of whether they are independent or attached to an academic institution.

Launched in 2011, the seven symposia have now hosted papers from thirty researchers, many of whom are also members of County Gardens Trusts, but we also warmly welcome scholars from overseas.

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

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

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

Our AGM weekend provides an informal opportunity to meet the other speakers as well as members of The GT's committees and Board, and provides an attentive audience eager to learn more about your field of research.

The Trust will reimburse each speaker £100 for personal expenses and provide refreshments of coffee, lunch and tea on the Symposium day, Sunday 2 September, 2018.

Researchers who are interested but who have queries are invited to contact Dr Patrick Eyres for clarification at:

[newresearchsymposium@thegardenstrust.org](mailto:newresearchsymposium@thegardenstrust.org)

**Proposals should be sent to the same address by Wednesday, 2 May 2018.**

### **The Gilly Drummond Volunteer of the Year Award 2018 CALL FOR NOMINATIONS**

Our annual Volunteer of the Year Award celebrates the efforts of people who have contributed to the work of the Gardens Trust, their County or Country Gardens Trust, and thereby greatly adding to the enjoyment, learning and conservation of designed gardens, parks and landscapes.

If there is an individual or group that you or a CGT committee would like to nominate, please complete the nomination form on our website; please provide as much information as you feel necessary in order to demonstrate your support of this nomination.

**Nominations to be received by: Monday 23 July.**

Please note that Directors of the Gardens Trust are not eligible for nomination.

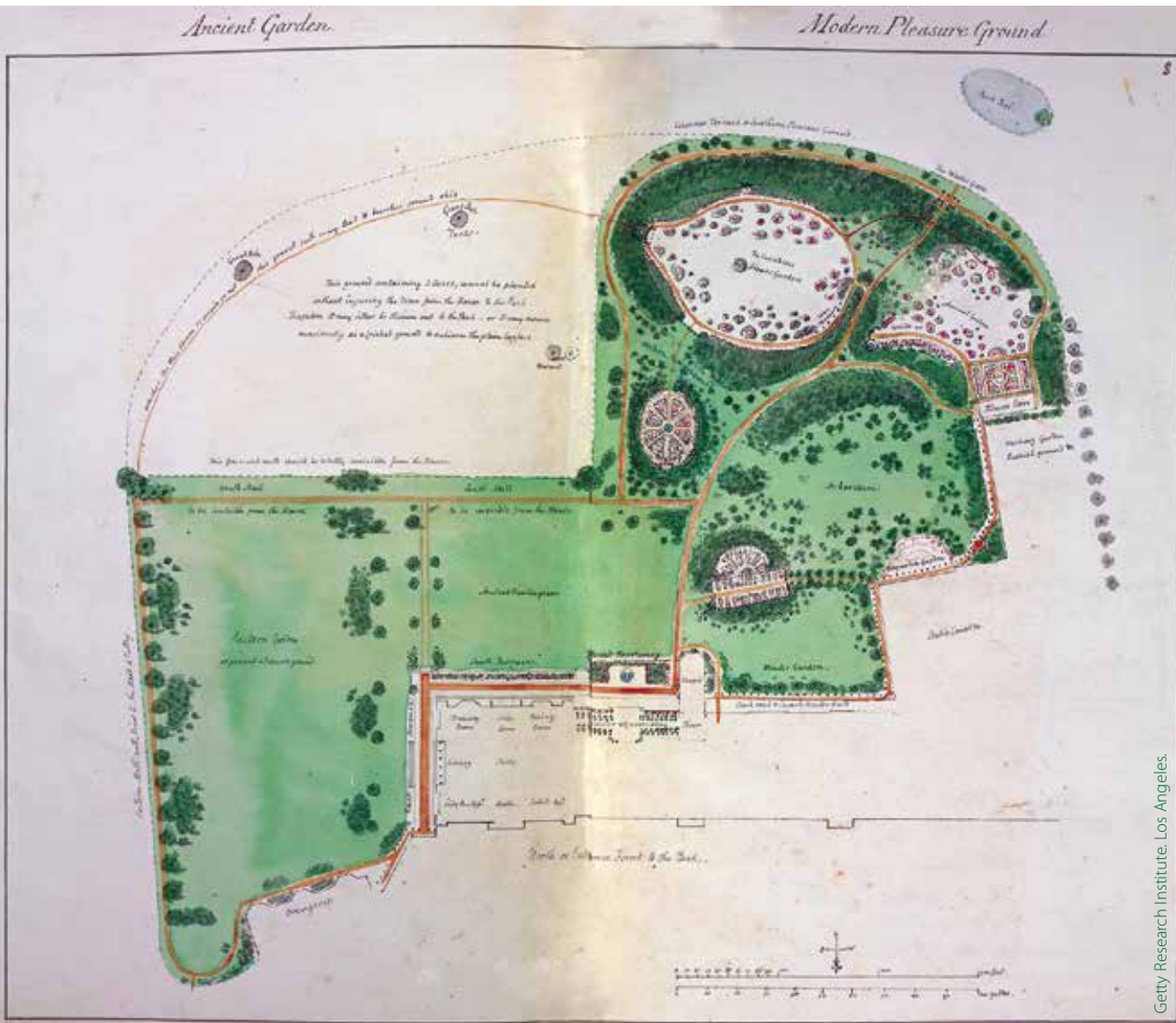
Areas of voluntary contributions that qualify for consideration include:

- **Administration:** developing membership, secretarial assistance, financial assistance, meetings and minutes, circulation of the GT and CGT information to members, involving volunteers, working with related organisations in a county or country (Wales).
- **Communications:** newsletters, magazines/journals, books, website, photography, disseminating information, exhibitions, social media.
- **Conservation:** site visits, planning, reports, public enquiries, practical conservation projects.
- **Education/Schools:** contacts with schools and developing practical projects with them, bursaries, awards, innovation in school projects, learning skills and good practice, long term nurturing of committed schools, conferences.
- **Events:** visits, tours, talks, lectures, conferences, national and CGT celebrations.
- **Projects:** new contemporary garden projects, restoration projects, community garden projects, public park projects.
- **Research:** archives, field surveys, documentation, administration of site visits, training and courses, entering/checking data.

**Completed forms should be returned to Teresa, Gardens Trust Finance Officer and CGT Co-ordinator: [teresaforey@thegardenstrust.org](mailto:teresaforey@thegardenstrust.org) by 23 July 2018. If you have any queries please use the above email, or phone: 020 7251 2610.**

# agenda

reports from our members; **all** contributions are warmly welcomed...



## Humphry Repton's gardens at Ashridge

Mick Thompson

Humphry Repton (1752–1818) was the first person in Britain to describe himself as landscape gardener. The *Proposals for the Gardens of Ashridge* are one of Repton's significant late commissions. Referred to in Repton's final book *Fragments* (1816) as 'the novelty of this attempt to collect a number of gardens, differing from each other', Ashridge could be seen as a significant transition in style that would herald the return of a series of smaller gardens close to the house.

Repton designed a scheme that could be seen

as innovative that would set a trend for future design elsewhere. As can be seen from the plan included in his proposals (above) Repton divides the garden into two sections. The eastern half of the garden, entitled 'Ancient Garden', gives a nod to the wider landscape tradition of Brown who had worked at Ashridge some fifty years earlier and is overlooked by the house built by Henry Holland Senior for the Third Duke of Bridgewater. The western half, entitled 'Modern Pleasure Ground' is the collection



## agenda

of fifteen 'themed' gardens Repton had proposed. Many of these gardens were created as described and elements of others were used.

Repton may well have been in a wheelchair for the three visits he made between March and June 1813. He was accompanied on these visits by his architect son John Adey Repton. At Ashridge Repton was dealing with a relatively small site of about six hectares. The site, although on top of a hill, was level making access easy for Repton and as he put it 'suited his declining powers' and would become his 'youngest favourite'. Repton noted that he would not be confined to the wider landscape and he could concentrate on creating his collection of gardens.

The gardens were laid out between 1816 and 1822 by Jeffry Wyatt who was completing the construction of Ashridge House following the death of his uncle, James Wyatt in 1813. The site had been cleared of all the monastic buildings and surrounding walls. Within the garden, apart from avenues of lime, yew and elm along with a few, possibly Brownian, shrubberies the garden was a blank canvas. It is highly likely that much of the eastern garden was the remnant of Brown's work fifty years earlier and, with minor amendments, formed Repton's 'Ancient Garden'.

In the 'Modern Pleasure Ground' Repton proposed fifteen different gardens. Most of these were laid out by Jeffry Wyatt, with minor additions. The significance of Ashridge is the return of Flower Gardens to the proposals. Forms of flower gardens would appear in many of Repton's plans, although not all were realised in their exact form. Examples include those for Woburn (1804), Brighton Pavilion (1808) and at Ashridge (1813).

At Ashridge three significant flower gardens were proposed and laid out, each differing in style. A formal garden was proposed in front of a lean-to glasshouse known as the 'Flower Stove'.

The Countess of Bridgewater's Flower Garden was an informal arrangement of 28 individual flower beds that can be seen as a precursor of the Gardenesque.

For the creation of the rose garden Repton proposed a single genus flower garden with a formal pattern of beds that would draw on French design and also signify a return to an element of formality. Even before then the pattern representing a flower had been used many times

before. Brown had made a similar proposal for the garden at Brocklesby some forty years earlier.

The Gardens at Ashridge remain one of Repton's most significant extant commissions. In recent years both the Rose garden and the Flower garden have been restored.

Unfortunately, Ashridge Gardens are no longer open to visitors with the exception of an open day for the National Gardens Scheme on Sunday 10 June 2018, and house and garden tours on Thursday afternoons in August 2018.

**For details of the August conference on the work of Repton to be held at Ashridge see p35.**



Getty Research Institute. Los Angeles.

Looking towards the pavilion at the eastern side of The Countess's Flower Garden



Getty Research Institute. Los Angeles.

View looking across The Rosary with its central fountain, now restored

## Madame La Comtesse De Vandes (c.1758–1832): an English Plantswoman & her Bayswater Garden

Dr Charles Nelson

Whereas gardening was usually regarded as a masculine occupation and eighteenth- and nineteenth-century professional gardeners were almost invariably men, a small number of women were influential as garden owners by assembling important collections of plants which were significant as the sources of illustrations and descriptions of “new” species. In England, they included the Princess of Wales (1719–1772) who developed the royal gardens at Kew, the Duchess of Portland (1715–1785) whose garden and collections at Bulstrode were known to Mrs Mary Delany among others, and Lady Amelia Hume (1751–1809) to whom the founder of the Linnean Society James Edward Smith dedicated his book *Spicilegium botanicum* (1791–1792). Less well-known today, yet a close contemporary of Lady Hume, was Elizabeth, Comtesse de Vandes (c.1758–1832), whose plant collection at Bayswater, London, contained numerous novelties that were models for illustrations in the fashionable botanical publications of the early nineteenth century including *Curtis’s Botanical Magazine*, Andrews’s *The Botanist’s Repository*, Edwards’s *The Botanical Register*, Sweet’s *Flora Australasica* and *Geraniaceae*, and Salisbury’s *The Paradisus Londinensis*. John Claudius Loudon in *The Gardener’s Magazine* 1 (3): 349–353 commented that “Perhaps more new plants have been published in botanical works as having first flowered here, than in any private garden round London.”

On 20 September 1800, by licence, in St George’s Church, Hanover Square, London, the French aristocrat, Alexandre, Le Comte de Vandes (c.1766–1855), married Mrs Elizabeth Wright. Both *The Gentleman’s Magazine* (vol. 88: 1285. 1800) and *The Lady’s Magazine* (vol. 31: 567. October 1800) noted that the count was a member of the Luxembourg company of the Garde-du-Corps, so he is likely to have come to England after the French Revolution. Mrs Wright, a widow and about nine years his senior, lived on Lower Brook Street, the main thoroughfare through London’s Mayfair, linking Grosvenor Square and Hanover Square. Following this, her second marriage, as was customary, Elizabeth assumed her husband’s

title, although it was a redundant French one, and became known as La Comtesse (or the Countess) de Vandes. The Comte de Vandes petitioned the House of Lords in 1801, following which “An Act for naturalizing Alexandre De Vandes, commonly called Comte De Vandes” was introduced and was passed by the House on 3 June 1802, thereby making him a naturalized British citizen.

