



# CAMBRIDGESHIRE GARDENS TRUST

## NEWSLETTER No. 45 November 2018

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Research..... Bridget Flanagan

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Council member .... Judith Rossiter

## LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

**T**HIS YEAR, 2018, was of course the 21st birthday of the Cambridgeshire Gardens Trust and our anniversary celebrations, for many, will always be remembered in a soft golden glow, brought on by the superb landscape and gardens in which they were held, the stimulating and thoughtful talk by Anna Pavord, and of course the sparkling toasts so appropriate for the occasion. It was a tribute to the team that planned the celebration that everything came together so wonderfully on the day. The sun shone, the 'Capability' Brown lake sparkled, the Madingley Hall gardens blossomed, and the members flocked to do honour to our twenty-one years. As our talk commenced with reminiscences of Cambridgeshire before setting off for more distant climes and the history of the multi-coloured tulip, I mused on how so many histories could indeed be said to have their origins in our county one way or another. Our celebrations were held in addition to our usual season of visits to gardens and parks, and I have been delighted to see CGT members exploring the wider context of the county and its 'borderlands'. 'Context' is always vital in learning and although we are the *Cambridgeshire* Gardens Trust, exploring sites in neighbouring counties (and indeed further afield) enriches our understanding and appreciation of our own landscapes.

With this latter particularly in mind many of you will have

been distressed to hear that the National Trust has tabled a motion at its annual general meeting that would no longer include The Gardens Trust as 'recommended' members of the National Trust Council. If the Gardens Trust were not re-elected to Council, then despite being the Government's Statutory Consultee, they would no longer have a voice within the National Trust regarding over 250 historic landscapes in its care. Having been alerted to this move by The Gardens Trust, CGT alerted its members and I hope that those of you that are

NT members felt able to support The Gardens Trust as one of the 18 organisations that can be elected to Council in your voting, and perhaps even remonstrated with the National Trust on this move. As I write, the voting has closed but the AGM has not yet taken place and so we await news with some trepidation. With so much pressure on our heritage landscapes it is essential that bodies working for their protection are represented nationally as well as regionally.

Action being the theme, I cannot miss the opportunity to encourage members to get

involved in the organisation and promotion of the CGT. As you know reaching out to members both old and new is key to the success of any organisation and we are currently looking for help in several aspects of the Trust's work. Most particularly we need someone to help in arranging the Study Day, AGM day and also the Christmas Event, as well as possibly looking at



*CGT Chair Twigs Way collects a couple of plants while on a recruiting drive at the Abbots Ripton Garden Show.*

arranging some stimulating evening talks to tide us over the long winter months. We are also looking for help with updating our website and facebook, and indeed other forms of social media, which will help us to both keep in contact with existing members and reach out to new ones with news of our events and visits as well as publicising our research. This year we took the opportunity of promoting the CGT at a stall at Abbots Ripton Garden Show and hope to use more of these events to reach out and share our passion for historic gardens.

In another exciting move the CGT Research Group met up with the Leicestershire and Rutland Gardens Trust research group to discuss their project on walled gardens, and the methods and sources they had used, as well as looking at some of the sites they had now completed. This was a very inspiring day for all who attended and we hope to have other similar events in future years with other gardens trusts both as part of our own initiative and the on-going national initiative by The Gardens Trust to bring together the individual county groups. As you will see from elsewhere in the Newsletter, the research group is undertaking a very substantial project on the

productive walled gardens of the county with fascinating results both for our region and also for specific garden histories, a subject which I know many of you hold dear. Indeed it is often a specific site which first draws someone in to garden history, whether through wanting to learn more about its history and that of its owners, or through hands-on experience of restoration. So if you have not been for a while, why not join us on one of our visits or talks, or at our research group meetings and see if a specific site can inspire you?

Finally, in this bicentenary year of Humphry Repton, may I remind you of the excellent series of events and exhibitions which are being run across the country? These are listed with full details at the Garden Trust's dedicated website pages for 'Celebrating Repton' at <http://thegardenstrust.org/events-archive/tags/repton/repton>, and include the Garden Museum (London) exhibition on 'Repton Revealed' which runs from 24 October until 3 February 2019. Happy visiting!

*Twigs Way, CGT Chair*

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## MRS MARGARET HELME – AN APPRECIATION

MARGARET HELME died on 30th June 2018 at the age of 82. She was a Life Member of our Gardens Trust and was very supportive of all its activities.

Margaret had a great capacity for friendship, which she developed with so many members during her attendance at the Trust's visits over the last 20 years. She loved the countryside and enjoyed, especially, those visits which offered the opportunity for extended walks. She would take a holiday in the area of more distant visits and discover new gardens. When not present at a visit, there were always enquiries, "Where's Margaret?", and it was very sad that illness prevented her attendance at our Trust's Anniversary celebrations this year.

Early in these visits, Margaret and I discovered that we both had roots in East Hertfordshire and I enjoyed her reminiscences of life on a Cheshunt farm. Warm friendships have been formed by those members attending our visits, and Margaret was a good-hearted and most generous friend. I recall a happy and splendid cooked lunch, which she provided for some 25 members at her home, Waterloo Farm, after a nearby visit.

Margaret never missed an AGM and was always willing to find ways to promote the Trust. She had hoped that John Drake's book on Wood and Ingram would be sold in a Huntingdon book shop. Undeterred, Margaret took a number of copies to her local Post Office in Brampton and they were sold successfully.

Our garden visits will never be quite the same without Margaret's cheery presence. There will be many members of the Trust who remember Margaret; warm, good humoured and eager to renew friendship as each year passed.

*Charles Malyon*

*Gemma Watts writes:*

I have many good memories of times spent on visits with Margaret, she was a keen gardener and walker, and used to say she didn't go on holiday but attending almost all the visits constituted a holiday for her. She and I sponsored an Apple tree in the [Ramsey Abbey] Walled Garden - Histon Favourite.



*The late Margaret Helme, walking through woods.*

# CHAMPAGNE AND TULIPS FOR THE CGT ANNIVERSARY

**A**FTER MONTHS of preparations by the CGT sub-committee charged with conceiving and arranging a fitting festivity for the Trust's 21st birthday, Sunday 3 June dawned bright and clear, another blue-sky day in an unforgettable summer that had followed the all-too-forgettable spring with its 'Beast from the East'.

Cambridgeshire Gardens Trust was actually launched in November 1996, as recorded in the Trust's very first Newsletter (Fig. 1), but the matter of a mere couple of months was not going to dampen the enthusiasm for a good celebration in 2018. And, looking back at the early days of the Trust one must acknowledge the foresight of the founders in identifying good projects and recurring themes for the young organisation.

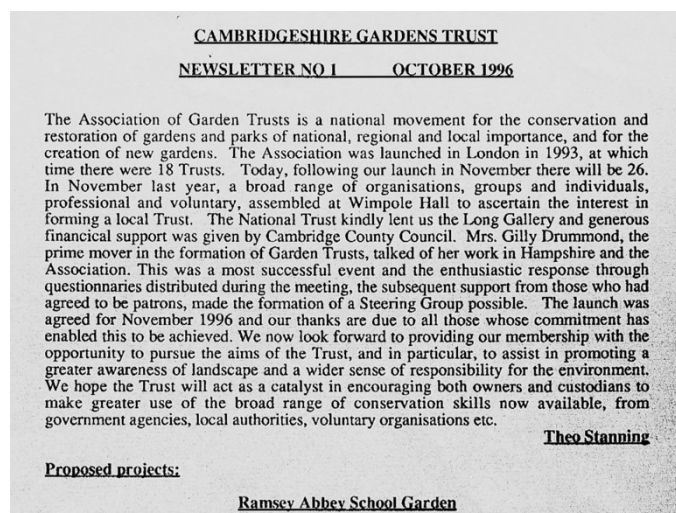


Fig. 1. Newsletter No. 1 from October 1996 foretells the launch of CGT in November of the same year.

Newsletter No. 1 identifies Ramsey Abbey School Garden as a possibility for major restoration, and the priority activity of developing a comprehensive gazetteer of historic gardens and landscaped parklands in Cambridgeshire. The latter would require extensive use 'of maps documents, fieldwork and local knowledge'. These research skills were covered in a workshop at Madingley Hall on 8 November 1997, opened by Gilly Drummond as President of the Association of Gardens Trusts, at which John Drake, then CGT Chair, talked about the use of maps and Jenny Burt, then Chair of Northamptonshire GT, dealt with published sources and archives. John and Madingley Head Gardener Richard Gant led workshop attendees on a walk around the Hall's Brownian landscape and formal gardens. Thus, it was entirely appropriate to return to Madingley for the anniversary in 2018 and while we were sadly denied the pleasure of a repeat double act by John Drake's demise, Richard and current chair Twigs Way led two of the four groups through the grounds at the end of the afternoon. We were also delighted to welcome back Jenny Burt, now Secretary and Events Coordinator for Northants GT.

And what an afternoon it was. Some 107 members and guests, including CGT Patrons and several representatives from neighbouring Gardens Trusts had packed into the first floor Saloon to hear a welcome and introduction from Christopher Vane-Percy. After describing CGT's early days and its many

achievements and contributions towards garden history research and present-day conservation and appreciation of landscapes, Christopher warmly welcomed to the podium the author, broadcaster and RHS Veitch Gold Medallist, Dr Anna Pavord. Anna's books include her bestseller, *The Tulip*, *The Naming of Names* and her most recent work, *Landskipping*. Her column in the *Independent* ran from the paper's launch in 1986 and for many years she was an Associate Editor of *Gardens Illustrated*. She served for ten years on the Gardens Panel of the National Trust and three 3-year terms on English Heritage's Parks and Gardens Panel. In 2001 she was awarded the RHS Veitch Gold Medal. For more than 40 years she has lived in Dorset, where she gardens on a steep, sunny slope among arisaemas and magnolias, and from where she was induced to deliver an anniversary lecture on the topic of *The Tulip*.



Fig. 2. Dr Anna Pavord delivering her lecture with characteristic passion.

Tulips are, of course, strongly linked to Turkey from where it was brought back to western Europe in the mid-sixteenth century. Anna's talk recounted several of the countless anecdotes associated with the tulip: its background includes more mysteries, dramas, dilemmas, disasters and triumphs than one could reasonably expect, even from such an exotic flower. In particular, Anna caught the sentiments of the audience when she recalled sharing experiences of tulips in Turkey with John Drake, who was also a keen Turkophile. John had purchased a small plot of land high in the Kaçkar Mountains of Anatolia, near to the village of Barhal, where he had a cottage constructed next to a *pension*, and which he would visit to escape from the hurly-burly of Cambridge to commune with the people, the mountains and especially the flowers.

Anna spoke for around three-quarters of an hour and her talk was a tour de force, delivered with authority, passion and humour, without hesitation, deviation or repetition. At the end she was thanked with a rapturous round of applause and the guests were positively buzzing with enthusiasm as they descended to the Madingley dining hall for a sumptuous high tea laid on by the catering staff (Fig. 3). Sparkling wine was in plentiful supply and Twigs Way delivered a vote of thanks to Anna and Christopher, inviting everyone to raise their glasses



*Fig. 3. Members and guests enjoying an excellent high tea prepared by the Madingley Hall catering staff.*

in a toast to the Trust's 21st birthday and to its achievements over the years. Steffie Shields, as both vice-President of The Gardens Trust and Chair of Lincolnshire GT, also congratulated the Trust on its anniversary and proposed a toast to its future success (Fig. 4).

Full of fizz, sandwiches and cakes many guests took advantage of the garden tours to extend the entertainment by enjoying both the convivial company and the afternoon sunshine outside in the grounds. It was a wonderful opportunity both to bring members and guests together for a memorable event and to take stock of what has been achieved by CGT members. Thanks go to the speakers, Anna Pavord, Steffie Shields, Christopher Vane-Percy and Twigs Way, to the Madingley Hall catering staff and gardeners Richard Gant, Richard Denham and Sally Cragg, to Bidwells for sponsoring the delightful sparkling wine and to the event organisers Judith Christie, Bridget Flanagan, Judith Rossiter and Mark Wilkinson. Roll on the silver anniversary!



*Fig. 4. Steffie Shields, vice-President of The Gardens Trust, proposes a toast to the future success of CGT.*



*Fig. 5. Madingley Hall grounds basking in the June warmth at the end of the festivities.*

*Phil Christie*



## CGT ANNUAL CHRISTMAS LECTURE



**Paul Rabbitts**

*landscape architect and  
Head of Parks at  
Watford Borough Council.*



**Bandstands:**

*History, Decline and Revival,  
from mid-18th Century  
to WWII*

10:00am for 10:30am on Friday 7 December 2018, The Garden Room at St Edmund's College Cambridge CB3 0BN.

Tickets cost £13 (members) / £16 (guests), to include tea/coffee and seasonal refreshments, and are available from Alan Brown, Foxhollow, 239 High Street, Offord Cluny, St. Neots PE19 5RT. Tel.: 01480 811947.

