

# The Bucks Gardener

Issue 15

The Newsletter of the Buckinghamshire Gardens Trust

Late Summer 2002

## FROM THE CHAIR

I've just returned from the AGT's annual conference, great fun and a fascinating, if intense, programme (talks started at 8.30am). It was great to meet up with fellow Gardens Trusters and quite inspirational. Its great that we are now getting know nationally and a steady trickle of enquiries is coming in, our next venture is a website. Next year we hope to finally attain charitable status which will allow us to ratchet up our activities, notably with schools and recording. We have not done very well on these fronts, but that can easily change as members enthusiasm comes through. So keep in touch, you can make a difference.

We have a few more Visits and our Winter Talks programme to carry us through till the end of the year. We have had a mixed turn out to our events this year, though all have been enjoyable, and we hope more of you can attend our upcoming shown on the right and detailed inside.

Finally, many members will have been saddened to hear of the death of Elliott Viney, whose letter on Aston Clinton Park appeared in the last *Bucks Gardener*. We will be printing a suitable appreciation of this great Bucks conservationist in the next edition.

*Charles Boot*



*I haven't included advertising in the Bucks Gardener yet (it hasn't been offered) but thought this was too good to miss. Sent in by Claude Hitching (see his letter on page 13), this example of the 'Langley Vase' is from the Pulham catalogue. Does it relate to our Langley or to one of the several others in different counties. We certainly didn't see any examples at Langley on our visit, maybe it's in County Hall?*

## COMING EVENTS

### Visit to Windsor Great Park and Savill Gardens

Saturday 21 September

10am –4.00pmish

Cost; £6.00 members (£8.00, guests)

Details overleaf

### Visit to Gubbins (Herts)

Saturday 19 October

12.30 for 2.00pm (pub lunch before visit)

Cost; £4.00 members (£6.00, guests)

Details overleaf

## Winter Talks series

Our talks this year will examine in detail the work of the key early designers of the English Landscape Garden. We will be looking at the careers of Charles Bridgeman, Lancelot 'Capability' Brown, and Humphry Repton (whose 200th anniversary we are celebrating this year). Taking specific examples of their work, and using examples of recent restorations our speakers will be examining the triumphs and pitfalls encountered in the process. You will be notified of full details nearer the date, the programme may change.

## 'Great Designers, Great Landscapes, Great Restorations'

*Kate Felus; Charles Bridgeman* (d.1738)

2.30pm, Saturday 9 November:

*Tom Oliver; Lancelot 'Capability' Brown* (1716–1783)

2.30pm, Saturday 23 November:

*David Adshead; Humphry Repton* (1752–1818)

2.30pm, Saturday 14 December:

Cost: £6.00 members, £8.00 others. Tea and cake included.

Please book by phone on 01296 653 226, or by post: BGT Winter Talks, Booking Office, The Stables, Waddesdon Manor, Aylesbury HP18 0JH

Please make all cheques payable to; Waddesdon Manor A T

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## VISIT TO WINDSOR GREAT PARK AND SAVILL GARDEN

Saturday 21 September

10.00am – 4.00pmish

Cost; £6.00 members (£8.00 guests),  
price does not include lunch

The programme remains more or less the same as in the last edition of the *Bucks Gardener* except that we are now meeting at the York Club. Take the A323 out of Windsor, leave the A323 (Sheet Street Road) at Ranger's Gate (it should open automatically), continue along road to The Village and the York club is just beyond on the left, parking will be provided. Please book in advance so that we have some idea of numbers. Please note that this will be quite a long day with a lot of walking, albeit in several stages.

The day is divided into sections and ties in with the development of the park (more or less), and we may not be seeing all the places mentioned. The potted history below is derived from Sarah Rutherford's EH *Register* entry.

