



# CAMBRIDGESHIRE GARDENS TRUST

## NEWSLETTER No. 50 May 2021

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## LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

**W**ELCOME TO THIS SPRING'S Newsletter, which I hope you'll enjoy. What a strange few months we have had over the winter. I know that I for one can't wait for life to return to something resembling normality, with a return to human contact and interaction that I expect we've all been longing for. It can't happen soon enough and when it does we will all be able to meet up again, go on trips together and generally resume the Trust's reasons for being.

Not that nothing has happened within the Trust during this hibernation period. We have all had to get accustomed to the ways of communication via Zoom. Zoom has its disadvantages but some advantages too, in that we have drawn in audiences for our lectures from far and wide. There have been five since the last Newsletter; all may be found in the past events on the website. Our AGM talk was given by Dr David Marsh, who took us through his adventure of buying a run-down property in northern France and how the wasteland around the house was gradually transformed into a huge and complex garden. Once foreign travel resumes I suspect that some Trust members will be keen to hop over the

Channel to take a look, as invited to do so by David. Our lively Christmas lecture was given by Gillian Hovell, the 'Muddy Archaeologist', who showed us what the Romans did for British gardens from the first century onwards. The New Year

got off to a fine start with an entertaining and informative 'Gardeners' Question Time' with our new Life Members, Philip Whaites and Richard Gant, providing answers and recommendations to queries and challenges sent in by our members. Selected responses together with their planting

suggestions can be downloaded from the website. Next, our former chairman, Twigs Way, gave a splendid and very well-attended talk on ruins in the landscape. Finally, Alan James, Chairman of the local branch of CPRE, explained the challenges facing the region in relation to climate change, environmental damage and planning issues. A glance at the calendar of events in the Newsletter or the website will reveal an exciting and varied line-up of speakers and topics to keep us going through much of the year, with or without covid. As ever, the most recent information will be found on the website.

The most exciting development within the Trust that I'd like to tell you about is our new Small Grants Scheme, which will be officially launched at the CGT social event in June at Hemingford Grey, restrictions permitting. We have a pot currently standing at £5,000, to be

spent over the next five years. First-round applications will have a deadline of the end of 2021. The upper limit of individual grants will be decided by June and will be regularly reviewed. We will welcome applications for projects within



*Carpets of snowdrops at Chippenham.*

Cambridgeshire that meet the Trust's aims. These broadly could be for park and garden works, community benefit, education or research. We would like to build up the amount of money available through event charging, fund raising and donations. Guidance for applicants, forms and details on timing will be available on the website.

I wonder if any of you have been out and about during the winter and early spring, visiting parks and gardens that have remained open, even in a restricted way. We discovered the joys of Chippenham Park, in the village of Chippenham, this February and March. Usually open for a very limited period, this delightful historic garden was fully open (no booking) every day for a small fee and what an amazing sight it was, with carpets of snowdrops as far as the eye could see, masses of lovely dwarf irises, borders full of spring flowering shrubs and later daffodils. It was so popular that I do hope the owners continue their generous access policy.

As summer approaches, we hope, and restrictions begin to

ease, we are looking forward and planning a series of visits, and the social event, during the summer. Details can be found on the back page of the Newsletter or on the Trust's website. The Committee of Management, to whom many thanks, is working tirelessly on your behalf to organise these events. At last we will all be able to enjoy meeting up and sharing our enthusiasm for parks, gardens and landscapes in person.

We are delighted to welcome Ann Colbert (back) on to the Committee of Management. She brings with her a great wealth of experience and enthusiasm.

Lastly, I would like to encourage you to keep sending in your garden-related photos, to join the lovely gallery of pictures that we are building up on our website. I know that we are grappling with fickle English weather, hot one moment, freezing the next, but even if your photos are of daffodils under snow we'd love to see them.

*Liz Whittle*

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## REFLECTIONS ON MARNEY HALL, 1949-2020

THE TRUST REGRETS to report the death on 8 October 2020 of Marney Hall, a well-known St Ives horticulturist and wild flower specialist. Born and educated in St Helens in the historic county of Lancashire, Marney worked as a research scientist at the Monk's Wood Institute of Terrestrial Ecology (formerly The Nature Conservancy) specialising in the management of nature reserves, where her most noted achievement was the reintroduction of the swallowtail butterfly to Wicken Fen.

After early retirement from ITE in 1988 Marney pursued her interest in wild flowers by setting up what became Countryside Wildflowers, supplying garden centres with wildflower seed and winning a Gold Award at Chelsea, with similar success in many other shows, as well as travelling worldwide to exhibit.

Locally her legacy is the bee-friendly planting in the main flowerbeds at the St Ives Park and Ride and, for myself as a volunteer gardener at Hinchingsbrooke Hospital, the Chapel garden, which provides peace and solace for patients, staff and visitors. A garden which our volunteer team once felt needed digging over but were quickly told that it definitely did not! It looked after itself.

Marney is also remembered for her voluntary work in the community, both as a committee member and Chair of St Ives in Bloom for 10 years, and her commitment to the Friends of Holt Island Committee, to which she brought her research skills and specialist knowledge of wildlife habitat and biodiversity.

Although not a CGT member, Marney Hall's passing is a loss to us all of someone who was a talented researcher and self-



*Photo © Marney Hall Consultancy*

*Marney Hall (1949-2020), environmental researcher and Chelsea Gold Medallist.*

taught wildflower plantswoman, devoted to the conservation of countryside and wildlife.

*Ann Colbert, March 2021*



# ADOPTING AND ADAPTING TO BEE ORCHIDS

WRITING THIS IN FEBRUARY, all of Instagram is in love with swathes of emerging snowdrops and aconites bringing some longed-for cheer in the perpetual hibernation of a winter lockdown. And while I have just succumbed to ordering both ‘in-the-green’ to brighten things up for next year, I have also enjoyed my own winter treasure hunt. This now-annual ritual involves squelching across the sodden lawn (more moss than grass), bent over double to examine it inch-by-inch, and sporadically puncturing the sward with a bamboo cane. Each marks a flattened, basal rosette of two to five, parallel-lined, lanceolate leaves with a distinct pewter sheen (Fig. 1): it looks like around 30 bee orchids, *Ophrys apifera*, will be joining us for midsummer drinks, even if no-one else is allowed to!

Some years it is but a scant half-dozen of canes in the lawn, which leads to a simple, cup-of-tea negotiation with the chief lawn mower over leaving a small patch of grass to grow long so that come June we can enjoy the extraordinary spikes of bee-impersonating flowers. This year, discussions will require an altogether stronger accompanying libation to convince him indoors that the ‘lawn’ should this summer become a patchwork of multiple mini-meadows (Fig. 2). Plantlife’s excellent No Mow May campaign to encourage us all, but especially over-zealous councils, to leave verges longer and cut later will be much-cited, and there will be regular reminders of the incredible number of insects that will benefit, from first brood small tortoiseshells through to marbled whites and holly blues, as well as the languorous, day-flying six-spot burnet moths.



Figure 2. Bee orchid marker canes present a veritable slalom for the lawnmower.

The 17C herbalist, John Gerard, wrote of the bee orchid: ‘Pleasant and beautifull flowers, where with nature hath seemed to plaie and disport hir selfe.’ Less poetically, it does seem that with the extraordinary bee orchid flower, mother nature has indeed been having a laugh. Orchid flower structure consists of a whorl of three sepals offset behind a whorl of three petals: all floral parts are often modified, but the lower petal in particular, the labellum or lip, can take on a wide variety of forms, but often slipper-like (Fig. 3). In the bee orchid, the wing-like sepals are a mauve-pink, two strap-shaped petals resemble bee ‘antennae’, while the protuberant, ballooning and furry labellum, purplish brown with irregular grey and pale-yellow markings and emitting an irresistible sex scent



Figure 1. A cane marks the basal rosette of a bee orchid: judging by the number of leaves, this one looks to be of flowering size.

(pheromone) completes the bee disguise. There can be up to 12 flowers on the flowering spike that can reach 50 cm, but ours generally carry more like five to nine on a slightly shorter scaffold (Fig. 4). In theory, a male bee suitably duped into pseudo-copulation is deposited with sticky packets of pollen called pollinia, which are then transferred by the frustrated bee postman to another flower to effect pollination. However, the



Figure 3. Close-up of bee orchid flowering in June 2019. The slipper-like labellum is strikingly evident.





Figure 4. The bee orchid's flowering spike.

long-horned bee, specific doppelganger-partner of the bee orchid in the ratchet-like process of flower-pollinator co-evolution, is a Mediterranean species now very uncommon in the UK: thus, the bee orchid here relies on self-pollination.