# THE SITE AND GARDENS OF TRINITY COLLEGE

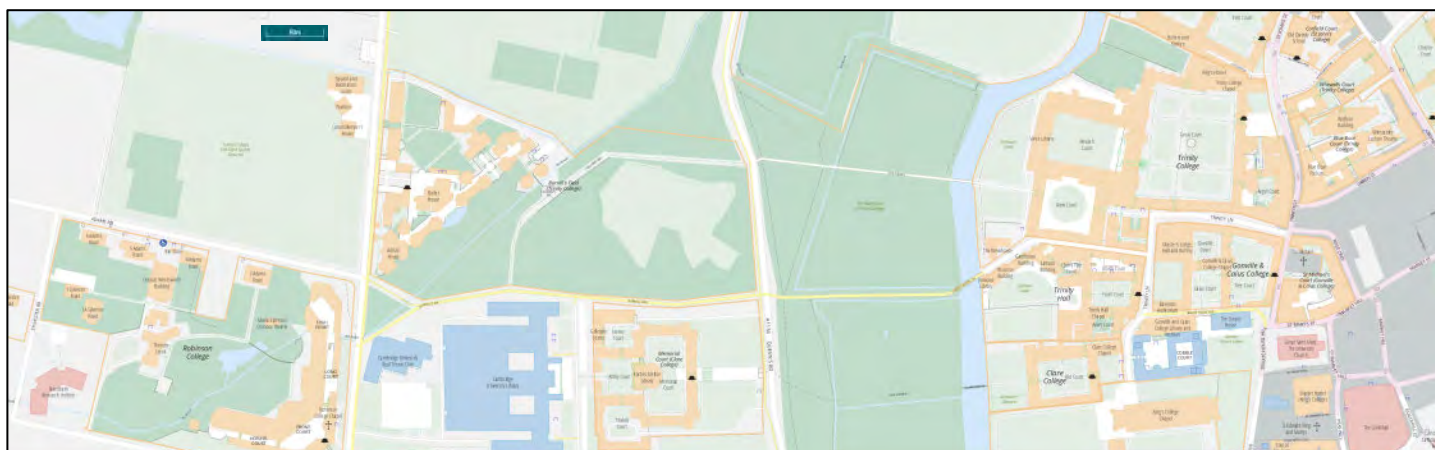


Fig. 1. Current extent of Trinity College, from Sidney Street in the east to beyond Grange Road in the west. © University of Cambridge

TODAY THE GROUNDS of Trinity College stretch from Sidney Street in the east to Grange Road in the west, a distance of approximately 1 mile. (Fig. 1) There are three separate sites: a 19C and 20C area bounded by Sidney Street to the east, Green Street to the south, Trinity Street to the west and All Saints' Passage to the north. This site includes Whewell's Court, the Wolfson Building and Blue Boar Court. The historic site of Trinity on the opposite side of Trinity Street is bounded by that street on the east, Trinity and Garret Hostel Lanes on the south, Queen's Road on the west and St John's College on the north. Within this area are the Great Court, Angel Court, Nevile's Court, the Bishop's Hostel, New Court and the Trinity 'Backs'. Across Queen's Road is the late 19C and 20C garden site including the Fellows' Garden and Burrell's Field, bounded by Burrell's Walk. Opposite this garden site, across Grange Road to the west, are Trinity Playing Fields.

## THE ORIGIN AND FOUNDATION OF THE COLLEGE

In 1546 the ailing King Henry VIII, persuaded by his wife Katherine Parr, agreed that the Court of Augmentations should prepare a report on the financial requirements, construction and site of a proposed new college. Working with John Redman, who became Trinity's first Master, the Court produced a 'first plott' of Trinity College within the Town and University of Cambridge. The 'plott' involved a trinity of large hostels, the King's Hall, Michaelhouse and the Physick Hostel together with some six lesser hostels to be made into one with a Foundation Charter, dated 19 December 1546. The new college was to consist of a Master and some 60 Fellows and Scholars with an endowment of £1,640 pa from the revenues of 26 dissolved monasteries and a payment to John Redman, Warden of King's Hall, of £2000 'towards the establishment and buildings'. The other hostels were formally dissolved and the buildings of the dissolved Franciscan friary (Sidney Sussex College) were demolished with its materials being taken to provide 'toward the buildings of the King's Majesty's new College'. Henry VIII's intention would surpass all existing Oxford and Cambridge colleges. This new college extended the developing quarter of hostels and colleges from the 14C to the 16C at the expense of the Town's hythes and townsmen's

houses between the High Street (Trinity Street) and the River Cam. It involved the closure of the north section of Milne Street, already truncated by the foundation of King's College and the closure of King's Childer Lane with its links from the river to St Michael's Lane (Trinity Lane) and to the High Street. In 1549 the Town authorities noted, 'Item, we fynde that Trinitie College hath enclosed a common lane, which was a common course both for horse, cart and man, leading to the ryver, unto a common grene, and no recompense made therefore.' However, the Royal endowment involved no charge to the Town and differed from many earlier hostels, which Dr Caius explained in 1573, 'Neither Inns nor Hostels were endowed with landed property. Each student lived at his own charges, not on the charity of townspeople.'

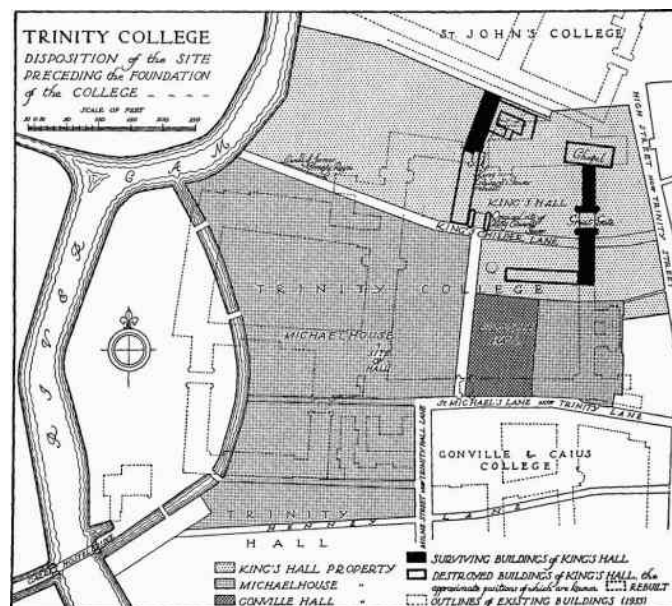


Fig. 2. Map from 1935 indicating those parts of King's Hall, Michaelhouse and Gonville Hall that were demolished to make way for Trinity's courts and buildings.

Until the Mastership (1593-1615) of Dr Thomas Nevile, the appearance of the college would have been very different with parts of the present Great Court being covered by buildings of both King's Hall and Michaelhouse (Fig. 2), as shown in the 16C maps of Cambridge by Richard Lyne (1574) and John

Hamond (1592; Fig. 3). A much later Master, G. M. Trevelyan wrote in the 1940's, 'If King Henry VIII founded Trinity, Nevile built it.' The choice to involve King's Hall (NW site) was logical; it had been founded by King Edward III in 1337 for the admission of boy scholars, 'the King's childer', to be trained for public service. In 1336 Edward had bought from Robert of Croyland the house and land lying to the north of King's Childer Lane as far as the Hospital of St John's, with land from the High Street to the river. On this extensive site, developed over two centuries, were a range of northwest buildings including the surviving King Edward's Tower, 1428-32, which faced Milne Street to the south and not the High Street to the east. It is the first college gatehouse with a tower, a prototype of later college gatehouses. In addition were gardens extending to the river and hythes. The southwest site was Michaelhouse bounded by King's Childer Lane and Milne Street and founded by Hervey de Stanton, Chancellor of Exchequer to Edward II in 1324. He had bought a large house and land from Roger de Battetouite, situated at the junction of Milne Street where Saint Michael's Lane (Trinity Lane) turned eastwards. On the eastern side of King's Childer Lane with St Michael's Lane to the south was the Physick Hostel, which was acquired from Gonville Hall. Gonville and Caius College faces this site across Trinity Lane.



Fig. 3. Detail of Hamond's map of 1592 before Trinity's Great Court. North is to the right.

### GREAT COURT AND THE GREAT GATE

Approaching the Great Gate from Trinity Street there is an enclosed lawn with a commemorative apple tree in honour of Sir Isaac Newton. Hamond's 1592 map (Fig. 3) suggests a small orchard flanked to the north by the protruding wall of the

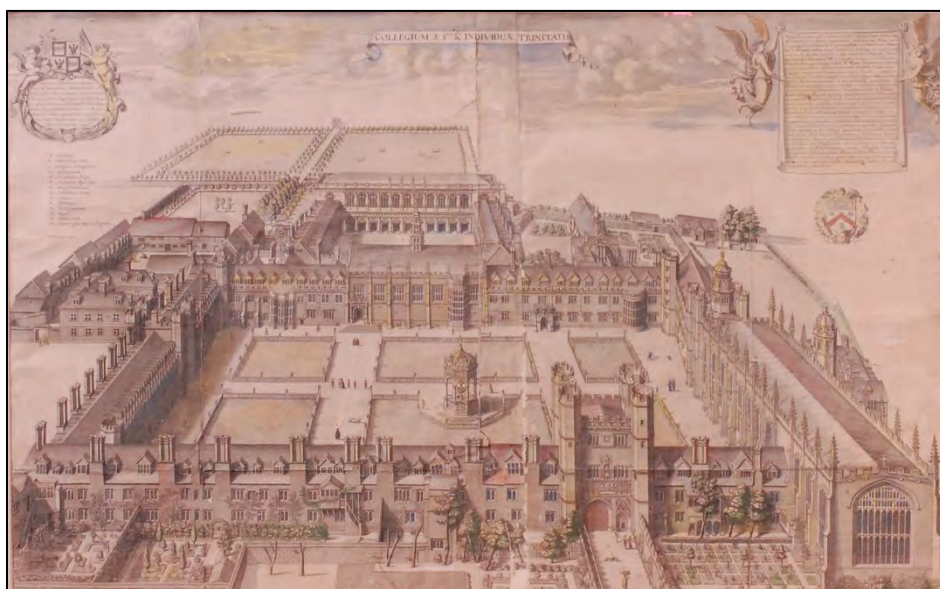


Fig. 4. Perspective view of Trinity College from Loggan's map of 1688 showing the rearranged Great Court and the enclosed garden to the right of the Great Gate.

Chapel. During the 1650's the botanist John Ray gardened there and it is recorded, 'He hath a little garden by his chamber which is full of choice things as it can hold.' By the 1670's Newton occupied a similar room overlooking this garden, 'Near his laboratory was his garden, which was kept in order by the gardiner.' Loggan's 1688 map (Fig. 4) shows a verandah-like structure attached to the college wall (Newton's lab) and a formal garden. Newton's friend William Stukeley wrote, 'After dinner, the weather being warm, we went into the garden and drank tea' and they discussed gravitation. This garden was planted in the 18C with exotic plants collected by the gardening Fellow, the Rev. Richard 'Frog' Walker.

An east range of buildings dating from the late 15C, with the Great Gate near its centre, extended to the Chapel wall. The closure of King's Childer Lane in the 15C created a need for a new entry to the college from the High Street and so the Great Gate, an impressive and monumental structure, was built in the mid-15C. However, it gave access to a court approximately quarter of the size of the present Great Court. As Trevelyan noted much later, the Great Court was the work of 'the splendid, courteous and bountiful' Dr Thomas Nevile, Master 1593-1615. Nevile transformed a large, muddled site by removing some of the older buildings, which still remained in Hamond's 1592 map (Fig. 3), and by moving King Edward's Tower some 21 yards northwards in alignment with the new Chapel. The building of the Chapel dated from the mid-15C, was continued under Queen Mary and completed in 1564. It replaced King's Hall Chapel and is the only mid-16C chapel in Cambridge.

Nevile re-positioned Edward's Tower, increased the height of the Great Gate, extended the Master's Lodge in the NW corner of the court and built a new Hall and kitchens in the west range on Michaelhouse land and so created the present Great Court. Henry James described, 'the buildings that surround it, with their long, rich fronts of time-deepened grey, are the stateliest in the world'. Loggan's map (Fig. 4) shows Great Court which is recognizable today. There may be a mixture of buildings lacking the formal quality and symmetry of a traditional court, but the Court is aesthetically pleasing and its lack of uniformity and sheer size add to its charm.

Nevile's Fountain, 1601-2, with steps added in 1611-15, is the only survival of such great size and elaboration in England<sup>1</sup>. It was a demonstration of Trinity's status and wealth. Octagonal in shape, it was rebuilt by the famous Cambridge mason Robert Grumbold in 1716. The Fountain is fed by water from the Friar's pipe of 1327, piped from the Conduit Head off Madingley Road, under St John's Playing Field and Bin Brook to Great Court (and originally to the Franciscan Friary, Sidney Sussex College). King's Hall had taken possession of that part of the pipe on their land without licence and received pardon and permission by letters patent in May 1441. The College accounts for 1553 and 1560-1 refer to repairs of the conduit.

