



CAMBRIDGESHIRE GARDENS TRUST

NEWSLETTER No. 41 November 2016

PRESIDENT

THE LORD FAIRHAVEN

PATRONS

Lord and Lady De Ramsey
Lady Nourse
Mrs D. Astor
Lady Proby
Dr J. Parker
Mr C. Vane Percy
Mrs Jane Brown
Prof. B. Glover

COUNCIL OF MANAGEMENT

Chair	David Brown	Vice-Chair.....	Twigs Way
Secretary	Mark Wilkinson	Education	Ann Colbert
Treasurer	Jane Sills	Education	Sarah Hundleby
Membership	Jane Sills	Conservation.....	Mark Wilkinson
Research.....	Judith Christie	Events Secretary ...	Ann Colbert
Research.....	Bridget Flanagan	Publicity	Miranda Pender
Council member.	Pippa Temple		

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

AT THE beginning of September Cambridgeshire Gardens Trust (CGT) hosted the first annual general meeting (AGM) and annual conference of the newly formed Gardens Trust (GT) at Robinson College, Cambridge. Due to the hard work of many CGT members, especially Ann Colbert, Jane Sills, Judith and Phil Christie, Julia Weaver and Pippa Temple, the weekend was a great success. The main conference event was opened with a welcome to delegates from our President, The Lord Fairhaven, and a buffet reception. Steffie Shields then talked on *Rivers real and illusory – Brown's handling of water in the landscape*. Steffie's passion for all things Brownian was further lit up by her excellent photography and she demonstrated how Brown was a master of

not only drainage and lake formation but also of creating water supply to the house. His innovative use of evolving pumping technology illustrates once again how he combined beauty and utility so effectively (Fig. 1).

On the previous day those arriving early for the GT New Research Symposium, convened and chaired by Patrick Eyres, had had the opportunity to visit Chippenham Park, guided by Twigs Way. This remarkable site was worked on by Brown's competitor, William Emes, and by Brown's associate, Samuel Lapidge, after Brown's death. The owner of the park in the late seventeenth century was Admiral Edward Russell, one of the Immortal Seven, signatories of the invitation to William of Orange to assume the combined thrones in 1688. To top that,



Photograph courtesy of Steffie Shields

Figure 1. View across the lake at Grimsthorpe, Lincolnshire showing the Cistern House to the upper right.

the following year he was the hero who led the naval engagement at La Hogue, which decimated the French fleet and effectively ended the plans of James II to re-take the throne. He was elevated as Earl of Orford in 1697 but unfortunately, after his death, the estate fell into disrepair until John Tharp, who had made a fortune from his Jamaican plantations, bought it in 1791. It was he who brought in Emes and then Lapidge in the 1790s. The current owner has undertaken substantial



Dr Patrick Eyres, editor of the New Arcadian Journal, convenor of the GT New Research Symposium and Saturday morning speaker.

improvements in recent years to regenerate the garden and we enjoyed a beautiful sunny afternoon there.

Saturday got off to a flying start with a thoroughly researched and informative presentation by Patrick Eyres on *The Politics and Patriotism of Capabilities: Lancelot Brown at Wimpole and elsewhere*. By reference to various sites Patrick showed us how the creation of the parks of a time are directly connected to contemporary events. For instance, the American Revolutionary War (which began as unrest over taxation in the 1760s) is usefully considered as a civil war which divided British opinion on both sides of the Atlantic. Brown's friend and former Cobham's Cub, Pitt the Elder, opposed the excessive taxation and the use of military force to quell unrest, as did many of Brown's clients, including Philip Yorke at Wimpole. Patrick Eyres showed how the creation of the Gothick Folly, designed by Sanderson Miller in the 1750s but executed by Brown in the late 1760s, can be seen as part of an expression of resistance to the hawkish Court of George III by reference to the *true rust of the Baron's Wars*. All good thought-provoking stuff to send us off to the site itself via a very special visit to Brown's memorial at Fenstanton!



Gilly Drummond, stained glass artist Sarah Hunt and CGT Research Coordinator Judith Christie in Fenstanton Church Centre for the unveiling of the new Brown memorial window.

At Fenstanton the local schoolchildren have designed a new Brown memorial stained glass window. This project, conceived by Judith Christie, has been funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and taken forward by Jill Donnelly with financial support from Huntingdon, regional and national DFAS. Sarah Hunt, a local stained glass artist, has supervised and guided the children from Fenstanton and Hilton Primary School. The completed work was unveiled by Gilly Drummond following lunch in the Church Hall and a glass of bubbly, courtesy of the GT Historic Landscape Project coordinator, Linden Groves.

Wimpole is well-known to CGT members and we were fortunate enough to have Alison Moller's excellent talk on its history only last year. Alison wrote an article for the conference brochure which provides a good overview of the changes there. In Wimpole we have a particularly fine example of a park containing multiple historic overlays to form a palimpsest. I have visited this park many times and every time I am struck by new features and new insights.

Returning to Robinson College, there was a pre-dinner champagne reception opened by Steve Trudgill, Chair of the Robinson College Gardens Committee, and funded by the college in recognition of the close cooperation between CGT and the Robinson Head Gardener, Guy Fuller. We owe Steve and Guy many thanks for all their help in making the weekend such a success. After the conference dinner the CGT Vice-Chair, Twigs Way, introduced (with characteristic verve!) Tom



Prof. Tom Williamson, Landscape Group head at the University of East Anglia, landscape archaeologist and Saturday evening speaker.

Williamson's talk on *The Capability Men: Lancelot Brown in context*. It is a credit to Tom's resilience and 'show must go on' spirit that he managed to produce one of his memorable deliveries despite being in acute pain and dosed up on painkillers. Thank you, Tom, you left us with lots of original and provocative ideas about the historical context within which the work of Brown and his many contemporary improvers can be understood more fully.

On the concourse near the Umney Theatre (which was an excellent venue for talks) were the various bookstalls, including the CGT table with the new book by Charles Malyon, *A selection of Cambridge College Gardens in the 21st Century*. This is a very useful addition to the list of CGT publications and is beautifully bound and illustrated – if you have not yet purchased a copy you can get one at the CGT AGM on Saturday 12th November. [This year we are breaking with tradition and will have the AGM and talk first, beginning at 10:30am, followed by lunch. This should allow everyone to travel in daylight. Jane Sills will be talking to us about what has been



Group photo of the CB300 conference delegates in front of the Old Schools' archway at Madingley Hall.

happening at the Ramsey Walled Garden, including the new glasshouses there.]

Elsewhere, Steffie Shields' new book, *Moving Heaven & Earth, Capability Brown's Gift of Landscape* was on sale, as was my own book with Tom Williamson, *The Capability Men – Landscape Revolution in Eighteenth-Century England*. A range of other books produced by other County Gardens Trusts on their Brown sites were also available. What a wealth of information has been disseminated on Brown and his times in this tercentenary year!

On the final day of the conference we visited Madingley Hall, now the home of the University of Cambridge Institute of Continuing Education. Richard Gant, the Head Gardener, and Twigs Way guided groups around the grounds which have had four main phases of change. A late seventeenth-century geometric layout is illustrated by Kip and Kniff in their *Britannia Illustrata* of 1707. Lancelot Brown was there in 1756 removing the geometric features, filling up basins and water features and making the park more naturalistic in character. By 1905 the estate was in the hands of Colonel Harding, who again re-worked the grounds; this time reflecting the Edwardian Italianate taste. He re-introduced a terrace and formal topiary to the north terrace along with new avenue tree planting on the drive and a short walk through an avenue of horse chestnuts towards the lake. Finally, the more recent educational use of the site by the University has brought with it new buildings, new plantings and, in particular, a very interesting collection of plants within the walled garden. After lunch at Madingley we returned to Cambridge and there was a tour of 'The Backs' with much discussion of what Brown proposed there.

As well as being a very enjoyable weekend it is my pleasure to report that CGT have made a handsome (and much-needed!) profit from hosting the GT conference. This should protect the Trust from further cuts and allow investment in research and recording. Pippa Temple has given freely of her time in progressing arrangements for the conference but must now step down from the committee. We thank Pippa for all her work and know that she will continue to contribute to the research group activities. It is surprising how time flies by with increasing speed. I am now at the end of my three-year tenure of the Chair and will step down at the coming AGM. Hopefully, these three years have seen CGT through the turbulence of the AGT-GHS merger and the hard work of hosting the new organisation's first national conference. It has also, thankfully, put the Trust on a sounder financial footing and I am delighted to be able to hand over while the accounts are in good health. It has been a stimulating time and I have very much enjoyed getting to know new people. After such a busy CB300 year, with the new book published and the conference successfully delivered I feel ready to spend more time at my house in Scotland, enjoying time with my grandchildren and catching up with my day job! I wish more good things for the future for the Trust and its members in 2017!

... and do not forget the Christmas Lecture. This year we are at King's College, Cambridge, and the talk will be given by David Jacques on *Capability Brown at Home: busy running his family, a Royal Garden and his nation-wide business*. I look forward to seeing you there.

David Brown
CGT Chair

THE FOSTER FAMILY, BROOKLAND HOUSE AND THEIR LOST GARDEN IN CAMBRIDGE

This is the story of the 19C Cambridge family of Richard Foster, a bank, a house and their lost garden.

FOR many years, like many observant Cambridge residents, I have admired Lloyds Bank in Sidney Street with the name Fosters' Bank carved above the original entrance doors. By a strange coincidence, as part of the 'Open Cambridge' scheme in September 2015, I visited Brooklands, currently the base of Historic England and the English Heritage Trust, two hundred years after the Foster family had founded Fosters' Bank in Cambridge. During the exploration of the house built by Richard Foster, it became obvious that there is sufficient, surviving evidence to attempt a description and recording of the family's lost garden.

THE TOPOGRAPHY OF CAMBRIDGE IN 1800 AND THE IMPACT OF ENCLOSURE

Agriculture was an important part of the town's economy until the early 19C enclosures of its two Open Fields; the West Field and the East or Barnwell Field. The latter field to the east and south of the historic town formed a wide arc from Jesus Green, crossing the Newmarket Road, to Coe Fen, just to the west of the Trumpington Road. The landholding and farming systems of these two fields restricted their use for non-agricultural purposes and the fields were effective barriers to the town's expansion. By 1800 there had been very limited building along these two main roads entering the town. Views of the town

would have differed little from David Loggan's *Prospect of Cambridge from the East and West* in his *Cantabrigia Illustrata*, 1688 (Fig. 1). The line between urban and rural life was a fine one, with townsmen and colleges holding land in these open fields. The first census of 1801 recorded a population of 9,276, mostly living in the historic centre of Cambridge, which served as a market town and inland port providing administrative services for the county and other services for the university. The extended family of Foster was among the elite of businessmen who dominated the affairs of the borough, together with Burleigh, Finch, Humphrey and Panton. Some served as mayors, magistrates, even candidates for parliamentary election. No doubt these wealthy, middle-class townsmen welcomed the 1801 and 1807 Inclosure Acts and subsequent awards which allocated substantial plots of land to many of them. They wished to escape residence in the closely confined, insanitary and unhealthy conditions of the historic centre, and their developments relieved the congestion, extended the growth of the borough into the Barnwell Field, and increased Cambridge's prosperity. Burleigh made impact in the area of Newmarket Road, Humphrey at Maids Causeway and Clarendon Street, and Panton in New Town, beyond Spital End (Lensfield Road). The coming of the railway in 1845 increased employment and promoted the rapid development of housing to

