



CAMBRIDGESHIRE GARDENS TRUST

NEWSLETTER No. 34 MAY 2013

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LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

The AGM held in November 2012 was very enjoyable with an entertaining wander through lovely slides on 'The Artist in the Garden' by Steffie Shields. The original watercolour produced by Janet Edwards during the course of the afternoon was auctioned at £130 to help raise funds for the Trust, and the food as ever was delicious. I particularly enjoyed the time that it gave us to chat with friends and members whom we don't always see during the course of the year, as everyone leads such busy lifestyles.

Our first Christmas Lecture was also very well supported. I confess that I fretted that people would be too busy with Christmas; that they wouldn't want to come out in bad weather, or that because there was no parking they would decide against it. I couldn't have been more wrong! The weather was awful but we had a tremendous turn out and filled the delightful hall adjacent to the courtyard at St Catharine's College. I'm not sure if it was the chilled Prosecco or the warm mince pies that did it, or indeed our wonderful and very knowledgeable speaker Dr Paula Henderson, but based on how successful and enjoyable it was, we will certainly repeat the event this year.

The bad weather seems to be a recurring theme for this newsletter. We awoke on the morning of our third annual Study Day on Flora of the World: Collections and Collectors, to a blanket of snow with more snow falling. It couldn't have been more different from last year when we were experiencing a heat wave and all the daffodils were in bloom along the lane into Hemingford Abbots. But just as with the Christmas Lecture we had a really good turnout, of around 45 people. All of the lecturers made it, even though Dr Peter Gasson travelled up from near Kew and Alex Summers arrived on the bus! Sadly our botanical artist did not make it with her exhibition but hopefully there will be an occasion in the future when we can arrange another date for her. The day was educational and informative, as well as enjoyable and humorous, and the food again was lovely.

Our first visit of the year was to have been on 27th March to Cow Hollow Wood and the Alan Shipp nurseries that hold the national hyacinth collection. Unfortunately the bad weather and specifically the cold and snow meant that there was very little of the collection in bloom, so the visit was cancelled. We hope to arrange a visit again next year at flowering time.



Ann Colbert, the incoming Education Officer

In the settling of John Drake's affairs, the Trust has received a very generous donation of £3,000 towards the education programme of activities. In his memory and our gratitude for this donation we will re-name the garden apprentice programme the 'John Drake Apprenticeship Grant'. The Cambridgeshire Gardens Trust in partnership with Ramsey Abbey Walled Garden Trust are in the process of arranging a slate plaque for the wall of Ramsey Abbey

Walled Garden in John's memory. We are hoping that it will be in place for our visit in April, if the weather doesn't prevent the stonemason from fixing it to the wall!

We are delighted to welcome to the Council of Management our new Education Officer, Ann Colbert. Ann is based in Woodhurst and for many years worked at the Learning Centre in Whitwell for Anglian Water and for the Open University. Her recent retirement activities include running the Huntingdon in Bloom project and achieving an Advanced Diploma in Garden History with a dissertation on the development of parks. We are very pleased to have recruited her to our team. She would be delighted to hear from you if you have any ideas or projects that would benefit from the Trust's education programme.

This year our neighbours, the Norfolk Gardens Trust will be celebrating their 25th anniversary. We are still mere youngsters by comparison, only 16 years. If you are taking a holiday in Norfolk this year then check out their website and perhaps join them for a visit or event, I'm sure they would be delighted to see you. We wish them every success and a happy anniversary!

We have been around long enough, though, to feel that it is time to update our website. We have started work on the layout and content but we would be really pleased to receive colour photos of gardens or landscapes in Cambridgeshire

that you have taken over the years at events or on visits. Please only send photos that have permission from those people in the photo or from the land owner as once the images are on our website they will be freely available for anyone to download. We would also welcome any feedback on the website, things that you would like to see changed or included; it isn't too late to contribute.

The Council of Management is always looking for new members to bring fresh ideas to the Trust. If you would like to be nominated for a position on the Council of Management, please send your details to Alan Brown at the address on the back of the newsletter. If you would like more information on what is involved in these roles then please telephone myself (01223 842348), or any member of the Council of Management listed on the front of the newsletter, and we will be happy to discuss it. We need your support so that the Trust can go forward into its next 16 years!

If you have any suggestions for the newsletter or you would like to submit an article, again we would be delighted to hear from you. The CGT has a wonderful record of publishing well researched articles from our members, covering visits and a wide variety of topics. We can also assist with editing and illustrations, so do sharpen up your pencils.

Julia Weaver, Chair.

THE WONDERS OF HUNTINGDONSHIRE OR A PUZZLE SOLVED BY GEOGRAPHY?

The first of six pieces exploring the connections between Lancelot 'Capability' Brown (1716–83) and our county of Cambridgeshire. Though a Northumbrian by birth, who spent most of his working life based near London, Brown purchased the Manor of Fenstanton with Hilton in 1767. He was appointed High Sheriff of Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire (and the Isle of Ely) for 1770–1771. Brown died suddenly in London in February 1783 and is buried at Fenstanton. The tercentenary of his birth will be widely celebrated in 2016, in which Cambridgeshire Gardens Trust will play a leading role.

Some readers may remember the Wentworth Wooden Jigsaw Puzzle of the Burghley portrait of Brown (Fig. 1) that was sold at the House; on a wet afternoon spent puzzling over the difficult dark shades of his coat, putting in the pieces of his amused eyes, half-smiling mouth and perfect periwig, I had my first idea to do something about digging out a life for him. Thanks to Dorothy Stroud's revelatory *Capability Brown* [1950, 1984], Roger Turner's encyclopaedic *Capability Brown and the Eighteenth-Century English Landscape* [1985, 1999] and others, Brown's works were well known and his 200 or so landscapes were located. Just how he achieved so much in the fifty years of his working life was less clear.



Figure 1. Lancelot Brown (1716–1783), by Nathaniel Dance, c.1769.

Image courtesy of Burghley House Collection

The facts of his early life are bare, but it is fairly certain that for his first 23 years he never left his home county in Northumberland, between the Roman Wall and the Border. The surviving register for St Wilfrid's church at Kirkharle, in the Wansbeck valley west of Morpeth, records his baptism on Sunday 30th August 1716, the 'son of William Brown', but with no mention of his mother. She seemed to be the first essential, and eventually I found a record of the marriage, in 1701, of William Brown and Ursula Hall of Girsonfield, which confirmed the local hearsay of Lancelot's border reiver heritage. William and Ursula had come down from their ancestral fells to a home on the ancient estate of the Loraines. Lancelot was their fifth child and

third son. Their last child, the baby Elizabeth, had been christened but five months earlier when William Brown died, aged about 40, in April 1720. Sir William Loraine took good care of the family. The eldest boy, John, like his father became a surveyor and farm manager, then Sir William's agent and later married Jane Loraine. George was apprenticed stonemason on the neighbouring Wallington estate, becoming a mason-architect, while Lancelot was well-schooled before becoming a garden apprentice. He learned a great deal about fruit growing, one of Sir William's passions, but otherwise seems to have been chief assistant in Sir William's road making, hedge-laying and tree-planting schemes, which were completed in 1738, thus prompting Lancelot's leaving home.

Visiting architects and surveyors had fired his interest in the new fashion of park-making or improving, but warned him that the local landlords were obsessed with mining developments, and he would have to go to the more leisured south to find work. He set out in the spring of 1739 with introductions to Lady Loraine's relatives in Lincolnshire and Buckinghamshire, with a good saddle horse, and perhaps Ogilby's Britannia ribbon-maps for travellers, bound in handy size for his saddlebag. His good horse and his ability to ride long distances were his great assets, but riding the length of England – as the fate of Turpin's brave Black Bess warnedⁱ – was irresponsible. However, he was familiar with the Gateshead nurseries and the ships' masters that brought plants from the south, so it was easy to take the return passage.

Lancelot landed in Boston, where he may have had an introduction to John Wayet, surveyor and engineer to the Witham navigation, for he intended to learn something of water engineering. However, fate stepped in, and the well set-up newcomer, Mr Brown with the laughing eyes, met the fair Miss Bridget Wayet, with a prettily-pointed nose and demure dress, who lived with her brother and his wife in South Square. Lancelot and Bridget fell in love, there seemed little doubt about it, and for almost two years he lingered in

Lincolnshire, trying to find the work he wanted. John Wayet, soon to follow in his late father's footsteps as mayor of Boston, was keen to involve Lancelot in drainage and land improvement schemes. Lancelot certainly acquired his dam-making and water management skills but this was not the work he wanted. His one great chance, alterations at Grimsthorpe for the duke of Ancaster, was thwarted by the duke's favouring the local man John Grundy over a stranger.

Lady Loraine's suggestion of the Vyners at Gautby, north-west of Horncastle, had yielded nothing and so Lancelot made the long ride to Buckinghamshire, to her aged father, Squire Smith of Preston Bissett, south of Buckingham. The sprightly nonagenarian did not disappoint, sending him on another day's ride into Oxfordshire, to Kiddington in the Cherwell valley, where he was able to make his first lake landscape by damming the river Glyme: the spectacle of water where there was none before made his name among the local gentry.

To see Miss Wayet, and to chase work opportunities in Boston and Buckinghamshire kept him riding to and fro, keeping his eyes open for likely estates, a habit he never lost and another key to his eventual success. One road from Boston led him to Spalding and Peterborough (the present A16), and this is shown on Badeslade's 1742 Huntingdonshireⁱⁱ, continuing to Yaxley and Stilton. How could he resist 'the three wonders' of the county, Yaxley Windmill, Whittlesey Mere and Glatton Round Hill? That his first experience of this peaceful rolling landscape of north Huntingdonshire was significant comes in later works he planned for Robert Pigott on the former Dryden estate at Chesterton and Haddon (he noted it 'near Stilton'). The Round Hill was south of Glatton, with a panoramic view of Whittlesey Mere and with extensive earthworks suggesting 'a place for pleasure and picnics, recreation and rest, and solitude and secrecy'ⁱⁱⁱ. It was in decline (ripe for improving?) and enquiry would have told Lancelot that it belonged to the Cotton family at Conington Castle. He noted this, and carried on his way to find the road going south from Oundle, and so to Northampton.

