



CAMBRIDGESHIRE GARDENS TRUST

NEWSLETTER No. 43 November 2017

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LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

IT IS hard to believe that it is now almost a year since I took on the chair of the CGT from David Brown but, as another AGM approaches rapidly, this must be the case. After the high-profile events of the CB300 year, and the very successful conference, this year has had a distinct feeling of 'back to business' but with a lingering glow as we look back on our achievements. I have been able to meet many new faces at the Study Day and Christmas Talk as well as at visits. My ambition to try and get to all the visits has sadly not been fulfilled due to work commitments, which has made me more determined to try and hold some of summer events and visits out of normal work hours, so that we can broaden our appeal to those people who are still working (without of course alienating those who aren't!). We always welcome new members so perhaps you might think of inviting people who would not normally be able to come to daytime visits to some of the weekend or evening events in the coming year.

With this in mind, next year will also be our very own celebratory year, being the 21st birthday of the founding of the CGT. Not as many years as the Brown tercentenary perhaps but an opportunity to look back on our considerable achievements and give ourselves a well deserved 'party', plans for which are now underway, so stay tuned for further information. Speaking of which, communication is of course key to any organisation, both with its members and also with the wider world. Although we waved a sad farewell to Miranda, who had been responsible for our website before her move to Devon, we have been able to use the opportunity of a new webmaster to create a fresh look and feel, not only to the website but also by creating a presence on Facebook and other forms of social media. This work is currently 'on-going' and members will receive further details of the new website and Facebook page when they are fully launched, which should be in good time for the 'birthday year'.

A refreshed website and Facebook page will enable us to be active in promoting the work and activities of the CGT across a much wider audience, especially bearing in mind the role of Cambridge as the 'Silicon Valley' of England. Back copies of the Newsletter will also be available on the website and these, plus current copies, can also be e-mailed to you if you no longer feel you need a printed copy. We do encourage all members to register for e-mail updates for events etc. as it means you need never miss out on CGT activities.

Visits to a variety of sites were well attended over the summer with a particular highlight being the Childerley visit, where we were warmly welcomed by Chloë Jenkins and given generous hospitality as well as a tour of the wonderful gardens. Other visits included Clare College (twice to take advantage of the superb planting at different seasons), as well as jaunts to Holkham and Kelmarsh Halls, and a return visit to Wimpole for a very special tour by the Head Gardener with whom the CGT has had a close relationship over the years. A gentle, sunny mid-September day saw members enjoying the wide variety of colourful late season planting at Bernard Tickner's Fullers Mill, warmly hosted by head gardener Annie Delbridge and her team, with unusual brilliant red spindles, colchicums and hydrangeas.

The programme of visits and talks has been a major feature of CGT membership and, as you can see from above, they are imaginative and stimulating, often offering insider information on the history and planting of a site. I hope you will, therefore, join me in thanking Ann Colbert for all the research and logistical organisation she has put into creating our events calendar over a good many years. Her commitment and endeavours brought a resounding success for our 'Capability' Brown tercentenary conference, warmly recognised by the Gardens Trust. Ann has decided, for personal reasons, to step down from the Council of Management at the November AGM

and, while hers will be a hard act to follow, we also invite volunteers to help develop our programme from late 2018 onwards.

With winter approaching, events will now retreat indoors with the AGM and the Christmas lecture, which are always popular. The expanding research group is also buckling down over the coming months to their current project on the productive walled gardens of Cambridgeshire, as the cooler season is an ideal time for visiting archives, or working on the wide range of digital resources now available from the comfort of one's own laptop. Visiting sites is also made easier by the lack of waist-high nettles and weeds.

If any members would like to become more involved in historic gardens, there is now a very wide range of events, talks

and training days being held by The Gardens Trust (formed from the merger of the Association of Gardens Trusts and the Garden History Society) and we encourage members who are interested to consider attending these. Information on selected events will be in the Newsletters, and details will be emailed to members as and when we are given them by The Gardens Trust. A small budget has been agreed to assist with travel costs for members who would like to attend and are willing to report back in the form of a paragraph or two. So, with that prospect of a winter of talks, events and activities I look forward to seeing you in the coming months!

Twigs Way
CGT Chair

COUNCIL OF MANAGEMENT VACANCIES

THE COUNCIL of Management is currently looking for a **Deputy Chair** to help with the various activities of the CGT. The position, distinct from the 'next-chair-elect', would particularly suit someone who is able to attend some of the CGT visits and thereby to keep in touch with members on the ground, so to speak. Liaison with The Gardens Trust could also form part of this role.

Publicity: as we approach the CGT anniversary celebrations next year, it would be wonderful to have a council member to look after media liaison, by engaging radio, newspaper and the various regional magazines etc. with news of our activities and

events so that we can use the year to encourage new membership. No experience is needed but enthusiasm is welcomed. Email fluency is desirable and ability to construct small press releases would be a bonus.

Events Coordinator: thanks to Ann's efforts we have a solid base for our events throughout most of 2018 and so we would be delighted to welcome a volunteer to help identify and arrange visits and talks on a continuing basis. An extra pair of hands would also be appreciated to work with the Council of Management in arranging the 21st birthday celebrations.

HISTORIC GARDENS: OUR UNIVERSAL HERITAGE

THE HISTORIC GARDENS FOUNDATION (HGF) was set up in 1995 with the object of giving a voice to everyone all round the world, both organisations and individuals, working to preserve historic parks and gardens. Every aspect of the subject comes within our remit, including botanic gardens, cemeteries and modest family gardens, and we also cover research techniques, such as garden archaeology.

The HGF shares all this information by publishing a magazine, *Historic Gardens Review*, which is posted out to subscribers twice a year, and the HGF Newsletter, which is emailed four times a year. When we started, most garden publications offered little historic background to the places they featured: it was all plants and design. To read about a garden's past, the only options were *Garden History*, the journal of the Garden History Society, or its US equivalent, the *Archives of American Gardens* at the Smithsonian, both possibly somewhat academic for general readers.

My publishing background made me think that a lively yet authoritative magazine about historic gardens would be welcomed, both in the UK and abroad. Not only would it explain good research and conservation practice to non-specialists, it would also publicise the efforts of experts, such

as the County Gardens Trusts and the GHS (now merged into The Gardens Trust). Indeed, in our third issue we ran an article about the Gardens Trusts, hoping people in other countries would use them as a model.

I particularly wanted the magazine to be international because, when visiting gardens in France and Italy, I noticed how often the owners and others involved said they needed advice. I was always being asked, "Why are my box hedges turning brown?" Or "How can I find trained gardeners, preferably English ones?"

After discussing the idea with colleagues here and abroad, it became clear that it was never going to become a profitable business, so my husband Richard and I set up a not-for-profit organisation to back it. The HGF was granted official charity status in the spring of 1995 and at the end of that year the first magazine was published. It was then called *European Gardens* because, although our remit was worldwide, the 43 countries in Europe seemed quite enough to start with but in 1997 we renamed it *Historic Gardens Review*, and made the content completely international.

Although many people believed that *European Gardens* was funded by 'Europe', the HGF has never received any

support, financial or otherwise, from the EU. Indeed, it gets no funding from anyone. It is financed by subscribers to the magazine, with Richard and me making up the shortfall each year.

That first issue set the tone for the variety we have always aimed for. Authors from several countries contributed articles on three very different restorations: William and Mary's Privy Garden at Hampton Court; some 19C glasshouses at Tatton Park, and a cottage orné in Ireland. In addition, there was an account of how Russian gardens had been influenced by European models, and another on the 600 historic gardens across Europe that had applied for EU grants.

The flow of information is always two-way and we're careful not to give the impression that the UK knows all about historic gardens and is kindly condescending to pass on its expertise. But there is one area where the British really can offer an example: our Heritage Lottery Fund, which has saved so many UK parks and is not, so far as I know, replicated elsewhere. We published an article explaining how the HLF works and often update this with news of the latest park to be awarded a grant.

As well as articles covering several pages, the magazine carries shorter items of news, drawing attention to landscapes of different kinds all over the world that have been saved from dereliction or destruction and those that are under threat – what we call the Optimist and Pessimist pages.

Today, *Historic Gardens Review* has subscribers in 24 countries (though we need lots more of them) and has published articles or short pieces on places from Albania to Zimbabwe; 86 in all, most of which I have never been able to visit myself. The HGF is not Reuters and it can cover the whole world only if readers let us know what is going on.

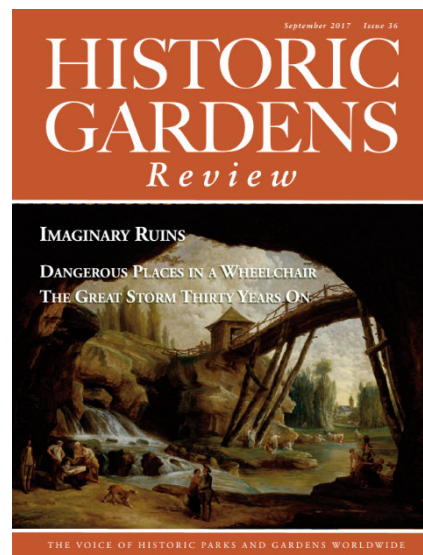
People often ask which article I am most pleased about. It is the one on the garden of the British Embassy in Kabul, written by a former British diplomat in Afghanistan, which we published in 2001. His witty text, illustrated with excellent photographs by another diplomat, offered a record of a wonderful garden that has completely disappeared.