For more than 100 years the Fountain had been regularly 'bedded' in schemes of spring wall flowers followed by scarlet pelargoniums. Last year there was an experimental planting of lavender and this year the deep red tulips, Ile de France, make a splendid display: a most successful experiment. There are ceanothus shrubs on the Chapel wall and the walls of the Court host a variety of climbing plants. The east range has climbing roses and a massive Magnolia grandiflora. These require what the gardeners call 'aerial gardening' using mechanized cherry pickers. Loggan's map (Fig. 4) depicts the two rectangular lawns around the Fountain with four square, smaller plots on either side, all separated by cobbled paths. The lawns are kept immaculately despite the ravages of the chafer grubs and the activity of crows. Surrounding Great Court is a narrow herbaceous border with tulips and polyanthus followed by summer bedding plants.

Between the shops of Trinity Street and the rear of the east range of Great Court, the Bursar, Sir John Bradfield designed Angel Court in 1960.

### THE MASTER'S GARDEN AND FELLOWS' BOWLING GREEN

The Master's Lodge was re-furbished by Nevile, again in the early 18C by Bentley and in the 19C by Whewell. Its remodelling in the 18C created a suite for the Assize Judges in the Lodge. Lyne's 1574 map shows the area in the NW corner of the site beyond the Lodge (above 'D' in Fig. 5) as a single garden with a planted area towards the river and another area,



Fig. 5. Detail of Lyne's map of 1574.

perhaps a lawn and fountain. Hamond in 1592 (Fig. 3) suggests a walled and tree-lined kitchen garden and two major plots with separating paths and a second walled area bounded by St John's. Also tree-lined are two plots, perhaps with soft-fruit bushes and again with a central feature. By Loggan (1688, Fig. 4) there is a planted and walled Master's Garden and an open area, presumably the Fellows' Bowling Green, to the north. Carter, in his 1763 'Cantabrigia Depicta', wrote, 'The gardens and Bowling Green are kept in exceptional order especially the Vice Master's Garden (who is a great Virtuoso in Flowers etc) where are abundance of Exotic Plants, Flowers, brought from both the Indies and where is Annually raised a great Number of Ancunas or Pine-Apples, in the greatest Perfection'. A Bowling Green was recorded, 1647-8; bowls were a common pursuit of leisure in college gardens. Custance's map of 1798 still shows the Master's plots and probably a tree-lined Bowling Green and again with a central feature. There is an 18C retaining wall beside the river at the end of the Master's Garden: the four blocked arches were probably culverts.

Today, passing through a passage by King Edward's Tower, is the rectangular Fellows' Bowling Green flanked to the east by the oldest surviving building of King's Hall, to the south by a superb, high beech hedge, to the north by St John's wall and by the river to the west. It is still well used. Along St John's wall is a wide herbaceous border, while a curved bed shelters the Green from the river. In this bed an alcove within a cluster of bamboo has been created for the shelter of bowlers in the event of a shower. Here is a large ailanthus with honesty, cowslips and other wild flowers growing profusely below.

From the Green a gate leads to the Master's Drive with another fine bed of tulips. Entering the Master's Garden, one is confronted by the high, Comedy Wall of clunch across the central lawn, in part immaculate and partly with cowslips, buttercups, fritillaries and forget-me-nots. This wall to the south backs onto Nevile's Court. Fronting the Lodge is a bed of tulips and below the enclosing walls are borders with pelargoniums and bedding plants. An ancient mulberry tree, carefully maintained, is a central feature. Attached to the north wall adjacent to the river is an early greenhouse offering privacy from the river.

### NEVILE'S COURT AND THE WREN LIBRARY

Approached by the steps to the Screen's passage by the Hall is Nevile's Court (Fig. 6) flanked by south and north cloister arcaded walks in Renaissance style and with a large central lawn, 1605-12. It was built on Michaelhouse land which Hamond's map of 1592 (Fig. 3) suggests had been an orchard. There was a Real Tennis Court at the west end, replaced after the extension of the cloisters, followed by the building of the Wren Library, 1677-95, by the mason Robert Grumbold using Ketton stone. In 1613 Trinity acquired Garret Hostel Green from the Town in exchange for the 25 acres of Parker's Piece. This Green was an oval island with some two acres of pasture between the northern boundary of Clare and that of the north of Trinity. In Lyne's and Hamond's maps it is open, undivided grazing land with bridges affording access. St John's College had opposed Trinity's acquisition arguing that they 'need the said Waste for Walking and other Exercises; and the Tenants'

<sup>1</sup> See article by Elisabeth Whittle in Newsletter 44, May 2018.



Fig. 6. Rock's 1855 engraving of Neville's Court.

cattle have fed on it.' After a protracted dispute, Trinity prevailed and they reduced the waterway to the east to an underground drain: 'a great Ditch, wherein now a Drain is made to run from the Backside of the said College and the same is vaulted and covered over.' Iron grilles across arched openings are visible in the brick revetment wall from the far side of the river bank. Part of this Green became the site of the Library; the Master, Dr Burrowe 'with his gardeners and servants staked out the very foundations upon which the building now stands.' An interesting feature of this Court is the Tribunal, a classical composition on a raised terrace against the wall of the Hall facing the ornate frontage of Wren's Library, 1682-3 (Fig. 7). Robert Grumbold's accounts refer to payment for 'flower pots upon the pediment, 3 urns containing carved flowers.' It masked the Tudor Gothic Hall, facing Wren's Classical library.



Fig. 7. Rock's 1850 engraving of Wren's Library.

In August 1914 the Master and Fellows agreed to the use of Neville's Court as an open-air military hospital. Beds were placed under the arcades with blinds offering some protection against wind and rain. As demand increased, tents and large marquees were set up on both the lawn behind the Library and on Trinity's paddocks.

#### THE BISHOP'S HOSTEL, NEW COURT AND THE BREWHOUSE SITE

In 1669 with money from John Hackett, Bishop of Lichfield, Garret Hostel to the southwest of Great Court was replaced by



Fig. 8. Rock's 1850 engraving of New Court.

Bishop's Hostel. A detached building some 10 yards from Great Court, the east side backed on to Milne Street (Trinity Hall Lane). The Hostel is adjacent to Neville's Gate at the west end of Trinity Lane and probably lies on the land of the 15C Physick Hostel.

Beyond Bishop's Hostel to the west is New Court, 1823-5, designed by William Wilkins (Fig. 8). Its north range is part of Neville's Court, to the south is Garret Hostel Lane and its west front faces the River Cam. The buildings are Tudor-Gothic in style and Ketton stone was used. George Pryme recorded 'in 1823 the first stone was laid of a new court on ground occupied by the dwelling house of the baker and cook and a large baking-office, where all the college bread was baked.' Beyond New Court to the south, adjacent to Garret Hostel Lane and the slipway to the river, is the Brewery site. This is all part of the original Michaelhouse land and Hamond's map (1592, Fig. 3) shows a brew house. Loggan (1688, Fig. 4) had shown a lawn surrounded by a shrubbery, extending to the bend of the river, which still survived in Custance's map of 1798 (Fig. 9) but with a large, less formal lawn surrounded by trees.



Fig. 9. Detail of Custance's 1798 map. Neville's Court is west of Great Court and New Court will arrive to its south, taking part of the enclosed lawn. © Cambridge University Library.

By the 1888 OS map there is a large round lawn in New Court. Recently the Court's walls have been newly rendered and, to avoid damage, an expensive structure of stainless steel wires has been fixed to support climbers and shrubs. A large horse chestnut provides a central focus with wildflowers around its base. A newly laid, immaculate lawn surrounds it.



Fig. 10. Rock's 1855 engraving of Trinity Walk, with the New Court gatehouse behind.

### TRINITY BRIDGE AND 'BACKS'

Leaving the Tudor-Gothic gatehouse of New Court a path leads directly to Trinity Bridge shown on both Loggan's and Custance's maps. Today this avenue before the bridge is flanked by Bentley's surviving limes, dating from the 18th century. Beneath these ancient limes and those limes of later planting across the bridge (Fig. 10) there has been an extensive and very successful planting of spring bulbs: some 80,000 crocuses, followed by 20,000 tulips and narcissi interspersed with cowslips, buttercups and fritillaries. These lands and those across the bridge are low-lying; the bookcases of the Wren



Photo © Cambridge 2000

Fig. 11. Trinity 'Backs' in spring 2000, with crocuses planted between established limes and new flowering cherries.

Library had been placed on an upper floor to protect the books in the event of flooding. The bridge, re-using material from earlier bridges on this site, was designed by James Essex, 1764-5. He used Portland stone above water-level. It was recorded that it led, by 'the High Walk' to the Field Gates (at Queen's Road). These gates were given to the College in 1733 and came from Horseheath Hall. Along the High Walk beyond the limes are flowering cherries, which shelter the spring bulbs, a splendid sight in spring. (Fig. 11) 'Harrison, the gardener' had replaced trees along the river bank below the Wren Library with weeping willows.

John Le Keux in his 'Memorials', 1841, wrote, 'The Western Gateway of New Court leads over an elegant stone bridge with cycloidal arches along an avenue of lime trees, whose branches, at a great elevation, intersect and form, as it were, a gateway of light open iron-work, and in the distance is seen the steeple of the village of Coton.' This avenue is a causeway through the lower lying pastures, which were originally part of the Long Green, which stretched the length of the 'Backs' from St John's to Queens'. From the 16C colleges made a piecemeal division of the Long Green which Loggan's 1688 map shows already landscaped for the purpose of leisure. Trinity's Avenue divides its north and south paddocks, referred to as 'meadows' in earlier maps, and leads to Trinity Piece, beyond its west gate as far as Queen's Road. These paddocks were enclosed by dug ditches. Today they enclose immaculate lawns. In the 19C Tennyson, in his poem *In Memoriam*, referred to the 'long walk of limes', the planting of which the Master, Richard Bentley, had authorized early in the 18C. In 1948, after much protest, some trees were felled, but there was a successful new planting in the following year. Head Gardeners of colleges along the 'Backs' compete with each other in the culture of spring flowers and fine trees. In the 1770's at the time of making a turnpike (Queen's Road) Trinity planted an elm avenue on its Piece. Elms were the grandest trees of the 'Backs'. Dutch Elm disease in the 1970's and consequent felling caused serious problems along the 'Backs' and some piecemeal re-planting. A 2007 report on its landscape proposed a unified planting from Trinity Piece to St John's Wilderness, while maintaining space for extra parking.

### TRINITY FELLOWS' GARDEN AND BURRELL'S FIELD

The garden site of the college, enclosed by Queen's Road, Burrell's Walk, Grange Road and St John's Playing Fields, was on land acquired after the enclosure of the Town's West Fields, 1803-4. In 1873 the College Gardens Committee established a Fellows' Garden directly opposite the rear gate of the college. Spalding's map of 1898 shows a large circular garden bordered by trees. William Brodrick Thomas laid out a perambulatory path, known as the Roundabout, with serpentine beds and specimen trees. In the 1880's the *Gardeners Chronicle* praised the planting and work of Mr Mosley, the Gardener. Gwen Raverat in *Period Piece* refers to the Mound and its summerhouse, created by a Trinity Fellow, 'a little artificial monticule, and on top of it to be erected a small but elegant arbour in which he could propose' to a rich widow. Gwen records, 'This he successfully did.' There is a rose garden with sundial commemorating three Fellows killed in the Great War, all members of the Gardens' Committee. Beyond the sundial is



*Fig. 12. Satellite view of Fellows' Garden (lower right) and Burrell's Field (left) enclosed by Grange Road and Queen's Road (see also Fig. 1). The sundial with circular planting can be seen centre-right. Bin Brook runs through trees and open space diagonally from lower left to upper right. Burrell's Walk runs right-left across the bottom.*

*Imagery and map data  
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a meadow, mown once a year, which is both beautiful and of scientific interest. Here are snake's head fritillaries, martagon lilies and the native cowslip, quaking grass and salad burnet. The Garden often provoked lively discussion and the Committee partly adopted Ludwig Wittgenstein's amended designs in 1934.

Before Broderick Thomas's re-designing, F. W. H. Myers, Fellow of Trinity and later owner of Leckhampton and one of the founders of the Society of Psychical Research, walked beneath the trees with George Eliot. She pronounced how inconceivable was God and how unbelievable was immortality as they stood 'amid that columnar circuit of the forest-trees'. Myers seemed to be gazing 'like Titus at Jerusalem, on vacant seats and empty halls - on a sanctuary with no Presence to hallow it, and heaven left lonely of a God.' Some of the finest trees have now gone. After the felling of the elms Richard Bisgrove was appointed as landscape consultant to revive the planting in the garden, to bring harmony and shelter to its features, while consciously strengthening its 'delightful nineteenth century character'. Today the main features survive and this garden of 8 acres is the home of a family of badgers. Despite their activity and that of muntjacs, rabbits and foxes, the gardeners preserve a life of natural balance. Leaving along the perimeter lilac walk, with its topiary yews and recently planted Japanese maples, there is an entry to Burrell's Field.