A quick look at the standard field guides suggests that bee orchids prefer free-draining calcareous grasslands, but our home ground is heavy clay, saturated from November to March by winter bourns. Richard Mabey, in his *Flora Britannica*, does challenge the norm: '*there is surprisingly little mythology or cultural association attached to them [orchids] beyond the rather negative (and not particularly accurate) belief that they are all rare, endangered and highly sensitive. Although this is true of some species, others are proving themselves highly adaptable and capable of moving into the most improbable habitats. This has a lot to do with their being a youthful family in evolutionary terms, still throwing up new forms and hybrids; and also with the fact that many orchids produce enormous quantities of exceptionally lightweight seed, which can be blown long distances.*' This is certainly true of the bee orchid, and indeed several *Dactylorhiza* species as well as the early purple orchid, *Orchis mascula*. Artificially opened and heaved-up ground such as spoil tips, laybys, motorway verges and roundabouts may sound unlikely orchid hunting grounds but quite the best colony of *Dactylorhiza* I've ever seen was on the slip road from the M11 up to South Mimms services: unfortunately, I couldn't identify the species as I'd have had to examine the shape and size of the maroonish spots on the leaves which, at speed, was sadly not possible!

I never thought I'd be yearning for the return of the school

run, but in pre-lockdown days the slow speed at which we were inevitably travelling during peak hours was also profitable for orchid spotting: there's a colony of glamorous purples of some sort on the northbound J12 slip road from the M11, while, rather easier to stop and inspect from the nearby layby, there's a handful of bee orchids on the Trumpington roundabout at Junction 11. Perhaps this pioneer colony has arrived from the top of Red Meadow Hill in the Coton Countryside Reserve where, while others are enjoying the view to Cambridge, I am always hunting for bee orchid rosettes along the woodland edge. Orchid seed is so fly-away light because it has no endosperm, the starchy food reserve that in most seeds fuels initial growth: instead, for orchid seed to germinate it must be infiltrated by a symbiotic mycorrhizal fungus which will supply the embryonic orchid with sugar and nutrients in the early days. To counteract the unlikeliness of an orchid seed, suitable fungus and benign habitat coinciding at the right time, orchids produce vast quantities of dust-like seed, sometimes up to 1 million per seed capsule. How fortunate that some of the Red Meadow seed just missed the motorway to establish such an exotic drive-by display!

Soon, the spring stomp across my marsh-like lawn will become more tantalising as those bee orchid rosettes of flowering size will start to produce tighter whorls of vertically held leaves. These will unfurl to reveal and release the flowering spike, at which point the forest of bamboo canes will be removed and the mower master can chicane through the islands of mini-meadows! So while there's no tip-toeing through the tulips for me, I am greatly looking forward, with apologies to Oscar Wilde, to bunburying through the bee orchids with something cool in hand on a light-filled June evening.

Juliet Day, February 2021

## Note

If you are inspired to go hunting for bee orchid rosettes this spring, Mike Waller's *A beginner's vegetative guide to orchids of the British Isles* will be indispensable. It is available to download from the Natural History Museum's website. While bee orchid rosettes are the most frequently encountered species since they emerge in autumn, remain clearly visible over winter and are relatively common, there are other orchids that emerge in early spring. This guide will help you to identify what's what from just the rosette arrangements, number and colour of the leaves and a few geographical and habitat factors.

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# THE GARDENS OF TRINITY HALL AND WYCHFIELD

**I**N 1350 WILLIAM BATEMAN, Bishop of Norwich issued statutes to found The Hall of the Holy Trinity with the intention of providing the Crown with the services of canon and civil lawyers. Bateman, himself a canon lawyer, had been a judge at the Papal Court in Avignon and King Edward III's ambassador to the Pope. He was able to secure Royal licences to acquire buildings and land for a college; he bought the hostel of Prior Crauden of Ely and, as an executor of the Will of Edmund Gonville, was able to move Gonville Hall acquiring its site for his new foundation. Building began in 1354.

## THE SITE

By the 14C there had been some stagnation of trade in Cambridge, exacerbated by the impact of the Black Death. The area of hythes and warehouses by the river were especially affected and land there had become cheap, allowing the development of student hostels. Initially Bateman's hall was bounded to the east by Milne Street, today called Trinity Lane, to the south by Clare Hall, to the west by the River Cam and to the north by Henney Lane, which formerly led from Milne Street to the river. In 1545 Henney Lane was closed and the site was subsequently extended some 20 yds (18 m) north to the parallel Garret Hostel Lane. The Hall's North Court was built on this additional land. In 1421 land across Milne Street, which had been used as the Fellows' Garden, was sold to the University Schools. Unlike other colleges on the 'Backs', Trinity Hall has no land beyond the River Cam.

## THE 'LITTLE GARDEN'

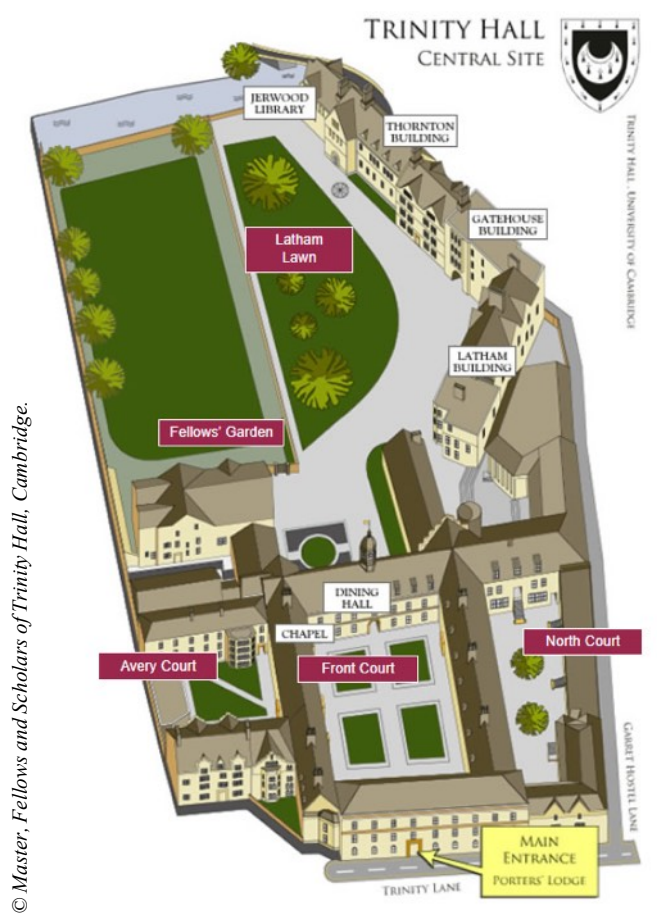
A few paces to the left of the corner from Senate House Passage is a triangular area railed off from Trinity Lane (Figs 1 & 2). It is enclosed in an angle of the walls of the Hall's Front and Avery Courts. Today, this diminutive piece of ground supports a few shrubs. It is the garden of Jowett, Master of Trinity Hall in the later 18C, immortalised in verse:

*A little garden little Jowett made  
And fenced it with a little palisade;  
But when this little garden made a little talk  
He changed it to a little gravel walk;  
If you would know the mind of little Jowett  
This little garden doth a little show it.*

This garden is adjacent to the earliest entry to the Hall with an inner Gatehouse and Porter's Lodge in the eastern range of Front Court. The gateway was removed in 1873 and re-erected as an entrance from Garret Hostel Lane (Fig. 2).

## THE PRINCIPAL OR FRONT COURT

The Front Court was the largest enclosed college court before the end of the 14C and it was the earliest to include a chapel, built in its southern range. The western range included the Master's Lodge attached to the Hall with a buttery and kitchen in the corner linking to the northern range. Its mediaeval appearance was disguised in the 18C, when it was ashlarred, and other fashionable changes were made later. Between 1742-45



© Master, Fellows and Scholars of Trinity Hall, Cambridge.

Figure 1. Present-day map of Trinity Hall. North is to the left. Note the triangular green area on Trinity Lane, just after Senate House Passage, formerly Jowett's garden.

the present entrance was constructed in the centre of the eastern range opening directly onto the court (Fig. 1). In 1852, following a fire, Anthony Slavin rebuilt this range facing Trinity Lane; he also rebuilt the Master's Lodge.