In early 1741 he started work at Stowe, Lord Cobham's 'kingdom' which stretched from Silverstone to Buckingham. Tales of his lordship's temper were rife. Lancelot's superior, Steward William Roberts, hanged himself after an outburst, and two women who asked to see their husbands who had been convicted for poaching were horrified when Lord Cobham sent them home in their coffins. Lancelot had to ride the storms and work hard, he rose to be Clerk of Works and, in late 1744, he was able to provide a home for Bridget Wayet, who packed her trousseau and travelled from Boston. They were married in Stowe church on 22nd November, and settled happily into an elegant home in one of the Boycott Pavilions.

Jane Brown

Lancelot 'Capability' Brown *The Omnipotent Magician, 1716-83* 2011; published in paperback by Pimlico, 2012

ⁱ Dick Turpin was tried for horse-stealing at York in March 1739 and hanged on 7th April. His ride was the news of the day.

ⁱⁱ Thomas Badeslade, *Huntingdonshire North from London*, London, 1742, Huntingdon Record Office.

ⁱⁱⁱ Christopher Taylor, *Sir Robert Cotton and the Round Hill, Conington*, Cambridge Antiquarian Society Proceedings, XCII, 201–214.

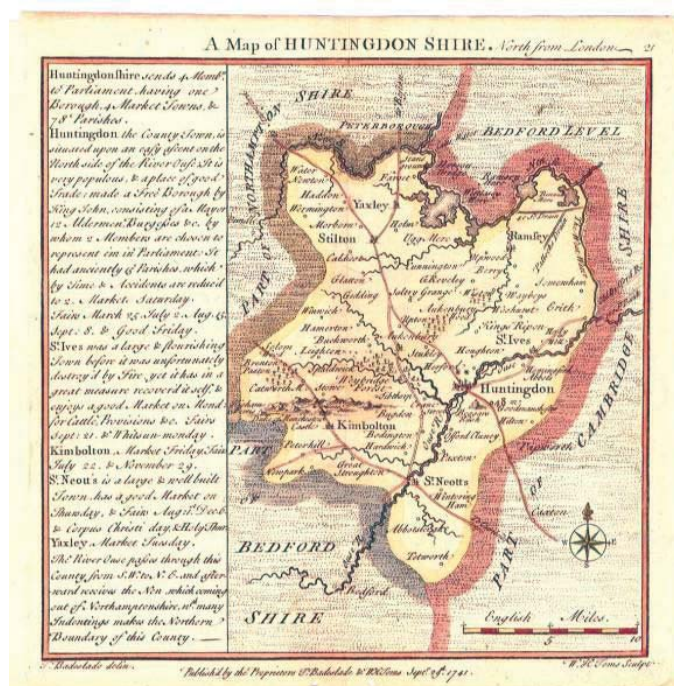


Figure 2. Thomas Badeslade's map Huntingdonshire North from London, London, 1742, Huntingdon Record Office.

THE CGT EDUCATION PROGRAMME

APRIL 2013

The CGT five-year education programme was launched in September 2010. Below is an updated summary of the activities within the programme that have taken place over the past six months or so. Details of the five educational strands that make up the programme can be found in previous newsletters.

As part of our Little Seedlings events, we are sponsoring Northborough Primary School in a landscaping project. A portfolio of photographs and pupil notes of events will be on display at our AGM in October. Look out for scarecrows at Anglesey Abbey from 20 September! Schools will be circulated with information but if you would like to encourage your local primary or nursery school to take part, please request more details from Ann Colbert. Prizes will be presented by Lord Fairhaven.

The Trust is sponsoring a class at The County Show at Wimpole on 2 June organized by Young Farmers. Why not visit the marquee to view the exhibit?

We plan to sponsor another garden apprentice (16/17 years old) from September. If you know of someone just starting out in the gardening world who could benefit from such sponsorship, do let us know. Furthermore, a grant is available for garden history or landscape research and we welcome applications.

For our speaker at the AGM on Saturday 26 October we will welcome former Hinchingsbrooke history teacher, Roger Mitchell. He will talk on the fate of the country house and garden during the period post-war up to the 1960's, a time when demolition was carried out at an alarming rate. With particular reference to Huntingdonshire, he will also focus on local issues of Hinchingsbrooke, Ramsey Abbey and Kimbolton Castle.

On Friday 5 December, we are pleased to welcome Dr Twigs Way as speaker for our Christmas lecture. Twigs has researched the history and landscaping of Wrest Park, Bedfordshire, and her work has contributed to the restoration project by English Heritage. For just £10 do join us for an entertaining morning from 9.30 – midday. We will finish with Christmas refreshments to kick off the festive season. Venue details – most probably a Cambridge college – will be confirmed on the website.

Many members will remember that we have been providing a grant to a garden apprentice, James Drummond, at Robinson College for 18 months. James has kindly written an interesting report on some of his recent activities in Robinson College gardens and how he is using his grant.

“With just five months left to go of my gardening apprenticeship at Robinson College Cambridge, Ann Colbert Education Officer for CGT, has asked me to let you know how I have been getting on.

I have now finished my Work-Based Learning course, and I hope to get my results and course file back in the near future.

August and September 2012 were two very interesting months for me; in August we had three very large chestnut trees felled. They were sited behind our outdoor theatre in the garden of 2 Adams



Figure 1. The new yew hedge in Robinson College

Road. As replacements, we have planted a tulip tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) and a walnut (*Juglans regia*). The walnut was planted to commemorate Queen Elizabeth's Diamond Jubilee. We also have in our grounds a walnut planted in 1897 to commemorate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. A yew hedge has been planted to act as a screen behind the theatre (Fig. 1) and the rest of the area will be put down to grass seed, once the weather improves.



Figure 2. The replacement greenhouse

In September we had our old greenhouse removed and a new one installed. It sits on the same footprint as the old one, but has a concrete floor and 4 mm glass. The whole job took just under two weeks and we are really pleased with the outcome (Fig. 2).

I am hoping to go Hampton Court flower show in July with the rest of the gardening team; I will be using some of my sponsorship money to pay for my trip. I also hope to take my PA1 and PA6 spraying certificates before I finish my apprenticeship and will use whatever is left of my sponsorship money to go towards these qualifications.

James Drummond, 20th March 2013.”

Finally, as mentioned above, we are still seeking a further education student studying garden history in Cambridgeshire for the 'Research Grant' so please do let us know if you wish to suggest someone who might qualify.

If you have any comments on the above, or would like

information on any other aspects of the Education programme, please email acolbert25@btinternet.com, tel.: 01487 822591.

Ann Colbert

Activities to date

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Theme	20th Century Gardens in East Anglia	Cambridgeshire Trees	Botanical Collections	Memorial Gardens	
1. Little Seedlings	17 June: Fen Drayton School Sunflower project. 8 May: Scarecrow Competition Ramsey Walled Garden	30 June/1 July: Abbots Ripton Hall Garden Show 'Grow a rainbow'	Northborough Primary School Garden. 20 Sept for 2 weeks: Scarecrow Competition Anglesey Abbey		
2. Bright Futures	5 June: Cambridge County Show 'Identify the Vegetable'	10 June: Cambridge County Show – <i>cancelled</i>	2 June Sponsorship at County Show for Young Farmers		
3. Research Grant					
4. Garden Apprentice		Robinson College apprentice	Robinson College apprentice		
5. Study Day Lectures	12 March: 20th Century Gardens in East Anglia	17 March: Arcadia in Arden: what future for our trees?	23 March: Botanical Collections and Collectors		

ARCADIA AT HINCHINGBROOKE?

The man of science and of taste will ... discover the beauties in a tree, which the others would condemn for its decay ...'.

Humphrey Repton, Landscape Gardener, 1803.

As with people, trees grow and age at different rates depending on where they are and what happens to them during their lifetime. They can tell us stories of our social history and those at Hinchingsbrooke have been recorded over the centuries. Within the lightly wooded part of the Pleasure Grounds which describes the area bordering the open lawn and to the south-west of the house is a circle of box, within which is a small ornamental cottage (Fig. 1) originally built as a summer house for the wife of the 8th Earl in the middle of the nineteenth century. Within the circle there is a single oak tree which is surrounded by the remains of a circular iron seat. Since its construction the tree has continued to grow and partly engulfed the seat so that only parts of the structure are visible (Fig. 2). Nothing stops a tree from growing!

Past descriptions of the area emphasise the variety and size of the trees. The Gardeners' Chronicle in 1881 noted that there were 'many noble trees, particularly of evergreen and Turkey oaks, copper beech, and cedars, of elegant symmetry'. The Gardeners' magazine in 1905 similarly noted that 'on the south side (of the mansion) nothing attracts attention so much as the magnificent trees,' and drew particular attention to the 'grand old' cedars of Lebanon, 'towering upward majestically' (Fig. 3). The article went on to describe the beech trees as being 'particularly fine, and there are some good oaks.'

The 1885 25-inch Ordnance Survey map suggests that the



Figure 1. The cottage in the grounds of Hinchingsbrooke House.

Photo by Peter Jackson

proportion of coniferous and deciduous trees was fairly evenly matched, and there are hints that the area was being managed on 'Gardenesque' lines; that is, to emphasise the characteristics of the individual specimens more than to use them in an architectural fashion.

The Gardeners' Chronicle observed that the trees are 'located in positions where they are in full view, and not likely to be injured or encroached upon by swarms of inferior trees, ... as is too often the case when thinning out does not receive the necessary annual attention.' The 25-

inch OS map shows a number of paths winding in serpentine style through the trees. What stories could the trees tell us of those guests to Hinchbrooke who strolled after dinner or took part in the Bank Holiday games? An earlier map of the Pleasure Grounds of 1757 illustrates neatly growing rows of trees, in view of the house and from the Terrace Walk, possibly some of those seen today.



Figure 2: Oak tree near the Cottage, hiding an ironwork seat.

Photo by Peter Jackson

The magnificent cedar of Lebanon beside the open lawn (Fig. 3) has a girth of 5.9 metres. With its height it is visible from the surrounding area and the railway line and, with its partner in the river meadows opposite, is an iconic symbol of the Hinchbrooke landscape.



Figure 3: The Cedar of Lebanon at the end of the Terrace Walk in 2012.