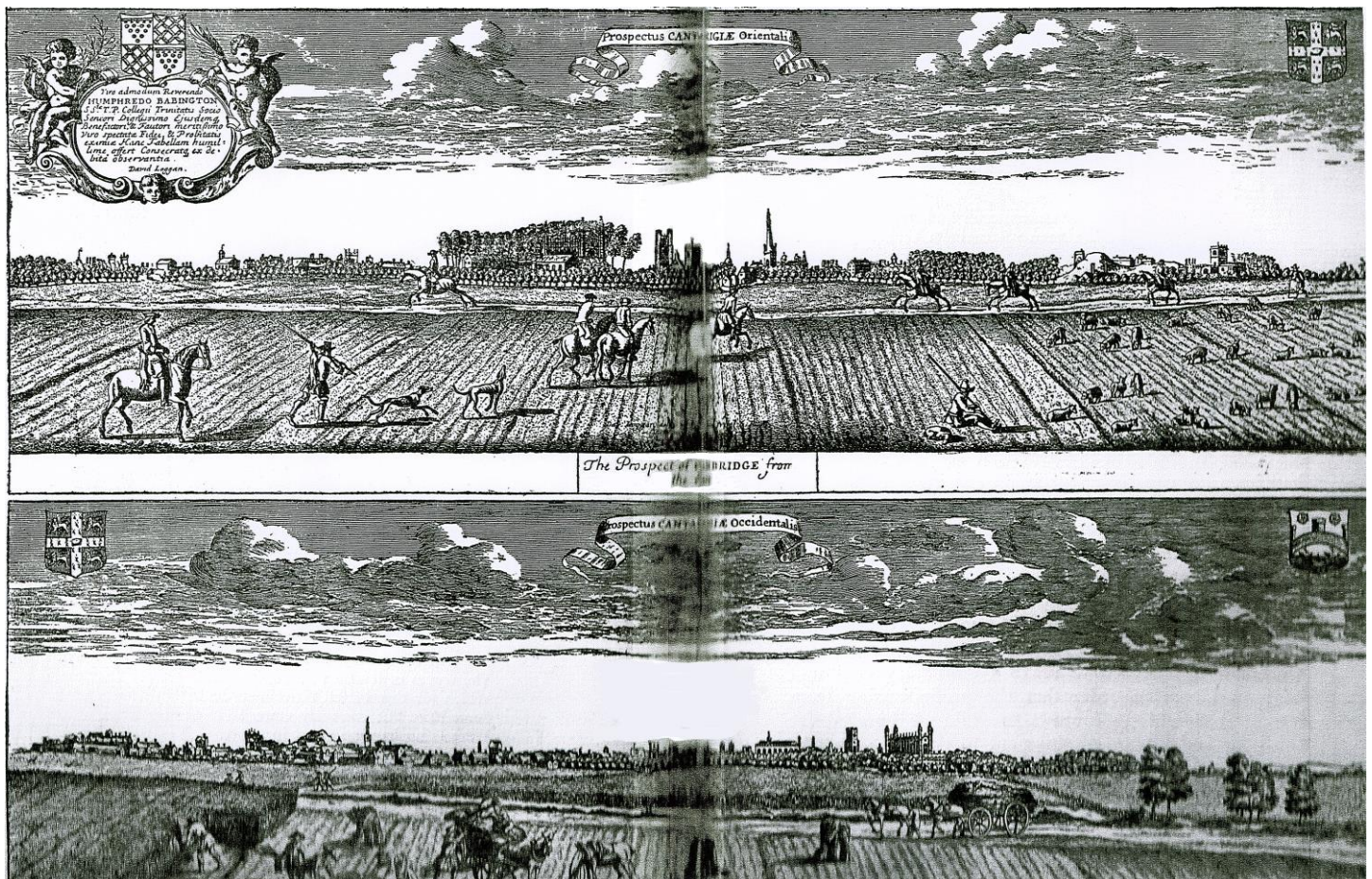


Fig. 1. Open Fields to east and west of Cambridge. From David Loggan's *Prospect of Cambridge from the East and West*, 1688.

the east and south in the Barnwell Field. Growth and movement of population into this field is shown in the 1841 and 1851 census returns, while the riverside parish of St Clements showed a decline in numbers. The 1835 Municipal Corporations Act had created five electoral wards from the numerous parishes of the borough with their scattered boundaries: East Barnwell, West Barnwell, Market, Trinity and St Andrews. Already the enclosure awards had led to many changes to the topography of Cambridge.

THE FOSTER FAMILY OF BANKERS, MILLERS AND LANDOWNERS

Richard Foster Senior (1759-1842) purchased a substantial plot of land, a mile to the south of the historic centre, in 1825 from James Burleigh. It was a peripheral part of the land which had been allocated to this carrier and prolific developer by the 1807 Barnwell Inclosure Award. Richard Foster of Thompson's Lane in the crowded parish of St Clements together with his brother Ebenezer, some 18 years younger, had founded Cambridge's second bank, Foster and Foster (later Fosters') at 55 Bridge Street, opposite Jordan's Yard, in 1815 (today part of St John's College car park). By 1836 their bank moved to 14 Trinity Street, a prestigious site and formerly The Turk's Head Coffee House, later Matthew's Café (Fig. 2). Finally Alfred Waterhouse, architect of the dominant building of Gonville and Caius College adjacent to the Senate House, was commissioned



Fig. 2. Fosters' Bank in 14, Trinity Street, Cambridge.

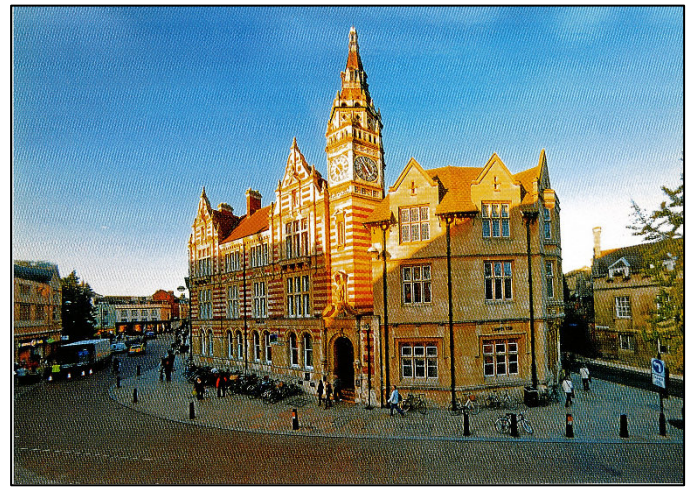


Fig. 3. Fosters' Bank at 1-5 Sidney Street, Cambridge.

to build a new Fosters' Bank at 1-5 Sidney Street, 1889-91 (Fig. 3). It is equally dominant, whether approached from Petty Cury or from St Andrew's Street. In 1898 Fosters' was amalgamated with the Capital and Counties Bank and finally absorbed by Lloyds Bank in 1918. The Fosters had authorised Waterhouse to "spare no expense". There is a tiled Romanesque interior, the flooring of the entrance hall and banking hall is of marble mosaic, and the woodwork is Spanish mahogany and walnut. Fosters' was one of the larger Victorian banks and issued their own bank notes. By 1900 the Foster family owned three mills: they had purchased the King's Mill on the Mill Pool in 1842 and in 1898 they had Fosters Mill (later Spillers and in 2000 Rank Hovis) built on a site adjacent to Cambridge Railway Station. There are eight portraits of Fosters in the Cambridgeshire Collection, including those of Richard Foster Snr (Fig. 4a) and Richard Foster Jnr (1787-1859; Fig. 4b).



Cambridgeshire Collection, Cambridge Central Library.

Fig. 4a. Richard Foster Sr (1759-1842).

This prestigious family of Cambridge businessmen aspired to the status of gentlemen landowners. Richard Foster Snr, who purchased the plot from James Burleigh, referred in his Will of 1831 to a "new built" messuage in which he lived. This house called Brookland, adjacent to Brookland Farm, was built soon



Cambridgeshire Collection, Cambridge Central Library.

Fig. 4b. Richard Foster Jnr (1787-1859)

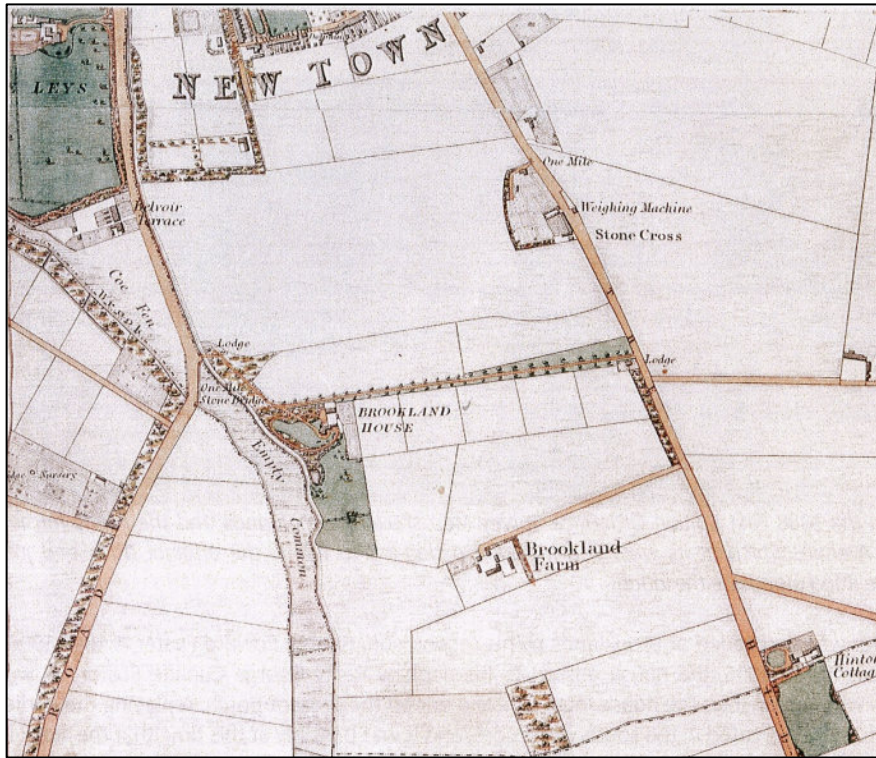


Fig. 5. Extract from the 1830 Baker's Map of Cambridge with the newly completed Brookland House. Cambridge Nursery lies below the middle of the west edge of the map.

after the purchase of the land and they are both shown on Baker's Map of Cambridge, 1830 (Fig. 5). Richard's younger brother and partner in the bank, Ebenezer, purchased Anstey Hall, Trumpington, in 1837. Richard Foster Snr lived at the new Brookland House, but the 1841 Census records his son, Richard Jnr in residence there, while Richard Snr was back at Thompson's Lane together with a gardener. Perhaps as an elderly widower, he preferred to live centrally in the parish of St Clements in the centre of the community which he served so well. He died in 1842, aged 83 years. The Cambridge Chronicle, 31st May 1851, included an obituary for brother

Ebenezer, who, "took an active part in every movement connected with the interests of his native town".

The heirs of Richard Foster Snr and brother Ebenezer controlled their Bank throughout the 19C and served the borough of Cambridge as magistrates, aldermen and mayors. They, too, were involved closely in communal affairs, especially as munificent supporters of the new branch of the YMCA, founded in Cambridge, 1852. This association promoted adult education and George Ebenezer Foster of Brookland House was chairman of a committee raising funds for its new building, Alexandra Hall in Alexandra Street, off Petty Cury, providing a hall, library and lecture rooms. His son George Edward Foster of Brookland House was president of the association in the 1870's.

Richard Foster Jnr died in 1859 and Brookland House was inherited by his nephew, the third son of his uncle Ebenezer, George Ebenezer Foster (1812-1870). He, together with elder brothers, Charles Finch Foster (1806-1866) and Ebenezer Foster (1808-1875), controlled Fosters' Bank. The two elder brothers died childless leaving the three sons of George Ebenezer as partners of the Bank with Ebenezer Bird Foster (1838-1908) at Anstey Hall and George Edward (1840-1906) at

Brookland House. Only their younger brother Charles Finch Foster (1841-1922) had male heirs; the elder George Ralph Cunliffe Foster (1869-1936) inherited Anstey Hall, while Brookland House passed to the younger Percy George Cunliffe Foster (1875-1945), a miller and corn merchant, in 1906. These two surviving Fosters had arranged for their Bank to be amalgamated with the Capital and Counties Bank. In the 1911 Census Percy Foster is resident and he was the last Foster at Brookland House.

THE BARNWELL FIELD AND SITE OF RICHARD FOSTER SENIOR'S PLOT, NAMED BROOKLAND

The Barnwell Field before the Inclosure Award Map of 1806 consisted of three large Open Fields, mainly arable but with certain furlongs laid out as meadows for hay. These fields were all within the parish of St Andrew the Less, a later church serving the straggling houses of Newmarket Road. Ford Field was the most westerly of the three fields. It stretched from Deepway (Lensfield



Fig. 6. Cambridge from the Trumpington Ford (1809) from Harraden's Cantabrigia Depicta.