### 10.00am: Meet at **York Club**, Windsor Great Park

Windsor Great Park evolved out of Windsor Forest and was a royal hunting park from the C11. By about 1365 it had taken on its present size and shape. Until C17 the park was still divided into clear sections, each with its own lodge and keeper. A few extra sections were added, mainly to the north-west and south-east during the following centuries.

### 10.30am: **Cranbourne Tower** & site of **Cranbourne Lodge**

During the Commonwealth (1649–53) land was sold to private individuals, one of whom, Col James Byfield, constructed a house known as the Great Lodge at the centre of the park (now Cumberland Lodge) which, following the Restoration (when the land reverted to the Crown) became the Ranger's official residence and principal residence of the Great Park.

The early C16 Cranbourne Lodge, a hunting lodge, was rebuilt as a substantial residence in 1665, its gardens embellished c1700–10 by Henry Wise for the first Earl of Ranelagh, creating a series of terraces and formal gardens, with avenues radiating across the park.

### 12.00 noon: **Copper Horse** and **Long Walk**

Hugh May began the Long Walk for Charles II in 1680, to connect Windsor Castle with the heart of the Great Park. The Duchess of Marlborough (joint Ranger of the Great Park, 1702–1744) created significant gardens around Cumberland Lodge. Queen Anne's Ride was laid out 1700–08, probably by Henry Wise [its his 350th birthday next year, ed], as part of the network of avenues between the Park and Windsor Castle. In the mid C18 both Cumberland and Cranbourne Lodges and their gardens were further embellished when responsibility for the Great Park and Cranbourne Park were combined for the first time by George II's son William Augustus, Duke of Cumberland (Ranger 1746–65).

In the 1790s George III employed the agricultural improver Nathaniel Kent to make recommendations about the land within the Great Park, resulting in extended farming of the park and the construction of new farm buildings, including Flemish and Norfolk Farms.

George IV built the picturesque *cottage orné* Royal Lodge c1814 as his private residence, developed from a gardener's cottage and set within its own grounds (most recently the Queen Mother's house). During the 1820s he commissioned the enormous equestrian statue of his father, George III, for the southern end of the Long Walk, erected in 1831.



*The Cranbourne Tower, Windsor Great Park.*

In the 1840s and 1850s the Prince Consort addressed farming matters, overseeing the general revitalisation of the park with the development of farms and the estate workshops.

