



CAMBRIDGESHIRE GARDENS TRUST

NEWSLETTER No. 36 MAY 2014

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LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

As the incoming Chair I would like to express the Trust's gratitude to Julia Weaver, who took up the baton following the unexpected and untimely death of our dear John Drake. John did so much to establish the Trust and was very much 'hands on' with all aspects of our activities. Julia brought her management skills to play and during her tenure has transformed the way in which we are organised, with an effective and hard-working committee structure. This makes the Chair a much less daunting prospect than when Julia took it over - so a big 'Thank you' to her and to all the committee members who do so much to make things run smoothly.

For those of you who may want to know a little about the new Chair, I began my working life as a student gardener on the Sheffield Parks Department tree and shrub nursery, followed by training at Writtle College and time on Derby Parks. This was where I developed my love of plants, and trees in particular. I came from Elvaston Castle, near Derby, to Cambridge in Autumn 1978 to supervise the creation of the new Robinson College gardens as Head Gardener/Landscape Clerk of Works. For the next four years I worked closely with John St Bodfan Gruffydd, a somewhat eccentric but very talented landscape architect. He taught me to look at the landscape in terms of space and form (rather than purely as a place to grow plants!) and, thus inspired, I left Robinson College to become a mature stu-

dent at Sheffield University studying landscape design and plant science. During these years I was fortunate to be tutored by the late Derek Lovejoy and by Hal Moggridge. I then worked as Arnold Weddle's assistant in Cambridge before establishing my own landscape architectural practice in 1988. During the next few years I completed designs for Vision Park in Histon and the conversion of the old Bryant & May match factory to create The Bow Quarter.



Figure 1. David Brown, the new Chair of Cambridgeshire Gardens Trust.

A very enjoyable part of my practice has been the design of new 'country house' gardens. At Dassells Bury, near Braughing in Hertfordshire, a rough sloping paddock was transformed into a series of terrace gardens. At Uplands in Suffolk a Japanese-influence garden was created for a new house designed by Freeland Rees Roberts Architects. Another highlight was Stags End near Ashridge, Herts. where an ultra-modern, turf-roofed residence was fitted into the slopes above the hangers of Brown's Golden Valley.

In the mid-1990s I was working on a historic park at Beeston Hall in Norfolk where a mysterious character called 'Mr Richmond' had worked. Not much was known of

him and so I began to research his life and work, eventually registering as a part-time PhD student at UEA under the supervision of Tom Williamson. I have continued to carry out research on Nathaniel Richmond, and his better known former employer, Lancelot 'Capability' Brown, since that

time. I am on the tutor panel for the University of Cambridge Institute for Continuing Education at Madingley Hall, giving occasional modules within their landscape history courses.

My passionate interest in trees, and the culture within which trees are grown, has been a continuing theme in my life and advising on arboricultural matters has been a mainstay of my recent practice. The Trust continues to provide consultation responses for planning applications which may affect valued landscapes and we have supported the principle, proposed by Fen Ditton Parish Council, of creating a John Drake Memorial Wood within a proposed new development in the vicinity of his house. The Trust has a role to play in helping to identify, protect and, where possible, create new heritage assets.

The research agenda of the Trust continues to be strongly supported and fuelled by the energy of Judith Christie and her NADFAS gardens group. The Brown 300 celebrations (more here: <http://www.capabilitybrown.org/>) are providing one focus for related activities and if you want to get involved please contact Judith.

With the Brown tercentenary coming up in 2016, and his association with our county as Lord of the Manor of Fenstanton, we have been asked to host the Association of Gardens Trusts AGM. The committee is already progressing arrangements for this event. In addition, we are charged with steering the Trust through the negotiations now ongoing between the AGT and the Garden History Society, which are likely to lead to a merging of these two bodies. It is central to our consideration of this that we are an independent

Trust which chooses to benefit from subscribing to the AGT. Any changes to the AGT, its merging with other bodies in this instance, will affect us and we need to follow and influence these negotiations where it is in our interests to do so. The committee welcomes comments from the wider membership, be they concerns or suggestions.

Thanks to the sterling work of Ann Colbert, our events organiser, we have a good programme of talks and visits for the next year. If you could not get to the Study Day at

Hemingford Grey recently you missed out on an inspirational set of talks, ranging from War Memorial landscapes to the management of one of our great Ducal estates, with a well illustrated look at the work of Gertrude Jekyll with Edwin Lutyens, and one on the gardens of Harold Peto. The day was well attended and thoroughly enjoyed by all. If you missed it you can read the reviews in the next newsletter.

One of the key objectives for the next few years must be for the Trust to increase membership numbers and

enhance diversity within the membership. Please talk to your friends and to anyone you meet who may be interested in our activities and persuade them to join! If you have any ideas for increasing membership, for increased awareness of our activities, or for groups with similar interests with whom we might develop mutual arrangements, please contact one of the committee members. I look forward to meeting more of the members at our meetings and hearing your views on how we can improve the Trust.

David Brown, Chair.



Figure 2. Sloping terrace gardens by David Brown at Dassells Bury near Braughing in Hertfordshire.

HOW THE MANOR OF FENSTANTON WAS EXCHANGED FOR TASTE!

The third of six pieces on Lancelot 'Capability' Brown (1716–83) and his connections with our county of Cambridgeshire. Lancelot, his wife Bridget and their growing family lived in Hammersmith beside the Thames throughout the 1750s and his career prospered. He was regularly riding north to Burghley, and he started work at Madingley Hall in the autumn of 1756, but he was also riding in every other direction – he was eventually to work in every English county, except Cornwall. His powerful friends, led by William Pitt the Elder (who was masterminding victory in the Seven Years War 1756–63) were keen that Lancelot should be honoured by an appointment to one of the Royal Parks.

Lancelot's Royal Appointment as Master Gardener at Hampton Court was announced in the summer of 1764. He was forty-eight, increasingly successful, and his gross annual income was about £6,000 from fees, though as much as half may have been disbursed to his foremen, who employed local labour. He now found himself

still preferred his saddle horse, and continued his private practice. His sons Lance and Jack were at Eton College.