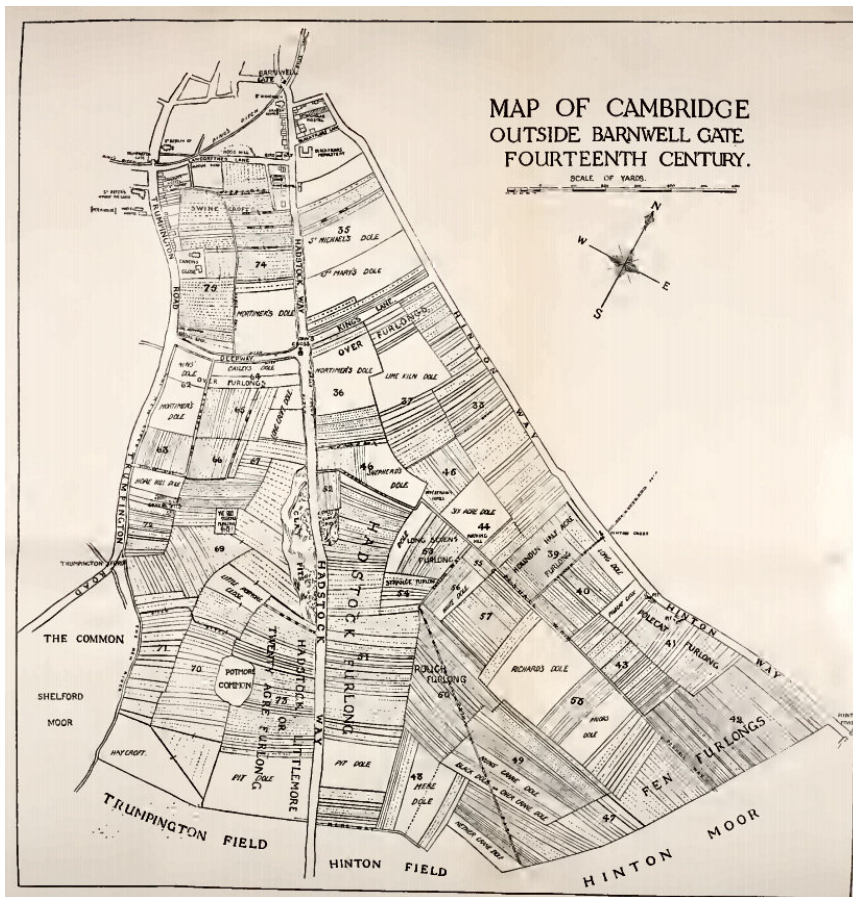


Fig. 7. Map of Cambridge outside Barnwell Gate. From an article by Henry Paine Stokes (1849-1931) published in the Cambridge Antiquarian Society, 1915.

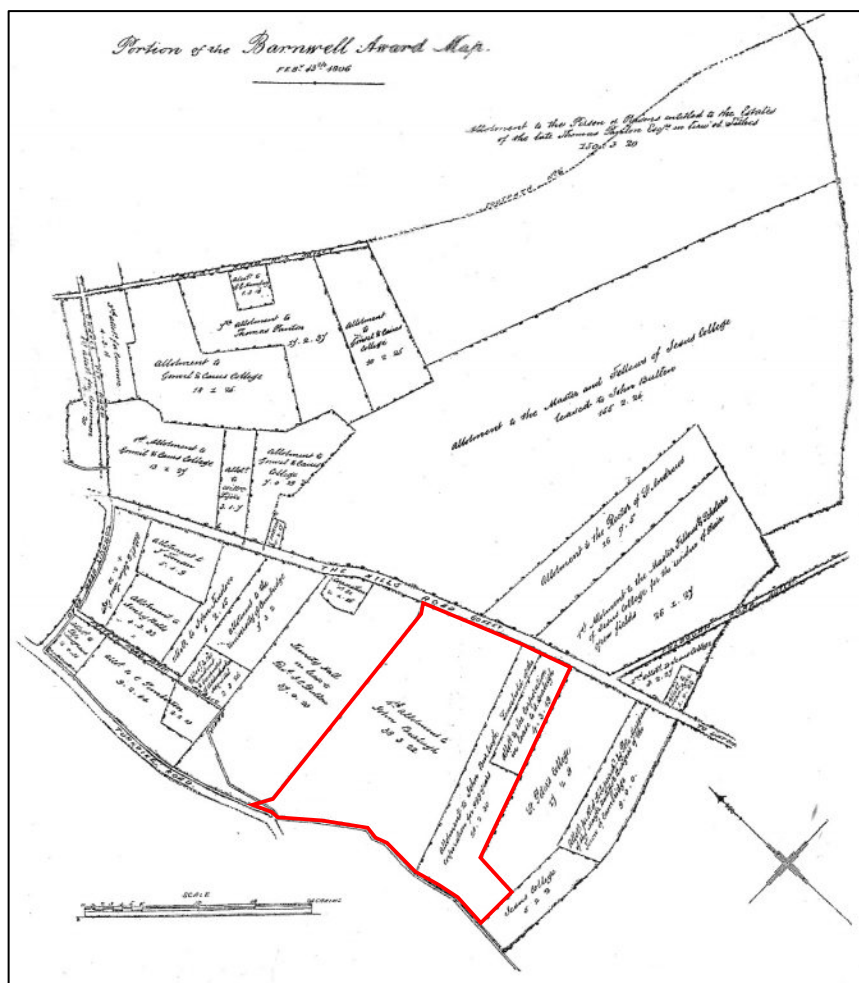


Fig. 8. Barnwell Award Map 1806 showing, in red, the lands allotted to Burleigh/Foster. From Stokes, Cambridge Antiquarian Society, 1915.

Road) southwards to the boundary with the parish of Trumpington, just beyond Trumpington Ford depicted in Harraden's *Cantabrigia Depicta*, 1809 (Fig. 6). To the west beyond the 1728 Trumpington turnpike it included some land and to the east it was bounded by another turnpike Hadstock Way (Hills Road), shown by the 14C map constructed from the Jesus College Terrier and other field maps (Fig. 7).

The Barnwell Award Map 1806 (Fig. 8) shows a 4th allotment to John Burleigh of 38 acres, 3 rods and 22 perches, which roughly corresponds with Furlong 69 and part of Furlong 71 on the 14C Field Map. It was still arable land when Richard Foster Snr purchased it from James Burleigh in 1825. Baker's Map of 1830 (Fig. 5) shows the speed of Foster's development in the NW corner with a house, two lodges, an enclosed garden and parkland of five acres and a tree-lined driveway eastwards to Hills Road. The larger area was arable and included Brookland Farm. Much of the land in Trumpington and the Barnwell Field lies on the 50 ft contour and consists of Higher Terrace gravels. Separating these lands is a depression consisting of Lower and Intermediate Terrace gravels rising to 30-40 ft from the natural waterway of Vicar's Brook and the 17C canal of Hobson's Conduit. Foster's land was fertile, quite well drained and he named it Brookland. In 1841 the census refers just to Brooklands, while the 1851 Census refers to 1 Trumpington Road, Brooklands in the East Barnwell Ward in the civil parish of St Andrew the Less.

RICHARD FOSTER'S BROOKLAND HOUSE AND LATER MODIFICATIONS

Foster began to build a house almost immediately after purchasing the plot in 1825; a water pump in the middle of the stable yard bears his initials and the date 1827. Brookland House, built of grey gault brick, perhaps from the clay pits adjacent to Furlong 69 of the 14C Field Map (Fig. 7), was rectangular in plan with a porch and a service wing to the rear. The house faces to the west. To the north is a contemporary stable block, rectangular and divided by two cross walls, presumably separating the stabling from the tack and ancillary rooms. Central ground-floor fireplaces heated the block and to the west of the division was an upper level hay loft lit by semi-circular sashes. The window to the east suggests that this room was full height.

Brooklands was listed at Grade II in November 1972 with the following entry: "Circa 1830, altered circa 1900. Grey gault brick, 2 storeys, 3 bays, the central one recessed. Sashes with glazing bars above, French windows below, those in the South bay are sham. Central doorway with Ionic half columns and pediment, modern door with rectangular light over, the porch added circa 1900. Low pitched hipped slate roof with boxed gutters. Low block added on to the north and new staircase fitted in circa 1900. Original interior features

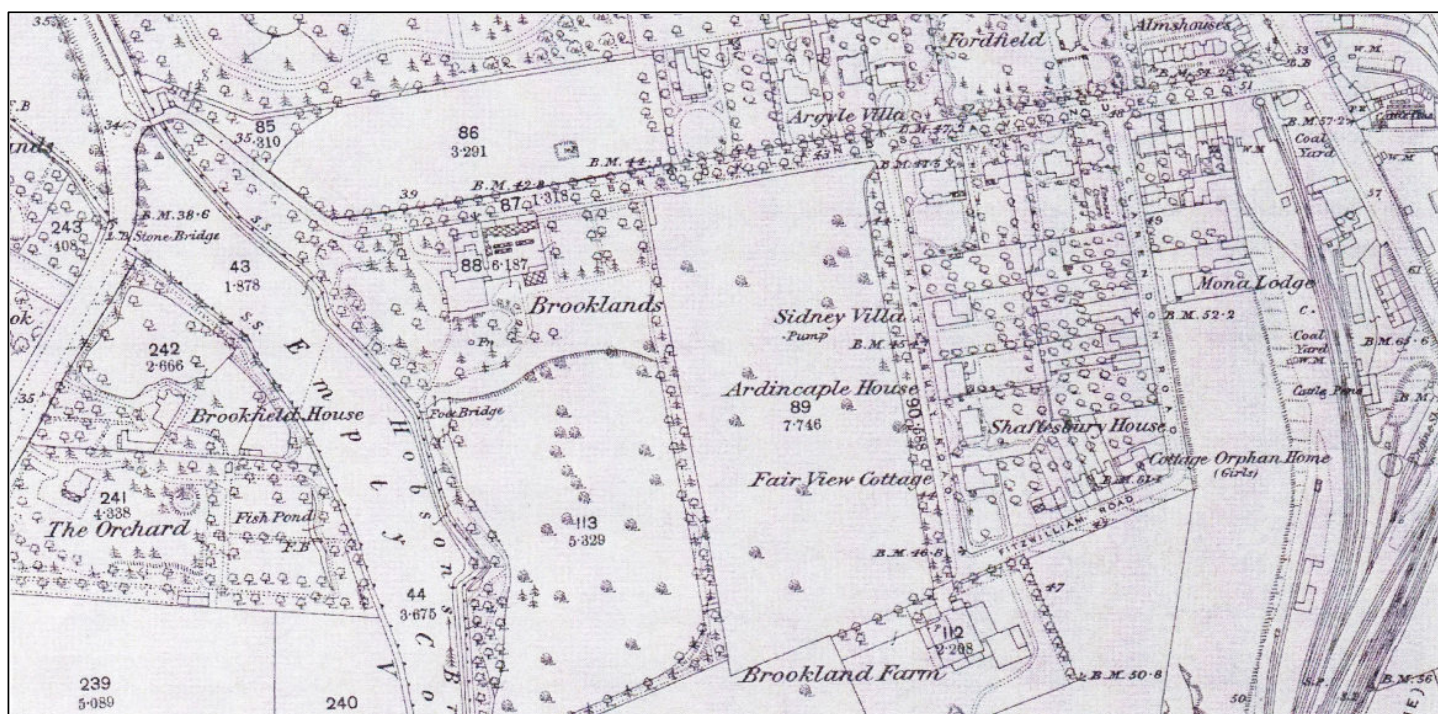


Fig. 9. Part of the 1888 Ordnance Survey map showing Brooklands and the newly formed Brooklands Avenue, which at its west end included a dog-leg to follow the original drive and join Trumpington Road alongside the lodge.

remaining include marble fireplaces, elaborate door cases and fine fireplace in the south room with panelled overmantel.”

Some modifications, shown by the OS map of 1888 (Fig. 9), were made by George Ebenezer Foster, nephew of Richard Foster Jnr, and his second son, George Edward Foster. The south, or garden front, had been extended eastwards linking the original house to its service wing and a billiard room had been added to the northwest corner. It was probably Percy George Cunliffe Foster after 1906 who refurbished the house internally and replaced the earlier porch with the present one. A library was created in the southwest room. At this time the present stairs were inserted and an enlarged stair well created a front lobby divided from the inner hall by a surviving decorative



Fig. 10. Brooklands Lodge, Botanic Garden, early 19C.

timber partition. Later still a loggia, or perhaps an orangery, was added. The stable block was altered for part use as a garage and it was re-roofed, incorporating gables.