Stepping back, Elizabeth Firman, born about 1758, daughter of John Firman of Witham in Essex, married John Wright of Hatfield Priory, also in Essex, sometime before 27 February 1796 which was the date of his burial at St Andrew’s Church, Hatfield Peverel, Essex. It is not known when they were married nor is it clear how Mrs Elizabeth Wright accumulated property in London from which she must have accrued a considerable independent income. As well as the property on Brook Street, which evidently had belonged to the Wright family since at least 1632, she had freehold, leasehold and copyhold properties in several other parts of London including James Street and Hart Street, in Covent Garden, in Hammersmith, as well as in Hastings, Sussex.



The Bayswater garden, which was “in front of” Kensington Gardens “only a short mile from Hyde park” (and so about two miles from Brook Street) (*Morning Post* Saturday 2 June 1832, p.4) must have been started in the 1780s for the botanical artist Henry Cranke Andrews uniquely referred, in his *The Botanist’s Repository*, to Mrs Wright’s Bayswater collections in the text accompanying

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two of the plates (tab. 372: “*Mimosa purpurea*” (*Calliandra purpurea*); tab. 394: “*Mimosa linifolia*” (*Acacia linifolia*) although these illustrations were both published four years after her marriage to Alexandre de Vandes.

The only descriptions I have traced of the Bayswater garden are contained in advertisements for its sale and an extended article by “J.D.” (1832) published a short time before the sale. The sale notices recommended the property to “Nurserymen, or Noblemen disposed to Botanical Research”, summarizing the garden as having “extensive Hothouses, ... a private Residence overlooking the grounds and a Field at the extreme end.” The “delightful Grounds are immediately enface Kensington Gardens ...; the extent is probably about Two and a Half Acres” and included as well as a 50ft long range of houses, an “octagon Summer Room in the centre, and every essential building connected with the useful purposes of a Nursery ground ...”. The “comfortable residence in the occupation of Mr. [William Edge] Copestake” was sold as a separate lot (*Morning Post* Saturday 2 June 1832, p.4).

References to the Comtesse’s Bayswater garden and its collection were not consistent during her lifetime, some writers referring to the Comtesse/Comtesse/Countess de Vandes, while others attributed “ownership” to the Comte de Vandes. While Alexandre de Vandes was a member of the council of the Horticultural Society of London for several years in the late 1820s (see e.g., *The Gardener’s Magazine* 8: 87), that may only have been because his wife would not have been accepted as a member. Clearly he did not own the Bayswater property and, as noted, his wife had started the collection some years before her first husband had died.

Shortly after Elizabeth’s death, the garden and adjacent residence were sold and the plants auctioned off so the collection was dispersed (*Morning Advertiser* Saturday 11 August 1832, p.4). Alexandre de Vandes moved into the house in Hastings that was also his late wife’s property. After his death in 1855, the residence in Hastings was sold under the “instructions from the Trustees ... of the late Comtesse de Vandes”, along with her other properties (*The Times* Thursday 22 November 1855, p.12).

The names of several men employed as gardeners by Elizabeth de Vandes are known. As

noted by Sweet (1828) in *Flora Australasica*, when describing *Banksia dryandroides* (tab. 56), William Baxter had been a gardener in Bayswater before he travelled in Australia in the early 1820s. He probably succeeded Mr Fordyce (Christian name unknown), described as “the botanic Gardener” by Andrews (1809), “that experienced cultivator” by Sims (1813), and as “experienced and industrious” by J. B. Ker (1815). Sweet (1820) referred to him as “the late Mr. Fordyce”. Apart from some unlocalized pressed specimens (perhaps from Bayswater) in William McNab’s herbarium, now in the National Botanic Gardens, Dublin, nothing more can be unearthed about him. Alexander Campbell (c.1795–1877) was employed there at the time of the garden’s dismantling in 1832 and thereafter became Curator of Manchester Botanical and Horticultural Garden. William Mowbray (c.1792–1832), Campbell’s predecessor at Manchester, had been a journeyman gardener at Bayswater: Loudon (1831) reported that “when a journeyman, [Mowbray] lived in the wretched stoke-holes of the Comte de Vandes’s garden at Bayswater, and read there in the winter evenings by the light of a furnace-door, [so he was] not altogether ignorant of ... the difference between the services of a man rendered comfortable and of one treated worse than a dog or a pig.” Loudon (1831) had to retract this on Campbell’s insistence: “*The wretched Stoke-holes of the Comte de Vandes’s Garden ...* – In the hurry of writing ... , we spoke of these stoke-holes in the present tense, instead of the past. ... no shadow of blame could attach to the owners, for as soon as ever they were made acquainted with the existence of the want of comfort (this was in 1822), they expressed the greatest sympathy, and ordered instantly the introduction of a fireplace into the room.”

Under her complex 15-page will, dated 15 September 1829, and codicils (National Archives, Kew: PROB-11-1799-328), Elizabeth gave to Alexandre “the use of for his life of all ... my botanical drawings except those drawings given to me by John Luard Esquire ... marked with the letter L which ... I give to the wife of the said John Luard ...”. Alexandre de Vandes allows granted “during his life the use of my portrait by [Richard] Cosway” and the “portrait of myself by [Lemuel Francis] Abbott” (I can find no record of the present whereabouts of these portraits). Her numerous pieces of jewellery were individually

mentioned and bequeathed, including to Alexandre “my handsomest diamond brooch to wear in remembrance of me ...”. “I direct that my collection of plants, furniture and effects at Bayswater ... and also any household furniture and library of books in my house in Brook Street ... shall be sold either by public auction or private sale”. In a codicil dated 30 December 1829, Elizabeth assigned the following additional books to Alexandre: William Forsyth’s *A Botanical Nomenclator* (1794), editions of the dictionaries of Samuel Johnson and Abel Boyer, William Hooker’s “book of drawings and such other books [of drawings] from my library as he may select for his own use”.



*Vandesia edulis*, above  
*Pelargonium x vandesiae*, right

The Comtesse’s collection of plants was a worldwide one containing species from all continents as well as cultivars, and some of these plants were given names to mark her connection. While no systematic search has been possible, about a dozen names of Australian plants are associated with material from the Comtesse de Vandes’s garden including four species of *Acacia*. A drawing of an anonymous species of *Dryandra* cultivated at Bayswater was exhibited by the Comte de Vandes at a meeting of the Horticultural Society of London on 15 September 1829: the artist was Madame Elise Robin. Richard Anthony Salisbury (1812: 332–333; 1866: 57) proposed a new generic name *Vandesia*, to honour the Comtesse, for *Bomarea* (formerly *Astroemeria*) *edulis*: “I have named this genus,

which contains many species, after Madame La Comtesse de Vandes, whose collection of rare exotics, near Bayswater, is so liberally open to botanists.” Andrews had painted it at Bayswater in 1811 for *The Botanist’s Repository* (tab. 649).

Sweet (1820) named *Pelargonium x vandesiae*. George Don (Loudon 1830: 77) listed a cream-blossomed bellflower as *Campanula* “*Valdesi* [sic] ... Comtesse de Vandes’s ...”, as well as *Epiphyllum vandesii*, “*Count De Vandes’ Epiphyllum*, or Hybrid Cactus” (Don 1834: 170). The cactus had been raised in Bayswater from “seed of *E. phyllanthoides*, impregnated by the pollen of *Cereus speciosissimus*”. Two clones of *Camellia*, which “few excel in splendour” were raised from



seed in Bayswater, and were named ‘*Vandesii*’ and ‘*Vandesii Superba*’ (J.D. 1832).

Elizabeth de Vandes died at her home in Brook Street on 4 February 1832 and was buried at St Andrew’s Church, Hatfield Peverel, Essex, on 13 February 1832: “I request that Peter Wright of Hatfield Priory in the County of Essex Esquire will permit me to be interred close to my late husband John Wright Esquire and I particularly desire that my Executors hereinafter named will cause me to be so interred in a decent quiet manner and that all ostentatious shew may be most carefully avoided ...”

There is a very sparse entry for Elizabeth, Comtesse de Vandes, in *Dictionary of British and Irish botanists and horticulturists* (Desmond and Ellwood 1992: 204), commenting that “many of her plants were figured in botanical magazines.” On the other hand there is no entry for her garden in *Bibliography of British Gardens* (Desmond 1984). Westminster rate records for the early nineteenth century indicate that the Bayswater garden, accessed through Lavender Mews (J.D., 1832), lay between Coburg Place and St Agnes Villas on the north side of the Uxbridge Road, now the Bayswater Road. Development since 1832 has completely effaced even the outline of its site which must have been between the present streets of Queensway and Inverness Terrace, to the east and north of Queensway Tube Station.

# Gardens Trust events for 2018

also on our website [www.thegardenstrust.org](http://www.thegardenstrust.org)

## 'THE PUBLIC PARKS CRISIS' Historic Landscape Project Training Day at Abington Park Museum, Northampton Thursday 26 April 2018

Public Parks are suffering due to severe funding cuts during this period of 'Austerity'. Learn how the crisis came about, how parks have been affected and what your County Gardens Trust can do to help to protect your local parks.

Speakers will include **Erika Diaz Petersen**, of Historic England; the **Friends of Abington Park**; **David Lambert**, director of the Parks Agency and Gardens Trust Board Member; and **Katy Layton-Jones**, of the University of Leicester.

Together, David and Katy have provided evidence to the House of Commons Select Committee inquiry into the future of public parks and produced the Gardens Trust's accompanying report, 'Uncertain Prospects'.

Tickets free for CGT/Gardens Trust members, with a suggested donation of £7 towards lunchtime catering; £40 for non-members (with one year's membership of the Gardens Trust included), payable at event registration. Venue: Abington Park Museum, Park Avenue South, Northampton, NN1 5LW.

Contact: [tamsinmcmillan@thegardenstrust.org](mailto:tamsinmcmillan@thegardenstrust.org) to reserve a place.

**Booking deadline: Thursday 19 April.**

## Visit to Rivington Terraced Gardens 10am to 4pm, Saturday 12 May

With your appetites whetted by **Maria Luczak's** Gardens Trust lectures (in London on 14 March, and Birmingham on 18 April) the GT is organising



The crowds came out to see Rivington in its glory



a guided visit to Rivington Terraced Gardens near Bolton, Lancashire.

These historic gardens (Grade II) laid out on the very edge of the West Pennine Moors with fine and extensive views were originally created for soap magnate Lord Leverhulme as a spectacular venue for him to relax in and entertain. Situated on the steep hillside below Rivington Pike, the Gardens were designed by landscape architect Thomas Mawson and his son between 1905 and 1922.

Following Leverhulme's death in 1925 they fell into a state of extreme decay and have been cherished locally in their ruinous state for decades since. Now with a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund they are undergoing a three-year major programme of work by heritage professionals aided by enthusiastic volunteers to repair, stabilise and consolidate the extraordinary array of eleven listed buildings, structures and landscape features.



One of the many dramatic surviving structures

Guided tours will be led by **Liam Roche**, the site manager for Groundwork's contractors and **Elaine Taylor**, Lancashire Gardens Trust, who has researched both Rivington and other Mawson gardens in Lancashire.

Walks will start and finish at Rivington Church, where parking is available. The terrain at Rivington is challenging, sturdy walking boots are essential, there will be two groups one taking a slightly easier route. This visit is not suitable for those who have difficulty walking.

Ticket price includes coffee and biscuits on arrival (from 10am) lunch of soup and sandwiches and afternoon tea including traditional Lancashire cakes, kindly provided by the ladies of Rivington Parish Church.



**Book through our website. Cost: £40 members of GT and CGTs, £45 others.**

Why not make a weekend of it? There are plenty of hotels in the area (links on the website); those travelling from London and the south-east will probably need to arrive the day before as the walks start at 10am.