Photo by Peter Jackson

But this is only one of a number of fine trees ranging in date from the mid-late eighteenth century to the early-mid twentieth century. These include oaks and Turkey oaks with girths from 1.8 – 4.5 metres, beeches, holm oaks (Fig. 4), London planes, Atlas cedar, sycamores, a lime, Scots pines, a horse chestnut with a girth of 3.6 metres. There are also a number of sizeable yews together with more recent box and holly, and late twentieth-century planting including ornamental Prunus, beech, holly, birch and sycamore.



Figure 4: The evergreen holm oak; a closer look reveals bracket fungi on the trunk.

Photo by Peter Jackson

The Woodland Trust describes trees as ancient, veteran and notable, suggesting that an ancient tree is one that makes you go, 'Wow!'. We may not have the tulip tree brought to Kew for Charles I by John Tradescant the younger, from his journey to America in the mid 17th century (now 36 m high and showing some 5,000 tulips) or the ancient Bowthorpe oak – more like a cave – in Lincolnshire, but we are privileged to have a range of veteran trees. All are mature and provide important wildlife habitats with features including hollowing and associated fungi – the bracket fungi on the holm oak (Fig. 4) is an example – holes, wounds and large dead branches. What else could we say but, 'Wow!' as we gaze up into the branches of the magnificent cedar of Lebanon? Such living relics are the jewels in the crown of Hinchbrooke and deserve our care and respect as icons of the Huntingdon landscape.

'Time made thee what thou wast, king of the woods
And time hath made thee what thou art, a cave
For owls to roost in ...

William Cowper, The Yardley Oak, 1791

Bibliography

Williamson, Tom & Harrison, Sarah, 2006. *Hinchbrooke House, Huntingdon: an assessment of the historic landscape*. Available from Huntingdonshire District Council.

Pakenham Thomas, 1997. *Meetings with Remarkable Trees*, Cassell, London. ISBN 0-297-84350-8.

<http://www.ancient-tree-hunt.org.uk> 21 April 2012, The Woodland Trust.

Hinchingbrooke grounds and house (Fig. 5) are open to the public on Sunday afternoons during the summer months. For further details, visit www.hhpac.co.uk/default.htm

Ann Colbert

*Figure 5. Hinchingbrooke House
Photo by Peter Jackson*



SCARECROW COMPETITION 2012

Last year's scarecrow competition was held with the kind permission of the National Trust at Wimpole Hall. On 26th October 2012 the entries were judged by Philip Waites, Head Gardener at Wimpole Hall, and Julia Weaver and Alan Brown from Cambridgeshire Gardens Trust.

The prizes were presented by Lord Fairhaven in the walled garden at 2:30 in the afternoon on the same day.

The day was fair and bright although rather cold and we had scarecrow entries from eight schools in south Cambridgeshire. Wimpole Hall kept the scarecrows on display for two weeks during the school half term holiday so that pupils could come and see all the entries.

Who would have guessed that the school that entered Flavia & Louis would have had such an insight to the winners of last year's Strictly Come Dancing almost two months before they won!

There was a prize of a £50 cheque for the winning school in each of three categories: Funniest Scarecrow (Fig. 1); Best Dressed Scarecrow (Fig. 2), and Scariest Scarecrow (Fig. 3). Well done everyone; we had a great time seeing them all and the letter we received from the schools said that the children had had an equally great time making them!

Julia Weaver, Chair



*Figure 1. Funniest Scarecrow : Haupton
Primary School*



*Figure 2. Best Dressed Scarecrow : Great
Abington Primary School*



*Figure 3. Scariest Scarecrow : Petersfield
Primary School, Orwell*

VISIT TO MARKS HALL GARDENS, ESSEX

JUNE 2012

In June 2012 a group of CGT members visited Marks Hall Gardens in Essex. The group included John Drake, enjoying the visit as an ordinary member having relinquished the CGT Chair for a sabbatical period, from which he sadly did not return. But such thoughts were far from members' minds as they set about exploring the history and grounds of Marks Hall.

History

Mentioned in the Domesday Book, the manor house and estate were granted to the Markshall family in 1163 and the estate remained in the family until 1562. A brick mansion was built on the site by one Robert Honywood. Initials RH and a date of 1609 probably mark the completion of the building project. The house passed through several families over the centuries and was bought by Thomas Phillips Price, MP, in 1898. Mr Phillips Price greatly appreciated the trees and woodlands at Marks Hall and when he died, childless, in 1932 he left a life interest to his widow Mary Elizabeth but willed the estate to the nation on her death, 'for the advancement of agriculture, arboriculture and forestry'. When Mr Phillips Price first drew up his will in 1907, in consultation with Sir David Prain then Director of Kew Gardens, he hoped Kew would take it on and preserve its large pocket of ancient woodland but this did not happen, with the estate becoming near derelict.

During World War II the park was used to build accommodation for airmen from Earls Colne airfield. The Tudor and Jacobean house was requisitioned, becoming the headquarters for US Bomber Command. Mrs Phillips Price moved into Marygolds, the dower house on the estate.

Following the war, Mrs Phillips Price was too ill to move back into the house. The grounds were leased to the Forestry Commission and became conifer plantations. The house deteriorated and was demolished in 1950 after the interior effects had been sold at auction.

The old walled garden, the deer parks and fine collection of trees gone, the lakes choked with mud and tree roots, it was only in early spring when sheets of snowdrops still whitened the ground under the trees that it was still possible to capture the former glory of Marks Hall.

Mrs Phillips Price eventually died in a nursing home in Bournemouth in 1966 at the age of 90. In 1971 the Thomas Phillips Trust was established as a registered charity to administer and manage the estate. The Minister of Agriculture appointed the first Trustees.

Faced with so much dereliction, and with the source of funds being small, a programme of refurbishment was begun and three farmhouses on the estate were rebuilt to establish a sound financial base.

In 1972 the Trust's objectives were to create an arboretum of national status within the garden and parkland area with the Forestry Commission releasing sufficient land from the 999 year leases to enable this to proceed. The area around the mansion site and the old walled garden were cleared and landscaped and the ornamental lakes were cleared out. The

iron bridge was restored and a 15th century timber-framed Essex barn was moved and rebuilt as a visitor centre.

The next stage focused on planting to recreate the parkland area on land which had been turned over to arable farming in the post-war years. This phase enabled the Trust to start the process of returning Marks Hall to something of its former glory and enabled the Trust to commence opening the estate to the public.



Figure 1. Marks Hall walled garden has grassy slopes running down to the lake.
Photo from March 2012 by Judith Christie

Following this the Trust noted how many people were drawn to the walled garden so in 1998 this became the next project and, to mark the 100 year anniversary of Thomas Phillips Price's purchase of Marks Hall, £150,000 was raised in order to clear, re-contour, landscape and plant the walled garden. Brita von Schoenaich designed the overall contour and shape of each of the five gardens. In July 2003 the Duchess of Devonshire officially opened the walled gardens.

Having successfully applied for a Heritage Lottery Fund Grant, Marks Hall improved both the physical and learning access to the gardens and arboretum allowing more visitors to share the natural history, landscaping and planting.

With support from the Heritage Lottery Fund, Essex Environmental Trust and the Rufford Foundation, 1400 metres of hard path and a stunning new bridge have been installed within the 200 acre arboretum. This allows access for people of all abilities all year round.

On June 1st 2011 the charity's name was changed from the Thomas Phillips Price Trust to Marks Hall Estate Trust. The Estate is continuing to focus on developing the arboretum and making plans to improve the visitors facilities at Marks Hall.

The Gardens

Starting with the Visitors Centre, the 15th century barn with its mullioned window eyes in each gable, you have a choice of walks on well laid paths which link together and take you around the whole site. At its centre is the spectacular walled

garden extending its grassy slopes down to the lakes (Fig. 1). The magnificent double border at the top of the garden is one of the largest in East Anglia.



Figure 2. Reflections of Dogwood in the lake.
Photo from Marks Hall Visitor Guide

The five gardens on the main terrace are designed to entertain and inspire through a mix of contemporary landscaping and colourful planting, each garden peaking in succession throughout the year – often filled with a profusion of butterflies. Opposite the lake is the Birkett Long Millennium Walk designed to provide autumn and winter colours, the brightly coloured Dogwood and *Rubus* provide spectacular reflections in the lake (Fig. 2). The *Sarcococca* (Christmas Box) combined with the *Chimonanthus* (Wintersweet) provide a spicy sweet scent which complements the bold contrasts in colour.

The large lakes, separated by the new bridge, are home to a large collection of ducks, swans and geese all living harmoniously together on the lakes and grassy slopes. A large stock of coarse fish, who come to the surface in hopes of finding food, occupy the lakes.

The Taxodium Swamp

Inspired by the Florida Everglades, this area is deliberately kept wet with a seasonally fluctuating water table that creates ideal conditions for the Bald Cypress (*Taxodium distichum*). A deciduous conifer, this graceful tree produces curious ‘knees’ that stick out of the waterlogged soil. The pond fills with water in winter and dries out slowly throughout the year; a perfect habitat for newts, frogs, toads and dragonflies.

Robins Grove

This is a piece of woodland for bird life, providing food and shelter and good nesting sites for woodpeckers, tree creepers and kingfishers. In the spring the area is carpeted with snowdrops, the double variety (*Galanthus nivalis* ‘Flore Pleno’) followed by clumps of *Narcissi*.

The Avenue

This avenue is over 3/4 mile (1200 m) long and probably once formed the main entrance to the estate and the approach to the mansion. The trees were originally all oak; planted in the early 1900’s. The 1987 hurricane led to further replanting of small leaf lime in 1990. The oaks remaining in the northern part of The Avenue are over 200 years old and included here



Figure 3. The Honywood Oak.
Photo from June 2012 by Judith Christie.

are several specimens of the Wild Service Tree (*Sorbus torminalis*).

The Honywood Oak

This majestic veteran oak is thought to be over 800 years old. It was one of the many huge oaks that grew in the 130 acre deer park, pollarded in its early life resulting in its substantial 27 foot (8.2 m) girth. It is often said that an oak grows for 300 years; it matures for another 300 years and then takes 300 years to die. If so, then this tree is in the last stages of its long life. This oak is gradually reducing its enormous crown and ‘growing down’ to a more manageable size. It continues to play host to a large range of wildlife having witnessed monumental changes in its long life.