In the 1990's Burrell's Field was designed by MacCormac, Jamieson and Prichard together with Cambridge Landscape Architects. They naturalised the setting for Bin Brook, created more formal pergolas, a lily pool and box-edged beds to reflect the Arts and Crafts style of the College houses acquired on Grange Road. Adrian House and Butler House had been built close by and in 1994 the architects had added a major complex of new buildings. There 36 acres of gardens, entered by the Queen's Road gate, are maintained by the Head Gardener and his team.

On entry, there is Duff's garden, originally a family garden given later to Trinity. The planting has largely been preserved with old apple trees above a carpet of wildflowers. They are separated from the path by a wide herbaceous border. Beyond, a carefully designed footbridge crosses Bin Brook, with a wilderness of wildflowers and cow parsley below, by the brook,

in contrast to the formality above of several small courts around new buildings. Each court has a lawn with spring and summer planting and topiary yews. A charming, well designed house of the 1920's is put to good use. Burrell's Field is a work in progress. A recently created Octagon will provide a cleared area for scented flowers and it leads to a path through an avenue of mature trees to the exit.

Trinity's gardens are maintained by a team of 12 gardeners with 5 senior gardeners, each responsible for different areas and answerable to the Head Gardener and his Deputy. They have a weekly meeting, a generous budget and twice a year they meet with some Fellows as a Gardens' Committee. Walking from Great Court to Burrell's Field is a progress of garden history. Initially, there is the formality one expects of 16C and 17C planting. Then towards the river and Trinity Backs the changing fashions of late 18C and early 19C Romanticism emerge.

In the Fellows' Garden its Victorian planning remains intact, followed by the carefully contrived landscaping of Burrell's Field. Small formal courts and buildings sensitive to the existence of the house and gardens of Grange Road emerge from sinuous, flowing wilderness of Bin Brook. Trinity's gardeners should be commended for their ingenuity, care and creative vision.

### **WHEWELL'S COURT AND ITS ENVIRONS**

In 1849 the Master, William Whewell, acquired a site opposite the Great Gate which had been the Sun Inn. At his own expense he bought houses and land along All Saints' Passage, associated with All Saints' Church, from the owner Jesus College. He employed Anthony Salvin, a leader of the Gothic-revival movement, to build a court round a flat rectangular lawn. A century later the Bursar, John Bradfield purchased further property to the east until the college owned nearly the whole block bounded by Trinity and Green Streets, Sidney Street and All Saints' Passage. He secured planning permission for the college to build residences above both Heffers and Sainsburys and within the block in 1971 the Wolfson Building was built to the south of Whewell's Court. Then in 1989 further south to Green Street Blue Boar Court was built.

*Charles Malyon*

# ORNAMENTAL AND UTILITARIAN WATER FEATURES AND THEIR WATER SUPPLY IN CAMBRIDGE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY

*This is the second part of a two-part article by Elisabeth Whittle<sup>1</sup> previously published as a single article in 'Garden History' 45.1 (2017), pp. 21-44 and re-published here by kind permission of The Gardens Trust. The beginning of the seventeenth century was an exciting time in Cambridge. Some of the most important college buildings and courts were in the course of construction and the town was changing rapidly. This was a period in Britain of increasing sophistication in the supply and use of water for ornamental features, such as fountains and pools, and for utilitarian water supplies. In Cambridge two remarkable survivals from that period demonstrate both aspects of water use at the time: the Trinity College fountain and its medieval water supply, and Hobson's Conduit and its contemporary water supply. The water supplies, fountain and conduit head all survive in very good condition, although the fountain was completely rebuilt, faithfully following the original, at the beginning of the eighteenth century, and Hobson's Conduit was moved to its present location in the mid-nineteenth century. The design of the Trinity College fountain is strikingly similar to that for a fountain at Hampton Court, Middlesex, attributed to Cornelius Cure and this likeness makes it possible that Cure was the designer of the fountain. Hobson's Conduit was a scheme to supply water to the town and most of the water went to an ornamental conduit in the main square. The supply was also shared with Emmanuel and Christ's colleges for their garden ponds. Having discussed the Trinity fountain in the first part, this article continues with Hobson's Conduit.*

THE TRINITY fountain was dual purpose: its primary role was as a beautiful and impressive ornament, its secondary one a source of drinking water. Hobson's Conduit fountain, built soon afterwards in the market place, Market Hill, in the centre of the town, had the opposite emphasis: it was a fountain whose primary role was to supply drinking water to the public. However, like other contemporary fountains of this kind its design was ornamental. In this way it performed a similar role as a visual focal point to that of the Trinity fountain, but in this case for the town. Its supply came from springs to the south of the town, the water being brought in a new aqueduct, the New River.

The beginning of the 17th century saw the construction of a number of great new aqueducts supplying towns both in Britain and on the continent. For London the New River was opened in 1613, carrying water from the river Lea at Ware 32 km (20 miles) to the New River Head near Clerkenwell.<sup>1</sup> In Plymouth Sir Francis Drake had a 39 km (24 mile) leat constructed in 1587-91 from Dartmoor to supply ships and to power mills. In Paris a 13 km aqueduct, the Aqueduc Médicis, was begun in 1612, bringing water from Rungis to both the city and Marie de Médicis's fountains and pools at the Palais du Luxembourg. The New River in Cambridge belongs to this phase of bringing clean water into urban settings.

The history of Hobson's Conduit began with a discussion that started in 1574 between Dr Andrew Perne (1519-89), Master of Peterhouse, and the University Chancellor, Lord Burghley, about the need to cleanse the King's Ditch.<sup>2</sup> This was a mediaeval ditch, dating to about 1265, which formed a boundary around the south and east sides of the town. Initially defensive, its role changed to that of a drainage ditch, which inevitably became pestilential. Dr Perne and others had the idea of a new river that would bring fresh water to flush out the Ditch. At this stage there was no mention of a drinking water supply. Dr Perne persuaded a number of wealthy benefactors, including Thomas Hobson (1545-1631), to contribute to the

cost of the watercourse and later the fountain. Hobson was a carrier, taking goods between Cambridge and London. The scheme was thus a joint venture between the university and the town. The whole system, including channels, pipes and fountain, became known as Hobson's Conduit.

The new watercourse (New River, or Hobson's River) was described as newly and lately made in 1610.<sup>3</sup> A Deed dated 26th October 1610, between Thomas Chaplyn, Lord of the Manor of Trumpington Delapole, and the university and town jointly, agreed that water could be diverted from the Ninewells springs<sup>4</sup> (Fig. 13) and led in an artificial channel from its natural course, the Vicar's Brook, into the town. Ninewells springs lie about 4 km south of Cambridge.<sup>5</sup> The designer of the watercourse is not known but would have been well versed in hydraulic engineering techniques. The likely candidate is Richard Browne, Keeper of the Water Mills at (King's) Lynn, mentioned by Dr Perne in 1575.<sup>6</sup>



Fig. 13. The uppermost spring at Ninewells. Photo: author, 2017.

Initially the water ran from a raised channel next to Trumpington Road to a conduit head at the corner of Lensfield

<sup>1</sup> The Red House, 46 High Street, Wilburton, Cambridgeshire CB6 3RA



*Fig. 14. The New River, Cambridge. Photo: author, 2017.*

Road (Fig. 14). The drop from the springs to this point was 2.36 m (7¾ ft). From there the water flowed down Trumpington Street in a single runnel<sup>7</sup> in the middle of the road, then was piped from opposite Pembroke College gateway to Mill Lane and into the King's Ditch and the river. The water could only run westwards in the ditch because of the uphill gradient to the east.

In 1614, very soon after the New River was built, a new route was constructed to take some of the water from the conduit head to a lead cistern (tank), housed in an ornamental fountain in Market Hill.<sup>8</sup> The water pressure was enough to raise the water 1-1.5 m (3-5 ft) into the cistern. This new pipe



*Fig. 15. Market Hill conduit in the Market Place (1841), in an engraving by John le Keux from a study by Frederick Mackenzie, originally produced for the Le Keux series Memorials of Cambridge (London, 1841-42).*

marked a change in purpose from cleansing to fresh water supply. The townspeople gained access to the water from a tap at the fountain and dipping holes along the route of the pipe. Traditionally Thomas Hobson is credited with the idea of providing drinking water for the town and he contributed handsomely towards the cost of the pipe and fountain.

Until 1842, when it was changed to iron, the pipe was of lead. The cistern and tap were incorporated into an ornamental stone structure. An 1841 engraving by John le Keux (1783-1846) of Market Hill shows the fountain in its original location, in appearance as it is today, but with iron railings around it (Fig. 15).<sup>9</sup> Wine was substituted for water on four celebratory occasions: the coronation of Charles II in 1661 and the visits of Charles II, William III and Queen Anne in 1671, 1689 and 1705 respectively.<sup>10</sup> In 1856 it was moved to its present position at the conduit head, at the corner of Lensfield Road and Trumpington Street, after a fire in 1849 destroyed houses around Market Hill.



*Fig. 16. Conduit Head, Lensfield Road, Cambridge. Photo: author, 2017.*

The hexagonal fountain is smaller and simpler than the Trinity fountain but in a similar Flemish classicist style (Fig. 16). Above a plain plinth each side has a shell-headed alcove, that on the east side with a wooden door giving access to the water tap. Above the alcoves are small pierced openings at the level of the cistern. The east side has the following inscription: 'Thomas Hobson. Carrier between Cambridge and London a great Benefactor to this University town. Died 1<sup>st</sup> January 1630 in the 86<sup>th</sup> year of his Age'. An inscription on the west side reads: 'This Structure stood upon the Market Hill and served as a Conduit from 1614-1856 in which year it was Re-erected on this spot by Public Subscription'. The sides are topped with

strapwork and heraldic panels, with cherubs and a unicorn at the corners. On the west side is the royal coat of arms. The lead ogee roof is topped by a pineapple finial.

A third phase of development of the conduit took place in 1630-31, when a new pipe was constructed from the conduit head to bring water to Emmanuel and Christ's colleges.<sup>11</sup> By this point the water pressure would not have been sufficient for fountains, even if the colleges had wanted them. The principal aim of this new water supply was to fill their formal ornamental pools, which survive in altered form. David Loggan's detailed college plans in *Cantabrigia Illustrata* (1690) show that most of the pools were in existence at that date and there is a strong probability that those shown date to soon after 1630-31, when their water supply was constructed.<sup>12</sup>

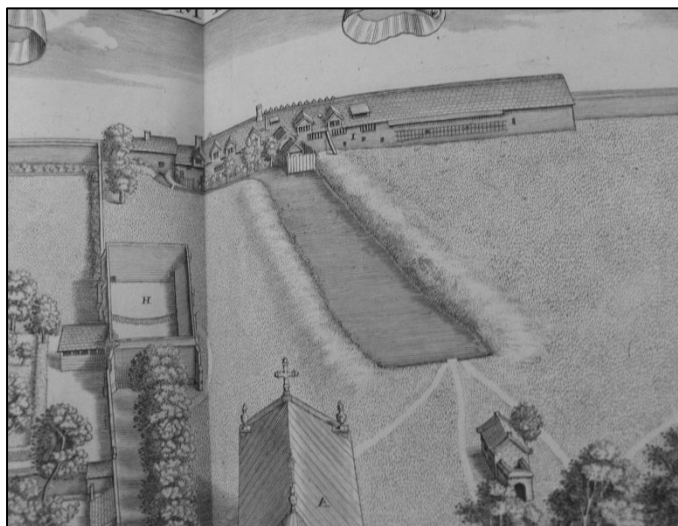


Fig. 17. Pond in the grounds of Emmanuel College shown in a view of the college by David Loggan, *Cantabrigia Illustrata* (1690). Courtesy: by permission of the Master and Fellows of St John's College, Cambridge.