### 1.00pm: Lunch at **Savill Garden Restaurant**

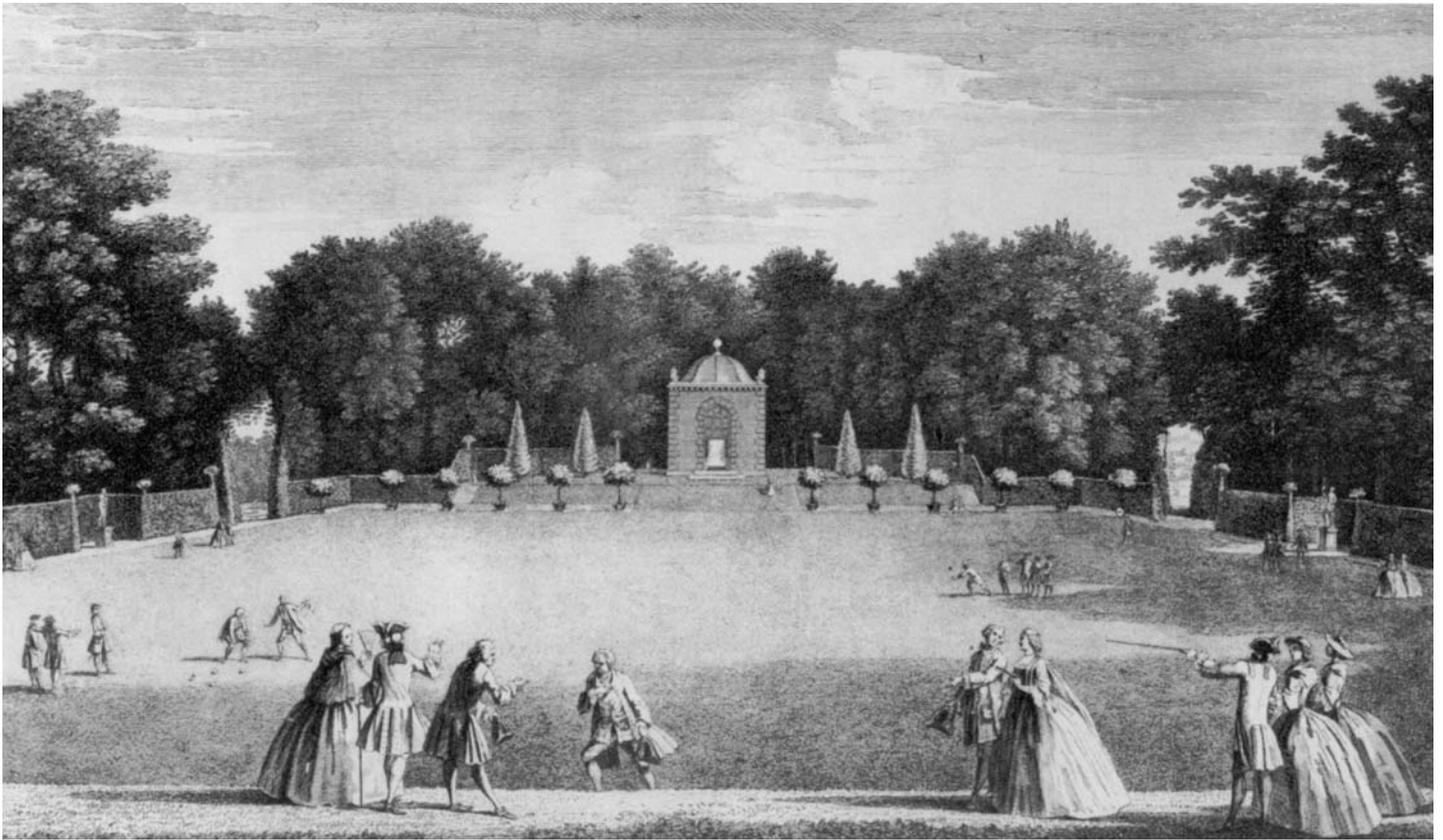
### 2.00pm: **Savill Garden**

From the 1930s to the 1950s the gardens of the Royal Lodge and The Savill Garden were developed. The estate village was built following the Second World War, designed as a model village by Sydney Tatchell. The park remains in the ownership of the Crown.

### 4.00ish: **Finish**



*The Long Walk originally planted 1683–85, which as Roy Strong puts it 'makes the surrounding landscape seem subservient to the castle — and hence to the King himself'.*



*The Bowling Green, Gubbins (Gobions). After an engraving by Chatelain and Tinney 1748.*

## VISIT TO GUBBINS (GOBIONS, NEAR POTTERS BAR, HERTFORDSHIRE)

Saturday 19 October

12.30 for 2.00pm (pub lunch before visit)

Cost; £4.00 members (£6.00 guests)

**Its essential to let us know you are coming so that we can warn the pub how many lunches they will need to cater for; it may be possible to arrange an all-in price for this.**

*To tie in with her talk on Charles Bridgeman in November, Kate Felus has organised a trip to see Gobions Wood near Potters Bar in Hertfordshire.*

During the C18 Gobions Wood was a well-known garden called Gubbins and is something of a sleeping beauty about to stir into life again.

The Garden was something of a little Stowe and here Bridgeman definitely consulted the genius of the place, constructing a pleasure ground at a distance from the house, utilising an existing wood with a stream running through it. Here he created a complex design, symbolic of his place on the cusp between the formal and the landscape garden. Some spaces were retired and secluded, others encouraged vistas across the fields and back and forth between temples and statuary, between radiating avenues. James Gibbs designed the buildings, the only one surviving being his eye-catcher, the Folly Arch.