Marks Hall is a vast site, 200 acres in fact. I have selected perhaps the more spectacular parts of the garden but there is still much more to be seen. As I was unable to go on the CGT visit in June, I went in the autumn, just before it closed in November. The colours were spectacular even then, making this one of the best gardens I have ever visited and well worth the effort.

For further details and opening times, see www.markshall.org.uk

Jean Kearney

THE GARDENS OF THE COLLEGE OF ST MARGARET AND ST BERNARD, COMMONLY CALLED QUEENS' COLLEGE IN THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

The Cambridgeshire Gardens Trust, interested in recording historic gardens, visited Queens' on 12th October 2012. Some 30 members enjoyed a conducted tour by Allan Hayhurst and Stephen Tyrrell.

The Foundation

The Foundation of the College is complex, involving three Charters and some changes of site. Andrew Doket, Rector of St Botolph's in 1444 and Principal of St Bernard's Hostel on a site between St Botolph's Church and Corpus Christi College, had ambitions to found a college. Doket's powers of persuasion, together with his energy and tact, secured funds and land from some of his wealthy parishioners and the support of King Henry VI. Aided by Richard Andrew, Doket acquired land of 277 ft by 77 ft (84.4 m by 23.5 m) between Trumpington Street and Milne Street (later Queens' Lane) and on 3rd December 1446 the King granted him a Charter founding the College of St Bernard. The site proved to be too small and, aided by another parishioner John Morris, Doket acquired the land occupied by the Old and Cloister Courts between Queens' Lane and the river. Doket persuaded the King to replace the first Charter with a second on 21st August 1447, establishing his college on the new site. Appreciating the value of royal patronage, Doket took advantage of Queen Margaret of Anjou's desire to emulate her husband's foundation of King's College. Henry VI answered his wife's petition, granting her a licence to found the Queen's College of St Margaret and St Bernard and she issued her Charter on 14th April 1448. Andrew Doket became the College's first President. Following the deposition of Henry VI, Doket appreciated the need for continuing royal protection and secured the support of Elizabeth Woodville, wife of the new King Edward IV. In 1465 she became Patroness of the College and in the College's first statutes of 1475, she is described as "the true Foundress by right of succession". Final recognition of the two Queens as foundresses was given in the 1831 calendar which recorded the exchanged positions of the apostrophe and the 's'.

An early miniature of the young Princess Margaret depicts a jewelled daisy or marguerite in her hat and a miniature of Queen Elizabeth in coronation robes has a background of flowers, probably marguerites and cornflowers.

The Site

The initial site of the College was within the parish of St Botolph's, but the late Carmelite additions were in the parish of St Edward. The College was built almost on a south-west, north-east axis, bounded by Smallbridges Street (currently Silver Street) to the south, the Queens' Ditch to the west,

the Carmelite monastery to the north and Milne Street (Queens' Lane) to the east. Doket left St Bernard's Hostel to the College in his will and this was sold to Corpus Christi College in 1534. The land of St Bernard's College, used for many years as a Fellows' Garden and for a Real Tennis Court, was sold to St Catharine's College in 1836. But in 1475 the College bought from the Town Corporation a low-lying island, liable to flooding and the host of numerous lesser streams, which was bounded by the River Cam and the Queens' Ditch. Originally the Queens' Ditch rejoined the river, crossing Smallbridges Street near the east end of the Old Granary, today part of Darwin College. It was channelled into a brick tunnel in 1756. This purchase provided the land for the Grove, a Fellows' Garden, later replaced by Cripps and Lyon Courts, and for the Fisher Building.

A most important addition was made on 5th August 1538 when the Carmelite Order surrendered their buildings and land to the College. On this land are situated the new Chapel, the Friars Building, the Doket Building, the Erasmus Building and the present Fellows' Garden. The Carmelites, a mendicant order, beginning as groups of monks living as hermits in Palestine, had settled in 13th century Cambridge. Involved in teaching and study, they became a preaching order and moved from Newnham to a site on Milne Street. They pulled down houses between this street and the river and were the first Order to develop in an area which the University was to make its own. Their surrender to Queens' stated, "And we also by these presents do testifie that when we shall be required thereunto we shall depart from the said house and ground and give place unto them". Their property was bounded by two walls, by Milne Street and by the river, and Queens' was in full occupation by 1544.

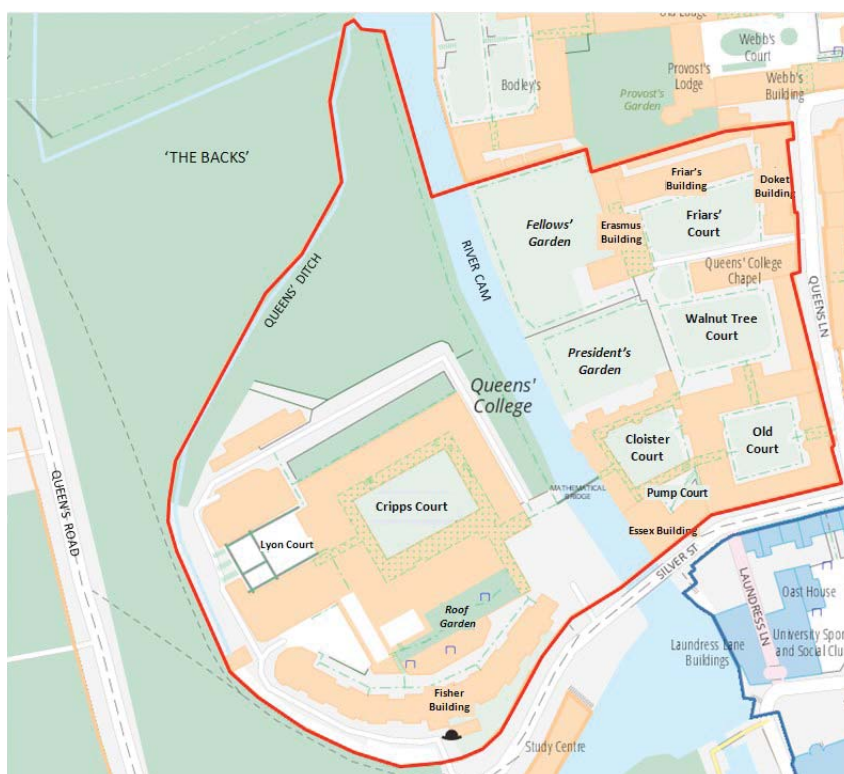


Figure 1. Map of Queens' College today, outlined in red.
Base map data © OpenStreetMap contributors

Separating the West Fields of Cambridge from the low-lying marshy lands of the river, was the Long Greene (the present 'Backs') and each adjacent college secured a portion, which was surrounded by a deep ditch necessary both for drainage and demarcation. The spoil from these ditches was used to make tree-lined walks. As early as 1475 the Town covenanted with Queens' College to deposit rubbish on its green in order to raise the level of the land. This was repeated on later occasions. In 1805 Bowtell recorded, "The grounds on the backs of the colleges, lying on the west side of the river, have been considerably raised within the last twenty years". Loggan's Map 1688 refers to Queens' College Green, but in 1798 Custance's Map records Queen's Green. Unlike other colleges on the Backs, Queens' did not take the necessary steps for the complete appropriation of this adjacent green, which remains public ground.

The Planting and Structure of the Gardens

Until the construction of Cripps and Lyon Courts, the structure of the gardens in Queens' showed considerable continuity. They have evolved gradually over the period of 550 years and they have been adapted according to the problems of shade and of flooding and to the changing needs of leisure, for fruit and garden produce and for space required for increased residency. However, many historical features from various periods remain.

1. The Old Court 1448–9

Entering the College through the Gatehouse, a formidable structure of simplicity, suggesting security and stability and lacking the showy symbolism of the gates at St John's and Christ's, is to arrive, in the words of Pevsner in "the most complete and compact example of a mediaeval college". The Court, probably the work of Reginald Ely, the master mason of King's, is constructed of clunch with brick facing. The clunch probably came from the local pits at Cherry Hinton, Burwell and Barrington. The buildings provided opportunities for prayer, for study, for cooking and eating and for sleeping, but not for gardening.

Hamond's Map 1592 depicts a central plot of grass enclosed by small railings, but with no central path to the Screens. In Loggan's Map 1688 the railings have disappeared, but there were two grass plots divided by a central path. This is unchanged in Custance's Map 1798 and a mid 18th century guide book refers to "two courts beside a pile of buildings near the gardens". Shade posed problems for planting, but the construction of a sun and moon dial, 1733, would have attracted anyone so dependent upon sun as are gardeners. Eighteenth century engravings show little change, but photographs from 1910 show some planting of smaller plants, perhaps box or wallflowers. Today there are shrubs near the south-facing walls and the wall of the Hall and some herbaceous plantings, including rudbeckias, potentillas,

campanulas, gaillardias, crocosmias and fuchsias. The garden's role in both the Old and Cloister Courts is to provide for the enjoyment of plants and also to define a space linking buildings and complementing their architecture.

2. The Cloister Court, 1460–1530's, and the Pump Court

Proceeding through the Screens, the first cloistered walks in Cambridge were constructed. Initially the walk connected Old Court to a building by the river, then further walks connected to the President's Lodge with a gallery above the north cloister. Hamond's Map 1592 has a central tree in the Court but no apparent lawn; by 1688 Loggan placed one tree in the north west corner and shows a lawn and paths, while Custance 1798 suggests two grass plots and a path, but no tree. Nineteenth century engravings show no trees in either the Old or Cloister Courts, but a 1908 photo has shrubs below the Lodge, probably removed together with the Lodge's plaster in 1912. A 1948 photograph has ferns growing by the cloister walls. Today there are window boxes on the cloister and tubs against the Hall, each with trailing geraniums, and shrubs have been planted in the borders.

The small Pump Court, always a shady area, was constricted by the Essex Building 1756–1760. Hyde's engraving 1856 placed a tree near the entry to the Erasmus stair. Today this small enclosed area is brightened by shrubs and tubs of geraniums.