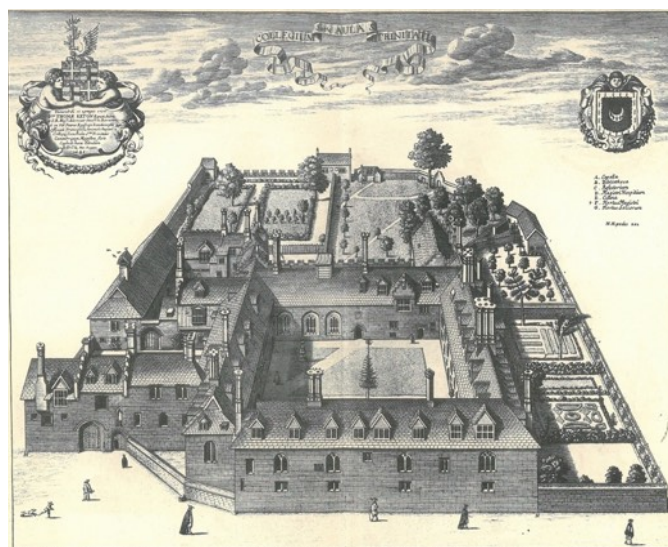


Figure 2. View, looking west, of Trinity Hall by Loggan, 1689. Note there is no entrance in the east range of Front Court. Instead, just beyond the triangular walled area to the left, later to become Jowett's garden, can be seen two 14C gateways, eventually relocated to Garret Hostel Lane.





Figure 3. Hamond's map, 1592, with a tree in Front Court. The Elizabethan Library extends the north range of Front Court to the west. Note the N-S wall connecting the library to the Master's Lodge. North lies to the top-right of the map.



Figure 4. Loggan's map, 1688, marks Trinity Hall by the letter H in Front Court, which has a central tree and a diagonal path connecting the west and south ranges (cf Fig. 2). North lies to the right.

Hamond's Map of 1592 (Fig. 3) shows a central tree, while Loggan in 1688 (Fig. 4) suggests a topiary yew and a struggling conifer. By 1798 Custance's map (Fig. 5) shows a formal layout of four small lawns and bisecting paths. Today, the lawns and paths are complemented by a restrained use of wall-climbing plants (Fig. 6). The narrow beds below the walls are planted with annuals and, dependent on the orientation of the sun, there are roses, lavender, hardy fuchsias, geraniums, and agapanthus.

### THE SOUTH OR AVERY COURT

A passageway from the Front Court leads to this shady court, re-planted in 1994 to Andrew Peter's design. Originally the entrance court, a diagonal path crosses its central lawn and a neatly clipped lattice of box hedging encloses the surrounding beds. There are summer-flowering shrubs, small roses, philadelphus and herbs. Soft, drifting planting spills from one bed to another.



Figure 5. Custance's map, 1798, shows Trinity Hall by the letter E in Front Court, quartered with formal lawns, and with a new entrance to Caius Lane. North lies to the left of top.



Figure 6. Front Court facing the east and south ranges. The archway on the right in the south range leads to Avery Court.

### THE OLD LIBRARY BED

Emerging from the Front Court into Latham Court, there is an imposing *Magnolia grandiflora* stretching to the eaves of the Elizabethan Library, c.1580 (Fig. 7). Loggan's perspective view (Fig. 2) and the maps by Hamond and Loggan (Figs 3-4) show a N-S wall linking the library to the Master's Lodge (seen in Loggan's perspective view as a crenellated wall just beyond the west range of Front Court). This carried an overhead wooden wall-walk from the first floor of the Master's Lodge to the Old Library, a building of red brick with stepped gables. The books were housed on the first floor to avoid Cam floods but while it was acceptable for the Fellows and Scholars to get their feet wet, the Master enjoyed the privilege of the walkway. While the wooden walkway and the wall on which it perched have long disappeared, the hanging doorway remains (Fig. 7). The traditional herbaceous border, south-facing in full sun fronting the Old Library, is one of the most attractive in Cambridge. This deep border with spring flowering is followed by the glory of *Delphinium*, *Achillea*, hollyhocks, peonies and Sweet Williams in profusion.





Photo by D. A. Thomas

Figure 7. The Elizabethan Library with its hanging doorway deep herbaceous border and *Magnolia grandiflora*.

### LATHAM COURT

Until the Latham Building was built to the northwest of the Library, 1887-90, earlier maps show a large area of lawn and orchard leading to the river. It was separated from the Fellows' Garden by a wall. Today there is a large lawn with a splendid beech tree underplanted with spring bulbs (Fig. 8). Beyond, an old yew has a circular seat, while foxgloves, Lenten roses and flowering shrubs grow in the shade. The Latham lawn is planted with a variety of spring bulbs: *Crocus*, *Scilla*, *Erythronium*, *Narcissus* and *Anemone blanda*. At the end a river terrace built in the early 18C extends to include the Fellows' Garden. This terrace was re-landscaped by Peters in 1998 and has herbaceous planting around the new Jerwood Library. A pear tree offers some shade for those working in the library. This library was built on a small gardeners' area at the end of the Thornton Building, 1909. Under great constraints, the architects Tristram Rees Roberts and Graham Riley have created an iconic building enhancing both the College and the Backs (Figs 9 & 10).



Figure 8. The beech tree in Latham lawn, looking NW to the Cam. The Jerwood Library can just be seen at the far end, extending the range of Gatehouse and Thornton Buildings.

The Latham Building and its later ranges, 1909 and 1927, form the boundary with Garret Hostel Lane. Narrow borders below these walls have *Hibiscus*, *Echium* and *Passiflora*.

### THE FELLOWS' GARDEN

Hamond's Map 1592 (Fig. 3) shows an orchard enclosed by a wall. Both Loggan 1688 (Fig. 4) and Custance 1798 (Fig. 5) suggest some cultivation. Today its red brick wall divides it from Latham Court and it is entered through an 18C wrought-



Figure 9. The view north along the Cam from the Fellows' Garden, taking in the timber fenestrations of the southern and western elevations of the Jerwood Library. The wall separating the garden from Latham Court can be seen behind the south-facing herbaceous border.

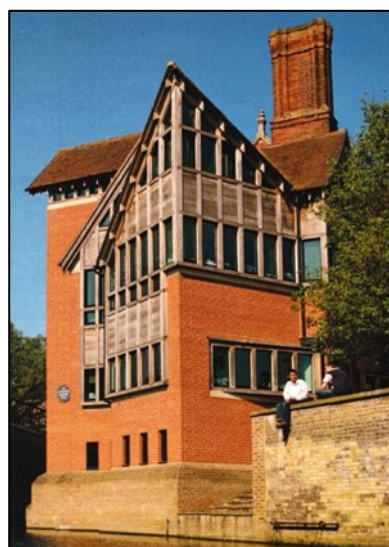


Figure 10. The Jerwood Library from the Cam.



Figure 11. The entrance to the Fellows' Garden, through a wrought-iron gate in the wall separating it from Latham Court. The Master's Lodge is on the left.

iron gate beside the Master's Lodge (Fig. 11). A summer house at the river end of this wall had been pulled down in 1708.

Until this century a row of gnarled horse chestnuts, planted in 1710, formed its boundary with Clare. In 1883 Henry James remarked on their 'prodigious size'. He wrote, *They occupy half the garden and are remarkable for the fact that their great limbs strike down into the earth, take root again and emulate, as they rise, the majesty of the parent stem... one of the most heart-shaking features of the garden of Trinity Hall*. In 1990



Peters had extended an herbaceous border under the northern wall and there planted shrub roses and mixed flowers.

Unexpectedly in December 2006 a large horse chestnut tree fell, prompting a survey of the health of the remaining trees. A little earlier the landscape architect Robert Myers had drawn plans for the colleges in relation to the trees of 'The Backs'. A new team of gardeners under the Head Gardener, Sam Hartley, appreciated their opportunity to develop a new garden, something not done for centuries. In March 2007 the Governing Body approved the plans. While the remaining horse chestnuts were being felled in July, a large, beautiful willow by the river toppled over, succumbing to infection. The development of the garden continued and in October a new terrace of grey sandstone was laid in front of the Master's Lodge. When it rains an array of colours in the stone brings the lodge to life. Through the winter new paths were laid and 14 new tree pits were dug. An interesting circular walk was created, hand-made 27-inch-wide pots (68 cm) were commissioned from Witchford Pottery, Warwickshire, and by April 2008 the bulk of new planting was completed. The herbaceous borders surrounding the large central lawn were planted in cottage style with spring bulbs, shrubs, trees, roses and a variety of perennials. Benches were carefully sited and in May 2008 the new Fellows' Garden was officially opened.