Lancelot's royal duties were light as the young George III and Queen Charlotte did not use Hampton Court which was already becoming a retirement home for Court favourites. The formal gardens were open daily and the Kitchen

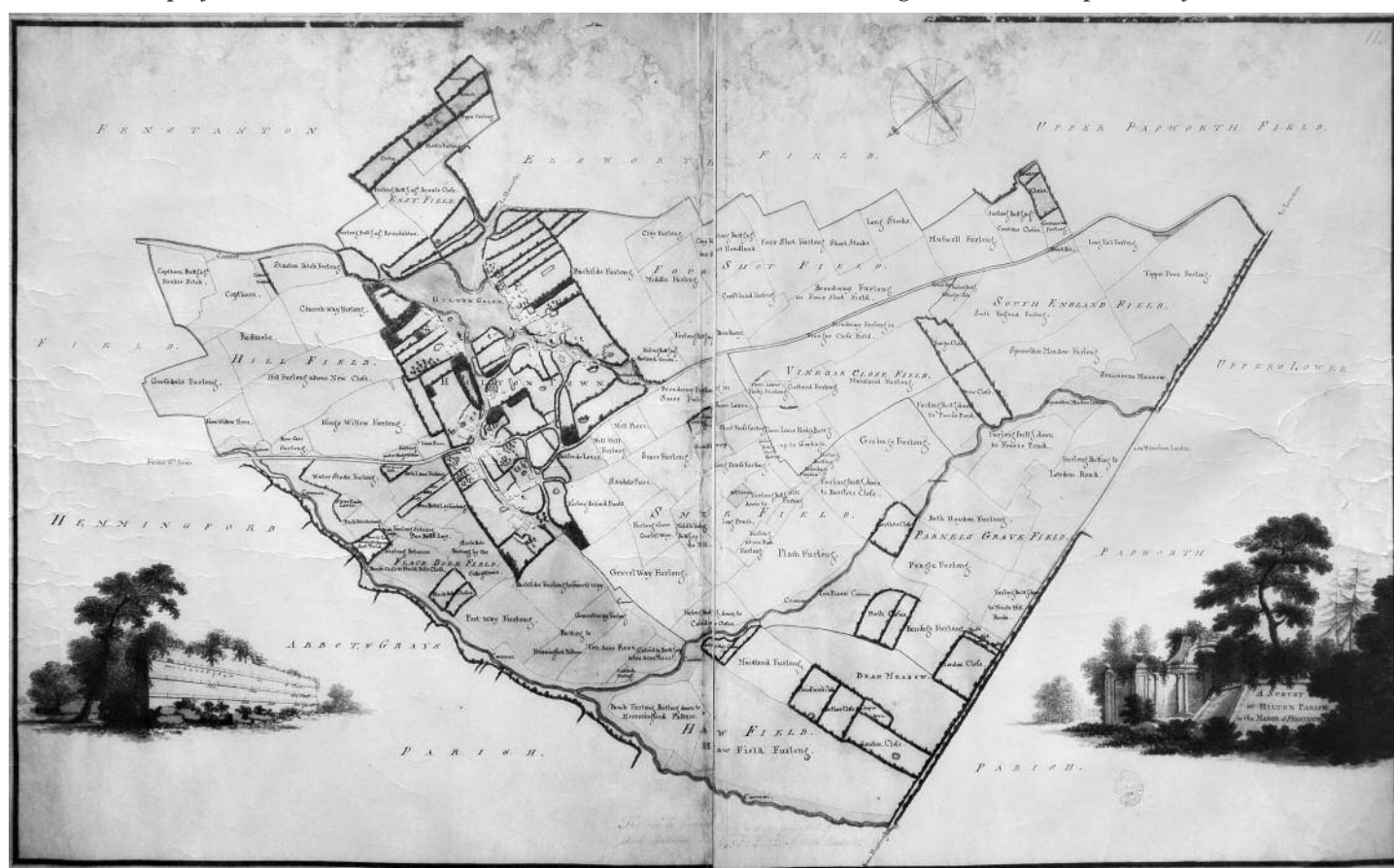


Figure 1. Field Survey Map 'of Hilton Parish in the Manor of Fenstanton', 1778, by Jonathan Spyers for Lancelot 'Capability' Brown, Lord of the Manor since 1767. North is at the bottom left corner, and, on the right, the line of Ermine Street (now A 1198) marks the boundary with Papworth. Hilton Green, where Brown planted 160 elms bought for £4 from James Wood's Huntingdon nursery in February 1770⁷, is shown in the centre of the 'Town'. The heavy dotted lines indicate properties excluded from the Manor's holdings.

Image from Huntingdon Records Office.

with an additional annual pension of £2,000, which was paid quarterly, from the Treasury in Downing Street, without fail until the end of his life and recorded in his own hand in his surviving account book¹. He moved his family from Hammersmith to the Master Gardener's house, a substantial brick villa near the Lion Gates called Wilderness House, but soon complained of its poor condition 'for one who at times am afflicted with an Asthma'². Wilderness House was duly refurbished, he acquired a coach, though

Gardeners grew fruit and vegetables for the royal table; in 1768 Lancelot acquired and planted the cutting from a prolific Black Hamburg grapevine growing at Valentines at Ilford in Essex, which is now famous as the Great Vine. His expertise and interest in fruit growing, learnt in his youth at Kirkharle, never left him, and his magnificent walled fruit garden for Lord Bute at Luton Hoo also dates from this time.

He was travelling farther and faster than ever for tetchy

and argumentative and always-demanding clients. In the autumn of 1764 he made his 'western expedition' by coach to Dorset and Devon, returning via Lord Bruce's at Savernake and Lord Spencer's Wimbledon Park (now mostly given over to lawn tennis). From Luton Hoo Lancelot would cross to Audley End, then race north to Temple Newsam at Leeds; he was soon busy at Blenheim in Oxfordshire, at Broadlands in Hampshire, and in the Staffordshire lake country where he wrote, on 30th July 1766 from Trentham, to Lord Northampton at Castle Ashby, making first mention of 'the Huntingdon estate':- 'if no other person is in treaty with your Lordship I shall be glad to have the refusal of it, your Lordship shall have very little trouble with me upon it - I shall give immediate answer as soon as I know the conditions and have looked it over'³.

He was as good as his word and paid the earl £13,000 in two instalments, allowing a deduction of some £1500 for work done at Castle Ashby. All was completed in the summer of 1767, the earl writing on his copy of the deed, 'I take the Manor of Fen Stanton to belong to Lawrence Brown Taste Esq., who gave Lord Northampton Taste in exchange for it'⁴.

The residents and tenants of Hilton and Fenstanton were left in peace by their new squire, who commissioned surveys of his manor, but these went on at a leisurely pace and were not completed for ten years (Fig. 1). More immediately, in 1769, Lancelot made his Will revealing that the manor was to provide annuities for his wife Biddy and their children, and become the inheritance of his eldest son Lance, whilst Biddy's dowry lands in Lincolnshire were similarly to benefit Jack - 'whom God preserve in his hazardous employment' in the Royal Navy⁵.