Today the place is known locally as a fabulous bluebell wood and it is hard to envisage the garden which Bridgeman created. We have organised the trip for the autumn in the hope that the undergrowth will have died back and lumps and bumps will be visible. The wood was rescued some years ago by a merry band of local enthusiasts who love the place and have striven to manage and preserved it. They have already received a grant of £22,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund towards surveys and the putting together of restoration proposals. Now, with the Hertfordshire and Middlesex Wildlife Trust, they are just about

to submit an application for the restoration work itself.

This is a chance to visit a special place just starting to reveal its secrets and (HLF willing) it will be a place to revisit every few years to witness their progress in gradually evoking the Bridgeman design. Kate will bring along plans and pictures to help explain the original design.

The visit will start with lunch in a local pub at 12.30pm (favourite haunt of the stalwart Gobions work parties) and will continue with a walk around the wood starting at 2pm. Bernard Spatz and Michael Jonas, heroes of the Gobions Woodland Trust will join us for both beer and perambulation.

*Kate Felus*

### Further reading for days out:

#### Windsor

W. Menzies, *The History of Windsor Great Park and Windsor Forest* (1864)

L. Roper, *Royal Gardens* (1953)

R. Strong, *Royal Gardens* (1992)

J. Roberts, *Royal Landscape, The Gardens and Parks of Windsor* (1997)

#### Gubbins (Gobions)

P. Willis, *Charles Bridgeman and the English Landscape Garden* (2002)



*BGT and Bucks Archaeological Society members gaze out over the former formal gardens of Quarrendon Manor, from the raised terrace walk.*

### 'A SUSPENSION OF DISBELIEF' Report on a visit to the earthworks at Quarrendon and Wing Saturday 12 May 2002

On a chilly Saturday morning approximately twenty well-wrapped and booted members of the Bucks Gardens Trust met at Quarrendon Farm Prepared to 'suspend disbelief'. This was not difficult as Paul Everson, Head of Archaeological Investigation for English Heritage, brought to life the dips, hollows and raised areas of ground which were once the site of medieval ox pens and later a great Elizabethan country mansion belonging to Sir Henry Lee, with its moat, formal gardens, great terraces, mill, controlled water system, almshouses, church and rabbit warren on the highest of the mounds.

After a more than welcome lunch at the Cock Inn at Wing arranged by our tireless Vice-Chair, Sarah Rutherford, an equally interesting tour of the earthworks at Wing was conducted by Dave Went — also from English Heritage — where remains could be seen of what must have been a grand formal garden. A raised terrace exhibited clear semi-circular marking; could this have been decorative hedge planting?

Our thanks go to Paul Everson and Dave Went for opening our eyes to what existed on these important sites, and special thanks to Sarah Rutherford who arranged such an interesting and stimulating day.

*Rosemary Jury*



*The full impact of the warrens can be appreciated from below, the view from them is astonishing. Paul Everson is convinced that they were built in this way to increase their visual impression as you approached the site from the far side and they do make an impact on the visitor. Just how many people can stand on a rabbit hole?*

### Report on a visit to Langley Park Thursday 23 May 2002

A pathetically small group of members assembled at the Black Park warden's office on a really very pleasant afternoon (considering the weather we had in the earlier part of the year). Jon Mullins, then of Hyder Consulting, now of Babtie — same people, different name and the County Council's preferred consultancy on such matters — explained with plans and maps the details of the restoration/management plan that has been prepared over the last year or so.