3. The President's Gardens

An order dated 1532 stated, "That whereas the President of this College hath before this time no garden appointed severally for himself, neither for fruit, nor to walk in.... Now.... the said President shall have, enjoy and take from henceforth the Garden or Orchard over against the College broadgates with all the fruits growing within the same to his own proper use... the said President from henceforth, shall have no part nor dividend of such fruits as groweth within the College's great orchard". It would appear that the College had orchards and probably a vegetable garden before the acquisition of Carmelite land in 1544. (Was there cultivation on the island?) There appears to be cultivation of an area to the north of both Old and Cloister Courts and in 1549 the burgesses of Cambridge complained, "Item, we fynde that the Queen's College hath taken in a piece of common ground commonlye called Goslinge grene without recompense".



Figure 2. Detail of Queens' College from map of Cambridge by David Loggan, dated 1690. North is to the right. Queens' is labelled C, St Catharine's is labelled D and King's Chapel is to the bottom right.

Image from Wikimedia Commons.

This was probably an area running from Milne Street to the river. Hamond's Map 1592 shows a formal, enclosed garden of 4 plots adjacent to the President's Lodge on its north side, and in Loggan's Map 1688 a water gate leading to the river had been built. The area of Carmelite land together with Walnut Tree Court was divided and shared between the President and the Fellows between 16th century to the 19th century. Much of the land was orchard and the rights of each were jealously guarded. Between the present President's and Fellows' gardens is a tiny court with four doors providing access to their respective areas: the President and the Fellows each had separate keys. Until the building of Friars 1886 and the new Chapel 1890, the President had a further garden, which he then relinquished.

Loggan showed some outbuildings on the north side of the Lodge by 1688 and Custance in 1798 suggests a possible central fountain in the present President's Garden. Hyde's engraving 1856 shows numerous trees and a substantial river wall for this garden, while early 20th century paintings include an herbaceous border. It appears that planting for a President in the 19th century was more for enjoyment than for fruit. In 1913 Walter M. Keesey wrote of the view of the Lodge and garden "reaches down to the river and provides one of the many delectable prospects which the Backs afford". A 1947 photo shows a large central lawn and a few border trees. In 2009 the President's Garden was landscaped with a new river wall and frontage, attractive gravel walks, an extended lawn and replanted beds, together with a large pergola for climbing roses. In the north east corner by the wall to the Fellow's Garden is a magnolia grandiflora and there are two copper beeches and a catalpa tree.

4. Walnut Tree Court

Between 1616–1619 a new Jacobean building was erected, probably by Gilbert Wigge and this partly spanned the previous Goslinge Grene. Hamond's Map 1592 has shown this area bounded by Milne Street and the north wall of Old Court as being planted with trees around its enclosing perimeter. Loggan in 1688 shows a formal orchard with three rows of fruit trees, probably for the use of the President, but Custance 1798 has two central trees on a lawn. Were they walnut trees? By 1856, Hyde's engraving has an oval lawn and three mature trees flanked by substantial trees where the new chapel would be built. During World War II there were two air-raid trenches in this Court and the President's Garden. In 1947 there was a new walnut tree on the lawn, north of the Old Library, climbing roses on the Jacobean building and along the south wall of the chapel and a circular herbaceous island bed to the west of the chapel. An old walnut tree had died in 1932 and remnants of the Carmelite church wall had been found amongst its roots. Today the somewhat ailing walnut is circled by autumn crocuses, the shaded north wall of the Memorial Library (Old Chapel) has a border of ferns, heathers and cyclamens. There are still climbing roses featuring Alfred Carrier, Lady Hillingdon, Ophelia and Golden Showers on the Jacobean building and on the south-facing chapel border are shrub roses, buddleia alternifolia and heuchera. The island herbaceous border is now a dry garden divided by a central gravel path, with plantings in pebble of a variety of grasses, Japanese anemones, Michaelmas daisies and an Acer palmatum. There is a mature rose border facing the east wall of the President's Garden.

5. The Carmelite Estate and its Development

Hamond in 1592 shows the Carmelite land divided into three enclosed areas. There appears to be foundations of buildings in the area of the present Fellows' Garden, an area of vegetables and fruit bushes adjacent to Walnut Tree Court and a substantial orchard covering the area of the Friars and Docket Buildings down to the river and backing onto King's College. The area of foundations, cultivated as a Fellows' fruit and vegetable garden and enclosed by a wooden palisade in 1592, was walled by 1688. Within this walled area was an enclosed Bowling Green since 1553 and from 1555 there had been a bridge from this Green to the Grove. The bridge was removed in 1793. Loggan 1688 shows the Carmelite land cultivated with gardens and fruit bushes and with orchards. There are five clearly divided plots and those nearer to Milne Street, Friars and Docket Buildings were reserved for the President's use. Adjacent to the river there was a Fellows' vegetable garden separating the President's Garden from the Bowling Green. In the current Fellows' Garden there is an old mulberry stump circa early 17th century still yielding fruit. In the far corner of the Bowling Green there used to be a summerhouse. As early as 1575 there is written evidence: "Item, to Robert Geordenor carpenter and 7 of his men for 11 days' work setting up the frame of the vine in the Fellows' Garden, 28s 6d". Dividing this garden from the President's Garden is an east-west clunch wall, probably Carmelite. In 1707 James Berverell in his guide book *Les Delices de la Grand' Bretagne* referred to "vergers, de grans jardins, de parterres et d'un boulingrin".

Today there are a number of new buildings on the Carmelite land; the President no longer has personal rights there, there are no orchards or vegetable gardens, but the old divisions and structure are still recognisable. In 1886 Fawcett's Friars Building and the Docket Building of E. T. Hare 1912, together with Bodley's new chapel 1889–1891 required the President to relinquish a further garden. Friars Building today has a new herbaceous border with plantings of rudbeckia, geraniums, tradescantia, lavender and Verbena rigida. The heavily shaded area of Docket and the north wall of the Chapel need thoughtful planting. The Fellows' Garden has ferns on the north-facing wall adjacent to the President's Garden and a bed of shrubs separates it from the Bowling Green, together with silver birches, verbena and nerines. On the river bank are two young and colourful maples and on the far north wall of clunch and reused stone from the Carmelites honeysuckle grows and there are shrubs and phlox. The Fellows' Garden now is clearly divided from Friars Court and the Chapel by Spence's Erasmus Building 1959–1961. Excavations here revealed monks' burials and clunch footings, probably of Carmelite conventual buildings. Glass roundels of the monks survive in the windows of the Old Library.

6. The Island Site and its Development

Crossing the bridge, referred to in the Cambridge Almanack as "Ye great bridge to the cloysters", which was paved in 1582, there was the Pondyard. (This bridge was replaced by the Mathematical Bridge, designed by Etheridge and built by James Essex 1749 and there have been several further replacements.) In the area following the curve of the Queens' Ditch to the south of the site (now including the Fisher Building), a brewhouse was built 1533, new stables 1697 and

other functional outbuildings. In 1936 this southern curve of the Ditch, adjacent to Silver Street, was filled in with a reinforced concrete raft supported on 120 reinforced piles. This was the necessary foundation for Drinkwater's Fisher Building, 1935-36, which followed the natural contours of the site boundary and was approached by a flight of steps down from the Round. At the same time Drinkwater designed squash courts to the north west of Fisher. There was a lawn and flowering cherries between Fisher and the old stables, which were adapted as the Fitzpatrick Hall for a JCR and for 'Bats' plays. Adjacent to this Hall and enclosed by a wall were greenhouses, a potting shed and an apple store. At this time there were mature weeping willows on the river bank between the Mathematical and Silver Street bridges. They were present in Le Keux's engraving of 1841 and in Gwen Raverat's woodcuts.

The whole island was liable to flooding, especially bad in 1947. In 1625 the College had paid three shillings for "a boate and foure men to draw trees out of the river that boats might passe" and in 1774 one shilling to "A man, for bringing back the garden bench after the flood". Nevertheless, soon after the purchase of the land, the Pondyard was laid out as a garden and orchard, surrounded by a mud wall and hedges. By 1539 there were walks laid out in what became the Grove. For this garden, reminiscent of the kitchen gardens of country houses, College accounts reveal a number of purchases: in 1523 saffron, then vines and trellis work, in 1575 "paid for 3500 privie and 1000 of honeysuckles for the island and other places of the college, 19s 10d", in 1634 apricots and in 1688 asparagus. Hamond's Map 1592 shows a rectangular garden and orchard, beyond an enclosed inner ring of trees and an outer ring of woodland following the western curve of the Ditch back to the river Cam. The bridge from the Bowling Green to the Grove is clearly shown, although there are no paths. By 1688 Loggan shows four cultivated vegetable and fruit plots within a rectangular wall, together with an orchard beyond the brewhouse and stables. Custance 1798 shows a further refinement with nine vegetable plots. Dyer, historian of the University 1814 wrote, "Queens': in the fellows' gardens were formerly espaliers, now removed, and its present appearance, it being open, and consisting principally of a kitchen garden, looks, perhaps, more like a country, than a college garden. An improver, perhaps, might say, give those short walks a more swerving direction, and plant them round with a shrubbery, beat down that brick wall, and exchange it for palisades, or an iron fence railing, that there may be some sort of connection between garden and grove." Advice, fortunately, not taken and the Fellows' Garden continued to produce apples, pears, plums, peaches and apricots from espaliers, and four plots, divided by grass walks, were surrounded by herbaceous borders with vegetables in the centre of each for use in the College kitchen. At the intersection of the grass walks was a dipping pond and nearby an old mulberry tree dating from the early 17th century. In 1877 C. Wordsworth wrote "to this day Queens' has its own kitchen garden" and so it continued until the construction of Cripps Court 1972-79.

In all the early maps of the College the Grove is well stocked with trees and there were elms and ashes in the 17th century. It was well managed, yielding timber and kindling. John Forlin, the gardener, thinned the tree planting, 1749-52. Cantabrigia Depicta 1763 recorded "The Gardens

being very extensive, well planted with Fruit and adorned with Rows of Elms, and fine Walks make it a very agreeable Retirement for Students". An Ackermann print 1815 shows a gravel walk by the riverside in the Grove and Gwen Raverat in Period Piece wrote of the Jebbs of Springfield on Queen's Road, "Looking across Queens' Green to the elms behind Queens' College". Archie Browne remembered that daffodils were first planted in the Grove, 1925. In the last few years Allan Hayhurst, Garden Fellow of the College, wrote of the intention to remove cow-parsley from the Grove and to introduce other woodland species to follow the bulbs. Two rare and gigantic elms have survived Dutch Elm disease and three new elms have been planted. There has also been a re-making of the paths providing easier walking to all parts of the Grove.