Lancelot's 'arrival' as a Cambridgeshire landowner (though he was still firmly based at Wilderness House) prompted the Earl of Sandwich at Hinchingsbrooke, from where he ran the political life of the county as a very tight ship, to suggest he serve as High Sheriff: and serve he did, for there is his name in the list for the year beginning 9th February 1770, in Elizabeth Stazicker's *The Sheriffs of Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire* (2007). How on earth did this frantically busy man, whose days were spent travelling all over England, manage the responsibilities? Part of the answer comes from correspondence between the government colleagues Lords Gower and Sandwich suggesting, 'Brown should be relieved of the burden,' and this relief should come as a favour from Lord Sandwich, 'as it might occasion the beginning of a Huntingdonshire connection

between us'⁶. Lancelot did take part in the Assize Procession and festivities in Cambridge in February of 1770, but otherwise - in league with Lord Sandwich - Lance Brown, aged twenty-two and finishing his law studies at Lincoln's Inn, was nominated as the perfect 'pocket sheriff', and secretary to Lord Sandwich, the prelude to his political career. Surprisingly, it does not seem that Lancelot advised on the landscape of Hinchingsbrooke, even though this would have been a silent commission, with no money changing hands (there are a good number of these); Lord Sandwich also assisted Jack Brown's naval career, in particular his first commission on HMS Savage.

As to Lancelot, so many of his later commissions cluster along the Great North Road, though there is no evidence he stayed at Fenstanton: he did stay at Burghley, for a sociable house party in August 1770, which included the actor David Garrick (his neighbour at Hampton), and he continued all the way home to Northumberland to see his family and work at Alnwick. Brocklesby in north Lincolnshire, Burton Constable and Sledmere in the East Riding, Harewood and Temple Newsam, these all kept him travelling northwards. His Huntingdonshire connection also brought him some intriguing encounters in Cambridge itself, which will be the subject of my next piece.

Jane Brown

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

¹ The Account Book is in the R.H.S's Lindley Library, Vincent Square, London.

² Heath, G., *Hampton Court, the Story of a Village*, eds. White and Heath, Hampton Court Association, 2000, p.86.

³ Hinde, T., *Capability Brown, The Story of a Master Gardener*, 1986, p. 137 ff., deals with Castle Ashby in detail as Hinde had access to the archives, which were subsequently closed.

⁴ Hinde *ibid.*, Stroud, D., *Capability Brown*, 1984, p.109.

⁵ This draft Will [1769] is in Huntingdonshire Record Office.

⁶ Rodger, N.A.M., *The insatiable earl: a life of John Montagu, fourth Earl of Sandwich 1718-1792*, 1993, p.88.

⁷ Drake, J., *Wood & Ingram: A Huntingdonshire Nursery 1742-1950*. Cambridgeshire Gardens Trust, ISBN 978-0-9538542-1-9, p.48.

FEATURED GARDEN: 4 SYLTON CLOSE, GODMANCHESTER

The garden of CGT member Pela Otman has been described as the most exciting (not sure about that!) small garden in Godmanchester. I asked Pela how she has designed and developed her space and what tips she has for creating such an inspirational haven.

What was the state of your garden when you first moved to Sylton Close?

Well, that was 17 years ago. The garden measures 25 x 25 ft with a wall on NW, and when I first arrived it was bordered by 30-ft Leyland cypress 18" apart. They had to go. It was hard work to get rid of the roots. Then there was the builder's rubble. I had to dig every night and get rid of it at the Cow Lane Tip. But it was all definitely worth doing. Things grow well in my garden, while my neighbours can't grow anything because of the rubble.



Figure 1. The garden at 4, Sylton Close at the very start of its re-design.

Photo Pela Otman

So how did you design your garden?

I knew where the sun rose so I needed a seat there. One branch of crossing paths leads you to it (Fig. 1). The paths were installed by somebody else, not me. It's best to spend as much as you can on this. With hindsight, I should have spent much more on the hard landscaping, as some of it is now deteriorating. Paths are a permanent feature and if they are not up to scratch you notice immediately. Between the slabs are ginger plants, thyme and, oh yes, Ajuga, which is a bit of a thug.

I placed mirrors at the ends of the paths to increase the feeling of distance. I also have mirrors on the piers of the back wall. They are covered with a narrow trellis which supports roses: Kathleen Harrop – my favourite; not as prone to blackspot as Zéphirine Drouhin.

I added interest by creating an L-shaped raised bed and, because the ground slopes very slightly (about 10" fall), it is on the same level as my patio next to my house. There's a bird bath which has to be kept topped up with water.

I don't have a lawn, so there was a lot of weeding originally. (I didn't use mulch because blackbirds scatter it everywhere and you are constantly having to top it up.) Now I don't have to weed because it's full of plants.

With so many plants can you remember what you've planted?

I made a list of everything and where I bought it and what it is called and where I put it. But now I've moved everything around so much. It's important to keep these lists up to date, which I don't always do.



Figure 2. The redesigned garden with a view of the mulberry tree sculpture beyond the stone birdbath.

Photo Pela Otman.

How did you develop your planting schemes and did you introduce any other features?

Against the back wall are shrubs and bluebells which are too many for a small garden. There's a tree root which I brought with me that balances on a milk churn (originally green but now black). There is also a sculpture in wood from the mulberry tree at Ramsey Abbey. It's anchored on a square slab and was carved by Richard Bray (Fig. 2).

In winter the garden is in constant shade but snowdrops are becoming established along with cyclamen. Crocus thomasianus is a 'no-no' because it seeds everywhere and fades with each generation. From April to August my paths are filled with tiny little Sisyrinchium.

I would really like a Mediterranean garden but it's so shaded that my lavender rarely flourishes. The right-hand bed is called the Mediterranean bed but more in hope than expectation. I have germander growing up the wall. In the small side passage by the gate, I'm collecting small ferns which have to survive being stood upon.

I love roses and clematis but I'm not very good at pruning. I like Blush Noisette, which is an old shrub, and Rosa Blairii Number 2. At Wisley the best rose was Mortimer Sackler. Mine is lovely but not quite so good as the one at Wisley.

When I started, I wanted to have a range of colour going from white to deep purple. I love delphiniums. I started with three but I cut them in half and put some in pots so I can keep them out of the way of the slugs.

Near my house is a three-legged table carrying a metal bowl with Iris sibirica and Equisetum (I do want a curly one) and I think I will put in the Cologne Mint (*Mentha citrata*) which will provide a scent. There's a lovely tiny creeping Moroccan mint. (Don't let 'Mind-your-own-business' – *Soleirolia soleirolii* – get in.) I can't tell the difference between comfrey, brunnera and digitalis when they come. Can someone help?

Lilies grow in pots outside the conservatory so I can rush out and squash the lily beetles.

Recently a very shady tree has been removed. This means I can buy plants which are not shade loving. Always buy things in flower as I'm so often disappointed when things come up the wrong colour, like my pale blue Ceanothus which has grown and grown and pushed my fence over. My latest project is to install a replacement fence: hit-and-miss. (I've spent the whole of spring digging things out along the length so that it can be installed. I'm painting it black.

What are your favourite plants?

I have a lovely Dierama (*Angel's fishing rods*, a sort of ever-green) but right now I have to pull off all the leaves. Now - The Pilgrim is one of my favourite roses because the blooms are always perfect and the colour fits in with my front garden.