We then went on to the walk in Langley Park. This was led in the first stage by Michael Lear of Lear Associates, growers of rhododendrons. He and his wife had conducted an outline sur-

vey of the collection and were able to conclude that it was a possibly unique collection, because it had a limited planting period, perhaps defined by the dates 1870–1930. Although there had been a later planting campaign, it had taken place only on the parterre part of the site. Thus there is a collection of the most important introductions and established favourites from that period. Walking through the towering shrubs was a revelation, as the many species and cultivars were pointed out, how they differed and their relation to their breeders or introducers. Many of the famous growers names are represented and we even saw a variety that Michael thought might be *R. 'Langley Park'*, no

longer in cultivation, but a handsome deep red. There are remnants of the original irrigation system, 3 inch iron pipes, and it is mainly down to this survey that extra gardeners have been incorporated into the restoration bid.

We also saw the massive and ancient yew tree (right), and were able to appreciate the Windsor view from the tower platform, a benefit of which would be that it would open up the flower-  
scape over the mounds of rhododendron.

A substantial walk down this view brought us to Langley House itself, now the new home of the Tyringham Naturopathic Clinic. British Plaster Board have maintained the house in fine fettle. The house is a central feature of the views across farmland from the south and the perfect adornment to 'Capability' Brown's lake. Although the walled garden is off-bounds, the arboretum surrounds it and contains some fine trees and an original planting of Japanese knotweed (yes really).

The final stretch took us back along the Wellingtonia walk passing some of the original stretching posts for the deer fence and the new Sustrans bicycle route. Many thanks to all involved and let us hope more people turn up next time we walk this fascinating landscape, in which we all have a stake.

*Charles Boot*



*The west, and more secluded, garden front of Langley Park, with the Winter Garden to left (Peovsner calls it an Orangery).  
The view spreads out into the south-eastern section of 'Capability' Brown's park and can be seen to the right of the Cedar tree.*

## Report on a visit to Aston Clinton (Green Park) Saturday 29 June 2002

Sarah Rutherford, of the BGT and, perhaps, more significantly English Heritage, was totally behind the research and guided tour of this 'Enigmatic Landscape'. Sarah's personal recollections of Green Park over 25 years and her most recent study were presented to us, members of the Buckinghamshire Gardens Trust, in quite exceptional detail. The opportunity to have all this brought about in actuality is memorable. Despite the reminder in our March mailing and the comprehensive article in the Bucks Gardener 13 supplement, it was disappointing that the event was so poorly attended by Trust Members.

Sarah pointed out the contours, rises, water courses, the extent of parkland, and led us over bridges, the Italian garden, fine original entrance gates, main driveway to the Mansion, kitchen gardens, etc. As we walked she not only covered the stories of the owners but drew our attention to some extraordinarily fine remaining trees. There were Wellingtonia, Cedar of Lebanon, a Weeping Beech (the size of which supercedes any I have every seen), fine Yew walks, Copper Beeches, as well as the shrubberies of 'fairy glens'.

The atmosphere remains serene. Strangely the County Council's buildings were not eyesores at all, but with their 1960's architecture and timber weather-boarding they blended in quite well, especially as they were mainly built on a raised area of ground with a tree-clad background creating a setting for them.

Sarah's historical research cleverly dispelled the notion that history is entirely a thing of the past for here we were paying attention to the valuable present use and also enjoying the grounds for what they are; known today to many of the county's children and other inhabitants as Green Park.

If I have a few minutes to spare and I come across the fine entrance gates again, I will not hesitate in deciding to take another stroll in the park and at the same time try to puzzle out more of the features shown to us. For instance, take the Italian garden, to try to trace out its cruciform shape or again to push back the branches so as to study the lovely stone bridge found in one of the glens with its stone pathways.

Another hoped for development in the recalling of a befallen

garden — especially when once owned by the 2nd Duke of Buckingham and Chandos and the Rothschilds — is that the present owners are usually anxious to protect and nurture its landscape. If they do not protect it voluntarily they can sometimes be prevented from building disappointingly. Such visits as that made by ourselves, based on research and archaeological survey, can but encourage the future protection of such gardens.

It was more than just a pleasure to be taken round by Sarah Rutherford, it was the chance to display our pleasure in this inheritance that may help direct the future of Aston Clinton. Those attending thanked her for a fascinating afternoon and await another opportunity to be with her.