At Emmanuel, Loggan shows water running in a straight channel along the north side of Chapman's Garden, south of the buildings. It is then piped to a long rectangular pond in a tree-lined enclosure (Fig. 17).<sup>13</sup> Its outlet in the north corner is shown, with a small, screened building in the east corner.<sup>14</sup> To the north, in the north corner of the *Hortus Sociorum* (Fellows' Garden) is a smaller rectangular pond surrounded by a hedge. It has a sluice in the middle of its south side and a small building in the north-east corner. By the late 18th century, as shown on the William Custance map of 1798, the straight channel has

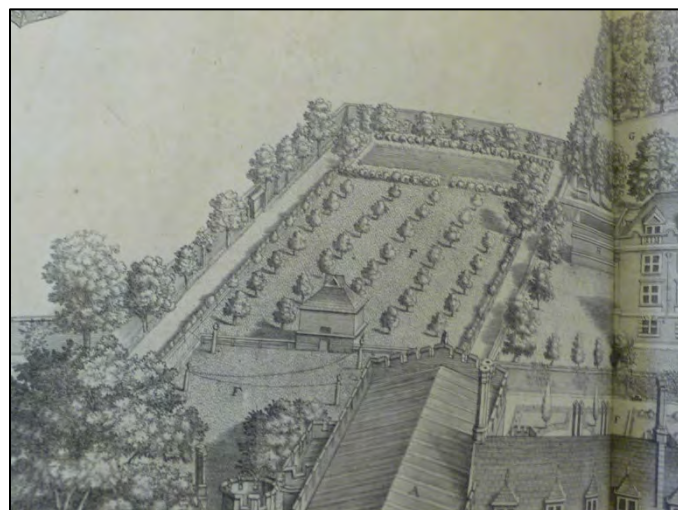


Fig. 18. Pond in the garden of Master's Lodge, Christ's College, shown in a view of the college by David Loggan, *Cantabrigia Illustrata* (1690). Courtesy: by permission of the Master and Fellows of St John's College, Cambridge.

taken on its present-day curved shape, the large pond has been made slightly more informal, the small building next to it has been removed and the pool in the Fellows' Garden has been reduced to a smaller, square shape.<sup>15</sup>

At Christ's the water was first piped to the Master's Lodge and Garden. A small rectangular pool was made at the north end of the garden between 1631 and 1690, when it was shown on Loggan's illustration of the college (Fig. 18), surrounded by a hedge. A second pipe, off the first, later led water to a rectangular pool, known as the bathing pool, in the north-east corner of the Fellows' Garden. It is not shown on Loggan's plan of 1690 and dates to the early- to mid-18th century.<sup>16</sup>

## CONCLUSION

The early 17th century in Cambridge was a time of transformation, through new college courts and buildings, the appropriation and laying out of the rural Backs as college grounds, the ornamentation of college gardens, and the growth of the town. This was the context for the Trinity fountain and for Hobson's Conduit. Although they had different primary purposes, the one for prominent display, the other to provide fresh water, they were both dual purpose. The fountain had taps, the Conduit fountain was ornamental and at a focal point in the town.

The Trinity fountain combined modern, classical design with ancient water supply. The expertise for its building was found in the skilled stonemasons involved in colleges' new buildings and working for patrons such as Lord Burghley. Hobson's Conduit and its aqueduct required both architectural and hydraulic engineering skills, available locally as a result of the contemporary draining of parts of the Fens. Parallels can be found only in high-status locations such as royal gardens and courts for the Trinity fountain, and in great new aqueducts of the time such as the New River and the Aqueduc Médicis for Hobson's Conduit.

That they survive, when most contemporary fountains, aqueducts and conduits have long since disappeared, is remarkable and gives Cambridge a special place in the annals of the use of water for both ornamental and utilitarian purposes of the time.

*Elisabeth Whittle, October 2018*

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## References

<sup>1</sup> In 1946 the aqueduct was truncated at Stoke Newington.

<sup>2</sup> W.D. Bushell, *Hobson's Conduit* (1938), p.22.

<sup>3</sup> Bushell, *op. cit.*, p. 34.



Fig. 19. The stone obelisk, erected beside the Ninewells springs in 1861, which commemorates Thomas Hobson and other benefactors of the scheme. Photo: the author, 2017.

<sup>4</sup> A number of adjacent springs, which run continually at a constant 10 degrees Celsius.

<sup>5</sup> A stone obelisk (Fig. 19), erected by public subscription in 1861, is situated beside the springs. An inscription on one face records the origin of the water supply and on another the benefactors to the watercourse and conduit. Bushell, *op. cit.*, pp. 7-8.

<sup>6</sup> Bushell, *op. cit.*, p.35. Edward Wright (1558-1615) produced a plan for Sir Hugh Middleton's New River from Ware to London.

<sup>7</sup> Later this was changed to two, one either side of the road, as the central one proved obstructive to traffic.

<sup>8</sup> The route is detailed in Bushell, *op. cit.*, chapter VII.

<sup>9</sup> The engraving was from a study by Frederick Mackenzie.

<sup>10</sup> Bushell, *op. cit.*, p. 48.

<sup>11</sup> George Atwell, in his textbook on surveying, *The Faithful Surveyore* (1662), p. 81, mentioned a Mr Frost, 'one that brought the water from the Spittle House [conduit head] to Emmanuel, and thence to Christ's College'. Bushell, *op. cit.*, p. 54. The channels and pipes ran eastwards and then northwards to the colleges. The eastwards section, along Lensfield Road, was an open channel until the 1870s. The drop in level between the conduit head and Emmanuel College is very slight, greater between Emmanuel and Christ's College. Beyond Christ's College the water runs into a public drain.

<sup>12</sup> David Loggan, *Cantabrigia Illustrata* (1690).

<sup>13</sup> The present informal shape of the pool dates to 1845.

<sup>14</sup> Possibly a changing room for bathing, with the screen to provide privacy.

<sup>15</sup> Now the college swimming pool.

<sup>16</sup> The triple-arched pavilion next to it was built in the mid 18th century (first mentioned 1748). S. Bradley and N. Pevsner, *The Buildings of England. Cambridgeshire* (2014), p. 63. The pool is used as a swimming pool.



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**11 Jul. 2019:** private visit to view Nicholas Hawksmoor's designs for the gardens of Castle Howard, Yorkshire. See TGT website <http://thegardenstrust.org/events/> for events details, including past training courses materials.

# THE SITE AND GARDENS OF ST CATHARINE'S COLLEGE

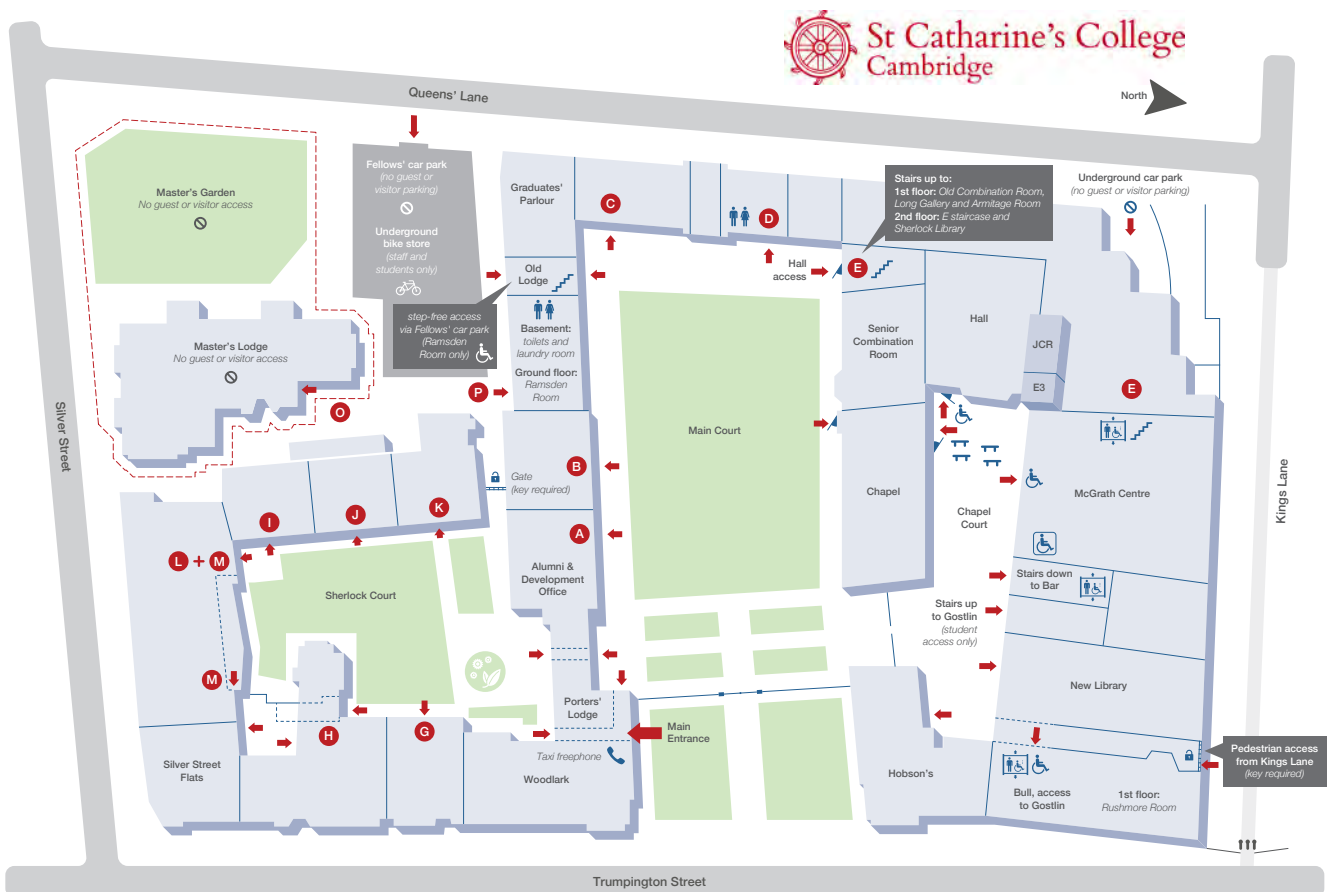


Fig. 1. Current extent of St Catharine's College.

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**R**OBERT WODELARKE, the third Provost of King's College in his *Memoriale Nigrum* of 1473 stated his intention, at his own expense, to honour God, the most blessed Virgin Mary and St Catharine, virgin, by founding a small graduate hall. Edward IV's 1475 charter for 'Saynt Kateryns Hall of Cambridge' incorporated a small hall for a Master and three Fellows, limiting their studies to philosophy and theology. In effect it was an academic chantry linking study with ceaseless prayers and masses for its founder and benefactors. There were no undergraduates until the 16C.

## THE SITE

In 1459, while Provost of King's College, Wodelarke purchased two tenements on the east side of Milne Street (today Queens' Lane) opposite the recently founded Queens' College. Thomas Fuller, the first historian of Cambridge, wrote early in the 17C of St Catharine's 'over against the late Carmelites then newly Queens' College'. The very small St Catharine's Hall was bounded to the south by properties belonging to Corpus Christi and Queens' Colleges. From the 16th-20th centuries through benefactions and purchases the site of the Hall was extended considerably. From 1860 renamed St Catharine's College, it is bounded today by Queens' Lane to the west, to the north by King's Lane and College, to the east by Trumpington Street and to the south by Silver Street (Fig. 1).

## ST CATHARINE'S HALL UNTIL MID 17C

Wodelarke's small hall was extended by the Master, Thomas Green, in 1517 with a 'new structure of four chambers' on Milne Street towards Queens' Gardens. There is reference in Elizabeth I's reign to an 'old' or 'little' court of stone and wood, of two storeys and in area 56 ft by 45 ft. There was an entry gate and porter's lodge opening onto Milne Street and a small enclosed court depicted in Lyne's 1574 map (Fig. 2). At this time St Catharine's was separated from Trumpington Street by

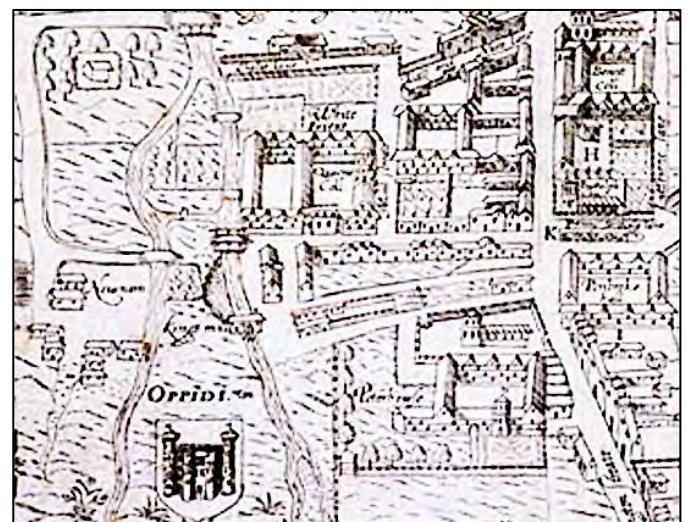


Fig. 2. Detail of Lyne's map of 1574. St Catharine's lies between Queens' (centre) and 'K' in Trumpington Street.

inns, yards and private houses with gardens. As Fuller wrote, the Hall was 'town bound' until early 17C benefaction and purchase.