Kathleen Harrop is related to Zéphirine Drouhin but does not get so much black spot and has better flowers. Burgundy Ice is related to Iceberg but a very dark red. Wonderful in bud and flower but goes over to a dirty grey. I have two Thalictrums, one from John Drake: an excellent height for late summer. I also have Aconitum Henryi. Corsican mint (*Menthe requienii*) is a very low growing mint, ideal for pavement cracks, and smells lovely when crushed.

Why did you join CGT?

I was invited to go along and I enjoy visiting interesting and varied gardens often not open to the public, and good company, sometimes over afternoon tea. There is often an oppor-



Figure 3. A warm welcome to tea awaits the casual visitor.

Photo Pela Otman.

tunity to purchase unusual plants. So, being a member of Cambridgeshire Gardens Trust has shown me different gardens and encouraged me to try different plants; and enjoy the really lovely company as a big plus.

Can we visit your garden?

Do you really want to!!!

Many thanks Pela for sharing your lovely garden with us.

Judith Christie

AN INTERVIEW WITH PROF. BEVERLEY GLOVER, DIRECTOR, CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY BOTANIC GARDEN

Julia Weaver, former chair of CGT, visited Professor Beverley Glover, the recently appointed Director of the Cambridge University Botanic Garden, on 28th March 2014. The following is a transcript of her interview with Prof. Glover.

What are your first memories of gardening?

My father was in the RAF and we moved around a lot with his postings, so never developed a long term garden at home when I was a child. This made staying with my Uncle Clarry in a small mining village in north Nottinghamshire, a great pleasure. His whole front garden was full of roses, not even any lawn. The back garden was in two sections, first lawn, but then through a secret gate into an enormous vegetable garden. My memories include getting up early to go out in the garden with him and the smell of the tomatoes in his greenhouse.

Describe how you became interested in botanic gardens.

As an undergraduate at the University of St Andrews in Fife, Scotland we were lucky enough to have our own Botanic Garden in St Andrews. We visited as students and I worked there as a gardener for a summer job. Being the "summer student", whenever visitors asked questions, the staff would send them to me for answers. I became fascinated by the questions that had been provoked by the visitors' experience in the garden and their interaction with the plants. From St Andrews, I also got to know and love the Royal Botanic



Figure 1. Professor Beverley Glover, the current Director of the Cambridge University Botanic Garden.

Garden, Edinburgh, and then when I came to Cambridge, Cambridge University Botanic Garden.

What relevance do you think Botanic Garden has in the modern world?

Enormous relevance today in two special ways. Firstly, its appeal and inspiration to visitors as a fantastic garden; we have up to 220,000 visitors and 10,000 school children a year, providing the opportunity for them to interact with the outdoor space and the plants. Secondly, it is a collection of 8,000 ‘things’ which happen to be plants and trees, in effect a ‘living’ museum of information for research purposes.

Plant sciences are at a pivotal place in history at the moment; the food security challenge is enormous, we are concerned not just with single plants but also with the whole spectrum in all sorts of ways. For example why do many ‘wild’ potato species not suffer from blight in the way that their domestic cousins do? Cambridge University Botanic Garden holds a huge diversity of plant material that is accessible for plant science research.



Figure 2. A riot of colour in the Botanic Garden.

What are your aspirations for Cambridge University Botanic Garden?

Some years ago the University charged the management of the Garden with raising a substantial portion of its running costs, and they did a fantastic job, the visitor numbers and finances are good and the garden is beautifully maintained with healthy and varied plant stock. I would like to maintain this position and add to it by encouraging and making accessible more plant science research opportunities.

The Department of Plant Sciences, University of Cambridge, is a unique centre of learning in the fundamental plant processes that sustain life on earth, using an understanding of molecular mechanisms and ecological systems to inform teaching across the Natural Sciences. The garden is the research and teaching collection for the department and I would like to increase the presence of plant science researchers in the garden both from Cambridge University and from visiting universities. We will soon be appointing to a new academic post, resident in the garden, and we are planning to create some accommodation for visiting researchers to be able to stay in the garden. The new Sainsbury Laboratory on the edge of the garden is already benefiting both parties by bringing independent researchers into closer contact with university researchers and an increased use of the garden as a source of plant material.



Figure 3. Snapdragon.

What are the most exciting developments in plant sciences today?

Recent technological advances have meant that the big questions are starting to get tackled, such as, where did plants come from? 130 million years ago there were no flowering plants and now when you look out of the window they are almost all angiosperms (flowering plants whose ovules are fully enclosed in an ovary). At what point did plants start to have water-proofing or the ability to exchange gas in a dry environment? The technological advances mean that we now have the genomic information to start to answer these questions, even, perhaps within the next ten years.

Your specialist research includes pollination; do you keep bees and what is your most interesting fact about bees?

Yes, we have colonies of bumble bees (*Bombus terrestris*) which are used for pollination in greenhouses for crops such as tomatoes and strawberries – we use them to explore how flowers attract pollinators.

My most interesting fact at the moment is that the bees seem to prefer tomatoes with a virus rather than the healthy ones and we don’t really know why!

Horticulture courses are declining, how can we encourage young people into the profession for the future?

Courses in many areas of plant-based science are declining; horticulture, landscape history, landscape design and plant sciences. Cambridge University is one of the few places left in the country where you can study plant sciences as a final year degree course. When I studied at St Andrews twenty years ago there were six people on the course, sadly now the course does not run at all. The horticultural courses that were run at Milton have now stopped and there are no alternatives locally.



Figure 4. Winter rainfall daisies, Namaqualand, South Africa.

Photo #hamishNIVENPhotography

We have a number of horticultural trainees in the garden; many of the places are taken by career changers, or more experienced people, and we struggle to entice school leavers/16 year olds into the posts. We need to create more opportunities for school leavers to get involved, we need to increase plant biology and horticultural elements in the school curriculum to get them interested early. The Gatsby

Trust funds the 'Science and Plants for Schools' (SAPS) programme at the garden, which creates teaching material for schools to introduce science and plants, including easy practicals and web-based information.

Some of our members carry out research with regards to historic landscapes in Cambridgeshire and are interested in visiting the extensive Cambridge University Botanic Garden library. How can we access it?

The library is open to the public but only on a pre-arranged appointment basis as we don't have a full time librarian. We have recently recruited a new librarian who is very helpful and happy to make arrangements for people to use the library. Please telephone or email enquiries and you will be forwarded to the librarian.

What is your favourite:

Botanic Garden? Cambridge University Botanic Garden (Fig. 2)

Plant? Snapdragon (*Antirrhinum* sp. Fig. 3)

Landscape? Namaqualand, South Africa, and the winter rainfall daisies (Fig. 4).