If you want to extend your stay, on Sunday 13 May **Gresgarth Hall** near Lancaster home of Lady **Arabella Lennox-Boyd** (Chelsea Gold medal winning designer) will be open. Arabella has designed a fabulous Edwardian-style garden in a romantic landscape, which includes intensively planted herbaceous borders, lake/riverside walks, a rose-clad bridge and kitchen garden, in fact a whole day is recommended for the visit; it is open from 11am to 5pm.

**Dryburgh Abbey: its Picturesque Landscape Re-assessed 10am to 4.45, Monday 21 May**

This whole day event hosted by **Historic Environment Scotland** focuses on the extensive designed landscape surrounding Dryburgh Abbey in the Scottish Borders. The day will start from the Abbey car park with guided tours of central parts of the designed landscape.



Dryburgh Abbey ruins, with the Abbey House behind; the Hotel lies just to the left of this picture

This will be followed by morning coffee at Dryburgh Abbey Hotel after which we will learn of the history of the landscape and its development, historical connections and cultural significance by the author of the comprehensive Conservation Management Plan which has been commissioned for the site, landscape architect **Peter McGowan**.

After a light lunch we will go out for the afternoon tour of outer parts of the landscape.

We then return to the Hotel for afternoon tea and hear of context of abbeys being used as follies within landscapes, before concluding the day's events by opening up the discussion on alternative options for how the designed landscape could be managed in the future. Full details of the programme on our website.

**Max number 45 people; no dogs permitted. Cost: £35 per head including a light lunch and all refreshments. Book via our website.**

**The Prophet in his own Country: 3 Repton gardens in Norfolk Friday 1 & Saturday 2 June Fully Booked, with waiting list**

Contact Karen Moore, Norfolk Gardens Trust Organiser, Point House, Back Street, Litcham, Norfolk PE32 2PA or: [moore.karen@icloud.com](mailto:moore.karen@icloud.com)



**Wonders & Marvels: Water, the intellect & science in the 17th-century British garden Annual Oxford Rewley House weekend Friday 1 to Sunday 3 June Fully Booked, with waiting list**

Contact: [ppdayweek@conted.ox.ac.uk](mailto:ppdayweek@conted.ox.ac.uk) or phone: 01865 270 380

**Danish Landscapes and Gardens Study Tour Monday 4 to Sunday 10 June Fully Booked, with waiting list**

Contact Robert Peel: [rma.peel@btopenworld.com](mailto:rma.peel@btopenworld.com)

**GT Annual Family Picnic at Wicksteed Park 11am to 2pm, Saturday 30 June**

Join us for 18th century games, gardening fun, cake and a train ride! The Gardens Trust Family Picnic 2018 will be a very special affair as we join with Northamptonshire Gardens Trust at Wicksteed Park, to celebrate the bicentenary of Humphry Repton.

Wicksteed Park is a much-loved leisure park with playground and rides that was created in the grounds of Barton Seagrave, for which Repton created a Red Book hundreds of years ago; a park with a story! This day is open to all; young and old, Gardens Trust members and non-members,



## Gardens Trust events 2018



Linden Groves

and offers a chance to join friends and family for **Traditional Garden Games** that Humphry would have known from the 18th century. They include Giggly & Greenfingered gardening project to take home, a celebratory cake, a tour of this unique park, and a ride on Wicksteed Park's fabulous model railway.

Bring your own picnic, and dress up warm! We look forward to seeing you!

**Tickets are £5 per person, babes in arms free of charge. Games and activities recommended for the over-3s.**

### Visit to Halswell House, Somerset Monday 16 July

This day visit will provide an opportunity for a privileged and detailed look at the gardens and park of Halswell House, situated in the village of Goathurst in Somerset. Our day will be led by



**Edward Strachan**, owner of Halswell House, and **Roy Bolton**, architectural and art historian and Director of Sphinx Fine Art, who wrote on the history of Halswell for his Cambridge thesis, and with **Caroline Stanford** of the Landmark Trust.

Sir Charles Kemeys Tynte, (lower left) inherited the estate in 1740 and set about developing the garden and park. Sir Charles's work at Halswell can be summarised as affecting three discrete aspects of the gardens and park: first, the immediate setting of the house, where the formal garden was removed and the ground naturalized with a Rotunda and Rockwork Screen; second, the Pleasure Grounds in Mill Wood, where he created a series of linked ponds, dams, bridges and cascades, including the Bath Stone Bridge, and follies such as the Druid's Temple. Nearby he built the Temple of Harmony (1764). The wider park which was extended and planted. Robin Hood's Hut was built in the late 1760s on a ridge of high ground to the south of the house so that it provides a viewpoint and commands views over Somerset, the Bristol Channel and South Wales. We will visit all of these features, and Robin Hood's Hut will be specially opened for us (see also p27).

**Cost: £38 Gardens Trust and County Garden Trust members; £45 non-members, to include tea/coffee on arrival, and a sandwich lunch and drink. For the full programme, see our website. We regret there will be no refunds.**

**For further information or if you wish to book and pay by cheque, please contact Sally Jeffery: [sally.jeffery1@btinternet.com](mailto:sally.jeffery1@btinternet.com) or phone: 0208 994 6969.**

Directions: Halswell is west of the M5 between Bridgwater and Taunton. The nearest station is Taunton, with a good train service. 'Fat Steve' runs a taxi service: 07522 027809. The estate gates are at the cross roads in the village of Goathurst. There is parking marked near the main house at the top of that drive.

If you would like to stay near Halswell and extend your visit to Somerset, there are a number of B&Bs in Goathurst.

### Northern Ireland Gardens Study Tour Sunday 5 to Saturday 11 August

**Fully Booked, with waiting list**

Contact: Doreen Wilson, Tuffley Lawn,  
14 Ballyrogan Park, Newtownards BT23 4SD  
or: [doreenwilson123@btinternet.com](mailto:doreenwilson123@btinternet.com)

# The Gardens Trust's Annual Conference 2018, Birmingham

Saturday 1 & Sunday 2 September

## BOOKING IS NOW OPEN!

Our conference this year is adding to the rising profile the Gardens Trust is building for itself in **Birmingham** through the Historic Landscapes Project 'Meet-Ups', the extension of the GT's lecture programme in the city and this year's series of introductory courses on garden history run at Highbury Hall and the University's Winterbourne House and Garden.



© National Portrait Gallery, London

We will enjoy tours of both these sites.

**Highbury Hall** (above) is a magnificent Venetian Gothic villa built in 1880 for Joseph Chamberlain, with grounds landscaped largely by Edward Milner. Joseph Chamberlain (1836–1914), father of Neville and Austen was once described by Winston Churchill as the man “who made the weather”, and the figure who shaped the political agenda when the British Empire stood at the height of its power.

**Winterbourne House's** garden was laid out by the Birmingham City industrialist and pioneer of town planning John Nettlefold (of Guest, Keen and Nettlefold).

The Conference will take place in Birmingham on Saturday 1 and Sunday 2 September and be based at two separate but nearby venues: The University of Birmingham's Edgbaston Campus, Edgbaston Park Road B15 2TT and (3.5 km distant) Highbury Hall, Yew Tree Road, Birmingham B13 8QG. The programme comprises two full days of lectures and site tours as above, the Gardens Trust AGM, the Conference dinner and the New Research Symposium, with optional (free of charge but with limited numbers) visits on the afternoon of Friday 31 August.

**The cost** for the full two-day programme, excluding accommodation but inclusive of all refreshments, the Conference dinner and optional free of charge Friday afternoon tours is: £240

for GT and CGT members and £275 for non-members. There are 3 places at £150 available for *bona fide* students under the age of 30.

**Booking and payment:** Book the two-day Conference programme on Eventbrite via our website (Eventbrite fee is included) and tick the relevant boxes to sign up for the free tours on Friday afternoon (numbers are strictly limited).

When you have booked you will receive an email confirming your booking and a copy of the travel and information information (see p22) with full on-line links for booking University accommodation options and campus maps. If you cannot access the internet then please send your Conference fee cheque, payable to **The Gardens Trust** (our name must be written in full or the cheque will be returned by our bank!) plus any Friday tour you wish to join, to:

Teresa Forey Harrison, The Gardens Trust,  
70 Cowcross Street, London EC1M 6EJ.

**Conference booking closes on Friday 10 August.**

In the event of cancellation, we regret the Gardens Trust will be unable to return any costs that cannot be recovered. We advise that you have appropriate travel insurance.

**Overnight accommodation:** delegates are requested to book and pay directly for their own overnight accommodation. See page 22 for information on accommodation options on and off campus, University booking arrangements and travel and parking.

The GT Conference organiser will contact you later in the summer to ask you:

- Which of the dinner menu options (vegetarian or non-vegetarian) you would prefer and /or any other dietary needs (e.g. gluten-free). Buffet food will cater for a range of dietary requirements.
- Where you are staying e.g. Hornton Grange (Conference Park), Student village or City centre hotel to assist with planning any *ad hoc* transport requirements including after the Conference dinner on Saturday.
- Which, if any, CGT you are a member of (for badges)

The Conference booklet will be included in the Conference pack at registration. PDF copies may be available in advance in the late summer by email.

**If you have any queries please contact Virginia Hinze: [vchinze99@gmail.com](mailto:vchinze99@gmail.com) or phone: 01273 844 819.**

## The Gardens Trust's AGM & Annual Conference 2018, Birmingham

### Programme for Day One

#### Saturday 1 September

We will be based in the Lecture theatre in **The Muirhead Tower** (R21 on Campus map) University of Birmingham Edgbaston Campus, B15 2TT; the main entrance, East Gate, is off Edgbaston Park Road.

#### Approximate timings:

**9.30am onwards:** delegates register in the Atrium of the Muirhead lecture theatre on the ground floor of the Muirhead Tower; Coffee and biscuits available.

**10.30:** The morning will comprise a series of talks and presentations on the civic, estate and park history of Birmingham from the C19 to today, and of Highbury Hall in particular, plus thoughts on current philosophy and initiatives on park management. The speakers are:

**Stephen Roberts**, an historian of nineteenth-century Britain with extensive publications on Birmingham in the Victorian era who will give us a vivid of account what happened in Birmingham in the year that it became a city;

and Professor **Maureen Perrie**, of the University of Birmingham, who will introduce Joseph Chamberlain's Highbury Hall and the landscape gardening tradition there.



A postcard view showing the original entrance drive to Highbury Hall

The cultural historian and historical consultant **Katy Layton Jones**, well known to the Gardens Trust for her 2016 report *Uncertain Prospects: public parks in the new age of austerity* explores the theme of *'Celebration or Compensation? The urban context of public parks'*; and **Carey Baff**, chair of the Birmingham



Open Spaces Forum will introduce the partnership model of the Forum with Birmingham City Parks in managing parks successfully for the community.

A buffet lunch will be served in the Atrium with an opportunity to browse the bookstalls.



brummiesguidetobirmingham

From the gardens towards Winterbourne House

**Afternoon:** Assemble in the Atrium to walk in groups (5/10mins) to **Winterbourne House and Gardens** (east side of Edgbaston Park Road); introduction to the Garden by the director, **Lee Hale**, followed by a self-guided tour and an opportunity to buy the new guide book.

Return to Muirhead at leisure.

Tea and bookstalls in Muirhead Atrium.

**4.15pm to 6pm: The Gardens Trust Annual General Meeting** and committee reports, in the Muirhead lecture theatre.

Followed by a drinks reception in The Staff House (R24 on Campus map, 5 mins walk) and, at about 7pm, the **Conference Dinner** and entertainment; the bar will be open till late...

### Programme For Day Two Sunday 2 September

Our venue moves to Joseph Chamberlain's former home at **Highbury Hall**, Yew Tree Road, Birmingham B13 8QG.