In 1610 Green's south range towards Silver Street was extended into a second, three sided Archer's Court and in 1622 work began on a third, small court towards Trumpington Street on land acquired by the Bursar, Thomas Buck. A bowling green was to be created. Dr John Gostlin, Master of Caius College, gave to St Catharine's the Bull Inn and its yard in 1626 and by 1631-34 a 'fair building of stone and brick was built,' Bull or Gostlin Court, later named Walnut Tree Court. The Hall had extended its site to the NW towards King's Lane and to the NE towards Trumpington Street. In 1634 Fuller recorded the Hall as 'proportionately most complete in chapel, cloisters, library, hall etc'.

St Catharine's accounts for 1637-8 recorded two shillings 'For 2 Keyes to the bowling green and £5 for making the bowling green.' Within these old courts were herbs and roses. The accounts for 1638-9 recorded 9 pence 'For 3 hookes for the sweet briar in the court' and in 1640-1 six shillings 'to the Gardner for rosemary, sweet briars and worke.' To the south of the site was a garden and orchard belonging to Queens' with sheds and a cottage.

However, by the 17C the older buildings, with the exception of Gostlin's chambers in Walnut Tree Court, were mean in quality and of poor repair. In the 1670's a decision was taken to rebuild and to demolish the existing court, retaining only the Gostlin chambers and court.

### ST CATHARINE'S MAIN COURT

Robert Grumbold, master mason, who had worked earlier for Clare College, was employed by St Catharine's Master, Dr John Eachard, to rebuild the north range adjacent to the Gostlin Building. The Hall's accounts for 1676 recorded payments 'for pulling down next Queens' and 'for pulling down five week's



Fig. 3. Detail of Loggan's 1688 map. St Catharine's marked by 'D'; dwelling houses separate it from Trumpington Street.

work'. The north range of 1673-5 included a hall and buttery, a Combination Room and a Chapel, the latter completed in 1696-7. Following demolition, the west range on Milne Street and a south range including a Master's Lodge were built in 1678-9 adjacent to Queens' property. The buildings are of red brick and English bond. Today they have aged gracefully and maintained their integrity. There had been the temptation to enclose this large Main Court to the east, but requests were regularly rejected on grounds of expense. Loggan's map of 1688 (Fig. 3) and drawing shows an enclosed court, still with its main entry towards Milne Street. His imagined east range did not materialize but money provided by Mrs Ramsden in 1743 to buy land to the south between the Hall and Trumpington Street enabled James Essex to construct the Ramsden Buildings and to complete the south side of the Court. A 1763 map still indicated a rear entry from the Main Court towards Trumpington Street. Loggan recorded an open area to the east of the Gostlin chambers, presumably the bowling green (Fig. 3). In 1798 Custance's map (Fig. 4) indicated a large lawn in the Main Court with the main egress to Milne Street. To the north were the yards of the acquired Black Bull Inn and to Trumpington Street on the east was a grove of trees in the open



Fig. 4. Detail of Custance's 1798 map. St Catharine's marked by 'T' has grove in front facing Trumpington Street. Black Bull Inn lies to north. Queen's (sic) Lane, formerly Milne Street.



Fig. 5. Bull Hotel in 1829. Elm trees fill St Catharine's front court. The former hotel is now part of the college.

space between private houses and inns (Fig. 5). Was this grove the forerunner of St Catharine's elms on Trumpington Street? This double row of trees fronted the set-back Main Court. The 1888 OS map had the row of trees between railings and Trumpington Street with the central lawn and wide paths of the Main Court to the west.

Today there is still a central lawn flanked by wide paths with wooden tubs containing bedding plants. The railings provide support for ceanothus shrubs. Between the lawn and railings are six rectangular beds, each edged with low box hedges and with a central spiral obelisk for clematis. A plaque commemorates Thomas Buddle, 1662-1715, Fellow of the College and famous botanist. An eponymous buddleia grows above it.

## DEVELOPMENTS TO THE NE TOWARDS KING'S LANE AND TRUMPINGTON STREET

Over 100 years after Dr Gostlin's bequest of the Black Bull Inn, Mrs Mary Ramsden's 1743 will had extended the south range of the Main Court to balance the Chapel. Her generosity also resulted in a change of the orientation of St Catharine's Hall towards Trumpington Street.

The grandson of Hobson, the famous Cambridge carrier, had sold to St Catharine's the George Inn with stables enabling the building of the Chapel. The White Swan and its yard were bought later. Following the demolition of inns facing Trumpington Street, railings had been placed with a central gate to the street in 1779. Between the railings and the street were trees indicated on the 1798 and 1888 maps; by the 19C photographs show an elm grove, which was felled in 1921. Today stone posts and chains separate the pavement from two well kept lawns with a central path. Two fastigate beeches are the dominant feature. To the south is an entry to the Porter's Lodge. To the north is the Hobson's Building 'tied' to the 1930 Bull Hotel and to the south is the Woodlark Building of 1949-51, which frame and are deferential to the south and north ranges of the Main Court. There are climbing roses on the Hobson's Building. In 1933 Gostlin's House to the NE of the Chapel provided more chambers. St Catharine's site is small and confined and in 1965 the College united with King's to develop their confined sites bordering King's Lane. Walnut Tree Court and its surviving early 17C chambers fronting onto Queens' Lane were demolished and in 1948 the Bull Inn, a venue of American airmen in World War II, had reverted to college use (Fig. 5). On this combined site Fello Atkinson, founding partner of James Cubitt & Partners, created the King's Lane Courts providing St Catharine's with a new Hall, Library and the McGrath Centre. The 17th century walled Walnut Tree Court and the site of the bowling green had been replaced by these buildings and Chapel Court, which is paved with stone. To the east are two young Ginkgo Biloba trees, planted in 2013. Next to the McGrath Centre are four beautiful, white stone bowls planted with bamboo.

## DEVELOPMENTS TO THE SOUTH, WEST & EAST OF ST CATHARINE'S EARLY SITE

A narrow strip of 'void ground' fronting Queens' Lane and to the south of the college's early site had been leased from Corpus Christi College for 999 years. This was probably the area of those small gardens shown in Lyne's 1574 map (Fig. 2) and that of Custance in 1798 (Fig. 4). The land was purchased

outright in 1839. In 1813 further pieces of land fronting the Lane were bought from Queens' and these were developed as St Catharine's Fellows' Garden. There was a lawn banked towards a shrubbery with railing facing the Lane. Further purchases from Queens' on Silver Street (a site housing the old University Printing Office, its Anatomical School and the Dokett Alms Houses) provided a substantial block of land for the college's south-west corner. On this land a new Master's Lodge was built 1875-6 by Fawcett. The garden had a central lawn edged by a path and borders of trees and shrubs in the 1888 OS map. Today there are fine cedar trees and a central lawn flanked by herbaceous borders and shrubs.

Other properties in Silver Street towards Trumpington Street were bought in the 20C. In 1934 Albert Haslop Butler, a butcher, 'went to the Bursar of St Catharine's and sold his property to him for £1600' retaining a 21-year lease on the shop. The college has converted rooms above the shops for use of undergraduates. John's Building of 1935 replaced the old Sherlock House to the south of the Ramsden Building. Today it faces the landscaped Sherlock Court and there is a large lawn and planted beds. The lawn is raised above the level of the Trumpington Street buildings. There is a magnolia grandiflora, an Irish yew and a variety of shrubs. A path separates the lawn from a clipped yew hedge sheltering an herbaceous border. Towards the entry to Main Court is a small, circular rose bed with a lavender border.

During this period the College acquired 68, 69A and 70 Trumpington Street, south of the later Woodlark Building. They continue as shops with college rooms above and form the east side of Sherlock Court. The Perse School for Girls was founded on this site 1881-3. At the rear, before the development of the Court, the College built a swimming bath, which has not survived.



Fig. 6. Satellite view of the college today.

Today the railings facing Queens' College have been removed and the Fellows' Garden, an area between the new Master's Lodge and south range of the Main Court, has been paved for use as a car park. A splendid magnolia grandiflora, a wisteria, a white lilac and other shrubs are survivals of the former garden.

Charles Malyon

# GIMSON'S NURSERY AND FLOWER GARDEN, LINTON, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

**I**N NOVEMBER 1850 an advert appeared in the *Cambridge Chronicle* for an auction sale in Linton of 130,000 forest and ornamental trees, 100,000 strong whitethorn, a quantity of gorse, filberts, apple trees and more. A year later the sale of Gimson's Nursery and Flower Garden comprising of 1½ acres with seed shop, house, three cottages and various outbuildings was advertised. Then more nursery stock was sold and finally, in April 1852, there was a sale of household furniture and personal effects – all on the instructions of the executors of William Gimson, who died in 1849, and in accordance with the directions in his will<sup>1</sup>. These intriguing sale adverts raise many questions about William Gimson and his nursery.

The first record of William Gimson locally is of his marriage to Sarah Precious on the 23 September 1795 in Shudy Camps<sup>2</sup>. By 1814 he had bought a copyhold property in Linton consisting of 1½ acres along with house, cottages, barn and outbuildings which was to form the basis for the nursery<sup>3</sup>. William apparently showed 'great ingenuity, combined with sound judgement and infinite taste' in laying out his nursery grounds and Flower Garden. There was also a seed shop and along with stock available for sale – forest and ornamental trees, evergreens and shrubs, border and tender plants – there were fruit-bearing orchard trees, hedges, yew topiary and arbours, a rockery and pond, greenhouse and forcing pits<sup>4</sup>. As the business grew William rented more of the adjacent land until he probably had about 5 acres (Fig. 1).



Fig. 1. Part of the 1840 Linton Enclosure Map showing Gimson's land coloured green.

In general, nurserymen from this period do not seem to have left many records. Where business histories or memoirs exist – such as those of Veitch's, Rochford's or, nearer to home, the nursery of Wood & Ingram in Huntingdon – it is because those particular nurseries lasted well in to the 20th century<sup>5</sup>. However, records do survive for Gimson's Nursery in the form of the sales books of the auctioneers, Cockett & Nash (Fig. 2). These are very like printed catalogues and have scribbled annotations (some unfortunately illegible) as to who bought which lot and the price. Over the three sales of stock from all

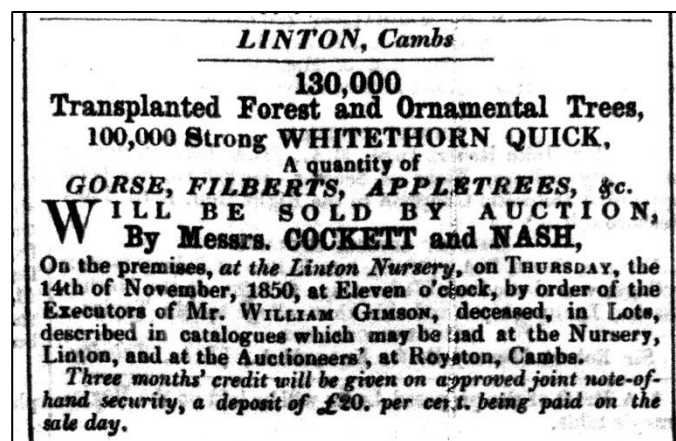


Fig. 2. The announcement of the sale of stock from Gimson's Nursery, as it appeared in the Cambridge Chronicle on 2 November 1850.

the nursery sites and the 'Home Gardens' there were 21 varieties of forest trees including 3 varieties of elm, 5 of oak ranging in height from 1 ft to 10 ft and nut-bearing trees such as walnut, filbert and sweet chestnut. These were sold in lots of hundreds or sometimes thousands depending on size. There were 11 varieties of coniferous trees (larch, cedar, spruce, fir, pine), evergreens such as box, holly, yew and bay, and fruit trees including apple, quince, plum and damson. Additionally, there were 29 varieties of ornamental trees, shrubs, hedging and herbs which included a speciality of William's – dwarf and standard roses – and soft fruit like gooseberries, raspberries and rhubarb<sup>6</sup>. This was without the contents of the greenhouse which were sold privately prior to the sales and of which there is no record.

William was 77 years old when he died in November 1849. Of his 4 surviving sons, only Robert seems to have been interested in taking on the business. Although William's executors were instructed to sell everything, he also stipulated that Robert be given the option of buying at a fair valuation all the copyhold property (that is the site of the original nursery) plus the crops, stock in trade, plants and shrubs growing there<sup>7</sup>.



Fig. 3. Part of the 1901 OS map showing Gimson's land coloured green. Map from National Library of Scotland.

However, in November Gimson's Nursery and Flower Garden was put up for sale. Whether Robert raised the money himself to buy the nursery or whether he had family help, he was admitted to the copyhold property in 1853<sup>8</sup>. The nursery now entered a new phase about which there is very little information. Four or five years after Robert's death in 1883, his son, Joseph, returned to Linton with his family, seemingly to help his mother and take over the running of the nursery. For more than twenty years he was described as either gardener or seedsman before turning to haulage contracting by 1911 and the Gimson association with the nursery business in Linton ended after nearly 100 years<sup>9</sup>.