Julia Weaver

CHRISTMAS LECTURE 2013: WREST PARK – GLORIOUS REVOLUTION TO MAGNIFICENT RESTORATION. DELIVERED BY DR TWIGS WAY

In the very pleasant surroundings of the Garden Room at St. Edmund's College, members of the CGT were treated to a tour de force on the history of one of the most significant gardens in the country, both from the point of view of its integrity and the issues it raises on present day garden restoration. Our speaker, Twigs Way, was just the person to lay this out before us. For she is a garden historian who has specialized in researching the letters of Jemima, Marchioness Grey, an C18 owner of Wrest Park, who wrote to her family about the garden and the alterations taking place. And Twigs is also a consultant in the research and restoration of substantial gardens including Wrest Park, where she has worked in conjunction with English Heritage.

Starting with the acquisition of the property by John Grey in the early C13, the Grey family owned Wrest Park for virtually 800 years, excepting a brief interlude in the C16. The garden that we see today and which is sometimes referred to as "The English Versailles" really began its evolution with the combined benefits of an heiress, Mary Lucas, in 1662 and the backing of the Glorious Revolution in 1688, leading to powerful links with the courts of William and Mary, and Queen Anne. So began the development of the Great Garden with the Long Water and the beautiful Archer Pavilion, the statuary emphasizing the Earl's political affiliations, the parterres, basins and fountains (Fig. 1). But also alongside this formality, the woodland area with its curving paths was designed to produce what the 12th Earl described as a "delicate walk", as the development of the garden continued with a new influx of funds through his second wife.



Figure 1. The Archer Pavilion seen from Wrest House

All this might have been swept away in the middle of the century with the invitation to Capability Brown to join the long list of eminent garden designers who worked on Wrest Park. This came from Jemima, Marchioness Grey, a lady with strong views on garden design and a penchant for the picturesque. It is obvious from the letters quoted to us that Jemima was not very taken by Capability Brown but she recognised his genius and allowed him to delineate and soften the perimeter of the woodland, thus integrating it more successfully into the garden as a whole.

Meanwhile it was she who introduced many eye-catching features of the garden, including the Bath House in 1770

(Fig. 2), – a picturesque fake ruin, the Chinese Temple and Bridge with (perhaps) deference to the Chinese Pagoda designed by Sir William Chambers for Kew Gardens and, amongst other unusual items a Mithraic Altar (Fig. 3).



Figure 2. The Bath House folly.

(Photo Judith Christie)

Apparently, so English Heritage tells us, when Jemima's husband, Philip, was at Cambridge, he and his friends put together a volume of fictional letters describing life in Ancient Greece, which they published privately as 'Athenian Letters'. The Altar was supposedly originally put up by a Greek army officer and dedicated to the Persian sun-god Mithras. It has ancient Greek and Persian characters inscribed upon it – an elaborate intellectual joke – designed to puzzle the visitor then, as it still does today.

The final major phase of design came about from 1833 to 1859 with the great nephew of Jemima, who demolished the old house, set back the new, French-style building by 300 yards, and proceeded to a more formal style of garden once more - but one close to the house, thus deliberately leaving much of the erstwhile garden untouched. From then, with the exception of the introduction of an American Garden, the garden was maintained but left undisturbed. This is one of the key reasons why Wrest Park is such a significant source of study for garden history enthusiasts. It is a story of evolution rather than revolution. So often institutions such as the National Trust or English Heritage have to make diffi-



Figure 3. The Mithraic Altar, looking at the Greek inscription.

cult decisions as to which periods of a garden's history they should dig down to or bring to the fore. Here at Wrest Park the decision was, straightforwardly, to start the restoration of the garden by going back to 1908, when the family leased out their home, and since when no further works have been added.

Restoration has been going on for 7 years now and a fantastic job of work it is. CGT members have the opportunity to visit Wrest Park in the company of Twigs Way to see for themselves this beautiful garden, and hear in greater detail an histoire of an 'English Versailles'. It promises to be a wonderful day.

NB – the date for the visit is 24th July.

Pippa Temple

BOOK REVIEW

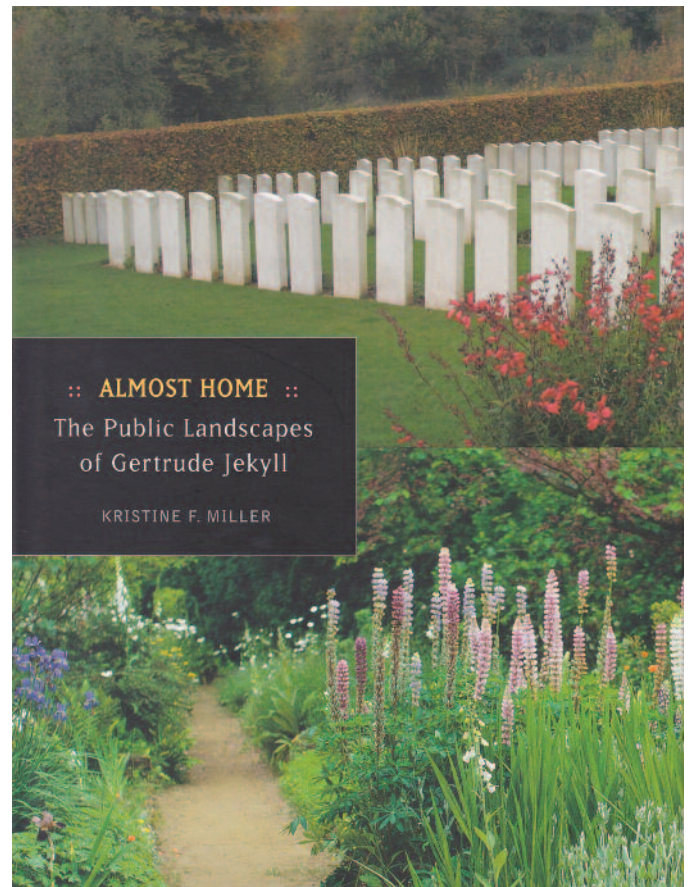
ALMOST HOME: THE PUBLIC LANDSCAPES OF GERTRUDE JEKYLL

The title – *Almost Home* – is attractive and doubly evocative, for over half this book describes Jekyll's planting for the World War 1 cemeteries in France, whilst the over-arching question asks why one 'whose aesthetic approach was so rooted in the domestic' should be chosen to 'create the symbolic language for prominent public works?'

Kristine F. Miller is a Cornell graduate landscape architect (now Professor at the University of Minnesota) who has had the opportunity to 'examine, dissect and digest' the precious originals of the Jekyll drawings in the College of Environmental Design at Berkeley in California (bequeathed there by Beatrix Farrand who rescued them from certain destruction here in the 1940s). Miller's contact with these originals has inspired her wonderful book; her professional analysis, backed by energetic research, and explained with clarity and warmth, brings her reader close to these sensitive places – the King Edward VII Sanatorium at Midhurst, the Godalming memorial to Jack Phillips, the radio operator on the Titanic, Winchester College War Memorial Cloister, as well as Sir Edwin Lutyens's Cemeteries and Sir Herbert Baker's Delville Wood Memorial on the Somme.