**10.30am:** Delegate arrival, coffee and pastries.

**11am to 1pm: New Research Symposium** hosted by the happily restored Dr **Patrick Eyres**.

**1pm:** Hot buffet lunch.

**2pm to 4pm:** Highbury trustee **Alison Milward** will give a short introduction to the history of, and restoration proposals for, **Highbury Hall**, and its

## The Gardens Trust's AGM & Annual Conference 2018, Birmingham



moseleyforum

Highbury's fruit pergola, c.1894, one of the last surviving parts of Chamberlain's kitchen gardens

landscape followed by tours of the Hall's highly-decorative interior, and the gardens and grounds.  
4pm: Tea and close.

### Optional Visits, pre-Conference Friday afternoon 31 August

We are delighted to offer delegates arriving on Friday afternoon two optional tours. However, numbers are strictly limited and booking will be on a 'first come' basis.



© National Portrait Gallery, London

As a leading political figure of his day it was inevitable that Chamberlain should be lampooned...

of wild flowers, native plants, new trees, water features and nesting sites.

**5.30 to 6.30pm: Cadbury Research Library**, the Special Collection: (maximum 20 places). A private visit to the Cadbury Research Library and archive housing the University of Birmingham's extensive collections of rare books, manuscripts, archives, photographs and associated artefacts.

We'll have an introduction to the collection and the opportunity to see some of their items of botanical art/gardening interest and other horticultural matters.



**3.30pm: The Green Heart Project** (maximum 40 places): a guided tour with the designers and managers of the University's striking new parkland, the Green Heart Project.

Due for final completion in 2019, the project will open up the twelve-acre centre of the campus for students, staff and the local community to enjoy. It will provide a space for performances, socialising, meeting and studying, while also opening up views across the whole campus, as envisaged in the 1920s.

The new landscape design includes a range

Whilst **not** part of the Conference, The Barber Institute of Fine Arts B15 2TS is only five minutes away from the Muirhead Tower and is open from 10am till 5pm; the city also offers a wide range of cultural attractions including its Art Gallery and Museum, the new Library, and the Museum of the Jewellery Quarter.

Delegates are free to make their own supper arrangements in the city; alternatively there **may** be the option of a 3-course buffet dinner at the Conference Park @ c£26 per person.

## The Gardens Trust's AGM & Annual Conference 2018, Birmingham

### Travel and Accommodation information

When you have booked your conference place we will acknowledge your booking and send you details and links for booking all the University accommodation options, and the other information mentioned here.

### Travel and parking:

**Arrival by car:** Free parking is available on Saturdays and Sundays in the **North-East car park** (multi-storey; access off Pritchatts Road, Sat Nav B15 2SA) and in the bays around the University. Charges apply weekdays until 6pm (e.g. 3 to 5 hrs @£5.50). This car park is also for the use of those staying either at the Conference Park (Hornton Grange buildings) or The Vale student village (no parking on those sites). There are plenty of bays for disabled parking around the University.

Parking at **Highbury Hall** on Sunday: there is limited space on site but parking is available and unrestricted on surrounding suburban roads.

**Arrival by train:** University station (line from New Street) is 5/10 minutes' walk from the Muirhead Tower; Saturdays has a frequent service, half-hourly Sundays, 6/7 minutes journey.

**Buses:** Services all run frequently from the city centre. The **X61** stops on Grange Road immediately in front of the University; **No.63** stops on the Bristol Road outside 'Sports and Fitness'. Nos. **98** and **99** stop on Edgbaston Park Road outside the Conference Park accommodation venue. There is a travel information office outside New Street Station, where you can obtain bus timetables and departure points.

**Taxis:** delegates travelling by public transport may need to pre-book taxis from their Campus or hotel accommodation to and from Highbury Hall on Sunday. A typical journey from New Street station to the Campus or to Highbury Hall is about £8 per cab. Recommended firm is T.O.A. Taxis ([www.taotaxis.co.uk](http://www.taotaxis.co.uk)) 0121 427 8888 (they take debit and credit cards).

**Car-sharing:** Delegates arriving by car and staying either at the Conference Park or The Vale student village, and who will meet at breakfast, are encouraged to offer lifts to non-car delegates to and from Highbury Hall on Sunday.

### Accommodation options

#### Please Note: Booking for all UNIVERSITY CAMPUS ROOMS closes on 20 July

Limited accommodation is available at the **University Conference Park** (Horton Grange)

G13 on campus map), with a 10 minute walk to Muirhead lecture theatre; parking in the adjacent North-east carpark.

We are offered: 30 rooms on Friday 31 August and 15 on Saturday 1 September.

Prices: Single B&B @ £69 per room per night; Double/Twin B&B @ £79 per room per night (sole occupancy).

Book and pay by debit/credit card via the University using the link you will be sent following your booking, and quoting the unique code: **GT2018** (case sensitive). If you wish to book a double room for double occupancy (at £89 per room per night) please telephone 0121 415 8400 quoting the booking ref **41620**.

Student accommodation at **The Vale student village** (off west side of Edgbaston Park Road) This site is about 20 mins walk to the Muirhead; rooms are likely to be in the Chamberlain blocks but delegates will be allocated these by The Vale reception staff closer to the time. Breakfast in the nearby 'Hub' (Shackleton) 3 to 5 min walk; full English breakfast only available if 30 delegates stay here; otherwise continental breakfast boxes will be delivered to each room.

Price per single en-suite room: £54 (inc. VAT).

Parking for this venue is available in the North-east Car park at the Conference Park; no parking on site at The Vale. Charges apply Friday afternoon only, free at weekends and evenings.

Book and pay by debit/credit card via the University e-shop using the links you will be sent on making your booking.

**Non-university alternatives:** The city centre is well supplied with hotels at all price levels within a few minutes' walk of New Street Station including several Ibis, Jurys Inn, Travelodge and Premier Inns; the website [www.trivago.co.uk](http://www.trivago.co.uk) offers a number of budget hotels (from c£35/40 per night) within c.2 miles of the University Campus. More up-market options also available. **Local Edgbaston hotels:** there are only a couple within reasonable walking distance: **Kensington Hotel** (2 star) 785 Pershore Rd, Birmingham B29 7LR Tel: 0121 472 8216; a 2km walk to University; and **Awentsbury Hotel** (2 star) 21 Serpentine Rd, Birmingham B29 7HU Tel. 0121 472 1258; a 1.1km walk to University.

A bit further away: **Hallmark Hotel** (4 star) 225 Hagley Road Strathallan B16 9RY.

**GT Birmingham Lecture:  
Professor Stephen Daniels on  
Revealing Repton:  
approaches to the Art of  
Landscape Gardening  
Wednesday 26 September**

The final of three lectures given by Stephen Daniels in this special Repton commemorative year. Stephen will be speaking about his long-standing interest in Humphry Repton and discuss new approaches to understanding and communicating the art of landscape gardening, and imaginative ways to commemorate the cultural significance of Repton's work and its legacy as this commemorative year continues.

Stephen has said that he is learning more as the year progresses and is delighted to have this chance to revisit Mr Repton's works. As a result of this experience this lecture will differ from the two he has already given in this series.

**At The Birmingham & Midland Institute, B3 3BS**

**Cost: £10, GT and CGT members, £12 others.**

**Doors open 6pm, lecture starts at 6.30 and your ticket includes a glass of wine or a soft drink. Book through our website.**

**Contact Advolly Richmond: [ilex@advolly.co.uk](mailto:ilex@advolly.co.uk)**

**Repton Symposium  
at The Garden Museum  
Monday 5 November**

Remember remember the fifth of November 2018...

In this case it's the date of the forthcoming Repton Symposium at the Garden Museum, London, entitled: "Some surprising things about Humphry Repton: New perspectives from County Gardens Trust researchers".

This one-day Symposium, a joint event between the Garden Museum and the Gardens Trust and a highlight of the 'Celebrating Repton' year, will be held on Monday 5 November at the Garden Museum, courtesy of the Museum's Director Christopher Woodward.

We are delighted to have secured both **Stephen Daniels** and Professor **Tom Williamson** as joint chairs for the day.

County Gardens Trust researchers from across



the country are being invited to present short but in-depth and copiously illustrated talks on their research findings. As the programme develops these are turning out to involve unexpected discoveries in unexpected archives, new and surprising aspects of Repton's life and accomplishments, new angles and questions on old knowledge and, more topically, how we are using that knowledge to save his often-fragile landscapes.



Nigel Temple collection, The Gardens Trust

Repton's illustration for the frontispiece of the 1809 Peacock's *Polite Repository* shows this view of Lambeth Palace, behind which lies the Museum

**Kate Harwood**, the CGT Repton research co-ordinator, is hard at work identifying and liaising with potential contributors to ensure we offer you a fascinating and varied day - and one that represents as many CGTs' research activities as possible. It is intended to be a thoroughly enjoyable day led by CGTs, for CGTs!

Further details and cost will be available on the Gardens Trust website and in the summer edition of the **GT news**. Apart from the formal programme, which will include refreshments, there will be ample opportunity to explore the Garden Museum's Exhibition of Repton's Red Books and we will end the day with a celebratory evening drinks reception.

**Booking for this event will open on Monday 18 June via the Garden Museum's website**

**If you require any further information, please contact Kate Harwood: [kateharwood@thegardenstrust.org](mailto:kateharwood@thegardenstrust.org)**

**Do please remember to check our website regularly for details of all our events, and also other events laid on by our related county organisations and friends...**

# Garden Grapevine History courses

courses in association with the Gardens Trust: [gardenhistorygrapevine.wordpress.com](http://gardenhistorygrapevine.wordpress.com)

## Introduction to Garden History

**6 week course at Winterbourne, Birmingham  
Tuesdays 10am to 1pm, from 8 May**

Garden history encapsulates a fascinating mix of landscape, architectural, literary and art history. This interdisciplinary course aims to introduce the study of garden history to anyone who has an interest in one or more of the subjects mentioned above. It will comprise six half-day sessions, including lively illustrated lectures, lands-on activities using primary source materials, opportunities for discussion and if you wish, advice for further reading and personal research projects.

An optional garden history visit will also be offered. The course tutors will be **Advolly Richmond**, MA and Dr **Jill Francis**, together with some invited guest lecturers, each of whom will be free to enliven the proceedings in their own way!

Week 1: Introduction to the course. What is garden history? How do we 'do' it? This session will (briefly!) cover the period up to and including the Renaissance.

Week 2: Tudor gardens, with case studies including the Elizabethan garden at Kenilworth, New Place garden at Stratford-upon-Avon and contemporary London gardens.

Week 3: Gardening in the seventeenth century, focussing on changes brought about by the voyages of discovery into the New World and the rise of 'conspicuous consumption'.

Week 4: The eighteenth-century landscape garden and its precursors. Including an example case study such as Croome Park in Worcestershire, Capability Brown's first landscape garden.

Week 5: The nineteenth-century: Regency and Victorian gardens, including the work of Gertrude Jekyll and Edward Lutyens, whose influence can be seen the gardens at Winterbourne.

Week 6: Modern gardens, including an summarising overview of the course and 'Where next?'

**The course will run at Winterbourne on Tuesday mornings, 10am to 1pm, from 8 May to 19 June (no session on 29 May). An optional garden history visit will take place on Tuesday 26 June. £150 for the 6-week course.**

To Book please go to:  
[www.winterbourne.org.uk/whats-on/](http://www.winterbourne.org.uk/whats-on/)

**Great botanists from the 16th to the 20th centuries: includes garden visits  
City Lit, Keeley Street, London**

**Thursdays, 10 May to 7 June**

**Fully Booked, with waiting list**

**Garden Study Days  
at Institute of Historical Research  
Senate House [North Block], Malet Street  
London WC1E 7HU**

**Ashridge  
10.30am to 4.30, Tuesday 8 May  
Fully Booked, with waiting list**

**Chelsea Physic Garden  
10.30am to 4.30, Tuesday 22 May  
Fully Booked, with waiting list**

**Crystal Palace  
10.30am to 4.30, Tuesday 5 June**

Our third visit is to Crystal Palace which was designed by Joseph Paxton for the Great Exhibition of 1851 and relocated from its original home in Hyde Park, to Sydenham Hill in 1854. Lavish gardens were added, with magnificent fountains, statues and trees and full size models of prehistoric animals. In 1936 the Crystal Palace was destroyed by fire. We will explore what is left and how it is managed today.