The site of the nursery today is entirely covered by housing (Granta Vale, Lamb Fair Court and Beechway) and there is no evidence to mark its presence. No doubt there are still trees and shrubs in parks and gardens in the area which must have come from Gimson's Nursery but identification relies on chance finds in associated records and none has come to light so far. It would be nice to think that in a garden, somewhere, there survives a crimson rose with double flowers raised from seed by William Gimson and called by him 'Princess Victoria'<sup>10</sup>. It would be a fitting memorial to a skilled, creative, hardworking man and a business which has largely been forgotten.

Janet Morris

*A much fuller version of this article, including details of William Gimson's involvement in the flower shows of Cambridge Horticultural Society (of which he was a founder member) and Cambridge Florists Society, can be found in the Cambridgeshire Association for Local History Review No. 26 2017. Contact CALH for spare copies via the website [www.calh.org.uk](http://www.calh.org.uk).*

## References

- <sup>1</sup> *Cambridge Chronicle* 2/11/1850, 10/11/1851, 17/4/1852; TNA PROB 11/2114/305.
- <sup>2</sup> Cambridgeshire Archives (CA) Shudy Camps parish register.
- <sup>3</sup> CA Abstract of the copyhold Estates of The Manors of Gt Linton, Lt Linton, Chilfords & Michaelots R59/14.11.4.1.
- <sup>4</sup> *Cambridge Chronicle* 17/4/1852.
- <sup>5</sup> S. Shephard *Seeds of Fortune: A Gardening Dynasty* 2003; M. Allan *Tom's Weeds: The Story of Rochford's & their House Plants* 1970; J. Drake *Wood & Ingram: A Huntingdon Nursery 1742-1950* 2000.
- <sup>6</sup> CA Sales books of auctioneers Cockett & Nash 296/B831/11; 296/B835/11; 296/B837/4.
- <sup>7</sup> TNA PROB 11/2114/305.
- <sup>8</sup> CA Manor of Gt. Linton Quit Rental r59.14.11.3.7.
- <sup>9</sup> Census information 1911.
- <sup>10</sup> T. Rivers *The rose amateur's guide: containing ample descriptions of all the fine breeding variety of roses regularly classed in their respective families, their history & mode of culture* 1843e, p27.

# STUDY DAY 2018: WATER IN THE LANDSCAPE

**S**ATURDAY 17 MARCH saw the return of snow but, notwithstanding, some 45 hardy garden history enthusiasts converged on Hemingford Abbots Village Hall for a study day on water features in the landscape, convened by Cambridgeshire Gardens Trust (CGT). Guided by effervescent hosting from CGT Chair, Twigs Way, four expert speakers, including Twigs herself, sparkingly recounted the historical use of water in the English - and continental - manged landscape.

## Elisabeth Whittle - *Water in Cambridge at the Beginning of the 17th Century*

First off the block was Liz Whittle, former inspector of Welsh Historic Parks and Gardens who has recently moved to the county. Liz recounted the history of the mediaeval and early modern water supplies to Cambridge, respectively the Trinity Conduit and the probably better known Hobson's Conduit. Both supplies, and their terminations at fountains within the town, have survived remarkably well and testified to a fascinating history of college rivalry and early civic philanthropy in providing a supply that both decorated college courts with ostentatious fountains and provided fresh water for the townsfolk.

Liz has kindly enabled us, with the permission of The Gardens Trust, to re-publish her article from *Garden History*. The second part of her article may be found in this issue.

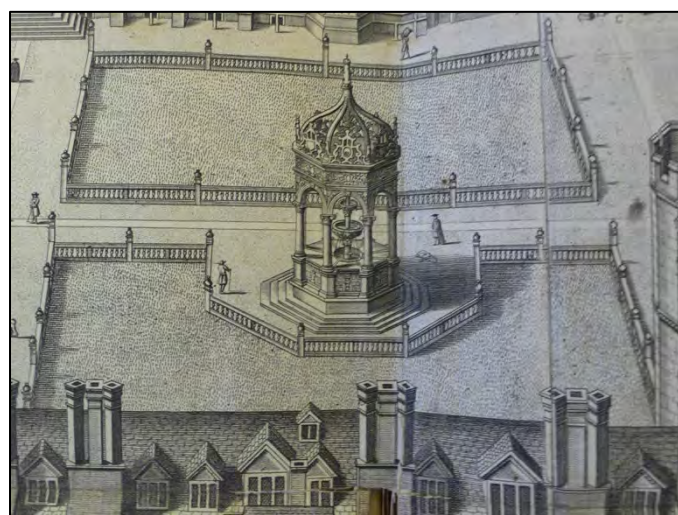


Fig. 1. View of Trinity Fountain from Loggan's 1688 illustrated map of Cambridge.

## Kate Harwood - *Jellicoe's Water Gardens for the New Town of Hemel*

Hot on Liz' heels and at the other end of the historical spectrum came Kate Harwood, Conservation and Planning Officer for Hertfordshire GT and a member of the national Gardens Trust Planning Committee. Kate's theme was the renowned landscape gardener, Geoffrey Jellicoe's water gardens for Hemel Hempstead. The gardens were designed by Jellicoe for the post-WWII new town in 1947 but opened only in 1962. Kate charted



Fig. 2. Jellicoe's Water Garden after restoration.

Photo by Friends of Jellicoe Water Gardens

changes in the plan over time and the influences on Jellicoe's thinking and design, in the course of which she took us to some of his other public water gardens at Camp Delta, Guildford, and Moreton on the Wirral, as well as some of his private commissions. Kate's account demonstrated huge fortitude and persistence in persuading the planners exactly where they ought to be going and ended with a look at the recently completed HLF-funded restoration at Hemel, well worth a visit.

### Twigs Way - Flies and Frogs Mar All

After a wonderful two-course lunch with tea and coffee catered by Diane Warboys of Fen Drayton, the audience was treated to a bubbling performance by Twigs herself, who had no difficulty in riveting their attention to her title, *Frogs and Flies Mar All*, a nod to the quotation from Francis Bacon's Essay on Gardens from about 1625, ...but Pools mar all, and make the Garden unwholesome, and full of flies and frogs. Drawing on her recent research into two sites with pre-18C water features, Twigs discussed the late Elizabethan and Stuart managed landscapes with particular reference to the heavens above and the waters below. Her sites included Gorhambury, Bacon's one-time home

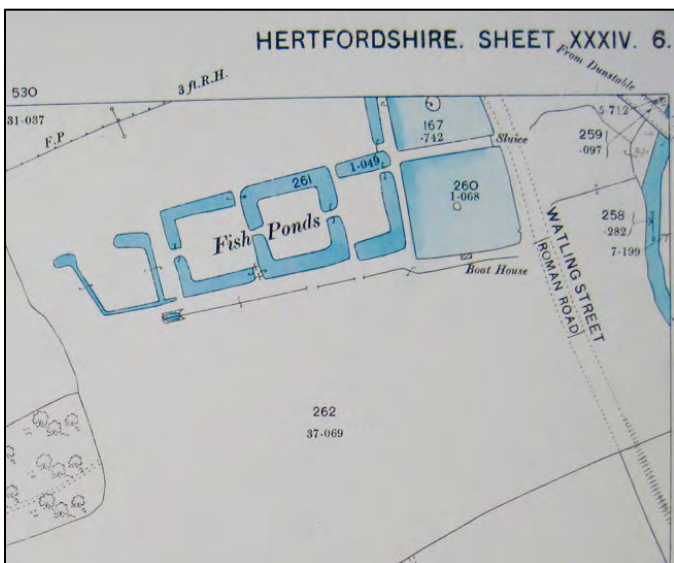


Fig. 2. Fishponds on Gorhambury Estate from 1878 OS map.

Courtesy Cambridge University Library.

near St Albans, and Copped Hall in Essex, owned by the Earl of Middlesex from 1623-45. Both sites had extensive water features, now largely disappeared but with vestigial features in the present landscape. Twigs recounted the twists and turns of the water features through history but came to the conclusion that Bacon was probably ruefully noting his own experience in that the delight of owning a sparkling new piece of water gives way to the despair of spending endless funds on maintenance to avoid the feature turning into a morass of pestilence.

### Edward Martin - 'The Canale Beautiful': A Garden Fashion Around 1700

Last but not least was Edward Martin, former Suffolk Gardens Trust Chair, and one-time Suffolk County Archaeologist, who spoke about *The Canale Beautiful*. Using examples from both England and continental Europe, Edward marked the spectacular growth in formal canals in large landscapes in the late 17C, of which Le Nôtre's grand canal at Versailles is perhaps the best known example, completed in 1679. Marking ostentation and enhancing views both towards and from the residence, everyone wanted one just like that, including Edward Mann the owner of Boundary Farm at Framsdan in Suffolk who decided he could become fashionable by converting one length of water surrounding his moated farmhouse into an ornamental canal, complete with recently discovered steps going down to the water's edge.



Fig. 4. Satellite image of Boundary Farm, Framsdan with three parts of the former moat indicated in light blue. The right one had been canalized alongside a viewing terrace.

Imagery and map data © 2018 Google.

Edward cited numerous ornamental canals, with the notable lack of any contemporaneous example from Holland, where canals were just too functionally important and ubiquitous to warrant special status at the time. He suggested instead that the English notion of the 'Dutch garden' was more a nod of loyalty to William of Orange than to a defined Netherlandish garden style.

Twigs wrapped up at the end of a very lively day of talks and discussions to thank all the speakers and attendees for their enthusiasm and animated debate.

Phil Christie

# RESEARCH AND OUTREACH REPORT, NOVEMBER 2018

**R**ESearching a historic garden or landscape is a tantalizing activity. Like the best detective stories, some of the clues are well signposted, even obvious with a bit of practice. We can have tremendous fun visiting the site of a walled garden and seeing, from changes in brickwork, areas where the walls have been heightened, painted to reflect the heat, flues inserted to protect early growth or help ripen, or retaining wires affixed. Other information can be harder to come by: who were the gardeners, what did they grow, where did they get their ideas? But, oh the satisfaction, when connections are made and a picture begins to emerge perhaps of a bustling productive garden experimenting with exotic imported fruits and surviving through the travails of world wars; only now, perhaps, to be desiccated shadows of their former glory, prey to rust, bramble and shattered glass. Our last six months have been brimming with such variety and interest.

The research group's visit to **Pampisford Hall**, generously arranged by Mrs Arabella Killander, revealed an extant walled garden brimming with roses and displaying potting sheds, flues and random abutments of walls and brickwork for the garden detective to enjoy.



*Fig. 1. The research group benefit from the experience of Sue Blaxland of Leicester and Rutland Gardens Trust.*

In Twigs' conservatory, on 4 July, the group met members of **Leicester and Rutland Gardens Trust** who, now in their 6th year of research, displayed an exemplary knowledge of walled gardens in their area (Fig. 1). Some members of the group are experts in the history of glass houses while others excel in their knowledge of varieties of produce or individual gardens. Their enthusiasm was infectious and much was gleaned from their experience and methodology. Through the windows, heat, drought and the nibbling of rabbits had done little to mar the bucolic romance of Twigs' flower-filled retreat.

In **Early September** Janet Bedingfield's research into a local curvilinear glass house (Fig. 2) fascinated the group. How rare are these? One such in Wales has been listed. Janet has discovered that hers was manufactured by Skinner, Board & Co in Bristol. Hopefully the Newsletter will receive a full account from Janet but in the meantime, she would be delighted to receive any further 'sightings' and information about their



*Fig. 2. The curvilinear glass house that has become the target of Jane Bedingfield's research.*

history and use. Bridget Flanagan also addressed the group on using sources, and practical approaches to conducting research.

On 4 October, the **walled garden at Ramsey Abbey** bursting with 'still later flowers for bees' boasted a beautiful new glass house bursting with vibrantly coloured salvias: purple, pinks and reds challenging the honeyed tones of gourds and swaying grasses and seed heads in the abundance of the gardens outside. After trawling the early editions of Ordnance Survey maps for clues to gardens long since disappeared, it is intoxicating to see a 21C glasshouse rejuvenating the site of the garden which early members of the Trust did so much to restore and on which Jane Sills has for many years devoted so much of her time and enthusiasm. **Visitors** to the research group's regular meetings are always welcome. Do come and join in – no previous experience necessary!

Three other items of research news that are likely to be of interest to members:

**The Parks and Gardens (UK) database** is benefitting from £97,000 in Lottery funding to set up a new permanent home at Hestercombe, near Taunton. This should afford the archive, of over 9,100 designed landscapes and the biographies and records of over 2,400 owners and gardeners, a greater degree of security than at any time since the database was first collated by the University of York. Hestercombe has its own important archive of records, manuscripts and plans of designed parks and gardens, including, of course its own 18C park and Jekyll and Lutyens designed areas.