#### NORTH AND CHERRY TREE COURTS

Hamond's Map, 1592 (Fig. 3), and later maps show the development of two gardens in the area acquired after the closure of Henney Lane in 1545.

Today North Court (Fig. 12) and Cherry Tree Court, created 1971-75, have small gardens. In 1731 the area of North Court had been described as the 'Felos Fruit Garden', while the Fellows' Garden itself was 'for walking'. The present court has a small seating area and verdant planting. Clipped hornbeams frame the windows of the buildings with espalier-trained *Pyracanthas* on the wall at the shadier end. *Hostas* and white *Hydrangeas* have been planted. Cherry Tree Court, to the north of the steep, stepped wall of the Old Library, has terraced beds with pansies, daisies, *Aubretia* and *Alyssum*.



Figure 12. Looking west, North Court's greenery frames the 20C windows on the north and complements the 14C masonry to the south, spilling over the irregular paving linking the two façades.

#### WYCHFIELD

The Hall's colony is bounded by the Huntingdon Road to the north, Fitzwilliam College to the east, Storey's Way to the south and its sports field to the west (Fig. 13). Originally part of the estate of The Grove<sup>1</sup>, one of the first areas of Cambridge's vast West Fields to be enclosed in 1803-4, Wychfield House is the focus of new accommodation built in 1961-2 and extended in 2007-8.



Figure 13. Trinity Hall Wychfield site, bounded by Storey's Way at the bottom and Huntingdon Road at the top. North lies to the top-left of the map.

Emma, widow of Charles Darwin, bought The Grove and divided its estate, giving plots to the west and to the east to her two sons, Francis and Horace. Gwen Raverat, a granddaughter remembered The Grove, 'It was surrounded by great park-like meadows and here both Uncle Frank and Uncle Horace built themselves houses, Wychfield [1883-5] and The Orchard'. Francis, a Reader in Botany and Fellow of Christ's named his house after the magnificent wych elm growing nearby. John Chivers bought the House in the early 20C and held garden parties for the local Village Preacher's Association. A report referred to 'beautiful gardens where croquet, lawn tennis and bowls were played'. Photos of elegant ladies among numerous beds of standard roses survive. Trinity Hall bought the House, adjacent to its playing fields, in 1948. By 1954 the House provided accommodation for a retired Master, Professor Dean and ten undergraduates. The stable block adjacent to Huntingdon Road was converted for post-graduates together

<sup>1</sup> See *The Gardens of Fitzwilliam College* in issue 49, pp 5-9.



with an extension, called Dean House and its adjacent Boulton House, in 1963. Herrick House was built to house married post-graduates in 1972. These developments were similar to the conversion of Leckhampton by Corpus Christi College.

There was a central path from the entrance on Huntingdon Road to a sunken garden in front of Wychfield House. There was a woodland walk under numerous mature trees between the buildings. These were the work of Andrew Peters, 1993.

### THE ESTATE 2007-2021

The college planned new accommodation for undergraduates and the Head Gardener had meetings with the architects and builders who developed the grounds. It was a busy time for the gardeners, coinciding with the re-development of the Fellows' Garden. With the new accommodation nearing completion, four distinct new garden areas were planned. A large quantity of plants were ordered and a great amount of mulch was spread on the new beds. Turf had been laid, a new sculpture, *Twelve*, by Jonathan Clarke was installed and a greenhouse constructed. Yew hedges defined each area and by March 2008 the new gardens were opened under the National Gardens Scheme.



Figure 14. The Arts & Crafts pavilion fronts modern squash courts behind.



Figure 15. Round Court, between Storey's Way and the Porter's Lodge (right), is a sun-trap with warm colours.

There was a new entrance from Storey's Way with a Porter's Lodge. The front of the sports pavilion (Fig. 14), built in the Arts and Crafts style, reflects that of the nearby houses. Here are lawns and topiary pieces and, on entering, Round Court has a central lawn and sun-loving planting (Fig. 15). There follows Greenhouse Court, with its unusual terrace



Figure 16. Box beds and cedar lawn beside Wychfield House.

buildings, which won the City Council's Best New Building Award in 2010. This open landscape court has a greenhouse on the sun-facing side of the courtyard and is aesthetically pleasing. Through these courts runs Green Lane, a linear green way linking to the older buildings on the site; a grass walk replaces the idea of a street with front gardens. The area is planted with grasses, roses, *Hebe*, lavenders and shrubs. Proceeding towards Herrick House, there is a cherry tree mound, a summerhouse nearby and under-planting with snakeshead fritillaries, *Narcissus*, *Primula*, primroses and daffodils. There are extensive lawns with gravel pathways.

Separating Herrick House from Wychfield House is the Cedar Lawn with its box beds and areas of roses and shrubs. *Nasturtium*, marigolds, foxgloves amongst *Rudbeckia* in the summer are joined by *Lychnis* and *Veronica*. The whole is bound together by neatly clipped box hedging in a linear pattern. Fronting Wychfield House to the north is a sunken garden with pleached lime hedges on its longest sides and surrounding yew hedges providing a frame. Here is an herbaceous border planted in small drifts with *Delphinium* and hollyhocks offering height offsetting the hot colours of *Astrantia* and *Hemerocallis*. *Alliums* follow spring tulips.

Around its boundaries Wychfield has woodland walks through some 300 mature trees growing in its grounds. A network of winding gravel paths link the under-planting of ancient box, ivy, ferns and other shade-loving plants along the periphery towards mixed borders of *Echinacea*, *Sedum*, *Weigela* and *Deutzia* together with a rose arch and roses. These gardens provide a natural habitat for many native birds and mammals. As in the neighbouring Fitzwilliam College, old Victorian family gardens have provided a focus and been successfully adapted to the requirements of larger, communal living.

Charles Malyon, February 2021

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- Hamond's 1592 and Custance's 1798 Maps of Cambridge.
- Loggan's Map of 1688 and View of Trinity Hall, 1689, are published in *Cantabrigia Illustrata*, 1690.
- Trinity Hall Gardener's Journal 2007-08.

# AN OPEN LETTER TO MAYOR JAMES PALMER

*Readers will no doubt remember the article by Bridget Flanagan in our October 2013 Newsletter in which she outlined the development of an application for AONB status on behalf of the communities and the wildlife that inhabit a stretch of the Great Ouse valley from St Neots to Earith. The application was submitted to Natural England in June 2014 since when it has languished in bureaucratic limbo, a victim of austerity and, latterly, the pandemic. Responsibility for promoting the application and raising public awareness has devolved to the Great Ouse Valley Trust, a charitable organisation founded in September 2018 with Bridget as one of its eight Trustees. Its objects are 'To promote for public benefit the conservation, restoration, and enjoyment of the landscape, wildlife and heritage of the Great Ouse Valley and environs in the county of Cambridgeshire.' As these objects closely align with those of CGT, we felt you might be interested to read an open letter sent by GOVT Chair, Graham Campbell, to James Palmer, Mayor of the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority, seeking to enlist his support in progressing the AONB application. GOVT awaits a reply...*

Mr James Palmer  
Mayor, Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority  
72 Market Street  
Ely  
Cambs CB7 4LS



16<sup>th</sup> Nov 2020

Dear Mr. Palmer/James

## **An Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) in Cambridgeshire**

I am writing in connection with the application we (now the Great Ouse Valley Trust – GOVT) made some time ago (June 2014) to Natural England (NE) for the Great Ouse Valley and the Ouse Washes to be designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). This proposal had widespread local support, including that of our MP Jonathan Djanogly and our previous MP Sir John Major.

We understand that our application went through the process to become one of 10 to be reviewed for support. Unfortunately, austerity then hit the country and NE were unable to progress any new AONBs. In 2019, the Glover report called for a radical shake-up of the running of National Parks and AONBs. Needless to say, then came Covid.

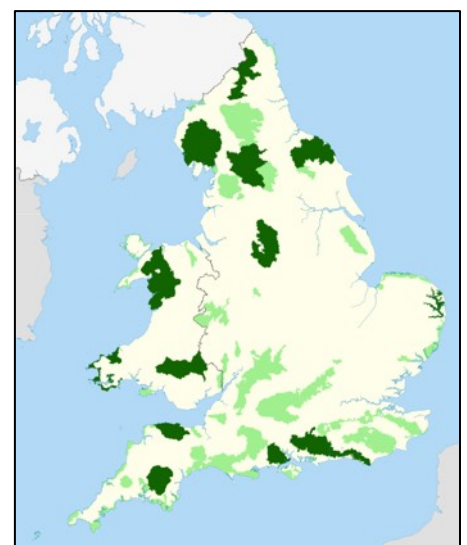
But this week the Government are to announce a further £40m for Green Spaces in England, and as part of this package the process for designating new National Parks and AONBs will start in 2021. Thus the time is now to re-energize the bid for AONB status for the Great Ouse Valley and Washes.