The day will start with a classroom based introduction to Crystal Palace and its history and planting at the IHR from 10.30 to 1pm.

After lunch [not provided, so bring a picnic or get something en route] we will travel from Russell Square to Crystal Palace station (thameslink/southern) and then take a 5 mins walk to Crystal Palace Museum which is housed in the only surviving building constructed by the Crystal Palace Company around 1880. The museum will be opened especially for the group and there will be a tour by the curator. There will also be a guided tour of the park and its gardens led by **Chris Sumner** which will go ahead whatever the weather; so come prepared! The cost includes the museum and tour of the gardens but please note that transport costs are not included.

To book a place at £46.70, go to:  
[crystalpalace.eventbrite.co.uk](http://crystalpalace.eventbrite.co.uk)



## The lost eighteenth-century garden at Marble Hill, London

Emily Parker, Landscape Advisor, English Heritage



Historic England

Marble Hill in 1749, showing the terraces, groves and avenues in the garden from across the Thames



Emily Parker

Marble Hill today, looking up from the Thames

Garden historians have always known that, in the early eighteenth century, there was a garden at Marble Hill which was connected with the leading garden designers of the day. Letters from Alexander Pope and Charles Bridgeman showed that they were both involved in the scheme. However, it was not until the discovery of a series of plans in the Norfolk Record Office in 1991, showing the garden in detail that a precise understanding of its layout and importance could be determined.

Dr David Jacques was the first person to start to pull this new research together and Mavis Batey wrote in detail about the garden in her book *Alexander Pope: The Poet and the Landscape* published in 1999. Batey encouraged English Heritage to restore the garden at Marble Hill, writing to my colleague John Watkins in 2001 that 'Looking down from the top windows [of Marble Hill House] I couldn't help wondering if something of the villa of the ancients feel could be brought back to the garden'. We returned to Batey's chapter and letter when a project was proposed for Marble Hill and they provided the catalyst for new research.

The whole extent of Henrietta's estate survives in the current public park. The estate was threatened by development in the early 1900s and was saved by public campaign in 1902. The site is registered Grade II\* on the Historic England Register of Historic Parks and Gardens. Currently the park is valued and recognised by the local community as a space that provides opportunities for recreation, sport as well as escape and tranquillity.

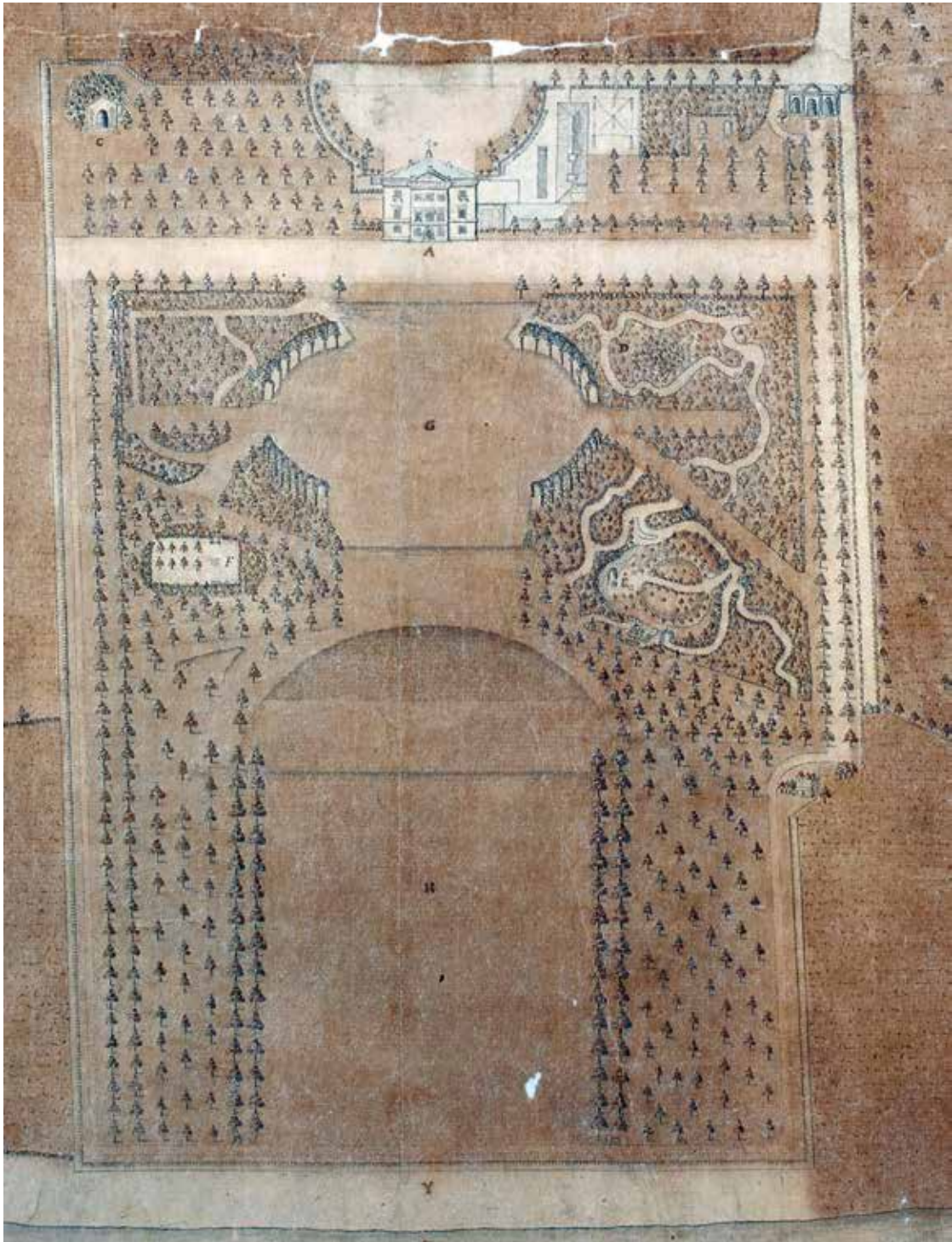
This is, of course, a critical component of the park today. However, English Heritage, as a conservation charity, was conscious that the historical significance of the park was undervalued and unrecognised.

Marble Hill is situated on the banks of the River Thames in Twickenham, at the very centre of a string of fashionable 18th century residences. The owner, Henrietta Howard, mistress of George II and later Countess of Suffolk, but also a fascinating and influential figure in her own right, created Marble Hill house in the 1720s as a retreat from court life and as a place to entertain her elite circle of friends.

The house is an archetypal example of a 'Palladian' Villa. It was built between 1724 and 1729 with involvement from Lord Herbert, 9th Earl of Pembroke, and Roger Morris. The garden at Marble Hill was being designed and laid out at the same time as the house, with guidance from Alexander Pope and Charles Bridgeman. In fact there was a meeting on site between Henrietta, Bridgeman and Pope in late summer of 1724 to discuss ideas for the garden layout.

Much of Pope's inspiration for garden design was taken from the classical texts he was translating, and this, along with his painting principles, undoubtedly influenced the layout at Marble Hill. A plan by Pope survives for the layout showing his initial ideas for the garden. Probably the best indications of Bridgeman's influence are the changes between Pope's initial plan and the work that was actually carried out on site. It seems likely that Bridgeman took Pope's more theoretical ideas

agenda



© Norfolk Record Office MC184/10/1 (rights reserved)

Detail from the survey of Marble Hill made in about 1752

and turned them into a workable design and in doing so added his own experience and concepts. A plan from c.1752 shows the layout of

Henrietta's estate and her garden in detail. Jacques determined that the most likely reason for the production of this plan was a property

dispute between Henrietta and one of her neighbours. To resolve this, Henrietta assigned part of her estate at Marble Hill over to her brother, the Earl of Buckinghamshire, in July 1752. As a detailed survey of the estate ([previous page](#)) drawn to settle a legal dispute rather than as a proposal or projected idea, it shows exactly how the garden was laid out in around 1752. The plan includes a key, which labels many of the garden features including a Green House, Grotto, Ice House and Ice House Seat, Flower Garden and Ninepin Alley. Some of the smaller features, which are easily overlooked, include individual seats and benches shown in precise detail.

The structure of the garden survives today, including the majority of the main components, the terraces, woodland areas and oval lawn. New detailed archive research, including accounts, letters, poetry and contemporary accounts of the garden in the eighteenth century, have expanded our knowledge of the garden during Henrietta's ownership. Extensive landscape surveys and archaeological investigations have enabled us to understand the surviving garden in detail.

In the summer of 2017, English Heritage was awarded a £4million grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund to restore the gardens at Marble Hill to their 18th-century design, as well as improve facilities for visitors today and provide new interpretation. The project includes thinning

the currently inaccessible woodland blocks near the house, reinstating the paths shown on the c.1752 survey, planting hundreds of trees to restore avenues and groves on the lower terrace, planting new shrubs and flowers in the wilderness areas, recreating the arbour on the upper terrace and the Ninepin Alley so that the historical importance of the garden can again be the focus of the landscape at Marble Hill.

More information about the project and the history of the garden can be found at: [english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/marble-hill-house/marble-hill-revived/](http://english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/marble-hill-house/marble-hill-revived/)

### From the Gardens Trust:

The Gardens Trust are pleased to be able to fully support English Heritage's proposed restoration of the house and important Grade II\* registered site at Marble Hill. In particular, we positively commend the reinstatement of Henrietta Howard's pleasure gardens as shown in Heckel's painting and the 18th century survey drawing.

The Gardens Trust is confident that English Heritage's plans for Marble Hill will reveal the historical significance of the park and that the restoration will have a beneficial effect for the whole community and provide the opportunity for future generations to enjoy this unique landscape.

**Dr Marion Harney**  
Chair Gardens Trust Conservation Committee

## A short history of Halswell House landscape gardens

Sally Jeffrey

There had been Halswells on the estate at Halswell House, situated in the village of Goathurst in Somerset, since before 1280. John Tynte, from an ancient Somerset family, married the last Halswell in the mid seventeenth century, and it was his son, Sir Halswell Tynte, who added a large Baroque wing in 1689. From that date onward the Tudor manor dating from the mid-16th century become the service area, with Sir Halswell's fine new range attached.

Sir Charles Kemeys Tynte ([see p18](#)), inherited the estate in 1740. Sir Charles's work at Halswell can be summarised as affecting three discrete aspects of the gardens and park: first, the immediate setting of the house, where the formal garden was removed and the ground naturalised; second, the

Pleasure Grounds in Mill Wood, which were planted and embellished with new structures; and third, the



Robin Hood's Hut one of the new garden features



Museum of Wales

Halswell House, Somerset, by John Inigo Richards, 1764

wider park which was extended and planted.

Sir Charles shared his passion for creating picturesque landscapes with two good friends, Henry Hoare II of Stourhead and Coplestone Warre Bampfylde of Hestercombe. They created three of the finest picturesque gardens of their day. The park at Halswell is now listed Grade II on the *Register of Historic Parks and Gardens of special historic interest in England*.

Sir Charles renovated the earlier formal garden in front of the house, naturalising the landscape and adorning it with ornamental structures. In Mill Wood, he created a series of linked ponds, dams, bridges and cascades, including the Bath Stone Bridge, and follies such as the Druid's Temple and the Temple of Harmony (1764), containing a replica of the original statue of Terpsichore, Muse of Dance, carved by John Walsh. It was designed by Sir Charles's gentleman-architect friend Thomas Prowse and based on a Roman temple recorded by Palladio. Robert Adam made designs for the interior. Robin Hood's Hut was built at around the same time. Its situation on high ground provides a viewpoint and commands views over Somerset, the Bristol Channel and South Wales.

In 1950 the estate was sold and split into several ownerships. The Tudor manor and

stable courtyard buildings were converted into leasehold residences. The 'lawn' on the east became a wilderness, with the Rotunda and grotto buried deep in saplings and undergrowth. By contrast the ancient oaks, chestnuts, ilex and sycamore in Mill Wood were cleared, many of the garden features were removed, with the rest left to decay and much of the park went under the plough. Between 1950 and the present day, various elements of the house and park have been through a succession of different owners.