Today the Fellows' Garden together with Drinkwater's Squash Court and the Fitzpatrick Hall have disappeared under Powell and Moya's Cripps Court and then Lyon Court. The old mulberry tree in the central lawn and a 17th century wall of the old Garden, some ten foot high and with brick coping, are the sole survivors. Currently, a replanting of a very shaded area between the north of Cripps and this old wall is being undertaken. Raised beds with brick surrounds have created a winter garden for suitable shrubs and there are bamboos in tubs. It is an attractive area and leads into the Grove through a yew and beech hedge and a planting of cyclamen. Another venture is the new roof garden between Fisher Building and the new Hall in Cripps. Already it is mature and colourful although planted in only one foot of soil. There is a watering system. This dry area has been influenced by the example of Beth Chatto. There has also been a replanting of the borders on the sunny, south side of Fisher.

Presently under completion is the re-designing of the Round, the area between the new major entrance to the College in Silver Street and the Mathematical Bridge. The river bank has been re-turfed and paving stones are being laid in a circular formation. A new Porter's Lodge has been built on the east end of the Fisher Building together with a new cloistered walk to Cripps. There will no longer be vehicular access into the Round. With this 21st century construction, Queens' must be the only Cambridge College which possesses buildings of each century from the 15th to the 21st. Through all these changes its gardens have survived and, at present, are undergoing a major re-planting and revival under the new Head Gardener, Stephen Tyrrell.

Charles Malyon

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THE CGT CHRISTMAS LECTURE BY DR PAULA HENDERSON 'GARDENS IN TUDOR AND EARLY STUART ENGLAND'

A rather wet, windy and cold day in mid-December saw us parking in King Parade, Cambridge, and heading for St Catharine's College, close to the elbow of Silver Street. We found the Porters Lodge and they advised 'third staircase on the left'. Marion, Freddie and I duly revisited the weather. The central buildings of St Cats form a large quadrangle producing a centre piece of formal garden, not overworked but of very considerable elegance, as are the buildings.

Dr Henderson of the Courtauld Institute had travelled from her home in the Cotswolds to deliver the first CGT Christmas Lecture. Her goal was to explain the social importance of the great estates. They were intended to demonstrate their owner's wealth, sophistication, position, allegiance and much more. Precise planning and geometry were all important. It would seem that these 'gardens' would have no less attention and expense lavished on them than any formal room in the great house.

Typically district gardens would be created to serve different functions. This did not overlook the estate's household needs for fresh vegetables, fruit and herbs. In the main though, the intention was to impress, and impress on a very grand scale (Fig. 1). Vast earthmoving projects were undertaken. Huge lakes were created; no JCBs were available, just spades and human labour.

Grand follies were built in strategic positions to allow the Lord or Lady to impress his or her invited guests. Some gardens included a snail – an earthwork of similar design to the snail's shell – which presumably allowed the viewer to achieve a 360° coverage of the estate whilst gently going either up or down. I may well be wrong on this point. Our audience all seemed familiar with snails whilst I reflected that my neighbours probably would not wear this as an idea for our own garden.

What impressed me the most? Well, we were shown some



Figure 1. Detail from Portrait of Sir George Delves (1577 anon) showing Tudor garden on a scale comparable with Hampton Court or Theobalds. Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool.

amazing hand-coloured drawings, illustrating in great detail how the gardens were to be laid out, even down to the positioning of individual trees and shrubs (Fig. 2). The

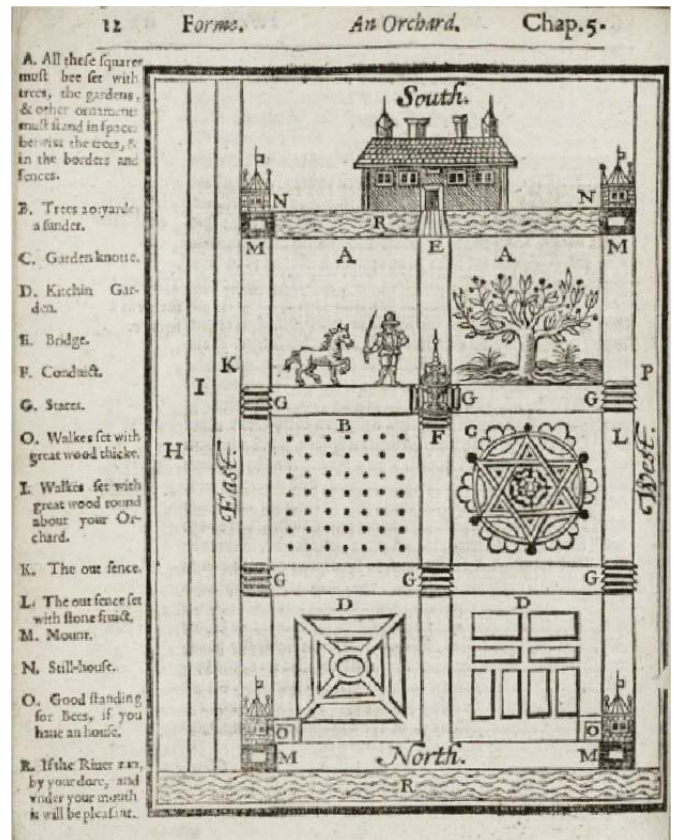


Figure 2. An ideal garden from William Lawson's *A New Orchard and Garden*, 1618. Folger Shakespeare Library.

Image courtesy of Dr Paula Henderson

formal knot gardens were exactly reproduced with uncanny accuracy and detail – to a level that I suggest would seriously tax the abilities of a modern landscape designer.

Dr Henderson is an experienced lecturer who spoke eloquently for around one hour with the aid of slides. She rarely consulted notes. She even endured a period of activity and heavy clanking of bottles from the rear of the room. (The Prosecco and warm mince pies following the lecture were extremely nice.)

In conclusion, Marion and I were certainly impressed and would like to read more on the period. I can't speak for Freddie. Congratulations to the Trust for a very successful event which was a most enjoyable precursor to Christmas.

Stuart & Marion Mansfield
(NB. Freddie is Marion's guide dog.)

Dr Paula Henderson has an MA and PhD in architectural history from The Courtauld Institute. She lectures widely in Britain and the United States and has published over thirty articles on English houses and their settings. Her book, *The Tudor House and Garden: architecture and landscape in the 16th and early 17th centuries* (Yale University Press), won the Berger Prize for the outstanding contribution to the history of British art for 2005. She is a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London. She and her husband have lived (and gardened) in the Cotswolds for almost thirty years.



ANNOUNCEMENTS



Trumpington Community Orchard Project

Community Orchard Conference

Wednesday 8 May 2013

*Are you involved with a community orchard?
Would you like to start one up?*

This one-day conference is open for anyone who is interested in getting great ideas and advice about community orchards. Speakers include gardening and orchard experts from the region's Traditional Orchard Group. Share your own experiences and learn from other community orchard groups, on subjects ranging from 'working with volunteers' to 'increasing biodiversity'.

Conference venue:
Scotsdales Garden Centre, Cambridge.
You must book a place in advance.
Please email:
trumpingtonorchard@yahoo.co.uk
www.trumpingtonorchard.org

**Conference
cost: £15
per person,
(including
refreshments
and lunch)**

DORSET GARDENS TRUST BURSARY

The Dorset Gardens Trust aims to encourage conservation, protection and the evolution of historic parks and gardens throughout the county of Dorset. It is a member of the Association of Gardens Trusts, and provides some consultancy and financial help towards restoration.

The Dorset Gardens Trust is pleased to announce a Bursary Scheme for research connected with Dorset's historic gardens and designed landscapes. It is hoped this scheme will encourage research by students and other qualified applicants interested in this important aspect of our heritage.

The Trust will offer Bursaries of between £250 - £1,000 for research conducted typically over a one-year period, or an agreed longer period. Larger amounts may also be considered if the project is shown to require it. It is hoped the applicant will publish the results of the research in a suitable scholarly journal. Subjects for a Bursary might involve research into: Dorset historic gardens or designed landscapes; Dorset-connected garden designers, architects, builders or plant hunters and their collections, the science or archaeology of Dorset gardens or designed landscapes e.g., by geophysical survey.

For full details on the Bursary scheme and to make an application, please contact Mrs. Sarah FitzGerald, Secretary, Dorset Gardens Trust, Pen Mill Farm, Penselwood, Wincanton, Somerset BA9 8NF Tel: 01 747 840 895 / e-mail address fitzgeraldatpen@aol.com.

PARKS & GARDENS UK NEWS

We are very pleased to announce that our new website **www.parksandgardens.org** is ready for use.

Key new features include:

- New home page and website design
- Improved speed of searching
- Changed access to the database for uploading research: there is a link on the Research & Record page, within the text, under the heading 'The Database'
- A new email address for queries:
info@parksandgardens.org

Redirects are in place from the old website to the new. Over

the coming months we will be adding new content as well as working with volunteers to upload new information and images to the database records.

We are grateful to The Bulldog Trust for their generous grant which enabled these improvements.

If you have any comments, questions or experience difficulty with the website, please don't hesitate to contact the Parks & Gardens UK team.