RICHARD FOSTER'S LODGES AND DRIVES AND LATER 19C MODIFICATIONS

Baker's Map of 1830 (Fig. 5) shows that Richard Foster constructed two drives connecting his house to Hills Road and to Trumpington Road. The former was a tree-lined drive, along the northern periphery of his land to the junction with Hills Road, with a Lodge. The 1871 Census referred to Brooklands, Avenue Road. The 1888 OS Map (Fig. 9) shows that there was still a direct connection through to the Trumpington Road but the 1911 Census refers to Brooklands, Brooklands Avenue. Following the sale of a large plot of farmland eastwards to Hills Road in 1858, the drive became Avenue Road providing access to housing developments in this plot. There was limited access and a gate was manned by a Foster employee, presumably the lodge keeper. The gate and lodge were removed early in the 20C and in the 1927 OS Map (Fig. 11) the line of the avenue had been altered to create the present junction with Trumpington Road. I do not know which trees had been planted but today Brooklands Avenue alternates columnar hornbeams with Dawyck beeches, probably planted in the late 19C.

Foster had built Brookland House in the NW corner of his estate, some 185 yards from Trumpington Road and a shorter drive northwards provided access to this road. At this point was a second lodge, which today stands within the confines of the Botanic Garden. This lodge, a cottage facing Hobson's Brook, today is Grade II listed (Fig. 10). It has two storeys, brick with low-pitched slated roof and is contemporary with Brookland House. From 1851-1911 the census returns list gardeners as resident, often with other gardeners as lodgers: there were Jennings, Brett, Wade and Trotman all in their 30's. Nearby is a listed 1850's iron-cast bridge; single span with pierced spandrels, plain handrails and decorated with rosettes. The brook's railings of similar date were made by Headley and

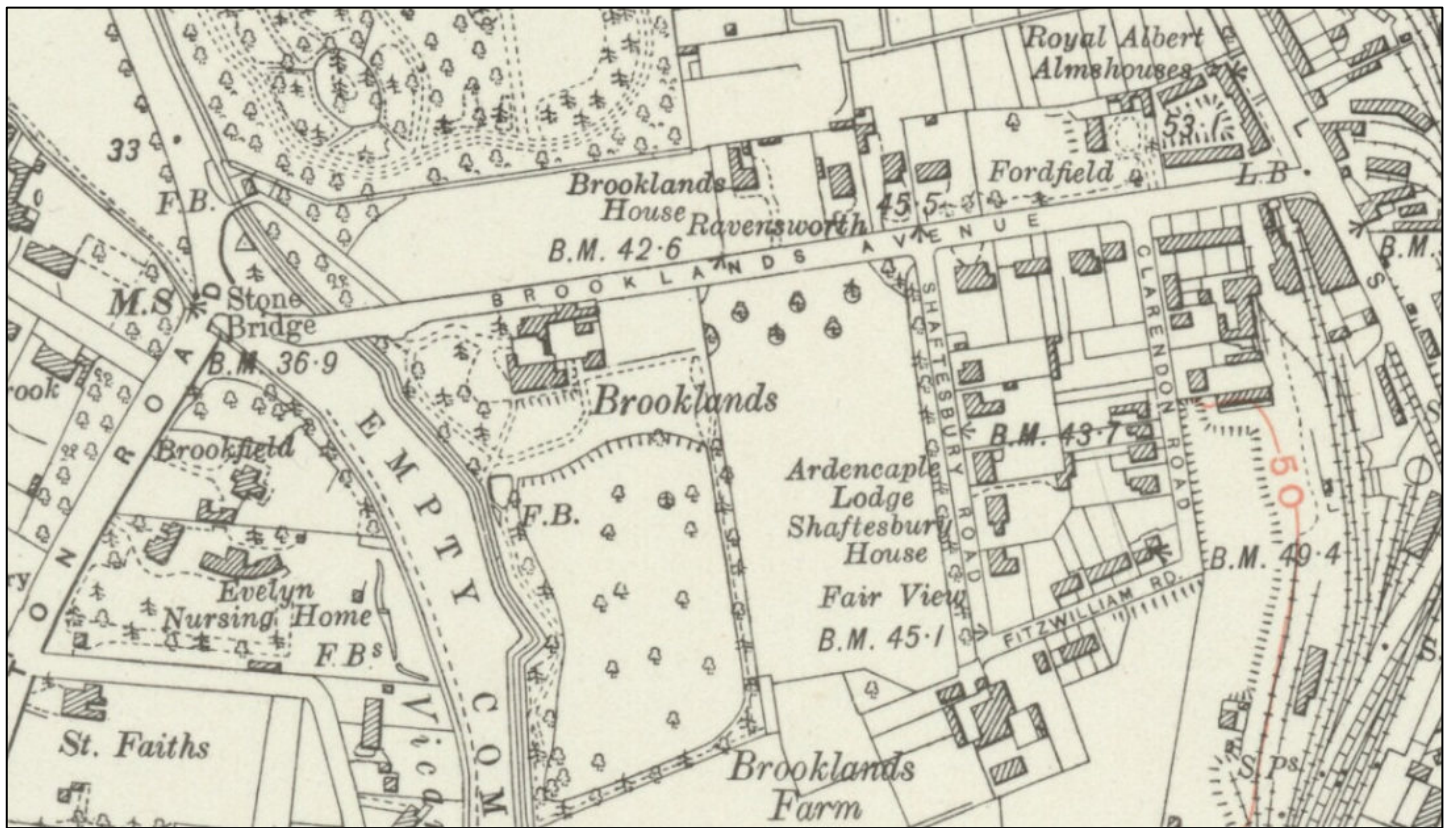


Fig. 11. Detail from the 1927 Ordnance Survey map showing the modified junction of Brooklands Avenue with Trumpington Road, leaving the former dog-leg leading to the lodge.

Edwards of Cambridge. The alignment of this second drive can still be traced across the SW corner of the Botanic Gardens.

These drives and associated pathways through landscaped grounds are likely to have formed part of a pleasure walk. The current drive to Brooklands is formed from the remains of the original drives and paths shown on Baker's map.

The present Brooklands Avenue joins Trumpington Road at the point once called Trumpington Ford with the Vicar's Brook, now bridged, flowing westwards to join the River Granta. At this point is sited the 1728 first stone milestone proclaiming a mile from Great St Mary's. This would be very different if proposals had been enacted to extend the railway with a junction and rail running either behind Brookland Farm to Coe Fen and Sheep's Green near the Mill pool, or along the south side of the Botanic Gardens with another station just to the north of Brookland House. These proposals, and even a 1847 Bill, were rejected but the Fosters, millers and bankers, might well have been supporters. Instead, much later, they built a mill adjacent to Cambridge station.

FOSTER'S ESTATE AND GARDEN

Richard Foster Snr, who died in 1842, had established the house, lodges and drives, together with an enclosed garden and parkland in the NW part of his estate. His son, Richard, already resident in Brookland House in 1841, erected a large greenhouse attached to the northern side of the walled kitchen garden created to the east of the stable block. Today, a whitewashed area of this wall suggests its position in the surviving, enclosed kitchen garden. This compact area, with large central lawn and herbaceous border, still has a few well established fruit trees and is appreciated by those people employed at Brooklands. There are no surviving records of planting, but Baker's Map (Fig. 5) shows Cambridge Nursery

at the present Latham Road, opposite Foster's enclosed garden across the brooks and Trumpington Road. The owner was Brewer, who opened a bulb shop in St John's Street in 1832. At this time Foster's Bank was a few yards up the road in Trinity Street and it is reasonable to suppose that the two Richard Fosters were customers of this nurseryman.

In 1858 Richard Foster Jnr, already wealthy and a substantial landowner, decided to sell substantial lands. A widower, aged 71 years, and living alone with servants at Brookland House, perhaps he wished to raise further funds to provide legacies for his children, none of whom inherited the house. A large part of his estate eastwards towards Hills Road was divided into plots and, together with Brookland Farm, sold to the National Freehold Land Society, founded 1849. No doubt the coming of the railway in 1845 created pressure for the development of land for housing. This Society exercised strict controls and the 1888 OS Map (Fig. 9) shows the spread of select housing with gardens in Clarendon and Shaftesbury Roads. Richard Jnr died in 1859 and the Cambridge Chronicle on 24th June advertised the sale of his lands in Fenland, near Swaffham Prior, maltings at Barnwell and the Castle Inn and maltings in Cambridge. But in the same year the resident of Brookland House, presumably his nephew George Ebenezer, re-purchased that block of land west of Shaftesbury Road and north of Brookland Farm as an extension of his parkland. He planted a copse of trees providing shelter from Shaftesbury Road.

Between 1825-59 the two Richard Fosters had created their enclosed garden and parkland from arable fields. Richard Snr's younger brother Ebenezer had purchased Anstey Hall, Trumpington in 1837. This hall, built circa 1700, was already well established with parkland, pleasure grounds overlooking a meadow, a large barn, a pond and a productive orchard. It was

approached along a circular avenue of elms, interspersed with shrubbery and it was all enclosed by a wall. There were champion Shire horses in its stables, vast glass houses, beautiful flower beds and, in the 19C, the head gardener was commended for his fruit and vegetables. Ebenezer's nephew Richard Jnr would have visited this garden and George Ebenezer, his son who inherited Brookland House, had grown up in this grand house. So the development of Brookland garden from the mid-19C was probably influenced by Anstey Hall. The Hall had fine rose gardens, and on 16th May 1869 a rose show, arranged jointly by the Cambridge YMCA and Horticultural Society, was held in the grounds of George Ebenezer's home, Brookland House. George was cooperating with Eaden Lilley and Robert Sayle to raise funds for Alexandra Hall.

George Edward Foster inherited the house and estate on his father's death in 1870. The 1888 OS Map (Fig. 9) shows the original garden of Richard Foster enclosed by a belt of trees to the west, south and east through which ran a perimeter walk. The most significant planting of trees was to the west alongside Hobson's Brook where it was thick enough for a woodland walk and perhaps a nut walk. Foster's planting included beech, chestnut, pine, silver birch, oak and plane trees and some specimen trees, perhaps from the Botanic Gardens. Bounding the garden to the west was a canal, Hobson's Brook and beyond was Empty Common (allotments today) and Vicar's Brook. Along the brook is Finch's Walk (all present today). The 1807 Barnwell Award had included 6 ft of soil on both sides of the conduit and there are "The feofees and other parties who have authority over Hobson's watercourse." There were Orders in 1868 and 1899 referring to 10 trustees for life, of which George Edward Foster, a banker, was one. Continuing along this perimeter was a pond, crossed by a bridge, which allowed the walk to continue around the adjacent parkland.

To the south of the house were the pleasure grounds separated from the distant parkland by a curving line, which may have been a ha-ha running from the NE corner of the pond to the eastern belt of trees (this line has been lost in recent changes). In these pleasure grounds the 1888 OS Map included a small circle and the letters Fn, suggesting that there was a central fountain. Lawns were major features of gardens designed primarily for leisure and pleasure. Paths and herbaceous borders would have been consigned to the perimeters. At some time an ornamental garden had been made. We are much indebted to the power of observation and diligence of John Ette, Heritage at Risk Principal Adviser for Historic England. The area to the south of the house had been turned into a bowling green sometime in the 1960's; in a hot summer he had noticed crop marks which, together with colleagues, he excavated carefully to reveal the pattern of this former garden (Fig. 12).

The 1888 OS Map (Fig. 9) reveals a second walled garden with substantial greenhouses, fruit trees and vegetables east of the house beyond Richard Foster's walled garden with its earlier range of frames and greenhouse. These features were relatively unaltered in the 1927 OS Map (Fig. 11). Today some of the perimeter planting on the west boundary survives but some detail of the drive and turning circle west of the house has been lost. The alignment of the drive from the surviving lodge can be traced across the SW corner of the Botanic Gardens, then cut across by Brooklands Avenue's new junction with

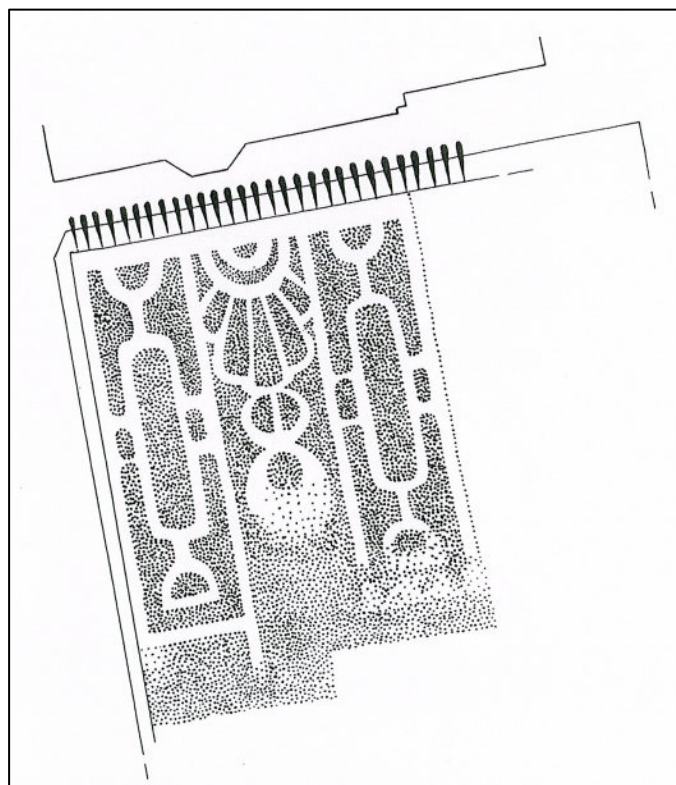


Fig. 12. Pattern of the former ornamental garden at Brooklands House, revealed from crop marks. John Ette.