British businessman and art collector Edward Strachan bought the estate in 2013 and has begun a comprehensive process of restoration of the house, outbuildings, gardens and eighteenth-century landscape parkland with the intention of opening the house to the public when the restorations are complete. By the end of 2013 the derelict Mill Wood was purchased by the same owner and reunited with the house. Mill Wood has been re-planted with 4,000 trees and the follies are being restored one by one.

The Halswell Park Trust was established with the aim of acquiring the buildings and surrounding land of Halswell Park, restoring them and opening them to the public. The Somerset Buildings Preservation Trust restored the Temple of

Harmony in 1995, and Robin Hood's Hut (Grade II) in 1997. The Temple is still owned and maintained by the Halswell Park Trust. Robin Hood's Hut was

offered to the Landmark Trust in 2000.

For details of our July visit see p18. For more, see *GHS news* 92 Summer 2013 p15–17.

## John Brookes, the man who made the modern garden,

review of the exhibition at The Garden Museum, 30 November 2017 to 25 March 2018

Annabel Downs

There were lots of treasures to be discovered in this exhibition. One was a letter from Susan Jellicoe received by John Brookes early on in his career in which she affirms his potential; the letter accompanied a copy of Jellicoe's newly published volume 2 of *Studies in Landscape Design*, (1966).

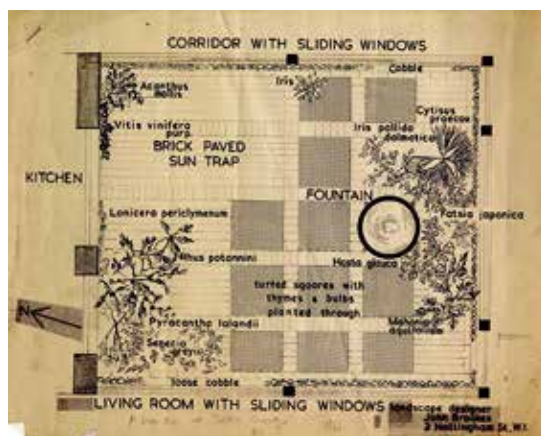
*'We both feel you are one of the very few younger members who has the ability and inclination to pursue some of the lines of thought sketched out in the book to carry them to a further stage. We shall watch the development of your work with great interest.'* This was surely like being touched by the fairy godmother's wand. But who were his contemporaries who failed to show such promise?

In a short but illuminating sound recording, Brookes talked about working with Brenda Colvin and then Sylvia Crowe, and as Crowe's work shifted towards larger landscape scale commissions then he realised his real interest remained inside the garden. And so he left and established his own practice. The displayed drawings show that he is working still and in many countries worldwide.

His drawings also show that he had developed a better drawing style certainly than Crowe, but like Crowe, the purpose of the drawing for him is essentially a tool for communication, rather than being a precious object in itself. The downside to this is that these drawings are not always immediately engaging to an untrained eye, and also that, perhaps with a restricted budget, the presentation of these drawings was more casual than they really merit.

Inside and outside the profession, John Brookes has long been a household name, and he has achieved this through his writing. Rather like Richard Sudell, Brookes has been promoting good design and how to achieve it to the man in the street. *The Room Outside* (1969) set the ball rolling by introducing new ideas from the landscape designers in California

and encouraged people to think about the function of their gardens and plan them accordingly to meet changing lifestyles. It also heralded him as a modern designer.



The Garden Museum

Design for a courtyard garden, 1961



The Garden Museum

The exhibition design (above) transposed Brookes' grid concept into an expanded trellis type timber frame. Standing out amongst these grid works is a design for Melsetter Arboretum, an exquisite and dynamic interplay of varying shapes and satisfying irregularities strongly hinting of Burle Marx. If you



## agenda

want to know more you have to look it up on the internet. There were equally lyrical and exciting drawings for redesigning the paths and planting beds around the forest of mature plane trees in Bryanston Square; unlike the arboretum, this was implemented but has since been supplanted by another design.



The Garden Museum



The Garden Museum

A design drawing and photo of Bryanston Square, John's drawings for this scheme remain on display

It was a surprise however to see a 1976 submission for a Chelsea show garden entitled 'Town garden after a design by Lutyens ... planting in the style of Gertrude Jekyll!'

Teaching was another key part of Brookes' life. He said it is one of the most stimulating aspects, and unlike drawings and books, it carries on as part of his students' basic thinking. It is difficult not to hear the film 'John Brooks (sic) Rough Cut' several times over before seeing it, but it is invariably worthwhile hearing designers explain their ideas and reasons. Brookes was always eloquent and gave of himself freely whether it was patiently explaining his principles of design to a horticulturalist who can't distinguish between a conservatory and a greenhouse, or talking about aspects of his garden design and maintenance at Denmans. Denmans is now sadly closed, this should have been added as one of our treasures to the **Compiling the Record** list, surely?



Andrew Duff Garden Design

### As we went to press

We are very sorry to hear the news that John Brookes has died, aged 84, on 16 March.

Christopher Woodward, Director of the Garden Museum, said, "We are very pleased that he was able to see this retrospective of his work as a designer, and appreciate how many garden designers he has influenced through his writing and his teaching."

John was an active member of the GHS from its earliest days, and was instrumental in setting up a 'permanent' GHS kiosk, designed by himself, and containing exhibitions of images of garden

history, installed at the then new Syon House garden centre in 1969. He was a key participant in our 'Modern Gardens Seminar' held in London in 1989, with talks from John, Preben Jakobsen and others. At a more recent seminar looking at the work of Sylvia Crowe and Brenda Colvin, pairing up once more with Anthony du Gard Pasley, he

memorably described how those key figures in 20th-century garden and landscape design ran their office(s) and the way they worked.

**If you would like to contribute your memories of John please do send them to the editor for inclusion in a future edition: [news@thegardenstrust.org](mailto:news@thegardenstrust.org)**

## in memoriam

### Dr Hazel Conway remembered

April 1933 – December 2017

#### David Lambert, The Parks Agency

Hazel's first love was architecture and design; she was principal lecturer at Leicester Polytechnic in architectural and landscape history, on which she published two very successful books aimed at students, *Design History: A Student Handbook* (1987) and *Understanding Architecture* (1994), as well as an earlier biography of the furniture designer *Ernest Race* for the Design Council (1982).

For most readers of **GT news** Hazel's name will be associated with her pioneering work on public parks. When CUP published her doctoral thesis as *People's Parks: the design and development of Victorian Parks in Britain* (1991), it was the first scholarly assessment of the importance of what had until then been a neglected heritage. It was very timely, feeding into the campaign for public parks which was to develop in the early 1990s.

As part of that campaign, Hazel and I co-authored *Public Prospects: the historic urban park under threat* for the Victorian Society and Garden History Society in 1993, and then in 1996 joined forces on the Heritage Lottery Fund's Urban Parks Panel, where we had the thrill of advising on how to spend the treasure chest opened up by Lord Rothschild and Dame Jennifer Jenkins; Lord Rothschild had particularly noted our statistic that some eight million people in Britain used parks daily. Hazel was a leading light in the renaissance of parks which followed and would have been outraged by the way in which that renaissance is being thrown into reverse.



Letitia Yetman

Hazel in ebullient mood at Petworth, for Mavis Batey's birthday celebrations in 2011

She also wrote a short book on *Public Parks*, for Shire Publications in 1996.

As well as her close involvement with the 'Vic Soc', Hazel also served as Chair of the GHS Conservation Committee, on its Council and served as a Vice President of the GHS and Gardens Trust from 2013.

Among her triumphs was convincing the House of Commons



## in memoriam

Environment Select Committee to hold its landmark inquiry into parks in 1999. She was also a founder member of the London Parks and Gardens Trust, a trustee for many years, and part of the team in 1995/96 which produced the Inventory which became London Gardens Online. In the early 2000s, she served on English Heritage's London Advisory Committee as well as its Historic Parks and Gardens Panel. She was a fierce fighter for the cause, and a loyal friend not only to parks but to her conservation allies and colleagues: she will be missed by us all.

### Chris Sumner, London Parks & Gardens Trust

Hazel was an old friend whom I had known for 25 or more years, really since discussions started at English Heritage on establishing the then London Historic Parks & Gardens Trust. Hazel was a founder member, and she was a trustee for many years. She was a fierce and knowledgeable advocate for public parks, as demonstrated in her books on the subject, and she was called upon as a consultant at many important historic sites and restoration and development schemes including Kew Gardens World Heritage Site and Crystal Palace.

Hazel was also Parks and Gardens Advisor to the Victorian Society, and Advisor to the Open Spaces Society. In those roles she submitted a Memorandum (TCP 36, April 1999) to the Parliamentary Select Committee on Environment, Transport and Regional Affairs on the subject of public parks. Her Memorandum includes sections on the Social Benefits of public parks, their Economic Benefits, Environmental Importance, the Condition of Parks, and Funding and Maintenance. Her Conclusion starts, "The present decline of urban and country parks is a matter of urgency that deserves Government scrutiny..."

Hazel was involved with the Heritage Lottery Fund and a member of the Urban Parks Panel, as David says above, and was able to see and contribute to a very real upturn in the physical condition of public parks through the allocation of substantial HLF funding during a golden period that Government parsimony seems now to have put an end to.

She enjoyed music too, and sang in a choir and played the piano until arthritis made that impossible. Hazel was a good friend to many people, and her death is sad loss, not least at a time when public parks need more than ever the strong support and advocacy she was able to bring to bear.

### Dominic Cole, President The Gardens Trust

Hazel; Champion, enthusiast, participant, academic and friend.

I got to know Hazel from our joint love of the subject of garden history. From years ago when Mavis Batey was the 'go to' person for advice, Hazel was also there reminding us of the huge importance of Public Parks as a vital resource for all; a topic now key to our understanding of the gift and support of public green space and plants to everyday life, how it maintains health, repairs minds and provides places to sit and be quiet. Earlier these qualities had been recognised and championed by Octavia Hill in promoting the setting up of the National Trust through her work to provide a better life for less well-off Londoners.

Hazel and David Lambert never let us forget how important public green space is and how we should be incensed at any drop in standards of presentation and maintenance of places in local authority care on behalf of all of us.

What resonates when I think about Hazel is her great enthusiasm, happy face and willingness to support the cause of the wonderful legacy of historic parks and gardens.

### Celebration for Hazel Conway at The Gallery, 70 Cowcross Street, London 2pm to 8pm, 28 April

Zara Conway, Hazel's daughter, has organised a celebration of Hazel at our London office; all are welcome, but please RSVP! This date was chosen as it would have been Hazel's 85th birthday. This is going to be a party in her honour and for all whose lives she touched.

- Speeches from 5.30pm.
- There will be 50 Hazel saplings with message tags for people to write a note on.
- There will be a cake that looks like a park to be followed with champagne for the toasts.

**RSVP by email: [gkz1.conway@gmail.com](mailto:gkz1.conway@gmail.com) with subject line: rsvp 28 April. See you there...**





## other exhibitions, courses and events

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

### **Cedric Morris: Artist Plantsman Paintings of Flowers and Gardens Garden Museum and Philip Mould & Co, London Until 22 July**

This April will see the opening of two concurrent exhibitions of 'artist plantsman' Cedric Morris (1889–1982), at the Garden Museum and Philip Mould & Company. Though at the forefront of the Modern British avant-garde – a close friend and contemporary of Ben and Winifred Nicholson, John Nash and Christopher Wood – Morris' story has been largely neglected in recent years. The home he shared in Suffolk with his lifelong partner Arthur Lett-Haines was a hub of artistic meeting and activity and in 1937 the pair founded the East Anglian School of Painting and Drawing. There Morris taught Lucian Freud, whose practice he was hugely influential in developing, and later Maggi Hambling.