Occasionally, we like to run a story that might appear frivolous: on glass flowers, for instance; on the park laid out round a whisky distillery, or the two ladies who won an air race by flying their little plane over lots of 'Capability' Brown landscapes – and two other English ladies who claimed they saw ghosts in the garden of the Petit Trianon at Versailles.

The magazine has always published book reviews, and in Spring 2001 we added reviews of gardens. Readers send in an account of a park or garden they have visited, describing it and commenting, favourably or otherwise, as though it were a play or an exhibition. Entry tickets can be expensive, and I believe that any garden that opens to the public should be judged by the same criteria as theatres or galleries. We should ask whether we are getting value for money: not only is the garden itself worth visiting, but is there sufficient well-displayed information about it; were the staff helpful; how good is the guide book; was the food in the café edible, and were the toilets clean?

I do hope CGT members will want to subscribe to *Historic Gardens Review*, and do please get in touch to tell us about what you see when you travel, or if you would like the world to know about what the CGT is doing. You can contact us via our website, www.historicgardens.org, where you will find more information about the magazine and newsletter – and, of course, a subscription form!

Gillian Mawrey
HGF Chairman and Editor-in-Chief



HISTORIC LANDSCAPES ASSEMBLY NETWORKING DAY

THE GARDENS TRUST has announced the second Historic Landscapes Assembly, a national networking forum, attracting delegates from across the heritage and landscape sector, with county Gardens Trusts right at its heart. To be held on 28th November from 10:00-17:30 at the Dickens Room, Birmingham and Midland Institute, Margaret Street, Birmingham, B3 3BS, the event will offer an opportunity for everyone 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, Natural England and Celebrating Repton 2018. There will also be case studies from county Gardens Trusts. Thirty years after the 'Great Storm', the meeting will examine its effects, both negative and positive, on

historic parks and gardens. Discussion will include 'Capability' Brown landscapes at risk; progress of the recently re-housed Parks and Gardens UK database; the place of research in conservation, and ways to drive the sector's renewed determination to be a combined force for good.

The day's programme will provide plenty of opportunity for networking over coffee, lunch and tea, and will be followed by an early evening event with refreshments, from 17:45-20:00, in which Tamsin Treverton Jones will talk about her book *Windblown: Landscape, Legacy and Loss, The Great Storm of 1987*. Tickets are £12 for whole day, including evening lecture, available via: Eventbrite at <http://thegardenstrust.org/events/> Other enquiries to tamsinmcmillan@thegardenstrust.org

A FAREWELL NOTE FROM THE PENDERS

MARK AND I had always planned to move to the West Country at some time in the future, but didn't realise it would take place quite so soon! But that's the problem with 'just looking' at Rightmove: you see something you like, and arrange to view it because you 'just happen' to be in the area (not with any firm intention, of course - you're simply interested to see what's available) and then six months later you're picking up the keys...

Abbots Fee is a beautiful, classically-designed hamstone town house in the centre of Sherborne, built about 1840. We decided to go for it before we were really ready to move from Essex because, as well as ticking all the essential boxes we had in mind, it has a massive, first-floor artists' studio! I had a strong feeling that if we were to pass up this opportunity, we'd never find anywhere that was quite so perfect - and I am of the school of thought that says you are likely to regret the things you don't do far more than those you do.

Mark was unsure. He works in the City, with a retirement date set for the end of this year, and while Sherborne has a mainline railway station, the journey time of just over two hours to Waterloo means that it isn't sensibly commutable. However, I had an answer to that! You can rent somewhere for six months, I assured him - and yes, I found a nice little apartment five minutes' walk from Bishops Stortford station, which will be his base during the week. He's finally coming round to the idea.

Many people have asked if I wasn't heartbroken to leave our beautiful garden at Sparrows End. The answer, quite simply, is no. We moved there in 2006 and, to me, the delight was in the planning and creation. I was thrilled to see the trees and shrubs



Miranda and Mark's garden at Abbots Fee, in Sherborne.

I planted approaching maturity - some things worked, some didn't - but it was time to hand them on to someone else. The people who bought our house are keen gardeners and very excited to have so much space to play with, so I can leave it behind without regret.

Abbots Fee has a much smaller garden, but it is intriguingly laid out, and on several different levels. There is a courtyard, and a fernery, and a sun terrace, and a partly-enclosed storage area that I plan to transform into a grotto! After twenty years of living in villages, it will be refreshing to be able to step out of the front door and have shops (Sherborne has some gorgeous shops, and proper ones, not just touristy), pubs and restaurants within a few minutes' walk, rather than having to get into the car any time you want to go anywhere.

It is a house just made for entertaining, and we will have plenty of room for guests. We are five miles south of the A303 near Yeovil, so ideally placed for anyone who is travelling from Essex/Cambridgeshire to Devon/Cornwall and would like to break their journey. Dorset has some spectacular gardens and lovely landscapes to explore, so we do hope you will come and visit.

I will always treasure memories of the kindness and friendship extended to me by members of the CGT, and the many wonderful expeditions we shared. Please keep in touch! My phone number is 01935 815497, and you can also email me on mirandapender.mp@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing you.



Detail of ornamentation in the fernery.

Miranda (formerly Miriam) Pender

THE GARDENS OF CLARE COLLEGE, IN THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CLARE, is the second oldest of the colleges. A Cambridge burgher Nigel de Thornton gave property to the new university c1275, today the site of the Old Schools. In 1326 the Vice Chancellor of the University, Richard de Badew acquired part of this land for his student hostel. The University did not undertake to provide its students with lodgings or board but only to possess supervisory powers to prevent the exploitation of its students through excessive rents and to protect their morals. Badew's University Hostel was not endowed and was unusual in being the only hostel or older college to be created by the University. It occupied about half the area of Clare's present Old Court and was an enclosed rectangular court, which Lady Elizabeth de Burgh acquired and generously endowed after a disastrous fire had threatened its existence. Elizabeth, who was the granddaughter of King Edward I, inherited the honour of Clare and renamed the hostel as Clare Hall, a name which continued until 1856 when it became Clare College. She was the friend of the Countess of Pembroke, another lady who provided endowment to create a college. Their intention was to train priests "in consequence of a great number of men having been taken away by the fangs of pestilence".

THE SITE

By the 14th century there had been some stagnation of trade in Cambridge, exacerbated by the impact of the Black Death. The area of hythes and warehouses by the river were especially affected and land there became cheap, allowing the development of student hostels before the building of the prestigious colleges of 'the Backs' in the 15th and 16th centuries. Further changes in this area occurred when, in 1441,

King Henry VI cleared shops, houses and even the church of St John Zachary in order to build King's College. Access to the river was restricted to Garret Hostel Lane. The King also acquired a part of Long Green, low-lying pasture in the area of 'the Backs'. The site of Clare College is one of the most confined of the colleges and its Old Court was built on an alluvial strip of river-terraced gravels. In the early 17th century, after acrimonious negotiations with King's College, Clare ceded land adjacent to King's Chapel in return for land on the west bank of the river, developed today as its Fellows' Garden. Clare's site is bounded to the east by a surviving part of the mediaeval Milne Street, today called Trinity Lane, to the south by King's College, to the west by Queen's Road and to the north by Trinity Hall and Garret Hostel Lane. Its main entrance is some 12 yards to the northwest of King's Chapel.

THE ENTRANCE AND OLD COURT

Since its early-17C cession of land to King's, Clare has had a small entrance forecourt fronted by gateposts of stone carved by Pearce in 1675 and iron gates worked by the ironsmith Warren in 1713-15. Recently it has lost its spectacular flowering cherry which used to grace the front lawn.

The rebuilding of Old Court, 1638-41, was begun by John Westley with the east front and southern range. No survivals of the mediaeval court

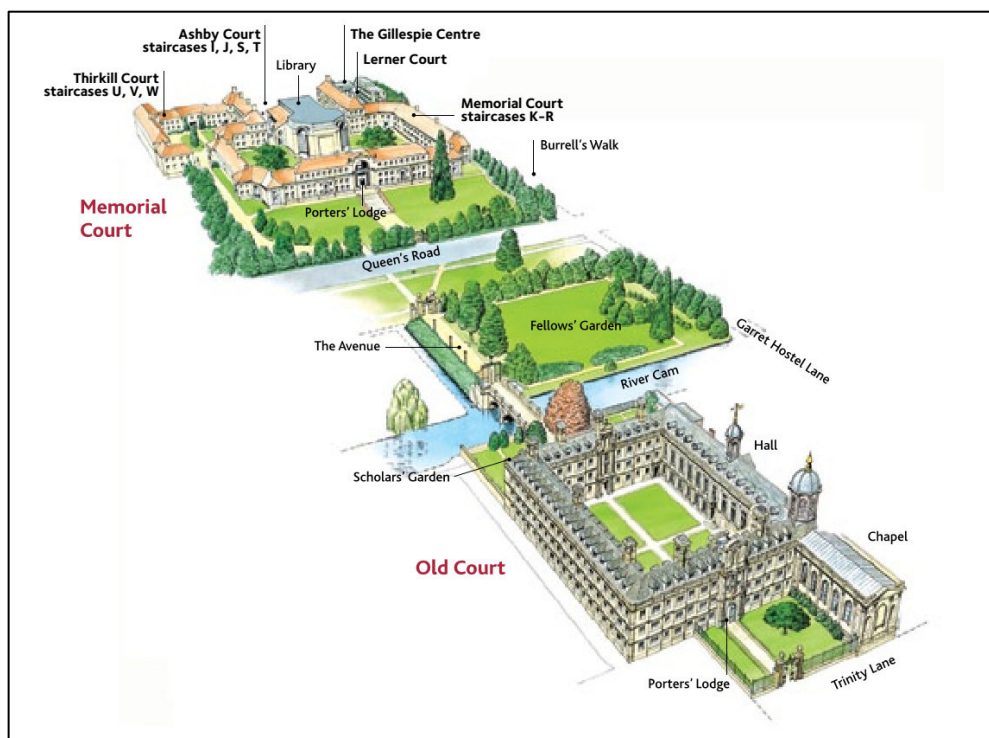


Fig. 1. Clare College looking west (conference brochure).