Even though the gardens for the Sanatorium implied the message of hope and healing, these are all difficult places; they all have impossible purposes, to assuage a dreadful wrong, to give dignity to sacrifice, to comfort those who mourn, and to bear witness for the future. The complex Sanatorium schemes date from 1907, but all the rest are the work of Gertrude Jekyll's seventh and eighth decades, the ultimate challenge for one whose life had been largely based on her belief 'that the best purpose of a garden is to give delight and to give refreshment of mind, to soothe, to refine, and to lift up the heart in a spirit of praise and thankfulness' [Wood and Garden, 1899].

That elderly lady, toiling in her quiet workroom at Munstead Wood, has found a champion in this young and (I assume) American landscape architect. All designers and



gardeners who have anything to do with landscapes of solace and remembrance in these anniversary years should acquire this book. *Almost Home* is well illustrated and the Jekyll drawings are sensitively reproduced.

The Public Landscapes of Gertrude Jekyll is authored by Kristine F. Miller. Published in 2013 by University of Virginia Press, Charlottesville (Architectura & Natura Press, Amsterdam) 176pp. ISBN: 978 0813 9 3365 8

Jane Brown

A 'LOST' CAMBRIDGESHIRE GARDEN

John Drake used to come regularly to Pampisford and, over tea and cakes, have long discussions on the history of gardens and often added forgotten ones to both editions of *The Gardens of Cambridgeshire*. Sadly, although the discovery of such gardens continues, the teatime talks cannot. Here I present the details of one more. This is partly to illustrate problems that have taxed me for years: the difficulty of dating and interpreting such gardens. But it is also written in memory of a great gardener and a good friend.

Westoe was a small medieval hamlet in the far north-western corner of Castle Camps parish, close to the village of Bartlow, and little is known of its early history. Certainly by the early 17th century there was only a house there, called Westoe Lodge, of some size, perhaps a modest country house. The earliest map of the estate of 1808 depicts a remarkable park and garden which, if it had survived, surely would have been one of the most fascinating in Cambridgeshire (Fig. 1). The map shows a house, comprising a long east-west range in the north-eastern part of an irregular shaped park and garden, covering some 28 acres. Oddly, no access to the house is shown. Behind it was a long rectangular area, probably then a lawn, with a circular pond within it and terminating at a curved, double line of trees. Along the western side of the lawn was a long narrow strip of land bounded on the west by what appears to have been a ha-ha. A path ran along this strip which widened at its northern

end where there was another path or a planting bed. A similar wide strip matched this one at the northern end of the eastern side of the lawn.

To the east again, extending northwards alongside the end of the house was an area of woodland. This was cut through by a central ride from which ran paths. Four curving ones terminated in circular glades, and six straight ones reached the external boundaries. A building of some kind stood at the northern end. This woodland appears to be later than the side of the lawn to the west, seemingly having overlaid and thus destroyed an earlier pathway identical to that on the west of the lawn. To the south of the lawn and the wood were two rectangular-hedged enclosures, both divided into strips, either plantings or paths. The western area had an apsidal southern end and its side boundaries were aligned exactly with those of the lawn to the north. This suggests that originally it was part of the lawn. There were three buildings in the eastern area. Both enclosures are best interpreted as kitchen gardens.

The rest of the map shows parkland, divided into two parts, each coloured differently. The inner part contains the house, outbuildings, lawn and wood, all within a curved boundary that on the south and west sides is merely a line on the map. The northern and eastern perimeters are shown as hedged, being part of the boundary of larger, roughly L-shaped parkland that included the kitchen gardens. Both

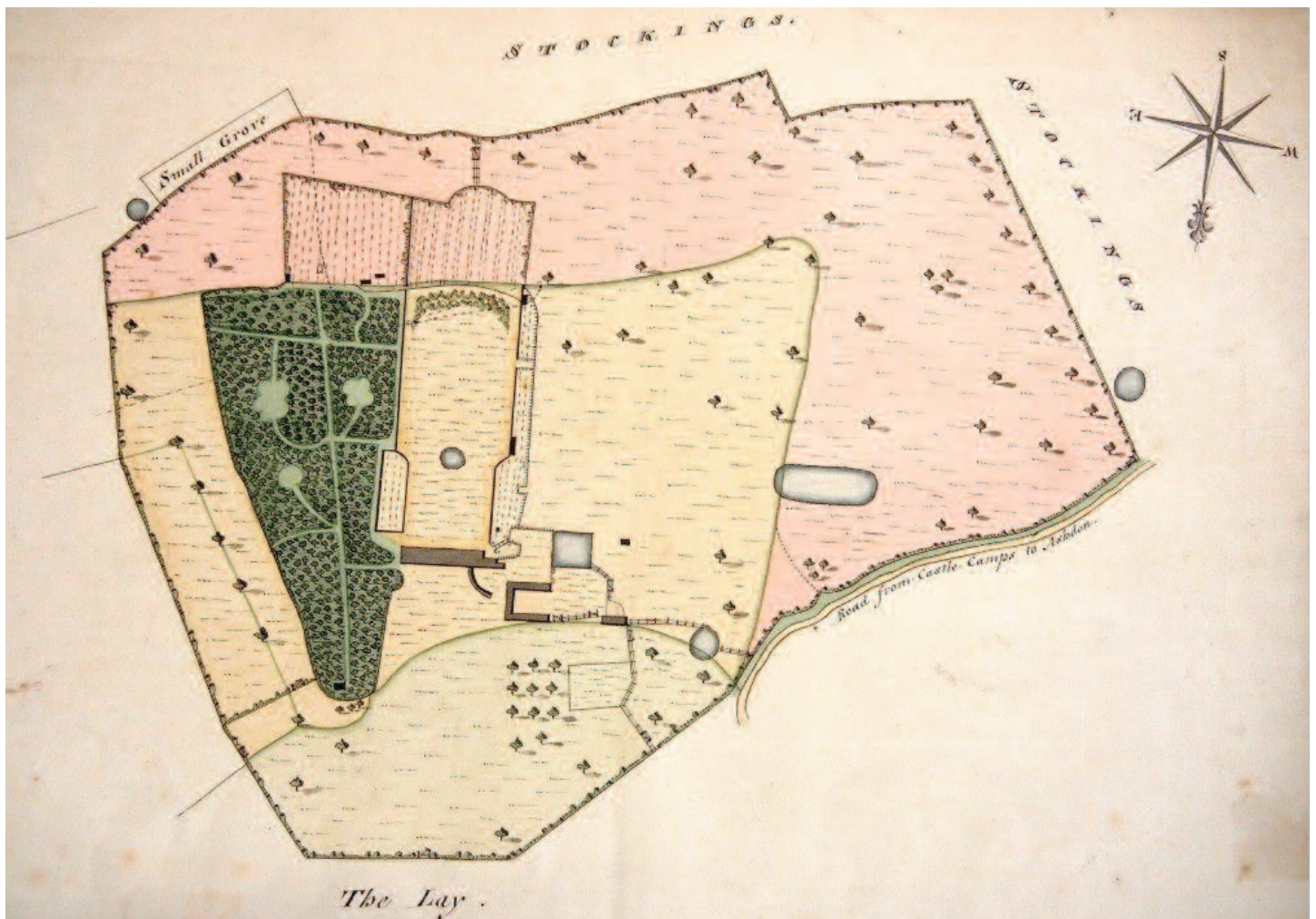


Figure 1. Plan of Westoe Lodge 1808 by J. Bransby (London Metropolitan Archives, reproduced by permission of The Governors of Sutton's Hospital). Note North is to the bottom.

parts had trees scattered across them and there were also two straight lines of trees and a further nine formed into a square. There were ponds, a square one west of the house, a circular one to the north-west and an elongated one lying across the boundary between the two parts of the park.