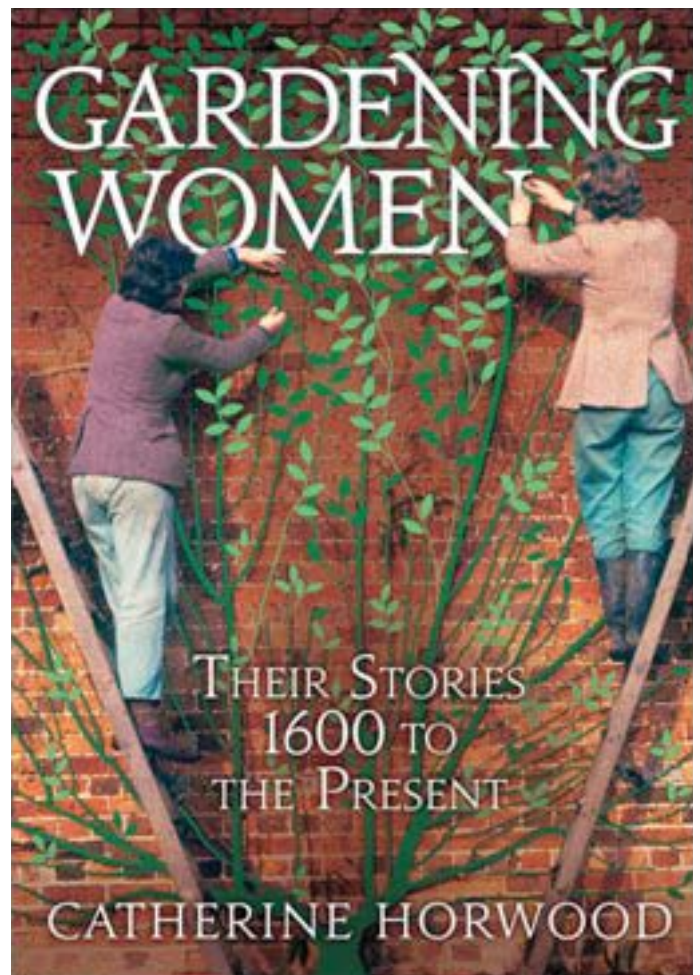
COLLEGE VANDALS

Next time they wander through a college garden admiring the floral displays, CGT members may like to remember this anecdote about a Cambridge 'gardening woman'. Chrystabel Procter, head gardener at Girton during the late 1930s and 40s, was warned by Miss Swindale, Girton's previous gardener, not to waste her time trying to grow flowers. 'All the Fellows had the right to pick flowers for themselves for their rooms,' explained Miss Swindale, 'whenever they wanted to and almost wherever they wanted to [and] even breaking branches off the flowering and other trees was permissible and commonly done by certain Fellows! I couldn't bear it,' she added, 'and now the Research Fellows are doing it too.'

With her soon-to-be legendary common sense, Miss Procter eventually stopped what she considered vandalism by growing flowers specially for room decoration. But it was a hard-fought battle to get the college staff to agree to this compromise. 'Scissors must be used,' insisted Miss Procter, '[and] as few leaves as possible gathered... from any tree, shrub or shrubby creeper.' Hard to imagine this happening today!

A brief but fascinating biography of Chrystabel Procter, and a listing of her personal papers can be found at the website: <http://janus.lib.cam.ac.uk/db/node.xsp?id=EAD%2FGBR%2F0271%2FGCPP%20Procter>

Dr Catherine Horwood is the author of *Gardening Women. Their Stories from 1600 to the Present* (Virago, 2010).



MOGGERHANGER PARK, BEDFORDSHIRE

An Architectural and Social History from Earliest times to the Present.

Edited by Jane Brown and Jeremy Musson.

Although this splendid book is about a property in Bedfordshire it has a touching link with the Cambridgeshire Gardens Trust in that the dedication in the frontispiece is to the late chair of the Trust. It says:

In memory of John Drake who helped Moggerhanger, fired the vision for the landscape restoration and whose idea this book was – and who died in 2012 while the book was in preparation.

John Drake had been involved with the Park for many years and you get the feeling that he was one of many illustrious friends and champions who kept the faith and persevered to instigate the restoration of the house and now the Repton landscape. The book is actually a celebration of the 2012 bicentenary of the original completion of Moggerhanger to designs by Sir John Soane but it should also celebrate the achievements of the trustees of the Moggerhanger House Preservation Trust in obtaining grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund, English Heritage and a host of other supporters to transform and reveal a remarkable house.

Although the book is beautifully laid out with excellent illustrations and the delightful sketches of Ptolemy Dean, it is not a self-congratulatory coffee-table glossy. The editors describe the book as a '...collection of scholarly essays'; each

chapter is by a different specialist eminent in their field and each brings great depth and understanding to every aspect of the story.

The architect and watercolour artist, Ptolemy Dean, provides 'An architectural reflection,' describing a visit many years ago to a dark and gloomy building which, even in dereliction, revealed 'the finest sequence of spaces,' he had ever seen. The contribution from the well-known writer and landscape historian, Jane Brown, is 'The Rise and Fall and Rebirth of a Country House'. She traces the history of the site and its owners up to the present day but the key period was when Godfrey Thornton became a member of the Bank of England's building committee in 1789 and met John Soane. They developed the house together and Soane later went on to work for Thornton's son, Stephen; Soane had a 40-year association with the house and in this time made some innovative alterations and extensions. Humphry Repton first visited in 1792, prepared two Red Books and was working on the landscape over four years. His work is still apparent today.

Peter Inskip is a leading conservation architect and was project manager for the restoration. He describes the design and building history of the site and, like Jane Brown, puts it into context with stories and anecdotes while giving a

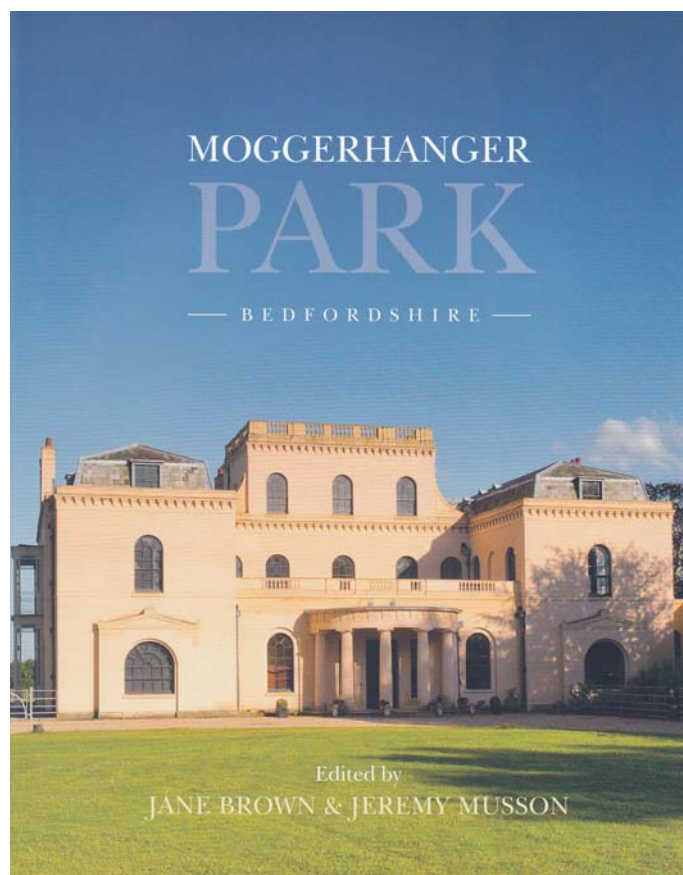
detailed and technical account of the restoration work.

The chapter by David Baker illustrates the appeal of this book which takes a broad view of Moggerhanger's archaeological and local history. David Watkin is Emeritus Fellow of Peterhouse and Professor Emeritus at the University of Cambridge Department of the History of Art, and has a particular interest in Soane. Taking us on a journey through a group of other Soane houses, David shows us how Moggerhanger fits into the other achievements of a remarkable architectural genius.

It is poignant to read John Drake's words and remember just how many interests and talents he had. His chapter is an overview of 'Humphry Repton, his work at Moggerhanger and the Bedfordshire landscape'. Repton felt Godfrey Thornton had little knowledge of running a country estate and so decided to view it more as an occasional sporting-seat, perhaps more befitting a house on a 'villa' scale rather than a mansion. Comparisons are made with other Repton projects including Woburn Abbey and Wimpole; this just confirms Repton's reputation and how much he was in demand.

The last chapter has the splendid title of 'Piety and Plutocracy: the social and business world of the Thorntons.' Gareth Atkins is British Academy Post-doctoral Fellow at Magdalene College, Cambridge, and he works on religion and political culture in 18th and 19th century England. The Thorntons were bankers and the tales of scandal, bankruptcy and feuds sound rather contemporary, even familiar, but that is the joy of this book; an important historic house and park is put into its historic, architectural, landscape and social context, giving the reader an in-depth understanding of its place in history.

All the contributors waived their fee for this book and all profits go to the Moggerhanger House Preservation Trust. At £15 for the paperback (£25 for hardback), it is worth every penny. It is published by Healeys Print Group on behalf of Moggerhanger House Preservation Trust and it can be purchased from Moggerhanger Park, Park Road,



Moggerhanger, Bedford MK44 3RW. Please make cheques payable to Moggerhanger House Preservation Trust and add £6 for post & packing. All enquiries to 01767 641007 or enquiries@moggerhangerpark.com.

Liz Lake

Liz Lake is the Principal of Liz Lake Associates, Chartered Landscape Architect and Urban Designers. In 1998 her practice worked with the Debois Landscape Survey Group in preparing a Historic Landscape Survey of Repton's park and gardens at Moggerhanger.

RESEARCH AND PUBLICATION

A key activity of the CGT is the research by its members into all aspects of horticulture, garden history and historic landscaping. Much of the material generated by this research has appeared within the pages of the members' newsletter, sometimes as a precursor to publications in books or journals.

The Trust has recently created a portfolio for Research within the Council of Management and so we have an opportunity to take a fresh look at the way we conduct, coordinate and publish research. We would be delighted to hear members' ideas and suggestions for topics for research, whether for individual pursuit or possibly for group work in a larger scale project.

The newsletter will always be pleased to publish news and information on research activities, whether work in progress or a final report on completion of a project. Communicating current activities with other members can result in access to new resources or experiences.

Members may have noticed that, since 2012, copies of the newsletters have been available from the website as pdf files in full colour on a white background. The full colour format seems appropriate for images of gardens and flowers and members can, if they wish, download and print the colour files for their personal use. However, not everyone has access to a colour printer and so we invite members to express a preference on whether the paper version of the newsletter should continue in its existing monochrome format or in colour.

I am available if members wish to discuss aspects of research coordination, either within the Trust or with other garden groups such as NADFAS volunteers. We look forward to hearing your views.

Judith Christie, Research Coordinator
judith.christie@ntlworld.com or 01954 230536

‘CAPABILITY’ BROWN TRICENTENARY

Lancelot ‘Capability’ Brown (1716–1783) is perhaps one of the best known historic landscape gardeners in Britain today, partly because of his memorable nickname but largely because he was such a creative and prolific worker, designing some 170 parks. In Cambridgeshire he worked at Wimpole Hall, Audley End and, of course, along ‘The Backs’ of the Cambridge colleges. The scale of his landscapes was so large, they can be seen in the countryside from miles around; you have only to cruise the country on Google maps to see the parks laid out before you.