So we are asking for your advice – and, we trust, your support – as to how we can take this matter forward. We feel it is essential to establish a strong recognition at local/regional level for the Great Ouse Valley in order to give momentum for its advancement at national level. We must champion the best of our green spaces and demonstrate how Cambridgeshire leads the way in putting Nature at the start and heart of its development plans.

We need to ensure that the precious landscape of the Great Ouse Valley and Washes is a legacy for future generations.

There are currently 34 AONBs and 10 National Parks in England. The Government's press release calculates that over 66% of the population live within half an hour's travel of one of these areas. But that is definitely not the case for most of Cambridgeshire's residents – particularly Huntingdonshire. (See the map which shows the void of designated landscapes in central and eastern England). The Glover report stressed the need for equality and opportunity; these landscapes must be accessible to all. In Cambridgeshire they are not.

In September 2020, in the Leaders' Pledge for Nature, the Government promised to increase the current amount of 'protected' land from 26% of the national land total



*National Parks shown in dark green and AONBs in light green.*



to 30% by 2030. The extra 4% is calculated as 400,000 hectares of land. The area in Cambridgeshire that we propose be designated as an AONB is c.10,000 ha.

The Great Ouse Valley in Cambridgeshire and the Ouse Washes already has numerous designations for wildlife (see Appendix 1). Many parts of the valley are included in Conservation Areas of villages and towns, and here is the largest concentration of Listed Buildings in Huntingdonshire, reflecting the area's rich cultural heritage. For people, it is a beautiful place with remarkable resources – for example, there is far more open water here than in the Norfolk Broads National Park, and the broad meadows offer wonderful open scenery with footpaths and bridleways.

Cambridgeshire continues to be one of the faster growing counties in the UK with much new housing and enterprise. But we all recognise that if Cambridgeshire is to be a successful place to live and work, then green spaces must be close by. The area of the Great Ouse Valley is able to provide a 'green lung' to those living in the expanding towns and villages around it. The huge increase of the use of the river and meadows during the Covid pandemic shows how residents value this natural area for their quality of life.

In September 2020 Natural Cambridgeshire launched plans for 'Doubling Nature' and a 'Pledge for Nature'. Recognizing that the county has one of the smallest areas of land managed for nature in the country, relative to size, Natural Cambridgeshire commits to work to increase rich wildlife habitats and natural green space in Cambridgeshire from 8% to 16%.

The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Future Parks Accelerator Project is a welcome initiative looking at new ways and collaborative working to deliver, manage and fund parks and open space in our region.

The Masterplans commissioned by the CPCA for the 2019/20 Prospectus for Growth for the Huntingdonshire market towns of St Neots, Huntingdon and St Ives identified the importance of the river and river-side setting for the development of these towns.

The question is how to bring all the initiatives, enterprises, plans, etc, together to protect the Great Ouse Valley and Washes **as a whole** – a special place for people and wildlife, for heritage and recreation? It unquestionably meets so many regional and national objectives.

An extra energy is required to drive forward and make things happen. For example, the concept of the London National Park City seemed very bold and radical when it was launched in July 2019. A year on, it makes sense and resonates - people understand that nature is for all of us, wherever we live. Cambridgeshire must be part of this.

### **In summary**

The Trust hope we can meet with you (Virtually or in Reality as circumstances permit) for your advice to carry forward the application to Natural England. We also need to understand the best way to garner support from all those who are dedicated to the future of both the environment and the economy of Cambridgeshire. And so, we would be very grateful if you can suggest some suitable dates for an early meeting.

With best wishes,

Graham Campbell  
Chair, Great Ouse Valley Trust

Registered address:

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Godmanchester,

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### **Appendix 1**

This area – along the River Great Ouse from St Neots to Earith, and along the Ouse Washes to Downham Market is of the highest landscape and wildlife quality. One of the area's meadows - Portholme - represents 7% of the UK total of traditional flood-plain meadows. Large parts of the area are already designated. At international level, the Ouse Washes is a Ramsar site (internationally important wet land), a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and a Special Protection Area (SPA) as defined in the European Union's Habitats Directive for areas necessary for migratory birds, many of which are endangered. Portholme is also an SAC and one of only five lowland hay meadow sites identified as being of international importance. At a national level there are 30 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), then 31 County Wildlife Sites (the River Great Ouse being one of these) and two Local Nature Reserves.

# AN APPRECIATION OF PETER JACKSON, 1930-2020

IT IS WITH GREAT SADNESS that we report the death of Peter Jackson, who passed away on 5 October 2020 at the age of 90. Peter lived a very active life: a qualified pilot often seen in his yellow vintage Tiger Moth, Peter had relocated his business, Specialised Mouldings Ltd., from London to Huntingdon in 1967. His company became a highly successful supplier of composite mouldings to motor racing teams including Brabham, Ferrari, Lola and Lotus, and conducted leading contract research for the car industry. He was recognised with Associate Membership of the British Racing Drivers' Club in 1978. For many years, Peter was an enthusiastic member of CGT: he enjoyed events with Ann Colbert, his partner of 40 years, and garden visits gave him the opportunity to photograph both plants and people – one member on a visit to Christ's College commented that it was like being at a wedding with Peter taking pictures of the group. But he captured buildings and flowers particularly at many memorable locations such as the Cambridge colleges, and his photographs of the Scarecrow Festival in the woodland at Anglesey Abbey, as part of our Education Programme, where some 30 schools brought along entries, were memorable and added to the fun and publicity for CGT in local newspapers.

Peter was well known his home village of Woodhurst and in Huntingdon for his enthusiasm and success at engaging the community for the Huntingdon in Bloom entries that achieved gold awards in both Anglia in Bloom and Britain in Bloom competitions. His horror at seeing litter meant that every year litter picks were organised with Huntingdon schools and community groups. Britain In Bloom continues to improve the environment in Huntingdon. In the early days, he volunteered to survey public toilets in the town and the subsequent report, illustrated with his photographs telling the stories of the drug abuse and so on, resulted in demolition of the worst sites.

For 12 years, until his admission to a care home in 2018, he was to be found with the volunteers at Hinchingsbrooke Hospital gardens, sweeping, pruning and campaigning for funding and resources. Gardens were visited by the Anglia in Bloom judges as was the display in George Street around the Sebastopol Cannon, which Peter had manufactured from a mould taken from the cannon on the green at Ely Cathedral. The empty plinth, left after the original cannon was taken for metal in



*Peter Jackson on a visit to Impington Mill.*

World War II, had always been his target to replace and, with his knowledge and skills of fibre-glass mouldings, he made this happen. Peter's efforts left a lasting tribute in the town, where he had become well known, not just for employing some 150 local people at Specialised Mouldings Ltd, but also for his voluntary work and passion to get things improved. Never one to sit still, he leaves fond memories and a permanent legacy in the cannon, surrounded by annual planting by Huntingdon Town Council to celebrate topical events such as, in 2020, the Year of the Nurse to honour the 200th anniversary of Florence Nightingale's birth. The story of the cannon is displayed at the site.

*Ann Colbert, March 2021*



*Scarecrow Competition photos at Anglesey Abbey by Peter Jackson. The centre image includes Lord Fairhaven and Ann Colbert, who were not competing.*



# A VISIT TO WRIGHT'S FARM, KIMBOLTON

**A**T THE HEIGHT OF SUMMER 2020, with coronavirus apparently in retreat, the quest was on for gardens opening under the National Garden Scheme. One such which caught the imagination was Wright's Farm on Tilbrook Road, Kimbolton and so a small band of CGT members arranged a socially distanced visit on 16 July.

Wright's Farm has only recently listed under the NGS scheme, but it is an outstanding example of what can be achieved by a combination of passion and attention to detail. Starting almost from scratch in 2013, Russell and Hetty Dean have created something quite special in their 4-acre grounds, including varied long borders with bee and butterfly friendly planting and a formal walled vegetable garden with raised beds, potting shed and greenhouses. There is also a Mediterranean-style courtyard with dry garden, leading from a paved entrance area with plenty of pots. A tropical hot border looks good in August but riverside paths and seating with open countryside views allow the visitor to cool off in the summer heat.