**The Ledgers of the Wood & Ingram Nursery 1742-1950** are now catalogued and available to researchers currently at the Huntingdon Archives, Princes Street, Huntingdon PE29 3PA. They will prove an invaluable resource particularly for the late 19C and early 20C both for gardens within the county and for purchasers nationally and beyond. Please note, however, that all records from the archives will be temporarily unavailable after Christmas 2018 because of Cambridgeshire's reorganisation of its county records offices.

Finally, congratulations go to the creators of the **Madingley Hall walking leaflet**: Head Gardener Richard Gant has just ordered a reprint of 1,000 extra copies, paid for by the Hall.

*Judith Christie*

# PRODUCTIVE WALLED GARDENS IN THE OLD COUNTIES OF CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND HUNTINGDONSHIRE

*This is an update on the mixed methods project by the Cambridgeshire Gardens Trust research group, comprising Jane Alvey, Janet Bedingfield, Jane Bhagat, Judith Christie, Ann Colbert, Bridget Flanagan, Jane Hill, Vivien Hoar, Anne Meredith, Claire Sarkies, Jane Sills, Gin Warren and Twigs Way. In summary, work to complete brief, standardised descriptions of the 98 productive walled gardens (PWGs) reported in Newsletter 44 (May 2018) is on-going. Standardisation and brevity are assured for each PWG by defining seven information fields (in the data sense, not the agricultural one) completed in note form, and in having just one paragraph of free text. The intention is to make this catalogue available electronically to anyone interested, and possibly to publish it as part of a booklet which also reports extended pieces of work on individual gardens, or themes common to several gardens.*

THE CAMBRIDGESHIRE GARDENS TRUST research group has productive walled gardens (PWGs) as its topic for 2017-18. In the May 2018 Newsletter (no 44) we published the method and results of the first phase of our work, describing the use of old Ordnance Survey maps to find clues to the existence of PWGs, then going on to produce a list of all the PWGs we believe have ever existed in the counties of Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire as they were in the mid-1880s. This article reports the second phase of our work: compiling and writing standardised brief descriptions of each of them. Our intention is that this catalogue should be an introductory resource for anyone interested in any aspect of these gardens. It will be available electronically, and may become available in print. While a sample entry for Anstey Hall is given later, we also illustrate with a sequence of images of the PWG at Hinxton Hall, now the Wellcome Sanger Institute.



*Fig. 1. Looking from the three-sided PWG at Hinxton Hall towards the four-sided one (now roofed and used as a conference centre by the Wellcome Sanger Institute) and the cupola of the stable block beyond. The current mixture of productive and decorative planting against this southwest facing wall is apparent.*

## METHOD

At the February 2018 meeting of the research group we discussed what pieces of information would together constitute a useful brief description of each PWG, stimulated by an email in January from Dr Twigs Way. We settled on: location; current and past names of the site; current and past owners; date built; whether still extant; features known; size; and a free text field. We then allocated 35 of the 98 PWG between us as the first tranche to assess the feasibility of obtaining the information

about each garden. In March we allocated the rest, and Jane Alvey set up a database to collate and record the information, emailed to her by other members of the group. A joint meeting with the Leicestershire and Rutland Gardens Trust PWG group was held in July which showed what could be achieved in a project running over several years and supported by Lottery Funding. They are a dedicated and inspirational team! Our work is on-going, with the intention that it should be complete by the end of the year.

Sources of information used to gather these data include, but are not limited to, 25 inch-to-the-mile OS maps for various dates (some of them accessed through the National Library for Scotland website); Parks and Gardens website; Historic England website; local history society websites; Companies House website (for current owners); websites of current owners where they are organisations; websites of local newspapers; Google Earth; site visits; County Archive resources, and District Council websites.



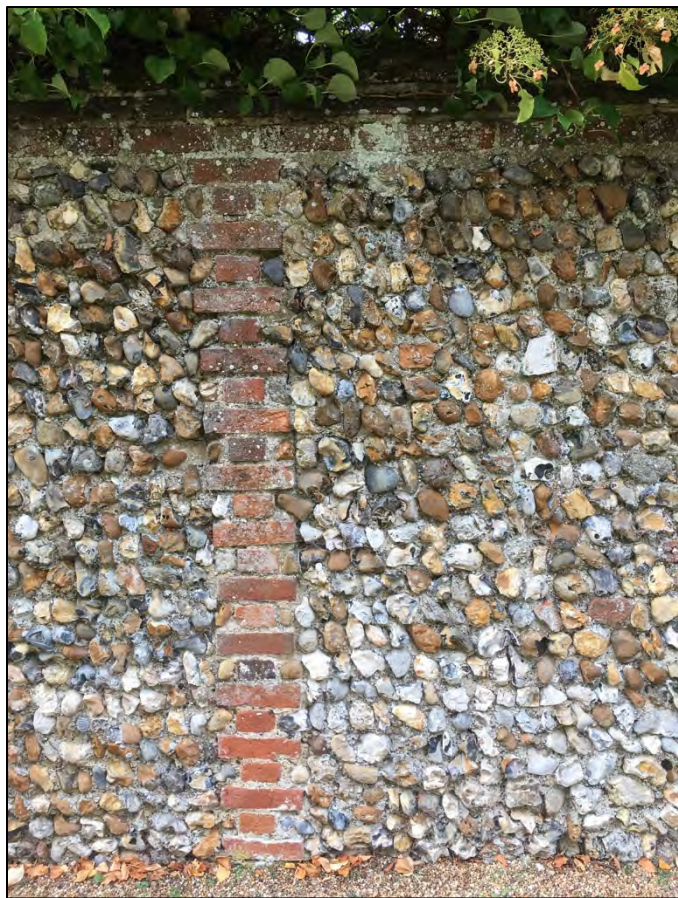
*Fig. 2. Looking NW at exterior of SE wall: the four-sided garden has brick walls in Flemish bond while the three sided garden wall is flint in this aspect. The brick join was not well keyed in.*

## OUTPUT

The database will be available electronically to members of the Cambridgeshire Gardens Trust and other interested historians. The information may also be published as part of a booklet which also reports extended pieces of work on individual gardens, or themes common to several. This third phase of the work may well be delayed by the planned closure of the Cambridge and Huntingdon Records Offices for six months, from December 2018 to May 2019 inclusive, to facilitate the move of the Cambridge Records to Ely.

This means that our potential paper product will be most similar to *The Walled Gardens of Suffolk* published by the Suffolk Gardens Trust 2014. Neither *Staffordshire Walled*

*Kitchen Gardens* (Staffordshire Parks and Gardens Trust, 2003) nor *The Walled Kitchen Gardens of Oxfordshire* (Oxfordshire Gardens Trust 2014) attempt a systematic catalogue of all 'their' PWGs, and Jules Hudson's *Walled Gardens* (National



*Fig. 3. Looking NW at the outside of the SE wall of the three sided garden: Flint walls are built in horizontal layers, each one having to set before the one above it can be laid. Brick piers enable this to be done in short lengths, and give extra stability to the wall. Note the brick coping protecting the flint wall from water damage.*

Trust/Pavilion Books 2018) does not have a comprehensive list of all the PWGs in the stewardship of the National Trust.

Our electronic product will not be as detailed as the Walled Kitchen Gardens Register of the Leicestershire and Rutland Gardens Trust<sup>1</sup>. The full entries there are formidable in their level of detail and scholarship, but their current tally of completed profiles stands at 23 out of 84 confirmed PWGs or garden sites in Leicestershire and Rutland.

#### SAMPLE ENTRY

**Location:** Trumpington, Cambridge TL 444549

**Name of site:** Anstey Hall

**Dates PWG known to be extant:** probably built by Anthony Thompson between 1667 and 1699

**Owners:** 1637-1748 Thompson family, 1748-1838 Anstey family, 1838-1941 Foster family, 1941-1955 Ministry of Agriculture, 1955-1998 Plant Breeding Institute, 1998 to present John de Bruyne

**Elements or features known:** Five glasshouses, two pumps in 1886. Crinkle-crankle south wall shown on 1925 25" map.

**Size:** Small - about 1 acre. The acreage given on the 25" map (5 acres) includes much of the garden.

**Extant:** Parts of the outside of the east wall visible from adjacent Waitrose car park; crinkle-crankle wall visible on Google satellite view. Also some glasshouses visible and the parts of the east wall.

**Notes:** Currently a wedding venue also offering general bed and breakfast, therefore open to the public to some extent. The Foster family who owned it up to WWII are the bankers whose noteworthy banking hall is now Lloyds at 3 Sidney Street in the centre of Cambridge (c.f. article by Charles Malyon in Newsletter 41 from November 2016, page 4).

**Sources:** Trumpington Local History Group website; Parks and Gardens website; Google Maps website; Trumpington Conservation Area Appraisal, Cambridge City Council 2010; NLS OS Maps.



*Fig. 4. The central area of the three sided garden at Hinxtion Hall currently has fruit trees of varying ages set in mown turf.*

#### GROUP OUTING

In June we were privileged to visit the garden of Pampisford Hall, including its PWG and associated slips, glasshouses, cold frames, and battery house with original Tangye of Birmingham pump. The oldest plants within the PWG are probably among the apple trees (including Keswick Codlin and Gascoyne's Scarlet) and pear trees which line the cross and perimeter paths. We were kindly given tea, and I learned how to make proper cucumber sandwiches!

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We thank Antony Warren for taking the photographs, and the Wellcome Sanger Institute for permitting us to use them.

*Gin Warren for the Research Group,  
September 2018.*

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.lrgt.org/index.php?LeicsRutlandWG> accessed 21st September 2018

# PROGRAMME OF VISITS & EVENTS 2018-19

NOV 2018	10 Sat	10:30am-1:30pm	<b>AGM</b> Fen Drayton Village Hall, CB24 4SL. Coffee on arrival, AGM from 11:00am. Talk by Juliet Day on <i>The Systematic Beds at Cambridge Botanic Gardens</i> from 11:30am followed by lunch (£5).
DEC 2018	7 Fri	10:00am-12:30pm	<b>Christmas lecture</b> with coffee and seasonal refreshments, in the Garden Room of St Edmund's College, Mount Pleasant CB3 0BN. 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> . £13 members, £16 guests.
MARCH 2019	9 Sat	10:00am-4:00pm	<b>Study Day</b> at Hemingford Abbots Village Hall PE28 9AH. The study day will explore the topic of <i>Art and Gardens</i> , looking at the interplay between landscaping, sculpture and artwork in general. Coffee on arrival, talks from 10:30am. £25 members, £30 guests, to include coffee and lunch.
APRIL 2019	TBC	TBC	<b>Visit</b> to Kirtling Tower, Newmarket Road, Kirtling, Newmarket CB8 9PA. Moat, formal gardens and parkland, swathes of daffodils, narcissi, crocus, muscari, chionodoxa and tulips, walled garden, Victorian garden. Details have not yet been finalised – please monitor the website. Details will also be emailed when confirmed.
MAY 2019	7 Tues	11:00am	<b>Visit</b> to The Old Rectory Gardens, Sudborough Road, Sudborough, Kettering NN14 3BX. Introduction & guided walk through 2.5 acres of gardens and woodland with interest throughout the year. £15 members, £16 guests including sandwich selection for lunch. Please book early as minimum numbers apply.
JUNE 2019	12 Wed	11:00am	<b>Visit</b> to Castor House, 2 Peterborough Road, Peterborough PE5 7AX. 12 acres of terraced gardens, spring-fed water features, potager with greenhouse and exotic borders, woodland garden, rose and cottage gardens, stumpery, orchard in walled gardens. Introduction followed by a self-guided tour with unlimited tea, coffee and biscuits. £8 members, £10 guests. Please book early as minimum numbers apply.
JULY 2019	9 Tues	11:00am	<b>Visit</b> to Deene Park, Deene Road, Corby NN17 3EW. Tour of the gardens with canal-linked lakes, stone bridge, walled kitchen garden and modern box parterre. Tea-room refreshments. £7.50 members, £9.00 guests. Please book early as minimum numbers apply.
AUGUST 2019	8 Thurs	11:00am	<b>Visit</b> to Kirby Hall, Kirby Lane, Deene, Corby NN17 3EN. Sir Christopher Hatton's 1690's great garden restored. Parterre with statues, urns, seating, topiary and other features. Hot drinks from vending machine, snacks in shop, or self-picnic. Tour of house and garden from 11:30am. 2019 tour charges to be confirmed; for those without EH membership, please book early as minimum numbers apply for the tour.
SEP 2019			<b>Details to follow.</b>
OCT 2019			<b>Details to follow</b>
NOV 2019			<b>AGM: details to follow</b>
DEC 2019			<b>Christmas lecture: details to follow.</b>

(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](mailto: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.

**Stop Press:** it has been announced that The Gardens Trust has narrowly lost its status as an appointing body to the National Trust Council following the NT decision to reduce the size of the Council from 52 to 36. The Gardens Trust came 19th in a poll open to NT members, in which the highest 18 were elected to places on the Council. The next election is in six years' time.

Cambridgeshire Gardens Trust

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

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