These two exhibitions will constitute the first major reassessment of Morris in over 30 years. As well as painting portraits, still-lives and landscapes representing his expansive travels, Morris is best known for his flower paintings, which reveal his keen interest as a botanist – he raised over 90 new irises – and the exhibition at the Garden Museum will focus on these horticultural works that took flower painting out of the taxonomic sphere, into an expressionist mode with echoes of surrealism and cubism. Philip Mould & Company, (about a 1/2 hour walk away) will complement these works with an exhibition of landscapes of his extensive travels.

The exhibition is complemented by a series of lectures and discussions in May and June.

The recent gift of 100 paintings by Morris to the **Gainsborough's House Museum**, Sudbury in Suffolk gives a chance to see more work by this wonderful artist, until 17 June. I was delighted to find a portrait of the writer Angus Wilson included; he was my grandmother's wartime neighbour in Harrow!

### **Humphry Repton: Art & Nature for the Duke of Bedford at Woburn Abbey, Bedfordshire until 28 October**

When the 6th Duke of Bedford inherited Woburn in 1802, he commissioned the famous landscape gardener,



© Philip Mould Company Cedric Morris Estate

Easter-Bouquet by Sir-Cedric-Morris, 1934

Humphry Repton (1752-1818), to create designs to enhance the gardens and parkland. 2018 celebrates the bicentenary of Humphry Repton. With the Duke being Repton's most important client, at a time of declining commissions, the Woburn Red Book is one of his largest works. It contains Repton's most ambitious and detailed designs covering the approaches to the Abbey, the lakes and plantings in the surrounding parkland and the formal Pleasure Grounds.

This new exhibition explores the fascinating relationship between Repton and one of his greatest clients. On public display for visitors to see for the first time will be his most elaborate and comprehensive **Red Book**.

In addition, the exhibition will give visitors the opportunity to discover Repton's other works for the family including at the picturesque Devon estate of Endsleigh, Oakley House and Russell Square in London. Never before seen unexecuted designs will feature alongside works of art and archival treasures, which bring to life the creative legacy of Repton. There will also be Repton-related family trails, activities and events throughout the year.

Having explored the Repton's legacy in the exhibition, visitors need only step outside to discover Repton's beautiful landscape designs. Since 2004 the present Duke and Duchess of Bedford have been restoring many of Repton's

## other exhibitions, courses and events

features in the Woburn Abbey Gardens. These include the folly grotto, the Cone House, the menagerie and the striking Chinese-style pavilion, which was completed in 2011 and went on to win a Hudson's Heritage Award. In 2013, Woburn's project to restore the 19th Century Humphry Repton landscape won the "Best Restoration of a Georgian Garden" at the Georgian Group Architectural Awards.

Other Repton features in the Woburn landscape include; The Aviary, set to be further restored in 2018 and the Doric Temple.

### **Humphry Repton at Stoneleigh Abbey, with Johnny Phibbs** **Warwickshire Gardens Trust in Leamington Spa** **11am, Wednesday 16 May**

This study day with Johnny Phibbs, on Humphry Repton at Stoneleigh Abbey will discuss the landscape Jane Austin used as her model for Sotherton, in Mansfield Park. This will be followed by a tour of the Abbey grounds.

**To be held at: The Leamington Tennis Court Club, 50, Bedford Street, Leamington Spa CV32 5DT. Cost: £45, to include entry, lunch and refreshments. Contact: mattfattorini@gmail.com**

### **Visit to the grounds of Kenwood House** **History of Gardens and Landscape Seminar** **2pm to 430pm, Thursday 24 May**

In this bicentennial year of Humphry Repton's death, our seminar visit is to Kenwood House.



Repton came to Kenwood at the invitation of its new owner David Murray, the seventh Lord Stormont, on 8 May 1793 to advise on landscaping the grounds. He presented his *Red Book* in just twelve days, adding a supplement

in early July. This was used as the basis for the extensive restoration work that has been undertaken in the last few years, aiming to restore its character to that of a gentleman's park and we will see it.

**Dave Gibbons**, the Head Gardener, will give an introductory talk and lead a tour of the grounds which will last about an hour and a half.

**There are a maximum of 25 places.**  
**Tickets cost £5.86 [including eventbrite's fees]**  
**see: [www.history.ac.uk/events/seminars/121](http://www.history.ac.uk/events/seminars/121)**

### **The Garden Historians** **Quintessential English Gardens** **Summer term weekly, from Thursday 3 May**

The course alternates between lectures at Burgh House, New End Square, Hampstead NW3 1LT, followed by a garden trip the week after. This gives the group a wonderful opportunity to learn about a garden before a visit and enjoy each site with some background and context.

All lectures at Burgh House begin at 10.30am, free biscuits and no home work!

#### **8 Week Summer Term**

- 3 May, BH: The Gardens of Nancy Lancaster
- 10 May: Trip to Kelmarsh Hall
- 17 May, BH: Gardens of the Oxford Colleges
- 24 May: Trip to Oxford College gardens; full day
- 7 June BH: Sir Fredrick Gibberd and his Garden
- 14 June: Private opening of The Gibberd Garden
- 21 June BH: To be confirmed
- 28 June: Garden trip, to be confirmed.

**Course fee: £198 for eight weeks. Students will make their own way to the gardens and pay for individual entrance fees. Course fees need to be paid in full, in advance.**

**Contact: [www.thegardenhistorians.co.uk](http://www.thegardenhistorians.co.uk)**

There are already so many Repton events this year that I can't possibly mention them all here, but new ones are being added to our website all the time. You can now even submit your own Repton, or otherwise, event using:  
[thegardenstrust.org/news/campaigns/submit-event/](http://thegardenstrust.org/news/campaigns/submit-event/)

### **Woburn Abbey Garden Show** **Saturday 23 and Sunday 24 June**

"The Gardener's Garden Show" offers a great range of specialist plant nurseries, selected garden

trade stands and a lively talk's theatre headlined by BBC Gardeners' Question Time panellist **Pippa Greenwood** and BBC4 presenter and garden designer **Adam Frost**.

Working with **Stephen Bennett**, the former Shows Director at the RHS for 28 years, where he was responsible for the Chelsea Flower Show, the Hampton Court Palace Flower Show and all the other RHS shows. Stephen has been working with us to revamp and relaunch the show at this stunning and historic venue.

**Tickets are £14 for adults, £13 for seniors and £8 for children. We have a special group booking rate available for groups of 12 or more and we also offer free entry for the group organiser. Please contact our dedicated Groups Co-ordinator; Lisa Weaver on 01525 292101 or email; [lisa.weaver@woburn.co.uk](mailto:lisa.weaver@woburn.co.uk) if you would like to update your details.**

### **Garden Museum Literary Festival at the Garden Museum, London Saturday 7 and Sunday 8 July**

The Garden Museum is delighted to announce our fifth Literary Festival. Begun in 2013, the world's only festival dedicated to writing inspired by gardens has travelled from garden to garden across Britain, but this year - for one time only - will take place in London, to celebrate the reopened Museum and our new gardens and café. Chefs from our lauded new restaurant will also be creating a special menu for the weekend for guests to savour.\*

As the Festival will be in London, we are taking what makes its green spaces unique as our overarching theme this year. Confirmed speakers include **Iain Sinclair**; **Tim Richardson** on his favourite cult garden writers; **Todd Longstaffe-Gowan** on the surprises of Georgian town gardens; **Allan Jenkins** on early-morning gardening; **Leif Bersweden** on hunting down all of Britain's orchids; **Charlie Hart** and **Kate Bradbury** on how building a garden helped through a period of mourning and grief; **Will Ashon** on Epping Forest; **Miriam Darlington** on owls and **Jon Day** on pigeons; **Tom Stuart-Smith** on designing for cities; **Ken Worpole** on the floral shrines of our streets; and novelist **Sofka Zinovieff** on gardens real and imaginary.

We will also have a programme of foodie talks centred around seasonality, foraging and London's

food history, featuring **Bee Wilson**, **Mark Diacono**, **Lia Leendertz** and **Charlotte Mendelson**.

**Standard tickets: £60 per day, £110 for the weekend; Friends' tickets: £50 per day, £100 for the weekend; under 30s tickets: £30 per day, £60 for the weekend.**

**Tickets are available now from the website: [www.gardenmuseum.org.uk](http://www.gardenmuseum.org.uk).**

\*Food not included in the price of tickets.

### **Flower Fairies: Botanical Magic Exhibition at the Garden Museum Wednesday 8 August to Sunday 30 September**

Since they first crept out from behind leaves and flowers in 1918 for the *Elves and Fairies* postcards, Cicely Mary Barker's *Flower Fairies*<sup>TM</sup> have been enchanting and delighting children and adults alike. A selection of these charming characters will be on display at the Garden Museum this summer in an exhibition which celebrates the centenary of the earliest publication of Cicely Mary Barker's first fairy illustrations.

Continuing to be inspired by fairies Cicely Mary Barker published the first of her *Flower Fairies* books in 1923. Visitors will see original illustrations for more than 40 of her *Flower Fairies* designs, drawing extensively from the Frederick Warne archive. There will also be previously unseen sketchbooks and drawings together with her research materials.

### **Celebrating Humphry Repton at Ashridge House, Hertfordshire Friday 10 and Saturday 11 August**

A two-day conference based at Ashridge, Hertfordshire to cast new light on the life and works of Humphry Repton and consider his legacy in landscape design. The programme comprises a series of lectures on the first day followed by a **tour of the gardens at Ashridge**. The second day comprises a series of lectures in the morning followed in the afternoon by a **tour of Woburn Abbey gardens** led by Gardens Manager **Martin Towsey**. The conference will finish after the tour of Woburn.

Speakers that have indicated they would be able to speak at the conference include; Professor **Tom Williamson** on *Contrasting landscapes and commissions: Repton in Norfolk and Hertfordshire*; Professor **Stephen Daniels** on *Envisioning Landscape: the Art of landscape Gardening*;



## other exhibitions, courses and events & in brief

Dr Jonathan Finch; Dr Sarah Rutherford on *Research undertaken by CGT's into Repton*; Dr Jane Bradney on *Lewis Kennedy and the legacy of the Red Books*; Michael Symes on *Who inspired Humphry Repton?*; Dr Kate Felus; John Phibbs; and Keir Davidson on *Repton's commission for Woburn Abbey*.

Cost to delegates attending both days with one-night accommodation, meals and visits is £285 inc VAT. Non-residential rate that includes dinner on the Friday night will be £150 inc VAT. Accommodation for the night(s) preceding and following the conference is available on application. Bookings can be made through the website or contact Sally Rouse: [sally.rouse@ashridge.hult.edu](mailto:sally.rouse@ashridge.hult.edu) or phone: 01442 841 028.

### Repton and Horticulture at Sheffield Botanical Gardens Thursday 20 & Friday 21 September

This conference will explore the often-overlooked aspects of Reptonian and late Georgian horticulture. Held by the Friends of the Botanical Gardens with the Landscape Department, University of Sheffield, the conference will feature



national and international experts on Repton, as well as a tour of the nearby Repton landscape at **Wentworth Woodhouse**, led by **Patrick Eyres** and **Karen Lynch**, authors of the forthcoming volume *On the Spot: the Yorkshire Red Books of Humphry Repton, landscape gardener*.

Planned sessions will include an introduction to Repton - his life, context and significance, by **Peter Goodchild**; **Mark Laird** on Repton's distinctive horticulture at Woburn; **Camilla Beresford** on Repton's use of trees and shrubs to conceal and reveal; **Kate Felus** on horticulture as recreation for Regency ladies; **Mick Thompson** on Repton's development of the flower garden; **Jon Finch** on Repton's use of colour; **Jan Woudstra** on Reptonian influences in Nash's planting at St James' Park; **Sarah Rutherford** on the Historic England late Georgian hardy plant list; and **Brent Elliott** on two centuries of Repton's reputation.

We are grateful to the Yorkshire Gardens Trust for their sponsorship, which allows us to offer discounted student places at the conference, and for the generous grant from the Stanley Smith (UK) Horticultural Trust.