It is difficult to date and to interpret all this, except that it represents more than one phase of garden and park construction. A possible sequence may be suggested. The parkland of 28 acres is likely to be that of 26 acres recorded in 1667. The first observable addition was a formal garden laid out south of the house, extending as far as the apsidal end of the later western kitchen garden, and bounded by paths possibly on raised terraces. If so, the resulting overall plan would have been not dissimilar to the now-restored garden at Hampton Court and thus of the 1680s or 1690s. Then, early in the 18th century the wooded area was planted, its rides and glades being typical of that time. Its creation involved the destruction of the southern part of the eastern boundary of the formal garden. Some geometric tree planting may also have taken place. During the later 18th century the park was made less formal with scattered trees, the ha-ha created and the kitchen gardens constructed, the western one by curtailing the formal garden that probably was grassed over.

The making of the early park at Westoe cannot be attributed to any particular person but its origins may be of 16th or early 17th-century date. The formal arrangement of the late 17th century may coincide with the ownership by members of the Nevilles of Leicestershire. Why and how the Nevilles, a large and influential family, acquired Westoe is not clear but it was in their hands by 1667. In 1671 William Neville of Holt sold the estate to a relative, Clement Neville (d. 1683), who certainly enlarged the estate, a process that could have included the creation of the formal garden. On his death Clement left Westoe to his nephew Sir Thomas Neville and it is possible that the latter made the garden.

In 1711 Sir Thomas sold Westoe to Elizabeth Wenyeve, spinster daughter of Sir George Wenyeve of Brettenham, Suffolk. She certainly lived at Westoe, for she was buried in Bartlow church and left the estate to her brothers on her early death in 1728. Whether she was responsible for the wood, or it was the work of her brothers, is not known but in 1737 the estate was sold to a Thomas Carter. He sold it in 1748 to Richard Crop, sheriff of Cambridgeshire, when the park was said to be 32 acres in extent. The kitchen garden, ha-ha and the more relaxed landscape of the park may have been the work of either Carter or Crop. On Crop's death in 1796 Westoe descended to his great-nephew, Charles Long. It was Long, MP and later first Lord Farnborough, who had the

map of the estate made in 1808. However he lived in some style in Kent and is unlikely ever to have lived at Westoe, which perhaps explains why, by 1806, it was leased to Benjamin Keene.

Keene was the son of Edmund Keene, bishop of Ely (1770-81), who owned the main manor in neighbouring Linton in his own right. In the 1770s the bishop had demolished the Linton manor house of Catley and thus, when his son inherited, he had nowhere to live. As a result he leased Westoe and made it his home. In 1825 Benjamin Keene bought Westoe, leaving it to his son on his death in 1837. It was presumably at some time after 1808 and perhaps more likely after 1825 that Keene, or his son, created a new park there. Neither house nor park lasted long for between 1851 and 1861 Keene's son demolished the house and sold all of the estate.

No illustration of the house has been found and the only evidence for the new park is on the OS 1st edn 6-inch plan of 1886, after its abandonment (Fig. 2). This shows that the previous layout had been almost completely obliterated and replaced with a simple, smaller, rectangular park of some 13 acres, bounded by hedges and copses. A building perhaps on the site of an earlier stable lay in the centre of the northern side. The interior was planted with scattered trees and three of the four former ponds remained. Today only the outline of this park survives bounded by hedges and mature trees. Most of the interior is cultivated but one rectangular pond remains. Westoe is another example of a park that is neither closely dated nor understood. It would repay further research.

Christopher Taylor



Figure 2. Six-inch plan (reproduced from the 1886 Ordnance Survey map). North is to the top and the rectangular estate, enclosing three ponds, has a long side of some 360yds (327m).

THE CGT EDUCATION PROGRAMME

May 2014

The five-year education programme was launched in September 2010, so as to have a structured approach for communicating the work of the Trust and educating young citizens and potential future members. We report below an updated summary of the activities under the programme. First of all, here is a summary of the five programmes.

1. CGT Little Seedlings

Formed for Primary School children aged 4–12 years; this programme is a cash grant for **education**-related activities in **horticulture** or **arboriculture** and is administered via schools.

2. CGT Bright Futures

For Middle School children aged 12–16, now in two parts.

- i. Sponsorship of an **agricultural** class at the County Show at Wimpole Hall run by Young Farmers.
- ii. Sponsorship of a **botanical** event at the Cambridge University Science Week.

3. CGT Research Grant

Originally formed for further education students over 18 studying **Garden History** related subjects in **Cambridgeshire**; it is a cash grant to support a research project on a subject of CGT's choosing. For 2014–15 we have widened the scope of this research to be Garden History related; for example, to include social history, landscape and art, and lowered the age to 16 to encourage entrants from sixth form students as well as those in further education. The project is to be located in Cambridgeshire. It can be presented as an essay, a report or multi-media format.

4. CGT Garden Apprentice

This is open to a person of any age group currently on a garden-related apprenticeship scheme in Cambridgeshire, offering free membership to Cambridgeshire Gardens Trust for five years and providing access to a network of people and information to support them in their careers.

5. CGT Day Lectures

A series of one-day lectures, or Study Days; designed primarily for over 18's, these aim to raise funds to support the other four education programmes. Lectures will focus upon a theme or period of garden history.

Two school projects are currently active under Little Seedlings. The Garden Club at Newborough School in the north of the county have redesigned an area, from where their former swimming pool has been removed, into an outdoor classroom. Pots are to be filled with plants and small trees to attract birds and insects. With logs for seating and surrounded by trees, the area will provide a welcoming and flexible addition to the indoor classrooms for a range of activities.

Fen Drayton Garden Club are building a Barefoot Sensory Path using a range of finishes to provide tactile stimulation from a variety of surfaces and textures. An ingenious idea

for those little feet – as it is not a school for fakirs, we expect that coals and spikes will not form part of the final design!

After three successful scarecrow competitions for Little Seedlings, we are moving towards an environmental activity or challenge which primary schools may already be involved with. Outcomes will be judged on learning and development in an external environment where awareness of nature and its value is the theme. More detail in the next newsletter.