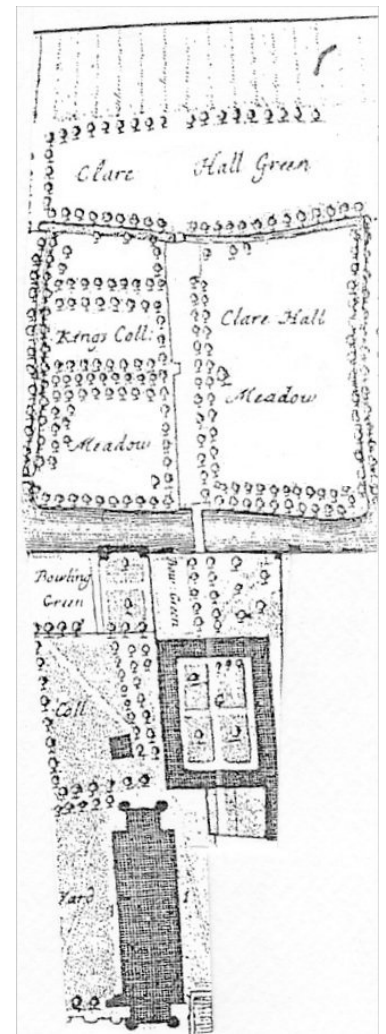


Fig. 2. Detail from Loggan's map.

are visible; it had been smaller and rectangular. A recent archaeological dig along the southern path of the court has revealed some foundations and a cobbled street in superb condition, which is, perhaps, a survival of one of the town's mediaeval lanes connecting the market and Milne Street to the town's river-borne trade. The 17C Civil War interrupted the rebuilding of the western and northern ranges but Robert Grumbold, influenced by Christopher Wren, completed them, in 1683-90. He maintained the Court's architectural integrity providing an exquisite example of a traditional Cambridge court enclosed on all sides, one of the most beautiful compositions in the University.

Loggan's map of 1688 (Fig. 2) shows four lawns crossed by paths and each with a central tree. Today the College's gardeners, although sympathetic to Loggan, have been unable to restore the trees because of the Court's use for May Balls. However there are four beautifully manicured lawns, and pruned bay columns on the northern range draw attention to the height and beauty of the buildings. Around the court is a small border with 16C plants like lavender, santolina and herbs.

THE BRIDGE AND 17C CAUSEWAY

A path through the gateway in the West Range of Old Court is enclosed by a low brick wall and leads to the bridge and causeway. In the early 17th century it was necessary to construct a way to bring building materials, such as Ketton stone ashlar to the site and "to enable them to pass to and from the College otherwise than through the town in times of pestilence".

The path separates the Scholars' Garden, formerly the Fellows' Garden, to the south from the Master's Garden to the north. It leads to Thomas Grumbold's balustraded bridge, 1639-40, the first college bridge to be built in the Classical style (Fig. 3). Across the river, initially the path was a raised causeway constructed of a mattress of some 40 willow trees and supported by low brick walls. In the 1920's soil excavated from the Memorial Court was used to create an extended embankment obscuring the brickwork. Today the Avenue is bordered by lime trees, of which eight have survived, and under-planted with spring bulbs. Originally it gave access to Butt Close, the area of water meadow acquired from King's, which today is the Fellows' Garden. The fine iron gates at the end of the bridge



Fig. 3. Grumbold's balustraded bridge across the Cam.

and at the exit to 'the Backs' were also worked by the ironsmith, Warren.

THE SCHOLARS' GARDEN

Originally for the Fellows, this garden is now an area for leisure and study outdoors. Obscuring fine stone steps near the river are two overgrown yew bushes named by earlier Fellows, Tweedle Dum and Tweedle Dee. It is a garden in which the college gardeners enjoy a relatively free hand. The large yew growing against the southwest range of Old Court is an interesting example of cloud topiary; its whimsical cutting reveals to the observer a reclining nude and an elephant. The Head Gardener, Stephen Elstub, feels that the herbaceous borders around a rectangular lawn with its linear shape are rather unimaginative. He has an ambition to construct a central path and water feature with curving raised walls, on which students could sit, and herbaceous borders as backing. The borders are planted with a large variety of perennial plants which provide seasonal colour and interest.

THE MASTER'S GARDEN

A giant 200-year-old copper beech is the dominant feature of this garden. It is a magnificent specimen and has grown to a great size; a feature in its own right if partially obscuring the splendour of Clare's western range

THE FELLOWS' GARDEN

This is the area acquired from King's in 1638 known as Butt Close, a frequently flooded water meadow; on Loggan's map (Fig. 2), it was a paddock surrounded by trees. By 1780 it had been bisected by a north-south-running hedge and so continued until the 1920's. The western half appears to have been an orchard. By Victorian times, maps suggest a partially walled kitchen garden with vegetable patches and a northern wall for trained fruit trees. Beyond this wall was a row of elms and along the Garret Hostel boundary a row of yew trees, perhaps as a wind-break. A Judas Tree and Swamp Cypress on the river bank date from this time. By the 1920's the paddock had become a typical country house garden with summerhouse and pleasance, orchard and kitchen garden, formal paths and lawns. However, by the 1930's, trees and shrubs became overgrown and it was a neglected area, not improved by six wartime years and by the onset of Dutch elm disease. The College deserved its title of "the palace in the jungle".

The Governing Body met in 1945 and decided to rehabilitate this garden, inviting a Fellow, Professor Nevill Willmer, who had an interest in gardens, to submit ideas and produce a plan (Fig. 4). No Cambridge garden has ever been laid out with more thought. Willmer was an amateur who had inherited from his father William Robinson's *English Flower Garden* and other gardening books by Gertrude Jekyll. Appreciating that the garden's loamy soil would not dry out in high summer, that it was well protected from winds and that this ancient pasture was bounded on all four sides by water - the river and ditches on the other three sides - Willmer designed in 1946-7 a splendid example of a 20C English garden, which was then laid out by his knowledgeable partner, the Head Gardener William Barlow whose work was continued by his assistant and eventual successor Brian Arbon.

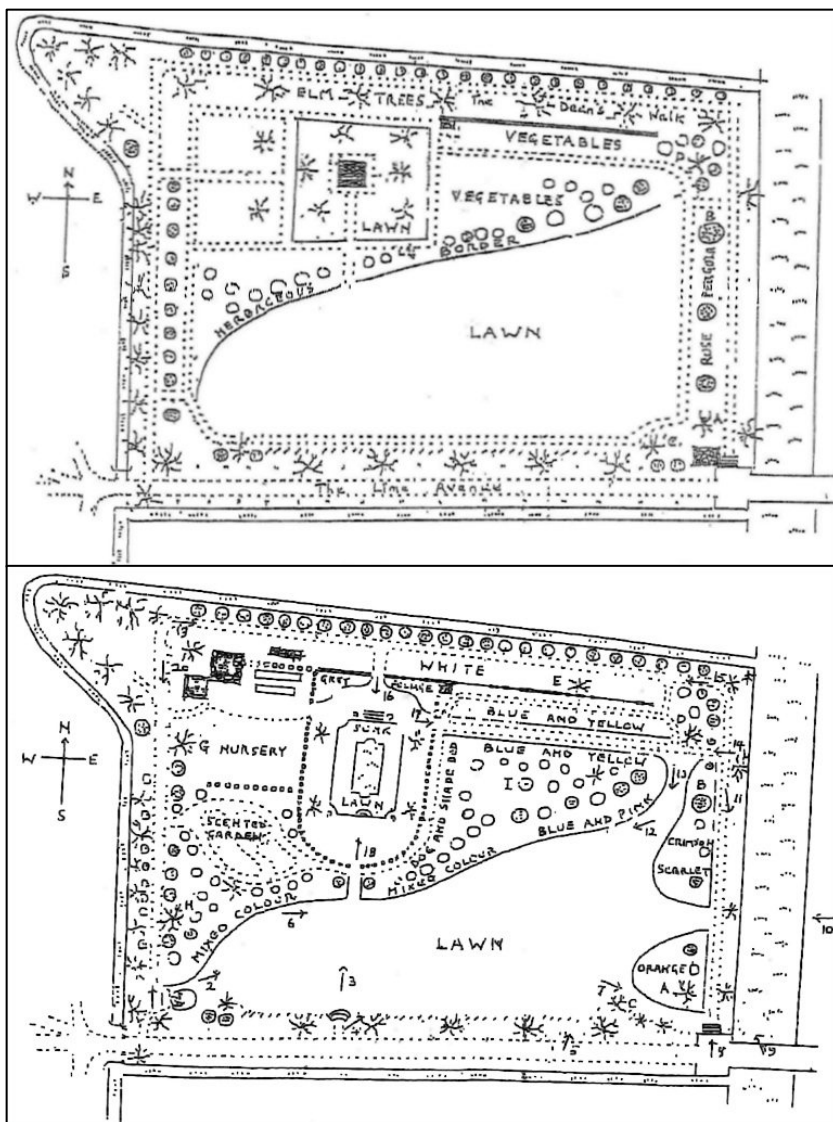


Fig. 4. Willmer's plans of the Fellows' Garden, as it was in 1945 (above) and in 1954 (below).