Trumpington Road. Brooklands' current drive is formed from the remains of this former drive together with paths and shrubs shown on Baker's Map (Fig. 5). To the north there was little change until the construction of the Botanic Gardens, 1846.

LATER DEVELOPMENTS

Percy George Cunliffe Foster, the last member of the family resident at Brooklands, died in 1945. Although resident in 1911 he might have moved out before it was requisitioned by the government at the beginning of World War II. Anstey Hall, similarly, was requisitioned at this time. Mostly civil service departments, such as the Inland Revenue and Driving Standards Agency, had staff moved out of London and housed in temporary prefabricated blocks erected in the parkland to the SE of the house, but the belt of trees along Shaftesbury Road survived. In 1950 there were 15 offices "covering acres of ground and employing thousands of people". In May 1941 the administrative section of No. 74 Wing of the RAF was moved



Fig. 13. Brooklands looking SE towards the wartime prefabs, prior to construction of Accordia.



Fig. 14. The entrance to the 'War Room' built on the SW corner of the estate in 1953.

into Brooklands, but its alterations were limited to the subdivision of some rooms for offices. After the war the house was occupied by the Office of Works and by its successors the Ministry of Public Building and Works and DEFRA. The loggia was modified for use as a cinema and later as a social club with its members able to use the bowling green (Fig. 13). In 1953 a 'War Room' or bunker was built on the SW corner of the estate and between 1961-7 it was to be the regional centre of government in the event of nuclear attack. It survives and was listed Grade II in 2003 (Fig. 14).

From 1983 until the later 1980's English Heritage works department occupied the house and then it was empty apart from the billiard room being occupied by Ordnance Survey until 1999. In 1996 the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England had taken over the building for its Cambridge field survey and photographic teams. The Commission was merged with English Heritage and the house became its regional office in 2002 when the architects van Heyningen and Haward were commissioned to design the glazed reception room linking Brooklands to its converted stable block to the north (Fig. 15). In April 2015 English Heritage was divided into two new organisations, Historic England and the English Heritage Trust, whose staff continue to occupy Brooklands.

After a survey of Brooklands Avenue by the Cambridge City Council it was designated, together with its adjacent roads, as a Conservation Area on 17th May 2002. It noted a boundary wall on the north of Brooklands facing the Avenue, which had been constructed in several phases. The wall to Shaftesbury Road in the east is shown on the 1886 OS Map (Fig. 9). However in this 21C, great pressure has been exerted by government upon local councils to increase house building.

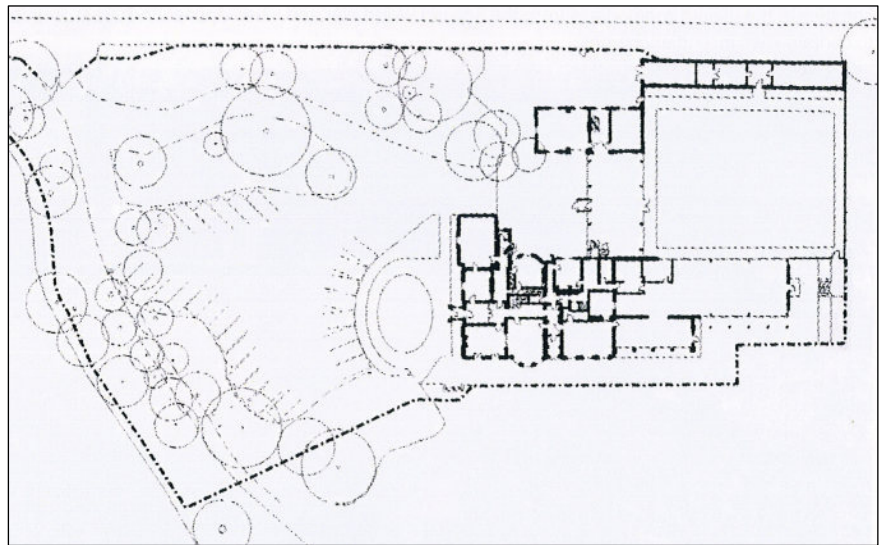


Fig. 15. Brooklands following the alterations and extensions completed in 2003 by van Heyningen and Haward.

Already in Cambridge's West Field, during the last 50 years, the University and colleges have acquired 19C and 20C houses with large gardens for redevelopment. Brooklands and its large estate offered an opportunity for developers working in cooperation with the City Council to develop 23.5 acres. The council required that 700 mature trees be retained, now incorporated in the Accordia Housing development. The wartime prefabs had been demolished in 2004, and in 2008 Accordia was the first development of private houses to win the prestigious RIBA Stirling Prize. Its land is separated from Brooklands to the south by a low brick wall and soft hedge, beyond which is the large rough area of the former bowling green.

TODAY (2015)

It is possible on a walking tour to trace the boundaries of Foster's estate from Baker's Map of 1830 and its modifications after 1859 shown in the 1886 and 1927 OS Maps. To the north is the estate's brick wall facing Brooklands Avenue, to the east is Shaftesbury Road and the Eastbrook Offices together with Accordia, which curves to the south as far as the Cold War bunker. On the west is Hobson's Brook, on the far side of which is Finch's Walk linking Brooklands Avenue to Long Road. Accordia has retained the designated trees, planted new ones and one can walk through their open ground, which includes the bowling green, a woodland walk along Hobson's Brook and other areas of nature conservation. One can view Brookland's Lodge in the Botanic Gardens and trace the drive's alignment to Brooklands Avenue. No doubt Historic England would permit a visit to Brooklands, the surviving drive and parks to the NW, the house and stable block and the surviving kitchen garden of 1830. All are worthy survivals of the family of Foster, who had contributed much to the community of Cambridge.

Charles Malyon

RESEARCH REPORT, OCTOBER 2016

THE last 6 months has seen a successful culmination of our endeavours in schools' outreach projects and, of course, the delivery of an excellent Brown Tercentenary Conference which has prompted letters and emails of appreciation. On schools outreach, we report on a new garden in Fen Drayton designed by the schoolchildren, and the unveiling of the new Brown memorial window in Fenstanton Church Centre. For the Trust-hosted CB300, we produced the conference brochure with well researched members' articles on the sites being visited, and coordinated the Brown window.

A BROWN-INSPIRED GARDEN

The creation of a Lancelot Brown-inspired garden with the children of Fen Drayton School and the support of Bannold, suppliers of hard landscaping materials, was particularly spectacular. Julia Weaver gave two half-hour presentations on garden design to a rapt audience of 95 children and staff. The children then visited Wimpole Park, a Lancelot Brown landscape, and created pencil drawings of the park using the Claude glasses which are installed at Wimpole to celebrate CB300. Nine pictures were coloured by the children, digitally merged together and printed on a 4 m long poster which hangs in the garden as a *trompe-l'oeil*. Borrowing external landscapes was one of Brown's design features.



The Brown trompe-l'oeil by Fen Drayton schoolchildren.

Back at school the children created 43 mood boards by researching style, plants, colour and shapes from books and magazines and cutting out their favoured images to inspire the final design. Five mood boards were given a Certificate of Achievement presented by Julia on behalf of CGT. The staff



The water feature and snail mound at Capability Barns.

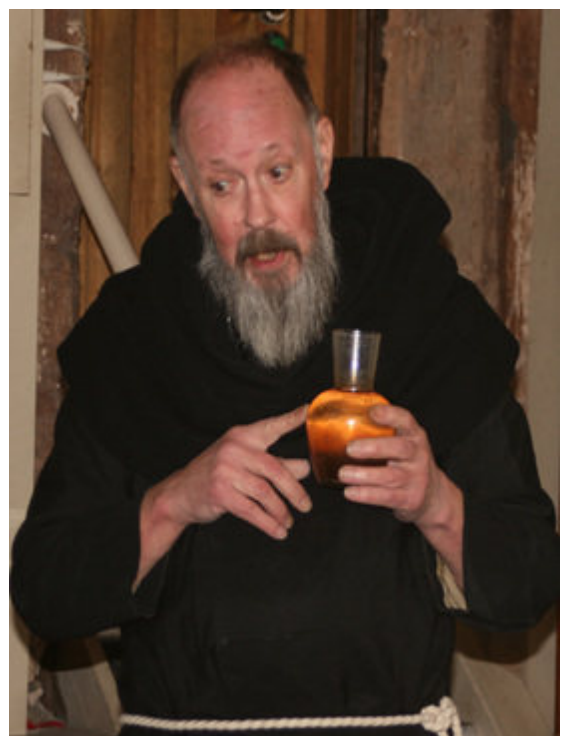
entered enthusiastically into the spirit of the enterprise helping the children to research Brown's life and times and to create poetry for a competition, paintings and mosaics. The winning poem became tangible by being engraved into a paving stone within the garden. A maze highlights a mosaic created by the children, while a 'snail mound' and a water feature bring to mind Brown's design elements such as earth moving and lake and river creating, for which he is famous.

Friends and CGT members donated the shrubs and flowers which Julia and her team planted in time for the Fen Drayton Lancelot Brown Festival Weekend in June. The garden was built by Bannold on their Fen Drayton site (aptly named Capability Barns) setting it near to their tea-room so that both children and public can visit during normal opening hours. Next spring the CGT Council is considering a members' visit to the site to give us all a chance to view the garden and celebrate this fantastic achievement. We hope to see you there!

BROWN MEMORIAL WINDOW

Meanwhile the children of Fenstanton Primary School also celebrated the 300th anniversary of Brown's birth by completing a new and lasting memorial in the form of a stained glass window. This time the children were supported by The Heritage Lottery Fund and NADFAS as well as by personal donations. As with the children of Fen Drayton the class of Year 1 children had spent the autumn term learning about gardens in literature and art, and about gardeners including Lancelot Brown in particular. Brown's memorial in the church of Fenstanton (where he was Lord of the Manor), has attracted hundreds of visitors this year.

A trip by the children to Wimpole produced wonderful artwork that glass artist Sarah Hunt was able to collate into a final cartoon for the window. The highlight for the Fenstanton



Theophilus explains the magic colour fixative.

six-year-olds was their trip to the Ely Stained Glass Museum in the triforium of Ely Cathedral. Open-mouthed they gazed at the ceiling and stained glass windows of the cathedral which for most was their first visit to such a building. Climbing high up the dark narrow spiral staircase they found themselves in a bright room with a long table where the tools of glass window making were set out before them. Tutor for the day, Sarah Hunt, demonstrated the safe way of cutting glass and each child, bedecked in safety goggles, cut their own pieces of green, yellow and blue glass to make a coloured tile, to be placed after firing around the border of the window. The children will never forget how Theophilus (an actor attired as a 12C monk) demonstrated how mediaeval glass windows were achieved using urine for colour fixing and horse-shoe nails to hold the glass in place.

Back home the whole school had the chance to win a colouring competition to bring the cartoon to life for Sarah Hunt to create the final design in her workshop. The window was dedicated by the Bishop of Huntingdon during the Fenstanton flower festival weekend, and was officially unveiled by Gilly Drummond OBE in front of an audience which included the CGT CB300 conference delegates from all over the UK and beyond.



The finished window, unveiled by Gilly Drummond before 130 guests during the Brown CB300 conference visit to Fenstanton Church Centre.

PUBLICATIONS

The CGT now boasts an expanding range of titles. In addition to the seminal work, *Wood & Ingram, A Huntingdonshire Nursery* by John Drake and the CGT Gazetteer, *The Gardens of Cambridgeshire*, copies of Jane Brown's monograph on *Lancelot Brown: Cambridgeshire Connections* are selling well; only a handful of copies remain.

Hot off the press is *Cambridge College Gardens in the 21st century* by Charles Malyon and edited by Julia Weaver: lavishly illustrated with historic maps and recent photographs it is selling to members at £9.99, the perfect Christmas present!