## APPROACH

To the NE the property is bordered by the River Kym which acquires its identity from the River Til NW of the farm. The B645 Tilbrook to Kimbolton Road flanks the SW boundary (Fig. 1). There is a shelter belt of mature trees screening the property. They include many forms of acer, including acer campestre, sycamore, oaks, ash, alder and willow.



Fig. 1. Google view of Wright's Farm, bounded in red.

**Drive and Paths:** the main drive to the farm from the B645 is coarse buff/grey gravel, flanked by an avenue of trees (acers?) of alternating green and red foliage, and sweeps across the front of the farmhouse to form a generous reception area. At the end of the avenue the driveway bifurcates, with a fork to the left (Fig. 1) at a boundary wall of red brick, surmounted by grey coping stones, which separates it from the meadow to the SW before giving access to a Mediterranean-style courtyard with ranges of buildings on three sides (Figs 1 & 2).

This courtyard area is surfaced in mellow buff bonded gravel broken by lines of possibly reclaimed yellow, buff and



Fig. 2. A mix of yellow, buff and white bricks links the loose gravel drive to the resin-bound gravel courtyard.

white floor bricks. The transition from the loose gravel of the drive is articulated by an area of the same bricks (Fig. 2). These are also laid to give access to areas abutting the courtyard buildings: closed and open stores, some with rooms over, and open garages. The space provides recreational opportunities with several small café-style folding tables and chairs and an island feature comprising a low, red-brick wall enclosing an olive tree underplanted with lavender.



Figure 3. Corner steps lead to a hidden courtyard, and access to an upstairs room.

A small hidden courtyard is located behind the angle formed by the SW and NW ranges and accessed by brick steps (Fig. 3). There is a metal external staircase to the room over the SW range. At the end of the NE range, with wood cladding, solar panels and surmounted by a weather vane, the pathway passes the end elevation of the garage block on the left with poultry cages and open barns on the right. Turning left in front of open garages, a diagonal line of single bricks leads the eye from a wing displaying single and double doors to a brick-paved footway on the N corner leading via a metal gate (Fig. 4) to the gardens and the River Kym on the right. The garages in this





*Fig. 4. A brick line leads north from the garages, via a metal gate, to the gardens and River Kym on the right.*

smaller court are also accessed via the gravel drive on the other branch of the bifurcation from the front of the house (Fig. 1).

### RECREATIONAL AREAS

Following the driveway from the front of the house, a small circular patio paved with brick and stone and located on the NW



*Fig. 5. Informal seating on circular paving outside the NW elevation of the old house.*

elevation provides intimate seating around small round metal table and chairs (Fig. 5). A bricked pathway returning at the side of the original house provides a hardstanding for a vibrant collection of plants in pots and on metal stands (Fig. 6) and articulates the transition from the old house to the new wing which is clad in pine lapboard. Here, circular riven-stone paving encloses a large stone globe water feature and lily pond as well as providing for further seating in the form of a metal bench (Fig.7).

Space for sheltered outside entertaining on the NW wing of the house is supplied by an extensive projection of the gable with a glass canopy roof on oak supports over a stone-flagged patio (Fig. 8).

SW of the main dining area and adjacent to the garage block, there is further opportunity for hard paving and seating with a metal tree seat standing on a half-circle of stone edged with triple arcs of bricks alongside the brick path returning to



*Fig. 6. Pot plants on brick and staging decorate the link to the kitchen extension.*



*Fig. 7. Globe water feature and lily pond enclosed by riven-stone paving.*



*Fig. 8. External entertaining is enabled by the oak-framed gable covering a stone-flagged patio.*

the foot-way access to the garages and courtyard areas (Fig. 9).

More concentric brick and stone paving supports a circular wrought-iron pergola in the far NW of the garden (Fig. 10), near which a stepped walkway leads to seating on a lower terrace along the bank of the River Kym.





*Fig. 9. Paving and tree seat provide an island in the border screening the garage range.*



*Fig. 10. A wrought-iron pergola, festooned with climbing rose, provides shady seating.*

Near the meeting of the NE and SE boundaries, a clearing of the boundary vegetation, paved in brick and stone, gives far views over the surrounding countryside across the River Kym, with a round table and chairs to furnish the vantage point (Fig. 11). Occasional benches and seats abound throughout the grounds.



*Fig. 11. A further paved island offers seating and a bucolic view of the countryside beyond the River Kym.*

Paths to the rear of the property are of the same gravel as the drive. They commence from the SE end of the herbaceous planting along the length of the watercourse and lead to the kitchen gardens where gravel is also used to divide beds, greenhouses and other appurtenances (Fig. 12).



*Fig. 12. Gravel borders planting in the SE kitchen garden, with a five-barred gate opening to the gravelled driveway in front of the old house.*

#### **FENCES, WALLS, GATES AND EDGING**

The well-pointed brickwork of the front edifice of the old house sets a cohesive theme for the encircling garden. Lawns throughout the garden are edged with red bricks (Fig. 13). Walls of red bricks of varying periods divide sub-areas and link the whole to the main roof of peg tiles and the differing styles of pantile of the outbuildings. Many walls are pierced with diamond shaped insets tessellated with clay pipes (Fig. 13).

Thoughtful choices of fencing vary from bamboo screening (Fig. 13) to simple ranch style in natural split-wood and slat construction, hurdle fencing and metal park railings painted black.

The gates follow the same materials as the fences and vary from five-bar gates in wood (Fig. 12) and metal, to small metal pedestrian gates.



*Fig. 13. Examples of brick edging, bamboo screening and clay-pipe lozenges in the brick walls.*



### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We would like to express our sincere thanks to Russell and Hetty Dean for their kind hospitality in hosting our visit to their exciting new garden. As mentioned earlier, they are listed on the National Garden Scheme and may be found online at the

link: <https://ngs.org.uk/view-garden/35951>. Their next Open Days are Saturday and Sunday 3-4 July 2021; entrance £5 for adults, children free, and home-made teas should be available.

*Linda Burwood, Judith Christie, Pam Dearlove, Sue Fawcett, Bridget Flanagan, Val Harrison and Vivien Hoar*



*Fig. 14. Looking north across the drive towards the barns and poultry cages.*



*Fig. 15. Box-edged paving leads from the end of the hot border to the River Kym.*



# VICTORIAN AND EDWARDIAN RENAISSANCE AT MADINGLEY HALL: THE RE-INTRODUCTION OF THE FORMAL GARDEN AND CREATION OF THE HARDY WATER LILY

WHEN WE CLEANED and stocked our Edwardian formal ponds thirty years ago, the emphasis was on ensuring a balance of aquatic plants, both oxygenating species and water lilies covering a proportion of the water surface to control algae and to ensure a successful and healthy display. It is only now, after our latest pond-cleaning escapade last autumn, that the story behind the ponds and the water lilies which grace them came to our notice. This is primarily due to a comprehensively researched book by one of our academic staff, Caroline Holmes, entitled *Water Lilies and Bory Latour-Marliac, the genius behind Monet's Water Lilies*. Published in 2015, Caroline's book tells the story leading to the creation of these exotic and hardy jewels gracing our garden ponds, a story that forms the basis for this article.

Madingley Hall's four formal ponds were created between 1908 and 1914 by a retired Leeds industrialist, Colonel Walter Harding (1843-1927). He enthusiastically adopted the prevailing style of the time, reintroducing formality to the immediate vicinity of the house, as advocated by leading contemporary architects and designers including Reginald Blomfield (1856-1942). These formal features included terraces, steps, lawns, sunken gardens and ponds.

A parallel development in plant breeding coincided with the development of the hardy waterlily, *Nymphaea*. Joseph Bory Latour-Marliac (1830-1911) founded a nursery between Bordeaux and Toulouse at Temple-Sur-Lot, south of the Dordogne. Latour-Marliac had been inspired as a boy by his cousin, a naturalist who visited Australia and later the Peloponnese. Latour-Marliac studied law in Paris but in 1848 the revolution forced him to return to the family home where he married Alida Gonnère in 1852. At this time, glasshouses and winter gardens were becoming popular, with the quest and search for exotic specimens increasing. Louis van Houtte of Ghent sent out nurserymen to collect plants and tropical water lilies were among the finds. He bred the first tropical water lily hybrid. Latour-Marliac was inspired by van Houtte's work and, with family wealth and the benefit of time, he discovered a way to hybridise hardy water lilies and he set up his nursery in 1875.