It was a challenge well met in such a prestigious part of 'the Backs' and with a need to accommodate the opinions and needs of various Fellows; a walk between yew trees while composing sermons, a lawn for bowls, a summerhouse for sleeping out in high summer, a setting for May Week plays, flowers for the Chapel and Master's Lodge and a planting of rare specimens to satisfy botanists. Willmer himself was an enthusiastic 'Sunday painter' of landscapes and his own researches were concerned with peculiarities of human colour vision. These factors influenced his thoughts on design, the creation of vistas from vantage points and the importance of colour patterns. Willmer wrote of dividing the garden into sections giving each "a special character with respect to such things as season, colour, scents, privacy and use".

Specimen trees from the old garden were preserved; the Judas Tree and Swamp Cypress, a Buckeye Chestnut and a Handkerchief Tree. The diseased elms had to be felled and were replaced by a 'white border' together with the Handkerchief Tree, philadelphus and scented white flowers, all edged with box. Beyond is a path, the Dean's Walk, for contemplation, backed by a restored wall and

with the yews offering protection from the Garret Hostel ditch. Along the river bank cherries, willows and anemones give seasonal colour. Survivals of a rose pergola beside the river path were removed. The rose bed was divided into two, each considerably widened and shaped to allow a view embracing the College's West Range and Master's Lodge. These herbaceous beds, parallel with the river, are planted in a harmony of red from crimson to scarlet and on to orange in progress from the blue and yellow border of the northern boundary. From these beds there is a large, sinuous lawn with wide herbaceous border on the north side and a variety of shrubs to the south backed by a yew hedge enclosing the garden from the Avenue. The border of mixed colours, with blue and pink predominant, leads to the entrance to the sunken garden. Beyond at the western end of the informal lawn, suitable for bowls, Barbara Hepworth's sculpture *Two Forms* is a striking feature. Willmer achieved another tempting view of the garden by creating an entrance down steps from the Avenue, across the lawn to the further steps at the entrance of the sunken garden. He rebuilt the central summerhouse in the northwest corner of the garden, which today is the gardeners' shed in an enclosed nursery garden. This allowed the development of a secluded open-air theatre on a north-south axis at right angles to the herbaceous borders. Gaps in the enclosing, clipped yew hedge allow for theatrical entrances and exits. This garden is also a place of seclusion with its central lily pond, complete with irises and reeds and edged with York stone. The pond is a determining feature dictating the approximate level of the garden's sunken lawn with its water level set by that of the river. Two gnarled apple trees,



Fig. 5. Aerial view of the Fellows' Garden today, with the sunken garden in the centre. Dean's walk runs E-W, north of sunken garden; 'tunnel of gloom' within trees to west boundary; lime avenue borders Avenue on S boundary leading to Clare bridge. Hepworth's 'Two Forms' lies to SW of the lawn. View to N with Cam on right. Imagery ©2017 Google.

possibly of the variety Lord Derby, have survived from the earlier orchard. To the west of this sunken garden was Willmer's scented garden which, today, has been developed into a modern version of a Victorian sub-tropical garden, creating this effect through foliage, shape and variegation of planting which includes banana plants. Leading off to the west end of the white walk the path turns south at right angles along the garden's western boundary, a 'tunnel of gloom' under overhanging trees.

In 1697 Celia Fiennes recorded in her Journal, "Clare Hall is very little but most exactly neate; in all parts they have walks with rows of trees and hedges over the river and fine painted gates into the fields". Today Willmer's garden, sensitively preserved and developed by its gardening custodians, offers an exciting and imaginative addition.

THE MEMORIAL COURT

Beyond the Fellows' Garden and western ditch are Clare Pieces, part of the original Long Green, an area of water meadow below the 25-ft contour. From these Pieces across Queen's Road, were Cambridge's West Fields until the early 19C enclosure. Behind Clare was the Carmefield of arable farming and Clare was one of the colleges that were allocated land after enclosure. The 1888 and 1901 OS maps show a Clare garden across Queen's Road backed by its cricket ground.

In September 1915 the College contracted with the Cambridge builder Negus to build a large hutted hospital; the College archives recorded "the College would gladly give consent to the use of the Ground for the creation of a temporary hospital," with access for ambulances from Burrell's Walk (Figs. 6 & 7). By August 1919 after the War the College was anxious to restore its cricket ground, but reluctantly agreed to a two-year lease, later extended to five, for the Mayor of Cambridge to use the hospital huts for temporary accommodation at a time of housing crisis. The rapid expansion of the College after the War necessitated new building and, in 1923, the lease was ended and Sir Giles Gilbert Scott was commissioned to design a Memorial Court. (Part of Clare's site was sold to the University in 1925 for its building of a new library, 1931-34.)

Scott's monumental memorial arch forms the entrance, a memorial theme enhanced in the 1960's by the acquisition of Henry Moore's sculpture *Falling Warrior*. Clare was the forerunner in the new area of college and university development in West Cambridge. The court was planted with some fine specimen trees: a cedar, a Wellingtonia, an ailanthus and a Caucasian Wing-Nut surrounded by evergreen and conifer planting.

The College's gardens are overseen by a Garden Committee and under the care of Head Gardener Stephen Elstob, his assistant John Mears and three others with varying contracts. They are very worthy and sensitive heirs of William Barlow and Brian Arbon, proud and careful custodians of both Willmer's splendid design and intentions and of the need to enhance the beauty of the College's buildings. Aware that gardens evolve and that trees decay, they are willing to listen

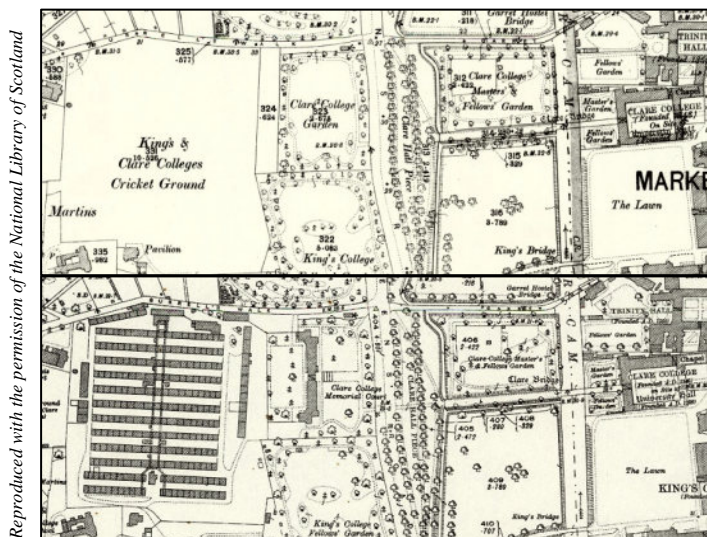


Fig. 6. Details of Clare College grounds from the OS maps of 1901 (above) and 1927 (below).



Fig. 7. The temporary hospital in Clare College grounds.

and where necessary to implement some of the ideas and plan suggested by the recent Landscape Strategy for 'the Backs', 2007-9.

Charles Malyon, October 2017

Sources

Maps:

- John Hammond, 1592.
- Loggan's Cambridge 1688-90.
- 1888, 1903 and 1927 OS maps.
- Google Earth Imagery ©2017 Google.

Engravings and sketches:

- Pugin, 1815.
- Rock, *Views of Cambridge*, 1851.
- Kersey's Sketch book, 1913.

Books:

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JOSEPH DALTON HOOKER: 'THE MAKING OF MODERN BOTANY'

ON A CGT trip to the Cambridge Botanic Garden's herbarium, we had the excitement of handling a specimen sheet, complete with not just the plant exhibit, but with a conversation between three of the world's greatest botanists of the time. The specimen had been collected by Darwin during his visit to the Galapagos islands. Home, and sorting through his collection, he sent it to Henslow in Cambridge, asking if he could identify the plant, which he said was basically running amok on the island, overwhelming other plant life.¹ Henslow could not, but sent it on to Hooker at Kew, who responded that it much resembled a form of squash that he had seen in New Zealand.

There, on this scrap of paper was botanical history in the making. Two of the most celebrated botanists of all time, collaborating with Henslow, (no mean botanist in his own right) to collect, identify, and save a rare botanical specimen. Darwin's contribution to our understanding of the world in which we live remains undimmed but Hooker's role in the advancement of botany as a science was of enormous significance, as was his support and encouragement of Darwin's work. Thus it is that we celebrate the 200th anniversary of his birth this year, and to the very day the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew set out to highlight his role in so many spheres of botany that we study today.

For without Hooker, father and son, but particularly son, the following developments would not have taken place in such a form: the acknowledgement of botany as a science requiring rigorous research; the upsurge in the level of exploration to discover the world's flora; its collection, identification and classification; the establishing of herbaria within expanding botanic gardens, and a vast acceleration in the study of botanical medicine. The study of botany was to achieve a professional status and Hooker, himself, was to become, not only the Director of Kew but President of the Royal Society. Before the reign of Queen Victoria botany was not

considered a science. It was frequently a study directed to medicinal usage but in the main was a hobby with which ladies of leisure might indulge themselves. Most keen botanists were amateur, with sufficient private means to support this interest. Very few men managed to make a profession of it, though Joseph's father William Jackson Hooker was one, for in 1820 he became Professor of the newly created chair of botany at Glasgow University; his task to teach botany to medical students and to manage a small botanic garden. However his monies from this position were acquired by standing at the lecture theatre door collecting an entrance fee! Likewise Joseph from an early age shared his father's fascination of plant life,

but to travel on scientific expeditions, as he did early in his career, he had to acquire a medical degree in order to be taken on board as the ship's naturalist.