**Cost: Students: £40; Early Bird (till 31 May: £95; Full price: £115.**

**You can find the Booking link on our website.**

## in brief...

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

### Fenton House garden: comment (news 5, p28) John Sales

It is perhaps understandable that a landscape architect should assume that the person who draws the plan is always the one who should be credited with the outcome. And, of course, we all tend to exaggerate our role in past events. Reluctantly however I feel obliged to attempt to right the balance of this account even though it is by our distinguished President.

Dominic rightly mentions Christopher Wall and Martin Drury and his short postscript says something of the input of others among the National Trust staff who made serious contributions, including Jim Marshall and Mike Calnan. In my memoir (*Shades of Green*, Unicorn, March 2018) my slightly-facetious comment on Fenton House garden is that it is the only successful design I know that was created

'by committee'. As Chief Gardens Adviser at the time I was much involved and could point out my humble contributions among others. Furthermore I vividly remember seeking the approval on site of the Gardens Advisory Panel, a formidable group then chaired by Lord (John) Blakenham, a former Minister of Agriculture, who gently and privately warned me not to 'bully' the Panel!

Paul Miles was good at drawing plans and did indeed (as he admitted) possess an 'acute sense of scale' as well as other talents, but he moved on at an early stage. No doubt 'he was surprised and pleased to be recognised'. In fact the re-making of the garden at Fenton House took almost two decades of corporate endeavour and its development and remaking cannot and should not stop.

I was as delighted, as Paul would have been, that Dominic feels that the 1970's concept has been

successfully achieved, also that he considers it 'delightful' and that 'visitors think of it as 'having been there forever'. Gardens are processes, not merely objects, and they depend on a clear concept consistently applied by gardeners and managers as well as a well-arranged structure.

Incidentally Dominic is right that it was not until 1984 that anyone, apart from the Americans at Williamsburg, could afford extensive garden archaeology. But simultaneous garden research and field survey was begun by the National Trust post-war at Osterley Park and Wimpole Hall (John Phibbs) in the late 1970s.

### ICOMOS Survey of Garden and Landscape Heritage Education

**Peter Goodchild**, of Yorkshire Gardens Trust and the GARLAND Trust, is working with the landscapes and gardens committee of ICOMOS-UK on a survey to identify the range of educational provision currently available in garden and landscape heritage and identify where improvements need to be made.

If you know of any such courses, at any level, including school, adult education, and continuing professional development, Peter would be grateful if you would contact him:

[peter.goodchild@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:peter.goodchild@yahoo.co.uk)

It is crucial that we address the loss of such courses as without them, we will have a severe future deficit in skilled gardeners, landscape historians, landscape managers and conservationists, and our parks and gardens will suffer as a result.

### Chris Clark writes from Australia

A plea from a PhD candidate in Australia: I am studying Jane Austen and the 18th century garden, and have done some work on Repton and his mention in Mansfield Park. I would love to share my research and am looking for a conference with an open call for papers.

If you can help me, please contact:  
[Christine.Clark@uon.edu.au](mailto:Christine.Clark@uon.edu.au)

### Joseph Spence 1699–1768

**Martin Roberts**

On 20 August 1768, Joseph Spence, academic, priest, friend of Pope and landscape designer, collapsed and died in a small pond in his garden at Byfleet, Surrey. 250 years later, in 2018, the Northumbria Gardens Trust wish to mark his

passing in some small way. A Spence Day visiting a number of sites will be organised (a repeat of one done ten years ago) and a talk on Spence has already been given to a number of local societies.

Why 'Northumbria' for a man of Byfleet? Because in 1754 Spence was appointed by the Bishop of Durham to be a canon of Durham Cathedral, and for fourteen years he spent his summer months in Durham, where he not only designed, and advised on, the larger landscapes at Raby Castle and Auckland Castle, but also designed smaller gardens for his fellow canons and friends.



Martin Roberts

The 'Palladian rails' in The College in Durham (above) might be one of his smallest, but most visited, legacies. Intriguingly a number of other unattributed landscapes of the period in Co. Durham might be by him.

Spence's biography, *Joseph Spence: A critical biography* by Austin Wright, 1950, focuses far more on his literary output than his landscape designs. For that the major work is R. W King's four papers in *Garden History*: (i) 6:3, 1978; (ii) 7:3; 1979; (iii) 8:2 and (iv) 8:3, 1980.

We (NGT) therefore simply wonder whether Spence's works in the rest of the UK are being celebrated in 2018 by any other county gardens trusts? I would be keen to learn of any parallel commemorations: [martin.fleece@gmail.com](mailto:martin.fleece@gmail.com)

### Repton in London Pre-Publication Offer

London Parks & Gardens Trust is offering its members, and Gardens Trust members, the opportunity to purchase a copy of its exciting new publication *Repton in London*, at a discounted price: £13.50 (full price £15) + P&P. Publication date: April 2018.

Contains: *Humphry Repton, Taste and the Client* by Michael Symes; *In answer to several*



## in brief

questions proposed for my consideration': *Repton's recommendations for the estate at Kenwood* by Emily Parker; *Humphry Repton's report on Wanstead* by Sally Jeffery; *Repton's London Squares: Russell Square, Bloomsbury Square and Cadogan Square* by Susan Jellis; 'Mr Repton has also contributed, with his usual abilities': *the Casina, Dulwich* by Susan Darling; *Haling Park* by Catherine Brown; *Repton in South-west London: Point Pleasant, White Lodge and West Hill* by Chris Sumner; 'I stood on tip-toe upon a little hill': *The Northern Heights* by Barbara Deason, Margaret King and Charlotte Lorimer; *Humphry Repton in North West Kent: Langley Park, Sundridge Park and Holwood Park* by Hazelle Jackson and Tudor Davies; 'In the vicinity of the metropolis there are few places so free from interruption as the grounds at Wembly' by Leslie Williams and Susan Darling, with a *Gazetteer* by Susan Darling.

See: [londongardenstrust.org](http://londongardenstrust.org)

## Peacock update

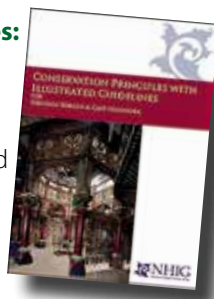
Charles Boot

An unexpected result of an enquiry from Susan Darling, of LPGT, was the chance discovery of three 'new' watercolours by Repton; frontispiece illustrations for the *Polite Repository*, lurking in the British Museum collections.

To be fair they had correctly catalogued one as being by Humphrey [sic] Repton, of Grovelands (1798), another of the High Tor at Matlock (1807), had Repton's caption at the bottom and has now been linked to Repton. The third is from 1793, 'View of the lake at Welbeck [Abbey], Notts, Duke of Portland'. I do wonder how many other archive references are lurking behind that extra 'e'?

## NHIG Conservation Principles: Expanded

The National Heritage Ironwork Group has recently published 'Illustrated Guidelines' to expand on its seminal Conservation Principles for Forge and Cast Heritage Ironwork brought out in 2013. Building on previous work, this full-colour user-friendly booklet brings the principles to life with illustrated guidelines which will help familiarise readers with the methods and processes that turn theory into practice. This new publication will



enable practitioners and specifiers to navigate the decision-making process from an informed standpoint, providing an invaluable resource for anyone who works on - or commissions work on - heritage ironwork.

Author Geoff Wallis, who was instrumental in establishing the NHIG's original 'Principles', has brought together in one concise volume a variety of case-studies and examples gathered from decades of experience in the field, to illustrate how conservation principles can be applied in practice.

**This attractive and informative publication is available to order direct from the NHIG through their website at a price of £10 + £5 P&P.**

## New Archivist for Archive of Garden Design

Gillian Butler will be the face of the Museum's Archive of Garden Design. She will manage the current collection which includes pieces by Penelope Hobhouse, John Brookes and Russell Page, as well as acquiring new deposits and welcoming researchers into the Archive.

## Historic England on Repton

Jenifer White

HE's new report on 'Hardy Plants and Plantings for Repton and Late Georgian Gardens (1780–1820)' is now published. It draws on research carried out on plants and planting schemes for late Georgian gardens (1780–1820) for conservation projects, and collates, synthesises and summarises this knowledge and practical horticultural experience. It provides a plant list as a starting point for researchers and those restoring gardens of this period, along with an overview of garden design, the planting palette and planting styles, notes on research resources, and examples of restored gardens.

Dr Rutherford will be presenting the report at the Sheffield 'Repton and Horticulture' conference in September (see p36).

The report is free to download as a pdf from the Historic England web site:

[www.historicengland.org.uk/research/current/conservation-research/designed-landscapes/humphry-repton-landscapes/](http://www.historicengland.org.uk/research/current/conservation-research/designed-landscapes/humphry-repton-landscapes/)

We've also added aerial photos of Repton sites to the interactive map and showcase the photos of the Moggerhanger Park *Red Book* from the



Historic England archive, and we've also created a new 'Heritage Calling' blog 'The Life and Landscapes of Repton'.

### **Glorious Gardens goes from Strength to Strength Scotland's Garden and Landscape Heritage** **Judy Riley**

The volunteers for 'Glorious Gardens 1' are beginning to see the fruits of their labours. The reports on twelve properties in the Clyde and Avon Valley area are now complete and have been put up on Canmore, the online database maintained by Historic Environment Scotland. Reports for the following gardens and designed landscapes can now be downloaded: Baronald, Cambusnethan, Carfin, Cleghorn, Dalsersf, Harperfield, Jerviswood, Kerse, Maudslie, Milton Lockhart, Stonebyres and Waygateshaw.

The Falkirk volunteers are busy adding to their list of properties that they have already recorded. These reports will be up on Canmore soon.

'Glorious Gardens 2' (GG2) was launched in October. We are delighted to welcome the delivery team for GG2, **Bea Dower** (MVGLA and SGLH member), **Jacquie McLeod** (talamh) and **Matt Benians** (MBLA and SGLH member). The purpose is to develop, with stakeholder input, a conservation strategy for the area and conservation guidance notes for landowners.

Three stakeholders' workshops have been held. The Glorious Gardens team have presented draft conservation guidance for designed landscapes which is set out as an overarching Conservation Strategy with targeted Landscape Conservation Guidance Notes for landowners. This will outline good practice in the management of designed landscapes, recognising the issues and tasks involved, and provide information regarding possible sources of grant funding for landowners.

The team developed drafts on the basis of participants' input to the workshops. The results were circulated to attendees prior to the final workshop held on Monday 22 January, as preparation for the discussion of the contents, implementation and legacy for the project.

Our thanks are due to HLF, HES for financing the project, the staff of the Clyde and Avon Landscape Partnership and trustee colleagues at SGLH for their support and encouragement and finally to our volunteers who turn dreams into reality.

## **The Gardens Trust**

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## GT events diary 2018

Thursday 26 April	The Public Parks Crisis, HLP training day, Northampton
Wednesday 2 May	8th New Research Symposium proposal closing date
Saturday 12 May	Visit: Rivington Terraced Gardens, Bolton
Friday 18 May	14th Annual Mavis Batey Essay Prize closing date
Monday 21 May	Visit: Dryburgh Abbey: its Picturesque Landscape Re-assessed
1 to 2 June	Conference: The Prophet in his own Country, 3 Repton gardens in Norfolk
1 to 3 June	Oxford Rewley House Study Weekend: Wonders & marvels
4 to 10 June	Study Tour: Designed Landscapes of northern Denmark
Saturday 30 June	Annual picnic at Wicksteed Park, with Northamptonshire GT
Monday 16 July	Visit: Halswell House, Somerset
Monday 23 July	Closing date for nominations for the Gilly Drummond Volunteer of the Year Award 2018
5 to 11 August	Study Tour: Gardens of Northern Ireland
Saturday 1 September	Annual General Meeting, Birmingham
1 & 2 September	Annual Conference weekend with AGM and New Research Symposium, Birmingham
Wednesday 26 September	Birmingham Lecture: Professor Stephen Daniels on <i>Revealing Repton...</i>
Monday 5 November	Repton Symposium at the Garden Museum, London

Details and booking information for all these events can be found inside on pages 16 to 23, or look at our website: [www.thegardenstrust.org/events](http://www.thegardenstrust.org/events) for updates

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

**Please make a note of our new publications schedule**

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