‘Capability’ Brown’s works are still part of our lives and, in 2016, a nationwide celebration is planned for the tricentenary of his birth. The Landscape Institute is going to lead a Heritage Lottery Fund project to encourage people to get out and enjoy Brown’s work. The project will be a collaboration of many organisations including English

Heritage, the Garden History Society, the National Trust, Visit Britain and of course the Association of Gardens Trusts. The Cambridgeshire Gardens Trust is particularly involved because of Brown’s residence at Fenstanton Manor and his burial and monument at Fenstanton church.

In Cambridgeshire we are looking for a volunteer who can be our representative on the project and help to coordinate our own celebrations. We have already agreed to hold the Annual General Meeting for the Association of Gardens Trusts in Cambridge in 2016 because of Brown’s association with the county. You would not be alone, there are plenty of willing hands in the Trust to help with the activities, but if you would be interested in being a focal point, then please contact Julia Weaver.

Julia Weaver

MEMBERS NEWS

This is the first of an occasional section in which we report news and activities of Trust members, so do please take a moment to bring friends and colleagues up to date with what you have been up to.

In the previous newsletter we carried a tribute to our former chair, John Drake, from the CGT President, Lord Fairhaven. We regret having omitted a paragraph from the original print copy, so below we reproduce in full the tribute paid to John by The Lord Fairhaven, at the Service of Thanksgiving for John at St Mary The Virgin, Fen Ditton on Thursday 20th September 2012. Following this tribute, we also print some memories of John sent to the newsletter by members.

“I would like to read to you the tribute I wrote concerning John which was sent to The Cabinet Office. I know there are several of you in the congregation this afternoon who wrote in similar vein to, I am happy to say, successfully obtain an honour for John. The only sadness is that he was denied the pleasure and fulfilment of going to Buckingham Palace to receive his MBE.

‘I write in my capacity as President of The Cambridgeshire Gardens Trust, to nominate Louis John Drake for a United Kingdom Honour. I have known John for some fourteen years since The Cambridgeshire Gardens Trust was established. County Garden Trusts were the brain child of Mrs Maldwin Drummond and were set up to record and preserve the history of important gardens within each county. The fact that the Cambridgeshire Gardens Trust has been such a success is largely due to John, as Chairman, who has shown tremendous energy and enthusiasm for the task, not to mention the endless hours he has devoted to the Trust. Without doubt his greatest achievement has been the restoration of the walled garden at Ramsey Abbey. This has

been a ten year battle and many lesser mortals would have given up the unequal struggle. I quote from a recent newsletter to give some idea of what was entailed; “carrying out research, surveying, meetings with head teachers and various members of Cambridgeshire, Huntingdonshire and District Councils, obtaining a 25 year lease for a peppercorn rent to restore the garden and badgering the Councils regarding access and repairs to the walls, turning up on Saturday mornings with a team of volunteers clearing the debris in the garden, producing two detailed reports of the project, holding social evenings to raise funds for insurance, providing plants for sale. Applying successfully for funds from the Local Heritage Initiative Fund, obtaining architectural drawings, successfully obtaining plants to demonstrate the horticultural achievements in Cambridge – the list could go on for another page! A mammoth task with a successful outcome. The restored garden was officially opened in May 2010 and visitors are made very welcome.

Members of The Cambridgeshire Gardens Trust also can enjoy visiting other gardens not only within the county but also further afield. Some six or seven visits are arranged each year for members to enjoy. In addition to all this, John has written a very full history book *Wood and Ingram, A Huntingdon Nursery 1742–1950* running to some 260 pages. He has also produced a Gazetteer of the Gardens of Cambridgeshire. This has all been achieved whilst having full time employment.

In my opinion John Drake fulfils all the criteria to be considered for an Honour.’ ”

The Lord Fairhaven

A MEMORY OF JOHN DRAKE

I first met John Drake back in the 1990's, when I was working for the gardening products company Wells & Winter. We used to have a stall at the then monthly RHS shows at Horticultural Halls in Westminster, where John was one of the judges. I didn't actually know who he was, but he often used to drop by our display to purchase some plant labels, and I remember being impressed by this distinguished-looking man with the kind eyes and gentle smile.

Then a few years later, on moving to north Hertfordshire, I joined the CGT, and was delighted to encounter John again. He, along with all the other members, made me feel welcome right from the start. One of the things that most

impressed me was his readiness to seek other people's opinions. Despite his qualifications, experience and knowledge, he was always interested in alternative thoughts and viewpoints – which could be alarming when I had only a couple of seconds to come up with a vaguely intelligent comment in response to one of his questions!

CGT visits will never be the same without John's lively company, but I have as mementoes the beautifully-drawn Christmas cards he used to send, the last one (because he knew my husband and I were dog lovers) with the sweetest sketch of his own dog curled up underneath his signature.

Miriam Pender

A FURTHER MEMORY OF JOHN DRAKE

We thought that members might appreciate this photograph of John Drake as a Stephen Perse schoolboy, aged about 17 years, with Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra of Kent.

The photograph has kindly been provided by Ann Taylor, the oldest of John's four cousins who were also living in Fen Ditton at the time. Ann's mother and John's mother were sisters.

Research has revealed that HRH Princess Alexandra visited The Perse School on 3rd July 1961 to open the new school buildings following the transfer of the Perse from their former site in Gonville Place to Hills Road.

Jean Kearney



SIR JOHN GURDON, FRS

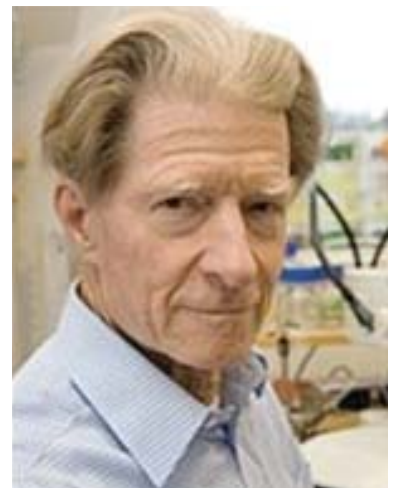
Sir John Gurdon, educated at Eton and Christ Church, University of Oxford, was awarded the Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine in 2012 to share with Shinya Yamanaka. The award was "for the discovery that mature cells can be reprogrammed to become pluripotent".

Sir John researched in the Department of Zoology at Oxford until 1971 and then worked in the Medical Research Council Laboratory of Molecular Biology, 1971-83. In 1989 he was a founding member of the Wellcome/Cancer Research Campaign Institute for Cell Biology and Cancer, which has been renamed the Gurdon Institute in his honour. Located in Tennis Court Road, it is part of the Henry Wellcome Building of Cancer and Developmental Biology, University of Cambridge.

Currently Sir John and his colleagues are seeking ways of obtaining embryo cells from the cells of an adult. The eventual aim is to provide replacement cells; for example, spare heart or brain cells from skin or blood cells. These replacement cells would have to come from the same

individual to avoid problems of rejection and the consequent need for immunosuppressant drugs. Sir John's Nobel lecture was entitled "The Egg and the Nucleus: A Battle for Supremacy".

In 1995 Sir John was knighted and he was Master of Magdalene College, Cambridge, 1995-2002. He is a member of the Cambridgeshire Gardens Trust and wrote of his appreciation of his membership when thanking the Trust for its congratulations on hearing of his award.



Charles Malyon

CAMBRIDGESHIRE GARDENS TRUST
2013 Programme of Visits & Events
Our theme for 2013 is Botanical & Arboricultural Collections

APRIL	18	Thurs	11:00am	Ramsey Abbey Walled Kitchen Garden & Rural Museum.
			2:00pm	Elton Hall, nr. Oundle. Tour includes Hall, garden & tea. Members £9; guests £11.
MAY	15	Weds	2:00pm	Clermont House Garden, Little Cressingham, Norfolk. Guided tour (2hrs), tea & cakes. Members £6; guests £8.
JUNE	8	Sat	1:00pm	Ramsey Abbey Walled Kitchen Garden: 'Poems & Peace'. An event sponsored by the National Association of Garden Trusts. In memory of the late John Drake MBE. All welcome – no charge.
			– 3:30pm	
	13	Thurs	2:00pm	Docwra's Manor garden, Shepreth, nr. Royston, Herts. Informal guided tour. Teas available. Members £5; guests £7.
JULY	25	Thurs	11:00am	Waterperry Gardens, near Wheatley, Oxon. Includes national collection of Saxifrages. Members £9; guests £11.
AUGUST	14	Weds	2:00pm	Abbots Ripton Hall. Guided tour of gardens & arboretum by Gavin Smith, Lord de Ramsey's Head Gardener. Members £5; guests £6.
SEPT	4	Weds	2:00pm	Pampisford Hall. Tour of gardens & arboretum. Tea & cakes included. Members £5; guests £6.
	20	Fri		Scarecrow competition at Anglesey Abbey for two weeks. Watch the website for further details of set-up and judging.
OCT	3	Thurs	2:00pm	Wimpole Hall (NT). National collection of walnut trees (and others). Guided tour with Philip Whaites, Head Gardener. Members £5; guests £6.
	26	Sat	2:00pm	Annual General Meeting at Fen Drayton village hall. Speaker Roger Mitchell on the post-war fate of the country house and garden. Lunch available from 12:30pm. No charge for members.
DEC	6	Fri	9:30 for 10:00am	Christmas Lecture in the Garden Room at St Edmund's College, Cambridge CB3 0BN. Speaker Dr Twigs Way on <i>History of Wrest Park</i> . Entry £10 for all, to include seasonal refreshments.

Tickets for 2013 events are available from:

Alan Brown, Foxhollow, 239 High Street, Offord Cluny, St. Neots PE19 5RT. Tel.: 01480 811947. E-mail: fox.239@btinternet.com

To avoid disappointment (some venues limit numbers), please book at least 2 weeks before the visit.

Should you need to cancel a booking, please advise Alan as early as possible.

Cambridgeshire Gardens Trust
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www.cambsgardens.org.uk

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