His first voyage of discovery was a four-year journey to the Southern Seas. The primary purpose was to determine the exact location of the south magnetic pole but the Royal Society did not stop there. Heavy emphasis was placed on empire, trade and the possibilities of opening up areas of economically worthwhile raw materials. Among the instructions Hooker was given, one referred to tree ferns, which were to be investigated and their fibres examined as "substitutes for hemp are very desirable". Plants that could be useful for food, as well as medicinal purposes were prioritized, and it was suggested that some Antarctic lichen might be used as dyes.

During the course of this voyage, his father was made the first Director of Kew Gardens, finally set out formally on a site of only some 11 acres, the rest remaining with the Crown. He was soon writing to his son, begging for plants "I am as keen for dried plants as ever and a thousand times more so for living ones". A passion for collecting and a determination to make Kew a world centre of research set out the path of young Hooker's future career. In both he succeeded, making his reputation first through his

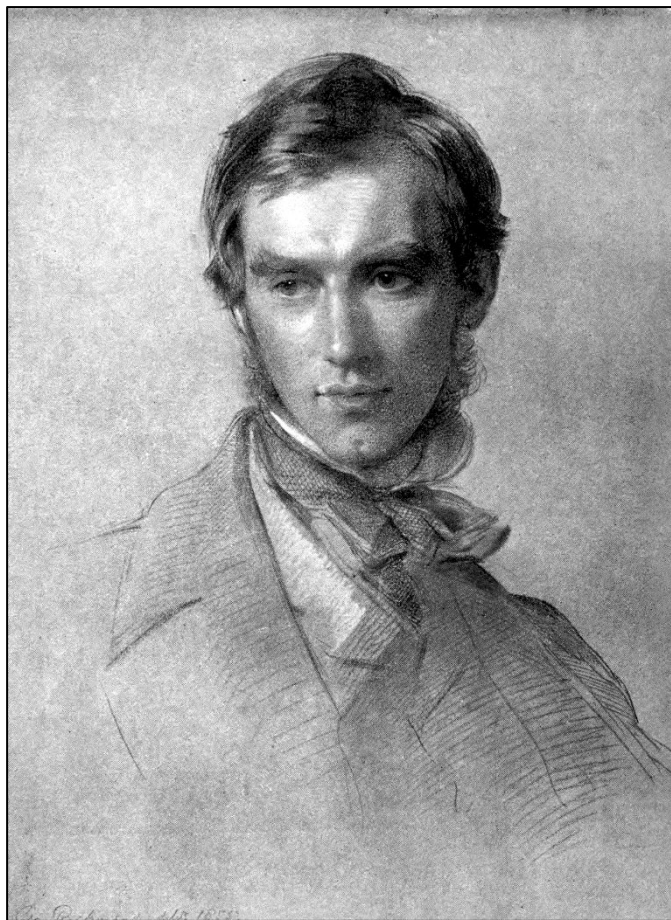


Fig. 1. Joseph Dalton Hooker; portrait by George Richmond.

¹ Fifty years later the plant was extinct, having been gorged by goats that had been imported to the island.

travels to far-flung places such as Sikkim in India, where he added twenty-five new rhododendrons to the fifty already known (Fig. 2). Many plants that we now enjoy in England are due to his efforts, and I couldn't help wondering, watching *Gardener's World* the other day, whether he was responsible for the Himalayan balsam that is now such a nuisance to us.



Fig. 2. Hooker in the rhododendron area of the Himalaya. Mezzotint by W. Walker after F. Stone, 1854.

In 1865 Joseph took over from his father as Director of Kew which, though it may sound like pure nepotism, was well deserved. The number and quality of journals he published between 1845-65 was sufficient in itself. He continued this work over the next 20 years as director, and into an active retirement. In 2017 Kew decided to honour his memory with a day of papers, highlighting all facets of his work and how that work is being built on today. Ten papers were given in all, covering the topics 'Man of Science, Man of Letters', 'Island Flora and Biogeography', 'India and the Himalayas' and '21C Botany'. The day ended in the Sherwood Gallery of Botanical Art with an exhibition 'Joseph Hooker: putting Plants in their Place,' for he could both paint and map as well.

As a postscript it is worth going back to that specimen

Image courtesy of Kew Gardens.

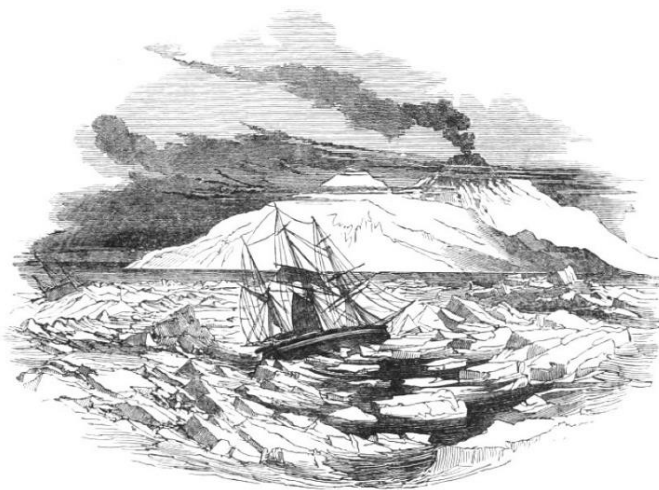


Fig. 3. HMS Erebus in ice before the eponymous volcano. Hooker's first major expedition was as assistant surgeon on the Ross Antarctic Expedition (1839-43). Hooker's notes, journal and plant specimens survive in Kew's archive and herbarium. HMS Erebus was later lost, with sister ship HMS Terror, in the ill-fated Franklin expedition in 1848 but both wrecks were located between 2014-16 by Parks Canada teams off the coasts of King William Island and Adelaide Peninsula.

squash that Hooker identified for Darwin. From his early student days Hooker had been aware of Darwin and the journal he kept of his voyage on the Beagle. One of his father's friends had lent him a set of proof sheets which he kept under his pillow so as to read them as soon as he woke. *They impressed me profoundly, I may say despairingly, with the genius of the writer, the variety of his acquirements, the keenness of his powers of observation, and the lucidity of his description.* Later, they became firm friends and critics of each other's ideas, and Darwin sometimes remarked plaintively that, *I generally believe Hooker implicitly, ... and his ingenuity in discovering flaws seems to me admirable.* Nevertheless Hooker backed Darwin's views consistently and, with Lyell, was responsible for calling the crucial and historic meeting of the Linnean Society in 1858 where the papers produced by Darwin, preceding Wallace's, were submitted. *On the Origin of the Species and Varieties by Means of Natural Selection* was published the next year.

Last year J. D. Hooker was the subject of the Birkbeck Christmas Lecture. This year he is the subject of ours, being given at St John's College, on 8 December by Jim Endersby of the University of Sussex, opening speaker at The Joseph Dalton Hooker Bicentenary Conference, Kew. He may well speak of the 'indignation meeting', a middle-class demo provoked by Hooker during his directorship of the Botanic Garden!

Pippa Temple

MEMBERS MEET-UP: 22 JANUARY 2018

Cambridge University Botanic Garden, 1 Brookside, Cambridge CB2 1JE from 10.30am-4pm. An opportunity for Gardens Trust and County Gardens Trust members to meet each other and discuss ideas, skills and questions. The agenda will allow for discussions on CGT experiences of conservation,

education, research and recording. Highlights include Norfolk Gardens Trust's experience of researching and publishing their book on Lancelot 'Capability' Brown, and Cambridgeshire Gardens Trust's work with schools. This event is free to attend, with a suggested donation of £7 towards lunchtime catering. Please email tamsinmcmillan@thegardenstrust.org to book.

THE GARDENS OF CHRIST'S COLLEGE, IN THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

THE LAND, situated to the east of Clare College on Milne Street, was the site of William Byngham's small Grammar College of God's House in the 15th century. In the 1440's, the land was claimed for his college and chapel by King Henry VI and consequently God's House relocated to a small site near the Barnwell Gate. In 1505 King Henry VII granted a new charter naming his mother, Lady Margaret Beaufort, as Foundress and changing the name to Christ's College. Her purpose was to provide for the lack of grammar-school masters.

THE SITE

This College was sited just outside the town's Barnwell Gate, opposite St Andrew's the Great, and on a gravel promontory rising from the King's Ditch. Its western front faced Preacher's Street (today St Andrew's Street) and the northern boundary followed the route of the Ditch down Walls End Lane (today Hobson Street) continuing to King Street. The College replaced seven tenements whose gardens extended some hundred yards eastward. In 1554 the College's gardens were extended further eastwards by the purchase of St Andrew's the Great's grange. These walled gardens today are bounded by Christ's Walk and Pieces to the south and King Street to the east. Beyond, to the east and south, were the Town's arable Barnwell Fields.