We can also highly recommend David Brown's book, published this July, *Lancelot Brown and the Capability Men* co-authored with Tom Williamson ISBN 978-1780236445, price £30.00. This book gives great insight into the work of 18C garden designers and the circumstances that allowed them to flourish; it represents a fitting culmination of the research engendered by Brown's tercentenary.

The *Tercentenary Conference Brochure* comprises 32 pages packed with information on six sites visited by the conference delegates. Because of copyright licence restrictions, we are unable to publish this on our website but a secure pdf can be provided for personal use from editor@cambsgardens.org.uk.

Finally, the *CGT Newsletter* is published twice a year and previous issues are available as pdf copies on the website. The

newsletter editor is always pleased to receive material and can assist with editing, formatting and production.

CURRENT AND FUTURE RESEARCH

CGT is seeking volunteers for its next project: to research and catalogue the walled gardens of Cambridgeshire. As this is likely to be a significant project, we are looking to engage as many of our members as possible with a variety of ways of helping, depending on the available time. Simply telling us of the existence of small or large walled gardens, whether in your

area or in the wider county, would be a wonderful start. You can also help us with photography, collation of material or individual recording and research of sites. All contributions will be welcome, whatever the time you may have to contribute, and all contributors will be acknowledged by name. We will hold an initial meeting to launch the research project at 2.30pm on Monday, 28th November, at Fenstanton Church Centre PE28 9JR. For further information please call Judith Christie

on 01954 230535 (Judith.christie@ntlworld.com) or just feel free to turn up on the day. Our research group is lively and informal. Members can dip in and share experiences, ask for advice or hear about individual member's research and group projects. The Trust continues to offer assistance to those wishing to work for further degrees and professional qualifications.

WE NEED YOU!

The CGT Council meets three times a year and, in between, organises visits and lectures, gives advice, and liaises with other County GTs and our umbrella organisation, the Gardens Trust. There are opportunities for training and special interest days. The Council seeks new ways to enhance communications with Trust members, so if you would like to be involved as a Council member in either of the areas outlined below, please get in touch through our contact webpage or with any existing Council member. Equally, please let us have your feedback and suggestions on how the Trust can be improved and developed.

Our priority areas are:

- A Council member who can manage, maintain and, over time, develop our website, and keep it fresh with content supplied by coordinators and members.
- A Council member who can promote or market CGT and its activities, and develop a welcome pack of information and contacts for new members

Judith Christie

IMPINGTON HALL PARK: AN ANALYSIS OF ITS PLACE IN THE CAMBRIDGESHIRE LANDSCAPE – PART II

This is the second of two parts of an original essay by Anne Cooper, who offers a critical evaluation of Impington Hall Park in the context of its history, development and current status. Here, Anne charts its course from 1872 through to the present day.

THIS essay concludes an examination of the historical development of the landscaped park surrounding Impington Hall, a minor country house [Fig. 1] located three miles outside Cambridge; its significance in the community; the collateral damage suffered following the loss of the Hall; and how successfully or otherwise the idea of its landscaped park has survived as the grounds of the Grade I listed Impington Village College, and as the setting of a modern executive housing estate.



Fig. 1. Impington Hall in 1921 seen from the south-east looking across the ornamental lake¹.

As described in Part 1, the estate probably reached its high point during its period of ownership by Charles Bamford, from 1864 to 1872, when a small fortune was expended on major renovation of the hall and improvements to the park and pleasure gardens. The historical narrative continues with Bamford's sale of the estate in 1872 to William B. Caldwell.

1872: MR CALDWELL'S 20 YEAR TENURE

Charles Bamford ran through his fortune in eight years and on 16 November 1872 the Impington Hall estate was once again advertised for sale, being purchased by Mr Caldwell for £28,500². Mr Caldwell continued to embellish the park by building a wall [Fig. 2] along Impington High Street and New



Fig. 2. Mr Caldwell's wall³ along Impington High Street.

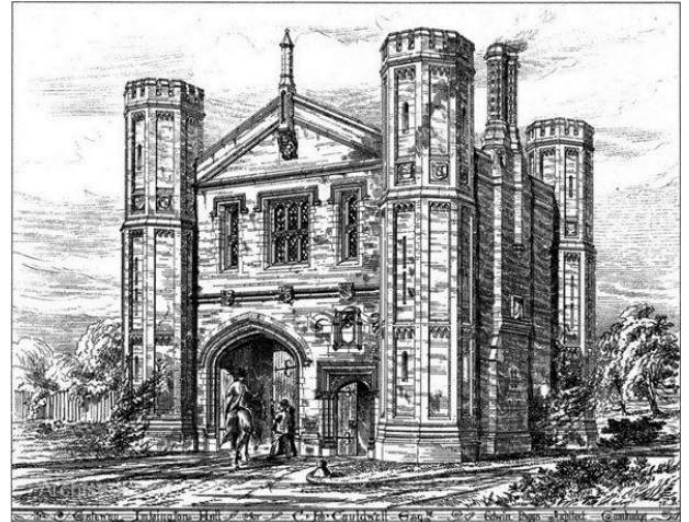


Fig. 3. Proposed designs for a Gateway, Impington Hall, Cambridgeshire, 1879; architect: Edwin Bays⁵.

Road, and contemplating the construction of a grandiose gatehouse, fortunately never realised [Fig. 3]. Surviving illustrations suggest that Mr Caldwell, or at least his Head Gardener, was fascinated by yew hedges and their potential for topiary. The extent of the topiary visible in contemporary photographs [Fig. 4] testifies to the number of gardeners who



Fig. 4. Topiary yew trees and ivy hiding Charles Bamford's extension c.1898⁶.

must have been employed on the estate to keep the grounds tended, the yew hedges clipped, and the planting beds fresh. It was Mr Caldwell who first employed Tommy James as an under-gardener. Tommy James rose to be Head Gardener remaining in post, despite change in ownership, until at least 1911³. It therefore seems reasonable to assume that he was influential in the development of the garden design and appearance and perhaps helped to create the crenelated yew hedge visible on the northwest front [cf Fig. 18 in Part I] and the umbrella yews on the south east parterre.

The sale map of 1891 [Fig. 5] is clearly based on the 1887 OS map enhanced to illustrate the nut walk, and coloured to

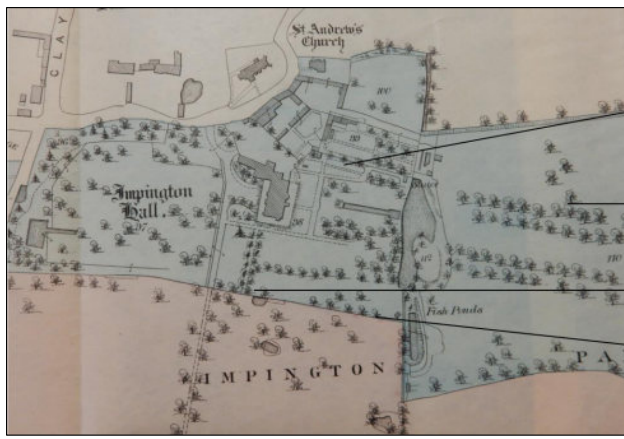


Fig. 5. Estate map, 1891⁷.



Fig. 6. Illustration from sales particulars 1891⁷.



Fig. 7. The newly created sunken garden, c.1891⁸.

show the division between the pleasure grounds and the estate. From the differences between the sales particulars and estate maps of 1872 (Fig. 16 Part 1) and 1891, it would seem that it was Mr Caldwell who created the sunken garden [Fig. 7] with its feature canal and topiary shrub planting, described in the sales particulars which say that the grounds *comprise tastefully laid out Lawns and Terraces approached from the house by stone steps, and are adorned with Yew Hedges, Plane, and other Trees, a Nut Walk, Shrubberies, a series of Fish Breeding Ponds, the resort of Wild Fowl, and all well stocked with Fish, and that the Kitchen Gardens which are walled in, contain varied assortment of fruit trees and a range of three good hot houses and Vinery, with furnace house etc.*⁷

1892: MR MACFARLANE-GRIEVE AND THE EDWARDIANS

In 1891 Mr Caldwell died and his nephew sold the estate to W. A. Macfarlane-Grieve⁹, another would-be country gentleman who sought to aggrandise the property by acquiring land,



Fig. 8. Concertina House built in 1904.



Fig. 9. Above: Concertina House from the carriage drive.
Right: detail of the Macfarlane-Grieve coat of arms.



including Burgoyne's Farm from Christs College¹⁰. Diverting the carriage-drive away from the SW Elm Avenue [Fig. 10], Mr Macfarlane-Grieve succeeded in building a new entrance lodge [Figs 8 & 9] in a surprisingly modern style given his interest in

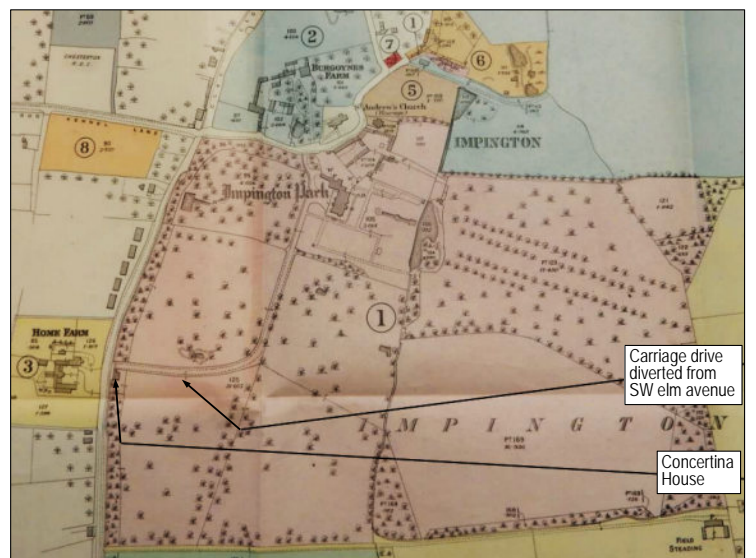


Fig. 10. Estate map 1921⁷.

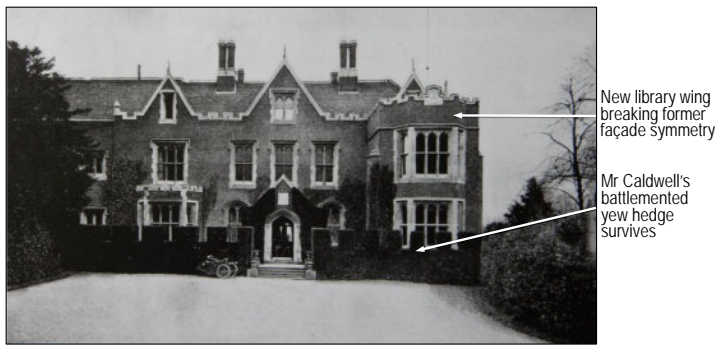


Fig 11. Northwest front 1921 with the new library wing built in 1909⁷.



Fig 12. Southeast and southwest fronts in 1921⁷.

displaying his coat of arms [Fig. 9] and those of the Pepys family [Fig. 12], and his understandably conservative selection of the neo-Tudor style for the new library wing he had constructed in 1909 [Fig. 11].

1921: ACQUISITION BY CHIVERS AND THE BEGINNING OF THE END

In 1921 Impington Hall and its estate was once more on the market. The illustrations from the Sales Particulars [Figs 11, 12, 13] show immaculately kept grounds with meticulously trimmed hedges and shrubs, and they describe the Hall as *a mansion of character with Delightful Grounds, Long Entrance*



Fig. 13. The southwest front, 1921.⁷

*Drive and Picturesque Lodge, Stabling and Farm Buildings, Five Cottages, and Finely Timbered Park. They wax lyrical about the grounds saying they are delightfully laid out, in accordance with the character of the house, with well kept Lawns and Terraces contain a variety of fine evergreen and deciduous Trees and Shrubs, and the Yew Hedges form an attractive feature. There are also four rustic Summer houses and a well constructed Greenhouse. They say the park is grandly timbered with fine forest trees and the Avenue to the South East is an attractive feature. The Park is walled from the road by a high well-built brick-wall of nearly 900 yds in length.*⁸



Fig 14. Children playing in the grounds, c.1922¹².



Fig 15. The tennis court 1926⁸.

It was not a propitious time for selling small country estates, and the hall was split from the Park, the Chivers family acquiring 460 acres, which they had been farming for many years, while Mr A. G. Morey-Weale, one-time silk merchant and Greek Consul¹¹, purchased the Hall. He clearly had an interest in outdoor sporting activities [Figs 14 & 15] presaging future uses, but his tenure was short-lived and within four years



Fig 16. Still from the Chivers silent film of 1931.