Precise detail of how Latour-Marliac succeeded in breeding hardy water lilies in a spectrum of yellow, pink, red and colours in-between is not fully understood. The only known hardy species until this time was *Nymphaea alba* and it is likely this featured in his breeding. He used both hardy, tropical, and sub-tropical species and possibly two red mutations of white species, *N. alba* and the North American *N. odorata*, although he denies the latter. The tropical *N. rubra* from the warm regions of Asia was also used. For yellow it is thought he used *N. flava* and *N. mexicana*, the Florida white water lily. Crossing a hardy water lily with a tropical one is referred to as an intersubgeneric hybrid and Latour-Marliac's hybrids in the main were sterile. In 1889, he unveiled and exhibited his new water lilies at the Paris World's Fair in the water gardens in

front of the Trocadéro, beside the new Eiffel Tower. Latour-Marliac's exhibit caught the eye of the artist Claude Monet who shortly afterwards bought his house and garden at Giverny. He placed orders to Latour-Marliac's nursery, and the resulting water lilies were to become famous in the artist's work.

In 1887 Latour-Marliac commenced correspondence with William Robinson of Gravetye Manor, West Sussex and wrote for his magazine, *The Garden*, in 1893. Through Robinson, Latour-Marliac's water lilies were introduced to notable and influential gardeners of the time including Gertrude Jekyll.



Photo by Colm Sheppard

Figure 1. Madingley Hall's Croquet Lawn Pond hosts several Latour-Marliac water lilies.

The combination of these new hybrids and the reintroduction of formal garden elements near the house, including ponds, fused together plant and receptacle to maximum effect. Madingley Hall's Croquet Lawn Pond (Fig. 1) is home to a range of Latour-Marliac's water lilies, some proving more successful than others. One of his favourites *N. 'Marliacea Chromatella'* was the first true yellow water lily introduced in 1877, followed by the fine double yellow *N.*

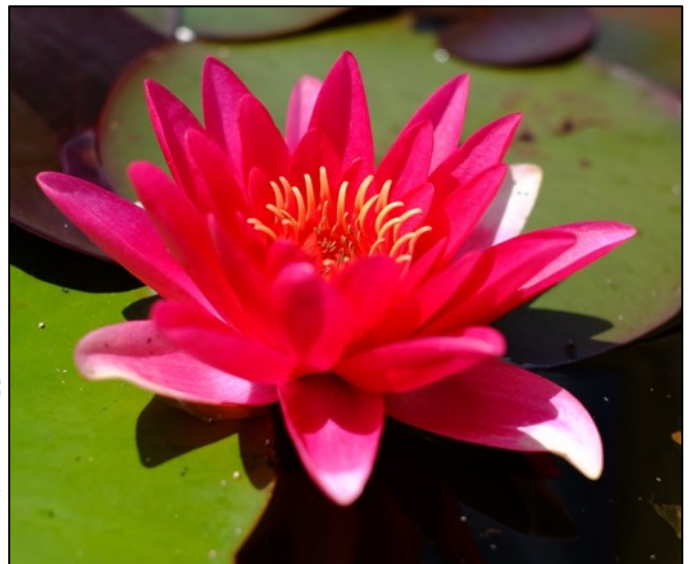


Photo by Colm Sheppard

Figure 2. *N. 'James Brydon'* in the Croquet Lawn Pond.



'Odorata Sulphurea Grandiflora' in 1888. This was one of the first water lilies Monet ordered. Another water lily relates to a regular and loyal customer. In 1899, *N. 'James Brydon'* a double fuchsia-red set off by young purple leaves (Fig. 2) was bred in Philadelphia by Henry A. Dreer and Monet is known to have ordered this from Latour-Marliac.

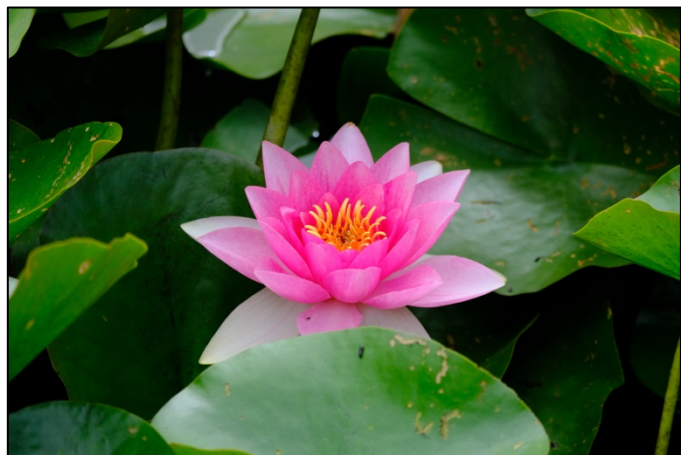


Photo by Colm Sheppard

Figure 3. *N. 'Masaniello'* in the Courtyard Pond.

All the water lilies in the Courtyard Pond are prodigies of the Latour-Marliac nursery. *N. 'Marliacea Albida'* was one of Bory's first white water lilies c.1880, which he describes as having 'very large flowers of 20 cm diameter, of which exterior petals are pink washed.'<sup>1</sup> Another white, *N. 'Albatross'*, dates to 1910, the date of the completion of this pond. The two pink water lilies are *N. 'Masaniello'* (Fig. 3) launched in 1908 and *N. 'Madame Wilfon Gonnère'* (Fig. 4) introduced in 1924, named by Latour-Marliac's son Edgard after his maternal grandmother Euphragine de la Marsalle Gonnère. 'It is considered to be the most perfect of double pink *Nymphaea*.'<sup>2</sup>



Photo by Colm Sheppard

Figure 4. *N. 'Madame Wilfon Gonnère'* named after Latour-Marliac's mother-in-law, Euphragine de la Marsalle Gonnère.

A century later, the presence of some of Bory Latour-Marliac's early bred water lilies growing in our garden ponds, is not only fitting in terms of garden conservation and appropriateness but to celebrate the lives of two extraordinary and dynamic men whose lives ran parallel in the 19C and into the 20C. Their successes enabled the one, Harding, to fund and build our ponds and the other, Latour-Marliac, to create the exotic hardy sumptuous water lilies which grace, repose and bask on the water surface. Magnifique!

Richard Gant, March 2021

#### References and bibliography

1. Holmes, Caroline 2015. *Water Lilies and Bory Latour-Marliac, the Genius behind Monet's Water Lilies*, Garden Art Press, ISBN 978-1870673839, p 72.
  2. Ibid, p 106.
- For further information see <http://latour-marliac.com/en/>

## EMERGING-FROM-LOCKDOWN CGT QUIZ

THE NEWSLETTER QUIZ is hopefully providing some small distraction during the months of lockdown. Here, we give you the answers to the quiz from page 19 of Newsletter 49 as, by the time you read this, the winner will have been found and will be announced at the Zoom talk by Alison Moller on 20th May.

#### ANSWERS TO QUIZ IN NEWSLETTER 49

1. What position was done away with when Fitzwilliam College was granted its Royal Charter?  
*Fitzwilliam's charter, granted in 1966, did away with the office of Censor, replacing it with the title Master.*
2. Who designed the wallpaper in The Grove?  
*The Grove, a Grade II listed building in Fitzwilliam College's grounds, has a stair hall retaining original wallpaper by William Morris.*
3. Where was there an Institution for the Nervous?  
*At Mavisbank, Edinburgh: a 1720's villa designed and constructed in a collaboration between Sir John Clerk of Penicuik and William Adam.*
4. Who designed the ornamental garden at Gawthorpe Hall?

*Formal gardens at Gawthorpe Hall were designed by Sir Charles Barry for Sir James Kay-Shuttleworth during 1850-1856, incorporating elements of earlier 19C work.*

5. What is Lithodipyra and, for a bonus, why was it so called?  
*Lithodipyra was created around 1770 by Eleanor Coade. It is a ceramic artificial stone, which is easy to mould and very hard-wearing. Its name is manufactured from the Greek words for 'stone twice fired'.*

#### NEW QUIZ QUESTIONS

Here are another five questions drawn from Newsletter 50. Again the winner will receive a little something to brighten up the rather cool spring up to the time of writing.

1. Who brought back the swallowtail butterfly to Wicken Fen?
2. Where might you spot *Dactylorhiza* from a car?
3. Why might a parachute come in useful in a certain Cambridge college library?
4. Who bred the first tropical water lily hybrid?
5. Where does the river Til end?

Phil Christie, April 2021





## NEWS FROM THE BORDERS

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



### FORTHCOMING TALKS

Lockdown has greatly increased the number of talks accessible from the comfort and bio-security of your own home. Below is a series of Zoom lectures from the Gardens Trust on the topic: *The Darker Side of Plants - Toxic Trees, Poisonous Perennials and Wicked Weeds*. Every Tuesday morning at 10:00am from 11 May 2021 at £5 per lecture or all eight for £32.