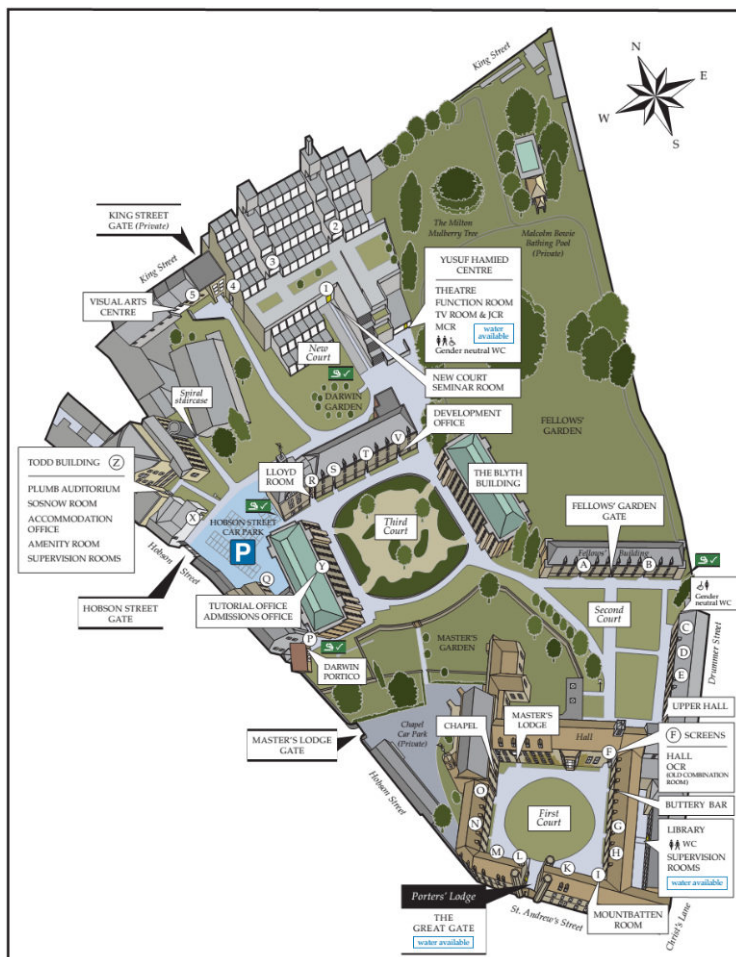


Fig. 1. Christ's College map, 2016 (© Christ's College).

THE GATEHOUSE AND FIRST COURT

Unlike the earliest colleges, Christ's is entered through an imposing gatehouse which bears the arms of Lady Margaret surmounted by an eagle, framed by yales, with their antelopes' bodies, goats' heads and elephants' tails, and displaying the Lancaster rose and portcullis with coronets. Lady Margaret's household book, kept by St John's College, records the building of the First Court of clunch and brick by 1511; it was refaced with Ketton stone by James Essex in 1758. The Court is enclosed and consists of chambers, Chapel, Master's Lodge and Hall. Loggan's map of 1688 depicts two rectangular lawns dissected by a path from the Gatehouse (marked 'P' in Fig. 2).

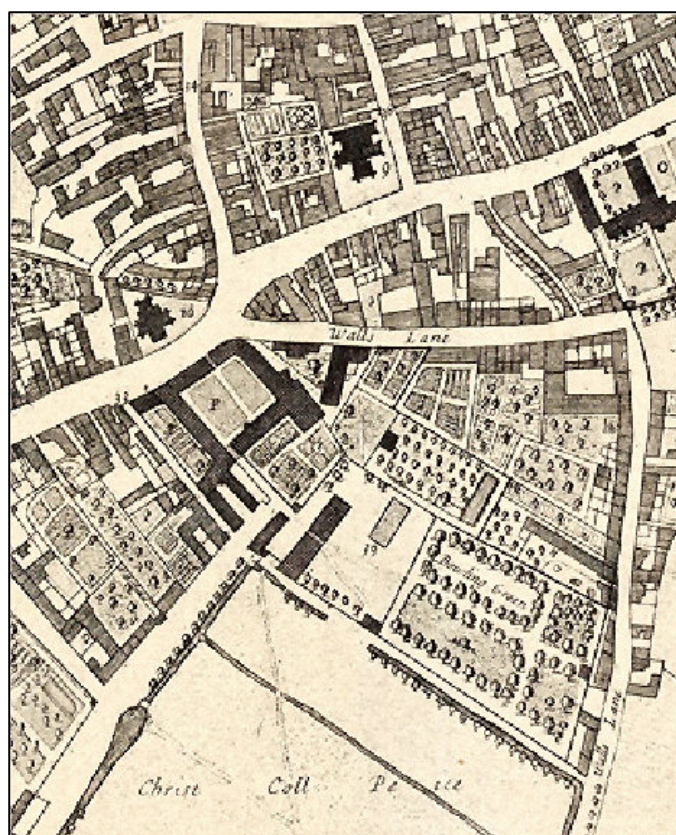


Fig. 2. Detail from Loggan's 1688 map of Cambridge. Christ's First Court is marked by 'P'. North is to right.

By 1798 Custance's map shows the present circular lawn in place (marked 'L' in Fig. 3). It is the only circular lawn in all the colleges.

Christ's lawns are immaculate. Its 17C garden accounts recorded "payment to a mole catcher". Today some colleges' lawns have suffered from the chafer grub but Christ's purchase of nematodes has prevented this problem. The First Court is bordered by a variety of shrubs but the dominant and immediate feature on entering the college is a splendid wisteria c.1895 covering the Master's Lodge. Unfortunately, by the Chapel, the roots of a 50-year-old magnolia grandiflora are damaging the foundations of buildings and it is due to be felled.



Fig. 3. Detail from Custance's 1798 map of Cambridge. Christ's First Court is marked by 'L'. North is to top.

THE SECOND COURT

This court is three sided with its northern side backing onto the hedge of the Master's Garden. In Loggan's map, access to the Fellows' Building was along a narrow walled path. Today, below the hedge, shrubs have been removed and an herbaceous border, enriched by a six-inch top layer of compost, has been created. It is known as the Graduation Border, planted to provide maximum colour at the time of graduation. Another fine lawn fronts the 1640-3 Fellows' Building with its border of tulips, lilies and wallflowers. This was the first predominantly Classical building in Cambridge, a balanced composition apart from the four-centred arched gateway.

THE FELLOWS' GARDEN

This garden is bounded on the south by a high wall, with Christ's Pieces beyond, and to the east by remnants of a 16C clunch wall topped by 19C brick. There is a blocked rear gate. Speed's map, 1610, shows a large orchard covering much of this area. By 1688, Loggan's map (Fig. 2) has a path through



Fig. 4. Second Court seen from Fellows' Garden through the gated arch in Fellows' Building. Photo Ann Colbert.

the Fellows' Building into a further walled garden with a tennis court, and two paths, one leading to a single-storey, brick summerhouse in one corner and the other to a larger enclosed garden. The latter was divided into four rectangular areas edged by trees; one area was a bowling green and the eastern plots were probably orchards. A century later in Custance's map (Fig. 3) the large enclosed garden to the north has been added to create a larger Fellows' Garden, and the eastern plots on Loggan's map now formed a single orchard. The greenhouses and gardens to the north along Hobson Street (shown by Loggan as divided, perhaps as vegetable plots) appear to have been incorporated. Not shown by Loggan but probably in existence was the Bath, a bathing pool, which was referred to by Thomas Salmon, 1748, and in *Cantabrigia Depicta*, 1763.

Today, entry into the Fellows' Garden affords an immediate view of the spire of Bodley's All Saints Church, Jesus Lane, framed by a diversity of specimen trees across a large, informal lawn. In 1825 this two-acre garden with its informal borders, shrubs and trees and winding paths reflected the ideas and influence of J. C. Loudon, whose intention was *to display the individual beauty of trees, shrubs and plants in a state of nature*. To the rear of the Fellows' Buildings are tubs with a variety of hydrangeas and two bay trees framing its central archway. There is a woodland walk along the southern wall, with Christ's Walk and Pieces beyond. A splendid London plane c.1750 of 15-foot circumference is dominant and, currently, careful pruning will allow more light and underplanting to offer increased interest and colour along the walk. A sparrowhawk nests in the garden every year and beyond the trees are four beehives, which provide a good yield of honey for the Fellows. Along this walk is a Fossil Tree, grown from seed by Shelley's grave in Cyprus. At the end is a pleached kiwi climber in a sunny, sheltered position; it has yielded some twenty to thirty fruits.

In this southeastern corner is the gardeners' area, where composting bays and glass frames for potting and planting are in regular use. The 17C garden accounts referred to the purchase of 'loads of sinder (sic) dust'. From here the path beside the 16C eastern wall backing onto King Street reveals a fig and banana on the wall and a Victorian fern house. There are two mulberry trees, one perhaps surviving from 1608 when the College accounts recorded, 'Item for 300 mulberrye plants, xviiiis' (shillings). Tennyson, 1827-31, noted a tree, 'old and



Fig. 5. The tree known as 'Milton's Mulberry Tree' from an engraving of c.1810. John Milton was a Christ's alumnus.

hollow, somewhat crooked on the shoulder,' (Fig. 5) which has been supported by a mound since 1856. It still yields a good crop shared out by the Fellows. There is also a medlar which is used for chutney. Nearby is the Bath, one of the earliest swimming pools, enclosed by shrubs and yew hedging and overhung by beech and plane trees. Today, it is set in paving and includes a stuccoed loggia or summerhouse, shown on Loggan's map and referred to in the 17C accounts, 'work on the summerhouse'. In 1888 the Fellows' Garden had been extended to the northwest of the Master's Garden and today an arched gateway leads to New Court and Darwin's Garden and on to the Third Court.