Fig 17. Chivers calendar 1927¹¹.

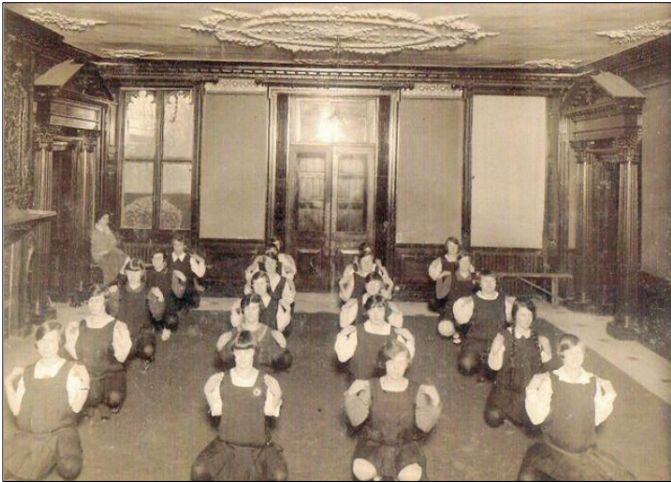


Fig 18. Exercise classes – the gardens just visible through left window¹³.

the furniture had been auctioned off, and the Chivers family had bought Impington Hall, not as their home, but as a marketing opportunity for the firm, [Figs 16 & 17], and as a social facility for their burgeoning workforce¹¹ [Fig. 18].

1930: CHIVERS AND THE VILLAGE COLLEGE MOVEMENT

One suspects that the Hall and its high maintenance grounds were an embarrassment and it was not long before the Chivers family offered Impington Hall with 20 acres of park plus the 2 acre walled kitchen garden as a gift to the nascent Cambridgeshire Village College Movement and, on the 18 June 1930, the *Times* reported that the Cambridgeshire Education Committee had accepted Impington Hall as a gift from Messrs Chivers and Sons Limited in memory of the late John Chivers to form the nucleus of the Village College for the area of Histon and Cottenham.¹¹ They reassured readers that Messrs Chivers had also undertaken to keep some 40 acres of surrounding finely timbered park lands from being built on in order to preserve permanently the rural character of the place and that the Education Committee had made assurances that they did not propose to alter the old buildings, as they were in a very good state of preservation. It was also noted that a recreation ground would be provided for the Village College on the remainder of the land.

Despite the declared intention of utilising the Hall as part of the College accommodation, the Grade I listed Impington Village College (IVC), designed in 1936 by socially conscious architects Walter Gropius and Maxwell Fry [Figs 19 & 20] did

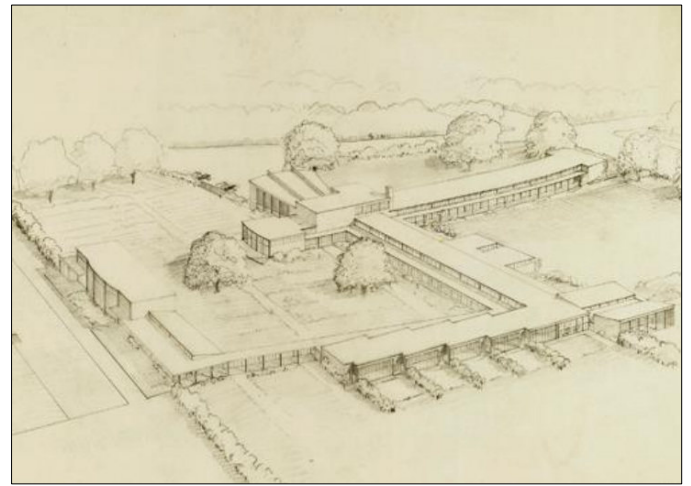


Fig 19. Perspective drawing of IVC¹⁶.



Fig 20. The Hall set amongst mature trees as seen from New Road, c.1939¹⁷.

not make use of, or refer to the Hall which, after all epitomised the privileged life style of the upper classes. Instead they created a low-density, single/two storey complex, arranged around promenades across the open landscape. In 1971 IVC is described in the Listing as, *One of the best buildings of its date in England, if not the best. Equally successful are its grouping and its setting among the trees of the Impington Hall Estate*¹⁴.

The Architectural Review, in a lengthy article published in 1939 explained: *The Impington site is one of seven and a half acres and was formerly Impington Park. It contained many fine trees, and the College has been planned so as to take the greatest possible advantage of them and to preserve as many of them as possible*.¹⁸ Initially, the grounds were maintained by a Head Gardener and two part-time staff, of whom, Terry Moore, joined the team in May 1966 retiring from the post of Head Gardener in 2013. He was responsible for planting many of the shrubs and trees around the site, including the row of conifers bordering the playing field [Fig. 21]. Initially the College



Fig 21. The conifers planted by Terry Moore.



Fig 22. The geranium planting beds.

grounds were enlivened with bedding plants, 3,500 geranium cuttings being grown annually [Fig. 22], since replaced with lower maintenance shrubs and perennials.¹⁹

1951: THE END OF IMPINGTON HALL

Whilst IVC survived WWII relatively unscathed, not so Impington Hall which was requisitioned by the army in 1939 first as a barracks and then as an Italian prisoner-of-war camp



Fig 23. The SW façade, Impington Hall, 1951²⁰.



Fig 24. The unkempt Impington Hall, parkland 1951²⁰.

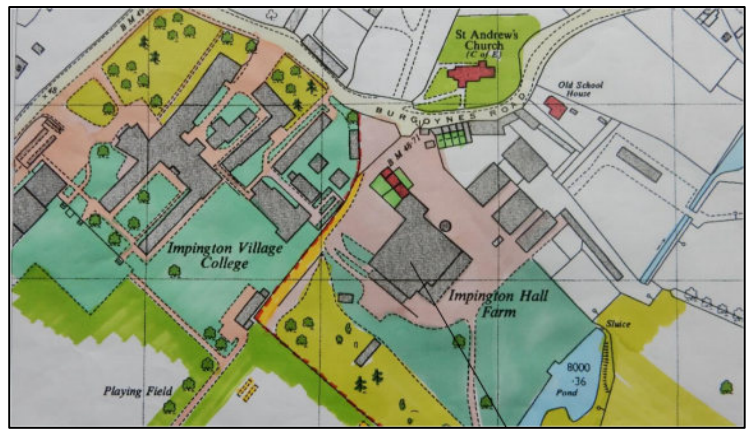


Fig 25. OS map from 1970 showing the location of the grain store in place of the Hall, demolished by Chivers.



Fig 26. Aerial photo from 1986 showing the expanding IVC (left) and the grain store (right). Both elm avenues have gone²¹.

when the Hall was used as a cookhouse and guard room whilst the prisoners of war lived in Nissen huts in the gardens.¹¹ Consequently the Hall and its gardens emerged after the war as derelict and unkempt [Figs 23 & 24], and in 1953 Chivers replaced the Hall with a grain store [Figs 25 & 26] turning the surrounding grounds over to industrialised agriculture. Further loss followed in the 1970s when both elm avenues succumbed to Dutch Elm disease and had to be taken down [Fig. 26].

1990: THE IDEA OF A PARK

In the 1990s the grain stores themselves were demolished and an estate of executive houses, Percheron Close, was built on what had once been Impington Hall and its pleasure grounds [Fig 27]. Conservation policy within the Local Plan managed to hold onto and preserve the idea of the Park by designating Percheron Close as a Conservation Area, and restricting the use of some of the gardens by keeping them in the Green Belt [Fig. 28]. Today the remnants of Impington Hall Park survive in the pond, shared by three of the Percheron Close houses [Fig. 28];



Fig 27. Aerial view of Percheron Close looking south, above Burgoyne's Road, with IVC on the right. Google Maps.

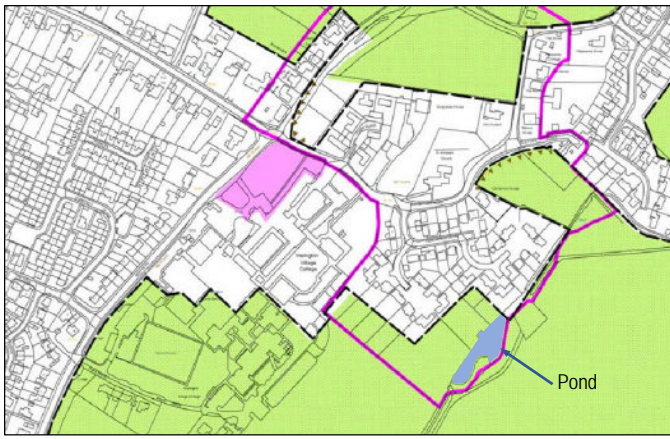


Fig 28. Detail of S. Cambs. Adopted Proposals Map, 2010, showing gardens contained within the green belt.



Fig 29. Wall and planting belt as seen from the road.



Fig 30. Trees at the corner of New Road and Burgoyne's Road, looking west.

the brick wall which still survives along New Road [Fig. 29]; Concertina House, the one-time lodge [Fig. 8], and the trees bordering New Road and Burgoyne's Road [Fig. 30].

CONCLUSION

Impington Hall Park was created as a symbol of private privilege and power following the destruction of the monasteries. The Hall survived a Georgian make-over and the Park the improvements of the Picturesque, to be reinvented as a Tudorbethan mansion set in ornate grounds following the fancy of a spoilt Victorian spendthrift and his would-be country



Fig 31. Holding onto the idea: the memorial plaque at the entrance to Percheron Close.

gentlemen successors; eventually being almost, but not quite, destroyed by a combination of the morally and socially driven desire of the 1930s and 1960s to erase unmerited privilege; the awful loss wrought by Dutch Elm disease in the 1970s; and the *laissez-faire* developer culture of the 1980s and 1990s and prevalent today, albeit frailly held in check by Planning and Conservation law. Today memories of the Park can be traced in the gardens of the private houses in Percheron Close, and in the grounds of Impington Village College. It is a perhaps ironic yet wonderful twist of fate that Impington Hall Park has become the home of the Grade I listed Impington Village College.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This research and the original essay were undertaken as part of the University of Cambridge's Certificate of Higher Education in Historic Building Conservation, run by the Institute of Continuing Education. Thanks also go to Brian Bowles, Eleanor Whitehead, the Cambridge Antiquarian Society, the Cambridgeshire Collection and Cambridge University Library for images used above.

Anne Cooper

NOTES AND REFERENCES TO SOURCES:

1. Sales brochure: <http://www.75pieces.org.uk/piece/13/>
2. histonandimpingtonvillagesociety.wordpress.com
3. From Eleanor Whitehead. Brett Elliott, *Victorian Gardens*, p15 notes how important Head Gardeners became during the Victorian period, often running a large number of staff.
4. c1951 Brian Bowles <https://www.flickr.com/photos/68474173@N05/6233520353/in/photostream/>
5. <http://archiseek.com/2012/1879-gateway-impington-hall-cambridgeshire/#.VMVfc1Jya-o>
6. Collection of Eleanor Whitehead
7. Map Room, University Library Cambridge
8. Cambridgeshire Collection
9. Robert Jeeps notes 1893 (cf ref 2.)
10. Reuniting the Manor Part and the Ferme Part divided in 1574, www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/cambs/vol9/pp131-133
11. www.impingtonhall.co.uk
12. <http://www.histonandimpington.cambsonline.co.uk>
13. www.flickrriver.com/groups/1751403@N24/pool/interesting
14. <http://list.english-heritage.org.uk/resultsingle.aspx?uid=1331296>
15. <https://www.flickr.com/photos/68474173@N05/6245575161/>
16. © RIBA Library Drawings and Archives Collections
17. Whitehead *Photographic Memories of Histon & Impington* p41
18. Architectural Review, December 1939, No.517
19. <http://www.75pieces.org.uk/piece/13/>
20. c.1951 Brian Bowles <https://www.flickr.com>
21. University of Cambridge, Department of Geography Aerial map RC81M131 30/4/1986

APPENDIX



Two views of the architectural style of Percheron Close.



The wall and the planting belt from within the grounds.



Looking across the playing field towards Percheron Close.



The remains of the ditch.



Messing about on the lake/pond at a recent Impington Village fete. Courtesy Eleanor Whitehead.

STUDY DAY 2017: WALLED GARDENS

*4 March 2017 at Hemingford Abbots Village Hall PE28 9AH.
Members £25, Guests £30, to include coffee and lunch.*

Starting with coffee from 10:00am we will have two speakers before lunch and two speakers after lunch, finishing around 4:00pm. This year's theme is walled gardens and we are lucky enough to have speakers from Luton Hoo, Holkham Hall and our own, local Wimpole Hall. Come and meet with other Trust members in an informal setting and enjoy informative talks about these well-known walled gardens. Spring bulbs in pots will be available to buy to raise funds for the Trust.