**May 11** *Toxic Trees, Poisonous Perennials & Wicked Weeds*

**May 18** *The Underworld of Plants*

**May 25** *The Unexpected Role of Plants in Modern Medicine*

**June 1** *Chemical Warfare and Co-operation in the Garden*

**June 8** *Plants hold Secrets - Silent Witnesses to Crime*

**June 15** *Malevolent Medicines*

**June 22** *Permission to Poison – The Alnwick Garden*

**June 29** *Poisonous Plants and Agatha Christie*

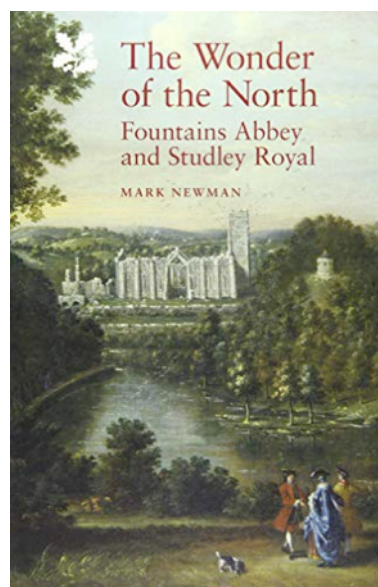
For full details and registration go to the Gardens Trust webpage <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-darker-side-of-plants-toxic-trees-poisonous-perennials-wicked-weeds-tickets-149243769131>

### GARDENS TRUST ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2021

Many members will have been looking forward to the Gardens Trust Annual Conference which was postponed from September 2020 to September 2021 because of the Covid-19 restrictions. Sadly, the Gardens Trust have decided that conditions on social gatherings are still not sufficiently clear to enable the conference to take place in 2021 and so an announcement has recently been made on the GT website that the event will be postponed again to September 2022. Full details and how to book will be announced in due course. However, more positively, GT are currently exploring an online event over part of the weekend of the 2021 conference (4-6 September), which could include the Gardens Trust Annual General Meeting and New Research Symposium, together with some taster talks on the parks and gardens that would have been visited, and hopefully will be in 2022. Further details will be announced as the plans progress.

### THE WONDER OF THE NORTH – MARK NEWMAN

On 8th July (see Calendar of Events), we are delighted to host a Zoom talk by Mark Newman, who will speak about the World



Heritage Studley Royal estate of Fountains Abbey and its spectacular water features. Mark has been the National Trust's archaeological adviser for Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal since 1988 and was resident in Fountains Hall from 1988-1995. As the author of a major recent book entitled *The Wonder of the North: Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal* (see cover image), he is exceptionally well

qualified to speak about the historical development of the landscape and the challenges offered by its famous water features. A talk not to be missed!

Mark's book is published by Boydell Press 2015 and reprinted 2016, ISBN 978-1-84383-883-8. 406 pages with 196 colour illustrations, 52 monochrome and 15 line drawings.



### ESSEX GARDENS TRUST – ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

Essex Gardens Trust have recently appointed Jane Frederick as their artist in residence. During her residency, she will be leading a series of Tour and Draw events based in the glorious settings of some of Essex's treasured gardens. The first workshop will be at the gardens of Easton Lodge, Great Dunmow, Essex on Thursday 8th July.

During these relaxed practical workshops, Jane will help to build confidence in drawing skills, develop sketching techniques and encourage mindful engagement with inspiring green spaces through creativity. There will be time to enjoy their history and explore the gardens through an artistic lens.

Materials and light refreshments will be provided, no experience of drawing is necessary: all that is needed is an enthusiasm for beautiful gardens and a willingness to try something new. Further details and tickets will be available from Essex Gardens Trust's website and you can follow Jane's residency at <http://www.essexgardenstrust.org.uk/new-page>



# PROGRAMME OF VISITS AND EVENTS 2021

*Because of the covid-19 situation, all visits and events apart from the Zoom lectures are subject to possible changes in accordance with Public Health guidelines. If members have locations they'd like to suggest, please get in touch via the email address [admin@cambridgeshiregardenstrust.org.uk](mailto:admin@cambridgeshiregardenstrust.org.uk). As government advice changes, we will update the website and circulate details by email and post. We hope sites will re-open later in 2021 for socially distanced group visits. In each case we leave it to individual members to evaluate advice prevailing at the time and to consider whether participation in a given event is appropriate for them.*

MAY	20 Thurs <b>ZOOM</b>	7:30pm	<b>Zoom talk by Alison Moller:</b> Alison will explore the background, influences and meaning of the important 20C/21C Garden of Cosmic Speculation, near Dumfries. Free to members; Zoom details will be sent out prior to the talk.
JUNE	23 Weds	5:30pm-8:30pm	<b>Social evening</b> at The Manor, Hemingford Grey, Huntingdon PE28 9BN. House built 1130's. Gardens with moat, topiary, old roses, award-winning irises, herbaceous borders. Bring your friends and a picnic to enjoy in the grounds. Optional house tours. £12 for members and guests before <b>28 May</b> , £15 thereafter, to include a glass of sparkling summer wine or soft drink. Please book by sending appropriate amount by BACS (see below) and email before <b>16 June</b> to <a href="mailto:admin@cambridgeshiregardenstrust.org.uk">admin@cambridgeshiregardenstrust.org.uk</a> .
JULY	8 Thurs <b>ZOOM</b>	7:30pm	<b>Zoom talk by Mark Newman:</b> Mark is the author of an important NT book on Fountains Abbey and will talk about the Studley Royal estate, its water features and issues with the river Skel. £5 for members and guests; Zoom details will be sent out prior to the talk.
JULY	15 Thurs	Morning (time TBC)	<b>Visit</b> to St Paul's Walden Bury, Hitchin, Hertfordshire SG4 8BP. 18C formal woodland garden with temples, statues, ponds, rhododendrons, magnolias and azaleas. Refreshments on arrival, guided tour of house and introductory tour of garden; cost £20, with maximum of 25 people. Please book by Monday 5 July. The visit will be subject to Public Health advice and full details will be posted on the CGT website.
SEPT.	16 Thurs <b>ZOOM</b>	7:30pm	<b>Zoom talk by Prof. Beverly Glover:</b> Beverly, a CGT Patron and Director of the CU Botanic Garden, will talk about the CUBG's unique role in addressing global challenges. Free to members; Zoom details will be sent out prior to the talk.
SEPT.	TBC	TBC	<b>Visit</b> to Euston Hall, Thetford, Suffolk IP24 2QH. Palladian-style house in landscape gardens, ancient broadleaf woodland, pleasure grounds laid out by John Evelyn, later extended by Brown and Kent. The visit will be subject to Public Health advice and full details will be posted on the CGT website.
OCT.	21 Thurs <b>ZOOM</b>	7:30pm	<b>Zoom talk by Tim Richardson:</b> Tim will use the occasion of the <b>Margaret Helme Lecture</b> to talk about Cambridge college gardens, drawing upon his recent book on the same topic. Free to members; Zoom details will be sent out prior to the talk.
NOV.	6 Sat	11:00am-2:30pm	<b>AGM</b> in Fen Drayton Village Hall, Cootes Lane CB24 4SL starting at 11:30am, followed by guest speaker and patron Prof. John Parker at approximately 12:00noon. John's title is <i>Gardens of the Fynbos</i> . AGM papers will be sent out prior to the event. We hope this will be an in-person event; cost, including lunch, to be advised on the website.
DEC.	TBC	10:30am-12:00 noon	<b>Christmas Lecture</b> to be given by architect and gardener Kim Wilkie on the productive landscape at La Pietra, Florence.

*(For up-to-date details please go to <http://cambridgeshiregardenstrust.org.uk>)*

For the time being, our preferred method of booking is by BACS transfer to Cambs. Gardens Trust (sort code 20-29-68, account number 30347639) using your name as reference; please confirm payment by email to [admin@cambridgeshiregardenstrust.org.uk](mailto:admin@cambridgeshiregardenstrust.org.uk). Cheques, **payable to Cambridgeshire Gardens Trust**, to Jane Sills, The Willows, Ramsey Road, Ramsey Forty Foot PE26 2XN.

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 [admin@cambridgeshiregardenstrust.org.uk](mailto:admin@cambridgeshiregardenstrust.org.uk) as early as possible.

Cambridgeshire Gardens Trust

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