NEW COURT AND DARWIN'S GARDEN

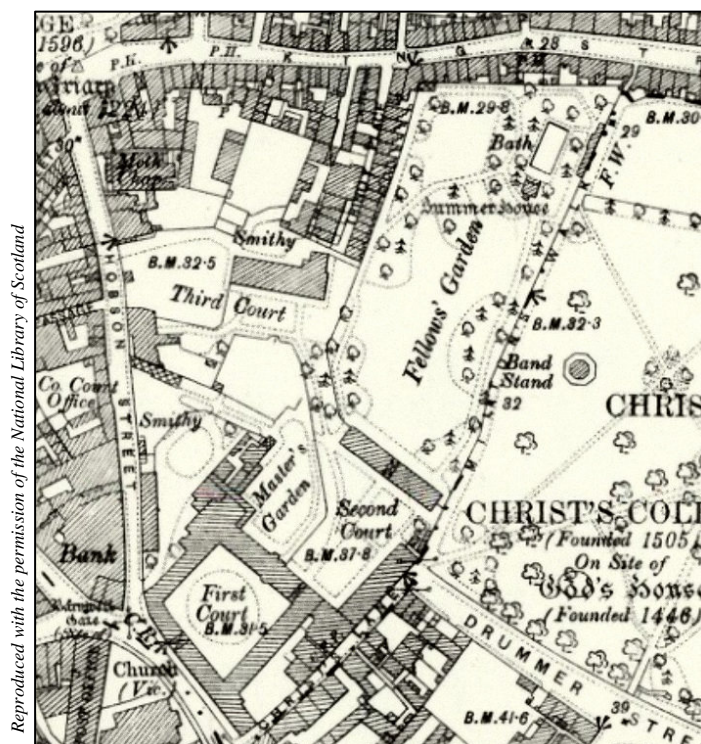
New Court was created by Denys Lasdun's modernist-style building, 1966-70, which provides part of the northern boundary on King Street. Facing this building with its tubbed bay trees is the newly created Darwin's Garden, 2009. It is a dry garden with planting of mimosa and acacia and there is a statue of Charles Darwin. While at Christ's, Darwin studied the reproductive biology of orchids. He was the pupil and protégé of John Stevens Henslow, Professor of Botany and creator of the present Botanic Garden. In his last term, 1830, Darwin wrote, "I expect to spend a very pleasant spring term: walking and botanizing with Henslow", who later arranged for him to sail on HMS Beagle.



Fig. 6. Anthony Smith's bronze of Darwin as a student before his voyage on the Beagle. Photo Terry Hayden.

THIRD COURT

This court is framed by three detached buildings: J. J. Stevenson's north range (1889-90) Richardson's Chancellor's Building to the east (1948-50) and to the west Eric Houfe's neo-Georgian Memorial Building (1952-3). The College has absorbed within its boundary the former Cambridgeshire County Hall on Hobson Street, the Todd Building. This court has a recently planned sunken garden with beds, planted with some 70 varieties of iris and with clipped ornamental crab apple trees. Pathways of stone chippings surround the beds. Planned by the College Fellow, the economist Geoffrey Ingham who removed the lawns, it is proudly tended by gardener Terry Hayden. The 17C garden accounts referred to regular purchases of 'gravell', so this new plan is in keeping with tradition.



Reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Scotland

Fig. 7. Detail from OS map of 1901. Greenhouses on Hobson Street marked by cross-hatching.

THE MASTER'S GARDEN

The Lodge backs onto the Hall in First Court. Loggan's map shows three plots enclosed by a wall with a garden structure in one corner and beehives. In 1719 the garden accounts recorded 'mending the pump' in the Master's Garden, and by 1798 Custance's map shows five plots (Fig. 2). Christ's map by Arthur Blomfield, 1884, has a rose walk through the Master's lawn and the 1888 and 1901 OS maps show a narrow pathway to greenhouses on the Hobson Street boundary (Fig. 7).

In the early 20C the garden was re-designed to incorporate the end of Hobson's Conduit before it flowed under Hobson Street through a culvert in the perimeter wall into the King's Ditch. In 1634 the Court of Sewers at Cambridge Guildhall explained that 'part of the new river is of late brought from spittle-house-end [Lensfield Road] and runneth by and through part of Emmanuel College and so on to the backside of the town to Christ College wall and so down to Wall's end lane [Hobson Street], to be cleaned at the charges of the Master and Fellows of Christ's College and Emmanuel College.' Today the design



Fig. 8. CGT members admire a branch of Hobson's Conduit in the Master's Garden. Photo Ann Colbert.

subtly reduces the width to an axial canal, with an apsidal east end and surrounded by stone paving (Fig. 8). This water feature is stocked with some 50 carp and there was evidence for the presence of an otter in 2016. The garden has a deep herbaceous border, strawberry trees, a Judas tree and Darwin's shrine near the perimeter wall, built in 1920 to commemorate the centenary of Darwin's birth.

CHRIST'S LIBRARY EXHIBITION 2017: *THE THEATER OF PLANTS*

Christ's College owns a significant collection of early printed herbals, advice on bee keeping, Darwin's early letters, and ephemera relating to garden archives, stewards and gardeners. John Parkinson, apothecary of King James I and Botanicus Regis Primarius to Charles I, wrote *The Theater of Plants Or, An Herball of Large Extent*, and Charles Butler, 1560-1647, the father of bee-keeping, wrote *The Feminine Monarchie*, giving important advice for the production of honey. The exhibition, entitled after Parkinson's opus, included Charles Darwin's musings on plants in some hundred letters written to his cousin, William Darwin Fox. There were also the writings of two important College Garden Stewards, an honorary post for Fellows, offering advice to the gardeners. Arthur Leslie Peck, 1950-72, was a great collector of plants, introducing varieties from Asia, and Dr D. Coombes, 1972-97, is remembered by an eponymous border in the Fellows' Garden. He surveyed the College gardens using the early maps and, in 1977, recorded 170 lbs of honey to be distributed amongst sixty Fellows and

five gardeners. The gardeners, today four full-time and one part-time, together with an apprentice keep a diary recording the temperature, weather and tasks performed. For the week 9-15 June 2014 they were dead-heading roses, edging and watering herbaceous borders, sorting out the pool, pruning the bays in the Master's drive, mowing the mulberry site and providing flowers for the Chapel.

Bradshaw's *Descriptive hand-book of GB and Ireland*, 1876, noted particularly the beauty of Christ's gardens. Nearly 150 years later the care and innovative ideas exercised by the Head Gardener, Sergio Ballarin, and by Terry Hayden have ensured that such beauty continues.

Charles Malyon, April 2017

Sources

Early maps of Cambridge by: Hamond, 1592; Speed 1610; Loggan 1688; Custance 1798.

Map by Arthur Blomfield, 1884.

Ordnance Survey Map, 1:500, 1st edition, 1888 and 1901.

The Gardens & Garden Stewards' Archive, MS 249, Christ's College Archives.

Thomas Salmon, *The Foreigner's Companion through the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge and the adjacent Counties, describing the several Colleges and other Public Buildings*, London, 1748.

W. Thurlbourn & J. Woodyer, *Cantabrigia Depicta*, 1763.

Rev. H. P. Stokes, *Outside the Barnwell Gate*, Cambridge Antiquarian Society, 1915.

RESEARCH AND OUTREACH REPORT, OCTOBER 2017

CGT RESEARCHERS meet once a month to enjoy the fun and stimulation of sharing research experiences and learning new skills. An important current goal is to collate information on the walled gardens of significance in our county. We intend to share our findings in Newsletter items and a new booklet to be published by our Gardens Trust. You can learn more about our progress in Gin Warren's bulletin below. Our last meetings before Christmas are scheduled for 13 November and 4 December, from 2.30pm-4.30pm, at Fen Drayton Village Hall. All are welcome to join in and if you would like to learn more please contact me at research@cambsgardens.org.uk.

We continue to reap the benefits of Twigs' research experience with such mini-seminars as map reading, on-line sources of information and even 'hands-on' analysis of bricks, while our visit to Cambridgeshire Archives was a resounding success, examining a wealth of estate plans including Caldecott estate map and The Weybridge estate map of 1651 – a former royal forest where Oliver Cromwell was granted wardenship and where, in 1627, the moated house was conveyed to the Earl of Manchester. A dovehouse could be seen south of the house.

A field trip included a visit to Conington Hall, situated on an estate owned by Sir Thomas Cotton, the only son of the bibliophile Sir Robert Brice Cotton whose collection, gifted to

the nation in 1702, forms the core of the British Library. Evidence of walled gardens dating to the early 18th century can be seen on site and descriptions of the later productive gardens have been discovered.

Sterling work continues at Ramsey Abbey Walled Garden under Jane Sills and our outreach also includes work with school children at Fen Drayton where the children have collected and sown their own seeds, planted, harvested (and even eaten) vegetables. Now they are potting bulbs to sell in time for Christmas to raise money for their garden next year. Working with the help of the RHS scheme for children they have now achieved their RHS level 3 Certificate. Working with children is always rewarding and it would be great if more CGT members could become involved. If you are interested and would like further information, please get in touch at the same email address given above.

Part of the pleasure of CGT membership is the ability to benefit from the many training and networking opportunities provided by The Gardens Trust. Look out for emails advertising these events and do contact any member of the Council if you would like to attend. Places are limited but everyone is eligible and entitled to come along! In January 2018 the session will be held in Cambridge at the Botanic Gardens. Please see the advertisement on page 10 for further information. They are a

great way to meet people from other gardens Trusts and to supplement our own programme of lectures and visits.

Judith Christie

'CAPABILITY' BROWN'S GOOD NAME LIVES ON

Pippa Temple reports following a visit to Weston Park.