For our Bright Futures we are once again sponsoring a class for the Young Farmers' Section of Cambridgeshire County Show at Wimpole Home Farm on 1 June 2014.

We are seeking an over-16 student in school or further education to sponsor for a project on a Garden History related research project in Cambridgeshire. Please do let us know if you know of someone who might qualify. We look forward to projects presented as an essay, a report or a multi-media format such as photographs and videos and Ann Colbert would be pleased to forward a flier on this.



Alice Appleton, the new CGT-sponsored garden apprentice at Robinson College.

Our new apprentice, Alice Appleton, is based at Robinson College under the supervision of Head Gardener, Guy Fuller. Alice has kindly sent us an introduction, reproduced below, and we extend a warm welcome to her and look forward to hearing of her progress in future editions.

"My name is Alice Appleton; I am 22 years old and have been working as an apprentice at Robinson College since September 2013. I had spent the last 4 years working with children but after volunteering for a few months alongside a professional gardener in Trumpington, I realised it was a career I wished to pursue further and it has not been disappointing! Every day I am surrounded by beautiful nature and very experienced staff who have taught me many new skills. I have already been able to achieve my tractor license from working here and am hoping next month to get my PA1 and PA6 groundsman training in the safe use of pesticides. I am extremely grateful that the Cambridgeshire Gardens Trust has offered to sponsor me for my two years

here at Robinson College. There is so much for me to learn and this sponsorship will help to open up more training opportunities, visits or books that can help me with my study. I am hoping to continue my learning after these two years and have been looking into applying for a position on the Botanic Gardens Trainee Technician Scheme, offered once every year. I think that would be an amazing opportunity for me to expand my horticultural knowledge and experience after my apprenticeship has finished. In the meantime I am very excited about my work here and intend to learn as much as I possibly can!"

The 2014 Study Day was held at Hemingford Abbots Village Hall on 22nd March. The theme for the day was the centenary, impact and legacy of the Great War and we had four truly excellent speakers to address to the topic. A report of the day will follow in due course. Our AGM on Saturday 25 October 2014 will be held in Fen Drayton Village Hall with lunch. We will complement last year's talk by Roger Mitchell on *The Fate of the Country House Post War* with a presentation by Dr Twigs Way on *The Country House Garden goes to War*.

Looking ahead to the Christmas Lecture on Friday 5 December, this year at Lucy Cavendish College, Dr Barbara Simms will consider *The Search for Garden Style in the early Twentieth Century*. This should be a fascinating presentation taking in Europe as well as key gardens in the United Kingdom.



The first quadrille at Almacks, from The Reminiscences and Recollections of Captain Gronow (1850).

Our Study Day in March 2015, to be held in Hemingford Abbots Village Hall, will focus on the Regency period, and the visits throughout the year will follow as appropriate.

We are now starting to organise grants for 2015/16. If you have contacts with any of our outreach areas such as schools or gardens that could benefit from the education programme please contact Ann Colbert at acolbert25@btinternet.com. We are, of course, always ready to welcome volunteers. If you would like to help, for example with arranging our monthly visits or with young people's projects, please contact Ann as above. We look forward to hearing from you!

Ann Colbert

Activities to date and future plans

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Theme	20th Century Gardens in East Anglia	Cambridgeshire Trees	Botanical Collections	Great War Centenary	The Regency Era
1. Little Seedlings	Fen Drayton Primary School Sunflower project Scarecrow Competition Ramsey Walled Garden	Abbots Ripton Hall Garden Show 'Grow a rainbow'	Northborough Primary School Outdoor Learning Centre Fen Drayton School Sensory Walk		
2. Bright Futures	Cambridge County Show 'Identify the Vegetable'	Cambridge County Show - <i>cancelled</i>	Cambridge County Show	Cambridge County Show	
3. Research Grant					
4. Garden Apprentice		Robinson College apprentice	Robinson College apprentice	Robinson College apprentice	
5. Study Day Lectures	20th Century Gardens in East Anglia	Arcadia in Arden: what future for our trees?	23 March: Botanical Collections	22 March: Great War centenary and legacy	

Finances to date and future commitments

Programme	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
1. Little Seedlings	- £50	-£250	-£450	-£400 (prov.)	
2. Bright Futures	-£375	-£50	-£50	-£30	
3. Research Grant	0	0	0	0	
4. Garden Apprentice	0	-£300	-£300	-£300	-£300 (prov.)
5. Study Day Lectures	+£100	+£250	+£3	+£196	
Total	-£325	-£350	-£797	-£534 (prov.)	

PROGRAMME OF VISITS & EVENTS 2014

Our theme for 2014 is the centenary, impact and legacy of the Great War

MAY	13 Tues	2:00pm	Visit to Guanock House, Guanock Gate, Sutton St Edmund PE12 OLW, near Wisbech. Arne Maynard design garden, herbaceous, knot, roses, kitchen garden. Tour and tea. Members £6, guests £8.
JUNE	18 Weds	2:00pm	Visit to Clare College gardens and The Backs with Dr David Brown. Members £4, guests £6, to include coffee/tea.
JULY	13 Sun	1:00pm 2:00pm	Visit to Market Square, Huntingdon, Thinking Soldier war memorial by Lady Scott. Hinchingsbrooke House and gardens. House tour, Japanese garden presentation and tea. Members £6, guests £7, concessions £4.
	24 Thurs	11:00am	Visit to Wrest Park, Beds. To follow up the 2013 Christmas Lecture. Cost with group tour led by Dr Twigs Way: members £12.50, guests £15.00. Concessions & refreshments available.
AUGUST	12 Tues	10:30am 2:30pm	Visit to Audley End Walled Garden and Kitchen Gardens. Entry, inc. house tour, from 12.00. Members £13.50, guests £15.00, concessions £12.00. Refreshments available (extra). Miriam Pender Garden, Newport, Essex CB11 3TT.
SEPT.	18 Thurs	11:00am 3:00pm	Visit to Dullingham House. Tour of Repton garden: herbaceous, walled garden, claire-voie, bowling green, heuchera collection. Members £5.00, guests £6.00, includes coffee on arrival. Histon Road Cemetery, Cambridge.
OCT.	8 Weds	11:00am	Visit to Burghley House: garden & landscape tours with Head Forester. Members £15.00, guests £16.00; inc. coffee but lunch extra. (NB min. 20 pers., max. 30 pers.)
	25 Sat	2:00pm	AGM at Fen Drayton village hall. Display of WWI photographs and memorabilia from members. Contact Ann on 01487 822591 (or acolbert25@btinternet.com) for more details. Speaker Dr Twigs Way, 'The Country House Garden goes to war'. Lunch available from 12:30pm. Nominal charge for lunch.
DEC.	5 Fri	10:00am	Christmas Lecture at Lucy Cavendish College, Cambridge CB3 0BJ. Speaker Dr Barbara Simms, 'The Search for Garden Style in the early Twentieth Century'. To include seasonal refreshments.

Tickets for 2014 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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