Tickets available from Alan Fox, tel.: 01480 811947 or admin@cambsgardens.org.uk.



Wimpole Hall



Holkham Hall



Luton Hoo

A TRIBUTE TO MAUREEN HAWES

Mrs Maureen Hawes died on 18th September 2016. Our members will have received this news with great sadness. Maureen was a long serving and loyal member of the Cambridgeshire Gardens Trust and, until her recently move from Cambridge to Newmarket, a staunch supporter of our annual visits. She is much missed.

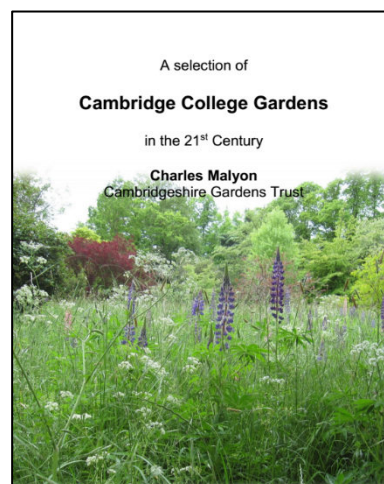
Encouraged by John Drake after our visit to Holmewood Hall in 2005 Maureen, together with her friend Diana Silk, volunteered to research the history of the Hall's gardens. They took advice from Christopher Taylor and produced three excellent articles in our Newsletters of November 2007, May 2008 and November 2009.

The members of the Trust send their sympathy to Maureen's husband Bernard, who accompanied her on visits in recent years. It is upon the support and efforts of such members that the Trust became established in its early years and continues to be successful today.

Charles Malyon

A NEW BOOK BY CHARLES MALYON

WE are delighted to announce the publication of a new book by Charles Malyon on behalf of Cambridgeshire Gardens Trust. Members will no doubt be aware that Charles has contributed accounts to the newsletter of visits to Cambridge University College gardens of a number of years. These reports, meticulously researched for the histories of the gardens, have been collated and edited by Julia Weaver, and published in a new book, *A Selection of Cambridge College Gardens in the 21st Century*. The book was published in time for the recent Tercentenary Conference of Capability Brown at Robinson College in September and is available for CGT members at £9.99. Sample copies will be on display at the AGM on Saturday 12 November 2016 in Fen Drayton Village Hall CB24 4SL, 10:15am for 10:45am.





NEWS FROM THE BORDERS

News items and events from outside Cambridgeshire that we hope may be of interest to members.

PARKS & GARDENS UK WITH HESTERCOMBE GARDENS TRUST WIN HLF SUPPORT

Today, Parks & Gardens UK (P&GUK) with Hestercombe Gardens Trust have received £97,900 from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) to secure the future of the P&GUK database and website of historic designed landscapes.

The project will facilitate the smooth transition of the website and database from P&GUK to Hestercombe Gardens Trust, which has its own archive and a permanent archivist. The P&GUK archive has records of over 9100 historic designed landscape sites and over 2400 biographies of associated people and organisations. The Hestercombe archive contains a significant collection of documents, photographs, plans and manuscripts relating not only to Hestercombe itself (with its 18C landscape garden and its Jekyll/Lutyens gardens) but to other parks, gardens and designed landscapes in the United Kingdom. The combination of the two databases, by creating economies of scale and ease of access between them, will offer a powerful research resource unmatched elsewhere. It will also allow for its expansion by maintaining and developing the existing close relationship between County Gardens Trusts and the newly formed Gardens Trust, as well as the development of new relationships with like-minded organisations. Hestercombe House, near Taunton, is readily accessible and has a range of conference rooms for seminars, summer schools and workshops that will make the study of gardens and landscapes available to a wider public.

Commenting on the award, Gilly Drummond, patron of P&GUK said: "This is wonderful news! Accessible research data are essential for proving significance and thus is critical to conservation and the appropriate maintenance of our great heritage of parks and gardens. It is very exciting that Parks & Gardens UK has at last such an appropriate new home for its huge collection of records. It will thrive in the company of the Hestercombe archive and both will have a great part to play in encouraging new research and researchers. The Capability Brown Festival, with so much new information emerging, shows just how much it is needed."

Philip White, Chief Executive of the Hestercombe Gardens Trust said: "I am delighted that Hestercombe will have the opportunity to develop and expand on the considerable work achieved by P&GUK over more than ten years and look forward to working with the County Gardens Trusts and others in realising the database's considerable potential."

Explaining the importance of the HLF support, Stuart McLeod, the head of the HLF in the South East, said: "Whether it's a tourist searching for a destination for their day out or a researcher discovering the history of a centuries-old garden, this database is an important resource for many thousands of people. Having supported the Parks & Gardens UK database since its inception, we're pleased to offer this support so that it can transition into a new chapter in its existence."

ABOUT PARKS & GARDENS UK

P&GUK was established from 2005 to create an online database resource of material relating to historic designed landscapes using technology to process and distribute information in order that it should be readily accessible. Database and website information provide key legacies for significant projects, including the Capability Brown Festival, World War One Memorial Landscapes and the Inventory of Conservation Management Plans. Through working closely with volunteers in the Country Garden Trusts, NADFAS and individual researchers throughout the UK, the database now contains records of over 2200 references, 90 archives and nearly 6000 digital images, in addition to the records mentioned above.

Cambridgeshire Gardens Trust was an early adopter of the new database and both Judith Christie and the late John Drake worked to transfer the paper records that underpin *The Gardens of Cambridgeshire* gazetteer into the searchable database. The PGUK database is used by many organisations, professionals, researchers and interested members of the public, both within the UK and worldwide. www.parksandgardens.org.



HISTORIC LANDSCAPES ASSEMBLY

The inaugural event of an annual, national networking forum from the Gardens Trust (GT), attracting delegates from across the heritage and landscape sector, with County Gardens Trusts right at its heart.

Aim. An opportunity for all those with a stake in historic designed landscapes and their conservation to meet and discuss current issues. Speakers will include representatives from the Gardens Trust, Historic England and the Capability Brown Festival, and we will also be treated to case studies from County Gardens Trusts. Discussion will include the public parks crisis; the place of research in conservation; the context for the release of the Gardens Trust's long-anticipated leaflet 'The Planning System and the Protection of Historic Parks and Gardens'; and ways to drive our sector's renewed determination to be a combined force for good.

Background. A year after bringing together the Association of Gardens Trusts and the Garden History Society to form the Gardens Trust, this fresh organisation has restated its role as a key conservation organisation working to protect designed landscapes, with the publication of 'The Planning System and the Protection of Historic Parks and Gardens: Guidance for Local Planning Authorities'. This leaflet makes it clear that successful conservation in these times of stretched resources will rely on the sharing of skills and information, and one of the Trust's most vital roles is to facilitate the dissemination of up-to-date research and policy, helping national bodies, local authorities and heritage volunteers to share their knowledge and expertise so that they may more effectively protect the landscapes we love.

We hope that this inaugural event will be the first of many annual Assemblies in which those working for the protection of historic designed landscapes, whether as staff or volunteers, can come together to discuss key issues demanding our collective attention.

Historic Landscapes Assembly

A Historic Landscape Project Discussion and Networking Day

10am-5pm on 24th November 2016

**The Gallery, 70 Cowcross Street, London,
EC1M 6EJ**

Draft Programme to include:

- 10.00 Registration, tea and coffee
- 10.15 Introduction (Linden Groves, GT Historic Landscape Project Officer)
- 10.20 Welcome (Dr James Bartos, GT Chairman)
- 10.30 The Planning System in England and progressing the protection of historic parks and gardens (Sarah Dickinson, GT Board member)
- 11.00 Historic England Agenda 2016 (Jenifer White, National Landscape Adviser, Historic England)
- 11.20 Discussion
- 11.30 State of Public Parks (David Lambert, GT Board member)
- 12.00 Discussion
- 12.10 At the Planning Conservation Coalface: Avon Gardens Trust (Dr Ros Delany, Chairman, Avon Gardens Trust)
- 12.30 Discussion workshop
- 13.00 Lunch, networking, and celebratory toast
- 14.00 Revving up Research & Recording: Buckinghamshire Gardens Trust (Clare de Carle, Buckinghamshire GT)
- 14.30 Update from Parks & Gardens UK, speaker tbc.
- 14.45 Discussion
- 15.00 Tea and coffee
- 15.15 Seizing the Capability Brown opportunity: (Elaine Johnson, Northamptonshire GT)
- 15.45 Capability Brown: What next? (Melissa Tettey, Capability Brown Festival)
- 16.15 Discussion
- 16.30 Points on the horizon!
- 16.45 Capabili-tea, courtesy of the Capability Brown Festival
- 17.00 Close

Enquiries or bookings to

tamsinmcmillan@thegardenstrust.org

Places are limited, so please book promptly to avoid disappointment.

This is a free event and lunch is included, although we will invite donations of £5 on the day towards catering costs.

PROGRAMME OF VISITS & EVENTS 2016-17

Our theme for 2017 is Walled Gardens.

(For latest information please visit <http://cambsgardens.org.uk>)

NOV 2016	12 Sat	10:15am for 10:45am	AGM Fen Drayton Village Hall, CB24 4SL. Coffee on arrival. AGM from 10:45am, then talk followed by lunch (nominal charge). Speaker: Dr Jane Sills - <i>Progress at Ramsey Walled Garden, including the new glasshouses.</i>
DEC 2016	1 Thur	10:00am-12:30pm	Christmas Lecture. Kings College, Kings Parade, Cambridge CB2 1ST including coffee & seasonal refreshments. Dr David Jacques , trustee of Chiswick House and The Gardens Trust, on <i>Capability Brown at home: busy running his family, a Royal Garden and his nation-wide business.</i> Members £12, guests £15.
MARCH 2017	4 Sat	10:00am-4:00pm	Study Day at Hemingford Abbots Village Hall PE28 9AH. Theme: Walled Gardens. Coffee on arrival, talks from 10:30am. <i>Speakers from Luton Hoo, Holkham Hall and Wimpole Hall.</i> £25 members, £30 guests, to include coffee and lunch.
APRIL	11 Tues	10:45am	Visit to Christ's College, Cambridge: coffee on arrival. Entrance opposite taxi rank in St Andrew's Street. Tour by Head Gardener, Sergio Ballarin . £5 members, £6 guests.
MAY	18 Thur	11:00am	Visit to Ryston Hall, nr Downham Market PE38 0AA. Mixed garden of rhododendrons and azaleas, walled garden under restoration. Refreshments on arrival. Tour by David Brown . £9 members, £10 guests. Lunch suggestion: The Hare Arms, PE34 3HT (not booked as group).
	18 Thur	pm	Visit to Stow Bardolph Hall, PE34 3HU (close to Ryston Hall). Garden tour/tea and home-made cakes, £8.00 members, £9 guests.
JUNE	14 Weds	6:30pm	An evening visit to Childerley Hall, Dry Drayton CB23 8BA (signed from flyover, Cambourne exit off A428) by kind permission of the owner, and CGT member, Chloë Jenkins . Cost: £12 members, £14 guests to include tour and light refreshments.
JULY	12 Weds		Visit to be arranged, details to follow.
AUGUST	10 Thur		Possible visit by coach to Norfolk to see walled gardens at Houghton Hall and Holkham Hall; indicative cost £45 pp including entrance. Details to be confirmed nearer time.
SEPT	13 Weds		Visit to be arranged, details to follow.
OCT			Visit to be arranged, details to follow.
NOV	11 Sat	10:30am	AGM Fen Drayton Village Hall, CB24 4SL. Coffee on arrival. AGM from 11:00am. Talk from 11:30am followed by lunch (£5). <i>Speaker, date and venue to be confirmed.</i>
DEC	1 Fri	10:00am-12:30pm	Christmas Lecture. Pippa Temple will speak on <i>The Emperor and his Garden – Where there's a Will there's a Way.</i> Venue and cost to be confirmed.

Tickets are available from: Alan Brown, Foxhollow, 239 High Street, Offord Cluny, St. Neots PE19 5RT. Tel.: 01480 811947.

E-mail: fox.239@btinternet.com **Please make cheques payable to Cambridgeshire Gardens Trust**

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
Foxhollow, 239 High Street, Offord Cluny, St Neots, Cambs. PE19 5RT. Tel: 01480 811947
www.cambsgardens.org.uk

Registered Charity no. 1064795