As the Brown tercentenary drew to a close, representatives of all the county Gardens Trusts were welcomed to Weston Park, Staffordshire, a beautiful 17C home to the Barons of Bradford, and a 1760's Brown site.

Brown's plans for the 100-acre park emphasise the carriage drive and noted that work would include 'lowering of the Hill in the manner agreed to by Sir Henry'. Sir Henry Bridgeman also agreed to a plain stonewall ha-ha of 7' depth 'to keep out the deer and hide the appearance of the Wall from the Park in general'. A tour with the head gardener focused on the remains of the pleasure gardens, an integral part of Brown's plans. While Brown is often accused of failing to plant such elements in his landscapes, the fact is that most have been dug up by successive owners, responding to the whims of fashion.

The intent was to highlight individual counties' activities to ensure that Brown's work should be protected, restored or sung aloud. One example responded to a 1970's decision that the M54 would run straight through the Tong Castle Park estate; even the site of the castle, which dated from 1090, went under the bulldozer! Such a decision could not now be taken without huge opposition from the Trusts and sister organizations. In 2017 Tong Castle Park was reunited for pedestrians at least.

Northamptonshire inspired fresh visualisation of Brown's gardens with aerial film of the Castle Ashby Park. Brown was too early for even a hot-air balloon but what a tool it might have given him, with his photographic memory, his understanding of the lie of the landscape and his prodigious imagination!

While Brown's work is widely known among historic garden lovers, 2016 saw much effort in generating new recruits. The CB300 web page still receives information about Brown and the Landscape Institute will continue to maintain the website and its access to many links. The educating of the wider public remains a high priority. Historic England and the CB Festival Board assured us, with exhaustive statistical analysis, that recognition had been achieved nationally, citing a question on Brown in the 2017 Life in the UK Citizenship Test (*Which landscape architect designed grounds around country houses so that the landscape appeared to be natural, with grass trees and lakes?*)

It is vitally important to introduce children to the countryside, parklands and gardens, and to their development. Several outreach projects were introduced by County Trusts including our own, with children from Fen Drayton Primary School going to Wimpole, learning about Brown, and ultimately helping to design their own garden, which Bannolds was kind enough to sponsor and create in their landscaping section.

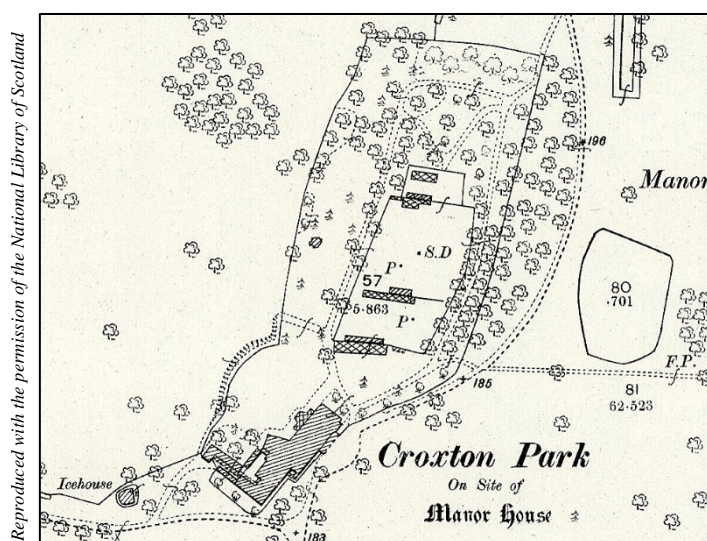
The morning session included a county-by-county project review. There was, naturally, no element of competition, but it was pleasing that recognition was given to CGT for our joint efforts with the National Trust, NADFAS (now The Arts Society) and the University to put together an impressive

calendar of events, Brown site walking leaflets, the National Conference at Robinson College and the unveiling of a beautiful stained glass window in Brown's honour at his final resting place of Fenstanton. Altogether the Trust's Council and its membership did Brown proud.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE WALLED GARDENS PROJECT

Gin Warren reports for the research group.

The research group has started work on finding all the walled gardens that do exist or have existed in what the Ordnance Survey categorised as Cambridgeshire or Huntingdonshire in the mid-1880s. Working as a team, we are initially using the six inch to the mile maps from 1885-6, and checking 'suspicious' appearances on the 25 inch to the mile maps from the same era. We are grateful to the National Library of Scotland, which kindly makes these maps available free at their website: <http://maps.nls.uk/os/6inch-england-and-wales/index.html>. We are also using the gazetteer of the *Gardens of Cambridgeshire* compiled by the Trust some years ago, and more recent maps and street views to try to determine whether the gardens are still in existence. We are looking for productive walled gardens, so are alert for enclosed shapes - usually rectangles - of at least an acre, where no wall is also part of a house. These structures often have crossing paths and glasshouses shown on the map (see figure) and are normally, but not always, within the park surrounding a large house.



Croxton Park walled garden, depicted on the OS 25-inch map of Huntingdonshire, sheet XXVI.14, published 1902.

Our aim is to complete this part of our project by the end of 2107: during next year individual members will follow personal passions either in archives or on the ground, perhaps to work on one or more specific gardens, or on a theme which may be illustrated by several gardens. We plan to present this map survey and its results in the first newsletter of 2108. More articles will follow reflecting those individual enthusiasms, and we hope to publish a booklet collating all the work in eighteen months' time. If you'd like to join us you'd be most welcome - we usually meet on the afternoon of the first Monday in the month, in Fen Drayton village hall.

PROGRAMME OF VISITS & EVENTS 2017-18

Our theme for 2018 is Water Gardens.

NOV 2017	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). Pippa & Steve Temple will speak on <i>The Emperor and his Garden – Where there's a Will there's a Way</i> .
DEC 2017	8 Fri	9:30am-12:00pm	Christmas Lecture at St John's College, St John's Street, CB2 1TP. Entrance via All Saints Passage signed from St John's Street. Refreshments in Divinity School. Lecture in Lightfoot Room by Prof. Jim Endersby, Reader in History of Science, U. of Sussex: <i>Joseph Hooker: plant collecting and career building</i> . Seasonal refreshments. £13 members, £16 guests.
MARCH 2018	17 Sat	10:00am-4:00pm	Study Day at Hemingford Abbots Village Hall PE28 9AH. Theme: Water Gardens. Coffee on arrival, talks from 10:30am. <i>Topics include (to be confirmed): The Elizabethan Water Garden at Gorhambury with Dr Twigs Way; Hobson's Conduit, Cambridge; The Jellicoe Water Gardens at Hemel Hempstead</i> . £25 members, £30 guests, to include coffee and lunch.
APRIL 2018	24 Tues	10:45am-12:30pm	Visit to Trinity College, Trinity Lane, Cambridge, CB2 1TQ. Coffee on arrival and tour by Head Gardener, Tom Hooijenga. Spring bulb displays along the Cam. Cost: £7 members, £8 guests to include coffee. Max group size 20, so please book in good time.
MAY 2018	12 Sat	2:00pm-5:30pm	Visit to Thenford Arboretum, Banbury OX17 2BX. Introduction & self-guided tour. 3500 varieties of trees & shrubs in 70 acres. Medieval fish ponds, 18C walled garden & lakes. Rough terrain. Refreshments in Church Barn. Tickets limited, so please book early with visitor names, car registrations and payment prior to visit. £13 members, £15 guests.
JUNE 2018	21 Thurs	10:30am-1:00pm	Visit to Easton Walled Gardens, Easton, Grantham NG33 5AP. Refreshments on arrival with introduction by owner, Lady Cholmeley. Tearoom serves light lunches. Sweet pea collection, gardens & canalised river section. £11 members, £13 guests. No RHS/HAA concessions.
JULY 2018	12 Thurs	6:30pm-9:30pm	Visit to The Manor House, Church Rd, Stevington MK43 7QB. Tour by owner, Kathy Brown. Tea/coffee and cake on lawn at 8 pm. Climbing roses, herbaceous borders, art garden, cottage garden, wild flower meadow in 4.5 acres. Turn left from Church Rd into drive, park in field. Meet in conservatory. £11 members, £12 guests, inclusive.
AUGUST 2018	15 Wed	11:00am-1:00pm	Visit to 2a Nine Chimneys Lane, Balsham CB21 4ES. NGS. Refreshments at arrival; tour by owners Jim & Hilary Potter. 1500 trees in 2 acres with treble clef-shaped maze and French horn paving; gravel & alpine gardens, duck pond, wild flower meadow, orchard & modern sculptures. Off Balsham High St., park in High St. / church car park. £6 members, £7 guests.
SEP 2018			Celebrations to mark 21st anniversary of CGT founding. Details to follow.
OCT 2018	3 Wed	11:00am-1:00pm	Visit to Docwras Manor Garden, 2 Meldreth Road, Shepreth, Royston, SG8 6PS. A narrow garden oasis between A10 and main railway line converted from a farmyard. Different areas with variety of plants and ideas for home planting. No refreshments but Teacake tea room next door and The Plough pub close by. £6 members, £7 guests.
NOV 2018	10 Sat	10:30am-1:30pm	AGM Fen Drayton Village Hall, CB24 4SL. Coffee on arrival, AGM from 11:00. Talk from 11.30 followed by lunch (£5).
DEC 2018	7 or 14 Fri (tbc)	10:00am-12:30pm	Christmas lecture with coffee and seasonal refreshments. Speaker: Paul Rabbitts, Head of Parks at Watford Borough Council and author. Topic: <i>Bandstands – History, Decline and Revival, from mid-18th Century to WW2</i> .

(For latest visit details please go to <http://cambsgardens.org.uk>)

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

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