*Barbara Edmondson*

## Report on a visit to Wotton House Saturday 20 July 2002

Fifteen members and friends arrived at Wotton on a threatening July day for our walk round the Pleasure Grounds with Michael Harrison (Head Gardener). David Gladstone, the owner, had just arrived back from his holiday on the Continent to bid us welcome and gave us a brief history of Wotton and the families and gardeners involved in the creation of the grounds. He also provided us with copies of the new guide book.

We had our picnics on the lawn by the house, due to inclement weather prospects, and before setting off on our walk with Michael, giving us the chance to take in the glory of our surroundings. A rather worrying sight was the broken urn near the house, removed from the roof. Copies of these are to be made and replaced. Michael is hoping to reuse (after repair) the originals in the park.

We moved up to the steps on the south front where all becomes clear. Slowly but surely the original vistas and views are being opened up, cleared of scrub and self seeded trees, allowing the rediscovery of the incredibly clever sight-lines. These are set between temples, statues, vases, lakes, bridges, trees and light and shade. Nothing is immediately obvious but as you follow the walk round you come across a new feature and view previously out of sight or disguised. Many of the buildings are set at angles to make the most of the view and to create a focal point on looking back or maybe disappear from the picture altogether! From the first Tuscan Temple the skill of the original designers is apparent — the view changes as you move along the seat, from one position the view is of open country, a foot away of temples and urns, the columns framing all.

There is much to still to do; replanting the Lake Avenue, formerly elm, with European limes planted in the correct sites, reinstating still missing features — both buildings and objects — and replanting missing trees. An avenue planted by the late Sir John Gielgud, who lived in the Orangery pavilion, is at the wrong angle and looks most strange — a pity as it is outside the existing park.

We passed an ancient orchard, much neglected, which may possibly contain a variety of apple thought to be extinct! We will follow this up with Michael to find out what it is.

Michael works single-handedly in this wonderful place and is gradually making a great impression in opening up the vistas, repairing buildings and finding the old gravel paths, so you could walk round without soiling your shoes. Of course having done all this he then has to maintain what he has already achieved — thank heaven for modern machinery.

Perhaps because of neglect in the past Wotton has remained as it was intended and not been fiddled with by others, but is now



*The rather unfortunately misaligned avenue planted on his own part of the property by the late Sir John Gielgud. What to do? The mistake has been further exacerbated by the clearing and replanting on this side of the canal, cleared recently. (Who are the strange hat folk?)*



*Fooled again! Michael has played this trick on us before with his cut-out of Mars standing in for a statue. This model will probably be replaced with one of the urns removed from the house. Of course its a lot easier to test the positioning of an urn like this...*

beginning to blossom again in its imaginative and secret self. I would like to thank David Gladstone and Michael Harrison for their time and permitting us to enjoy such a wonderful afternoon on behalf of all those there.

*Stephanie Lawrence*

*David Gladstone has since written to the chairman acknowledging our 'very welcome cheque which has gone straight into the Tree Fund. I hope that the next time you come you will see what we have done with it.'*

## CORRESPONDENCE

*This letter originally appeared in Historic Gardens Review Spring/Summer 2002. Mr Smith subsequently contacted us and would be grateful if any members could help him.*

*From Mr R. I. Smith*

In view of your interest in garden restoration, can any of your members assist me? I am trying to identify more firmly the hybrid 'fashion' elm, the 'Chichester', first listed in the *Hortus Cantab* of 1823 by John Lindley Jr but now known to have been sold by George Lindley in Norwich as *Ulmus cicisteriensis* as early as 1801.

It is sadly confused by many arboriculturists with the 1760 Huntindon elm from Hinchinbrook House. John Loudon in *Arboretum & Fruticetum* set this trend when he was convinced by John Wood Jr that his uncle's Huntingdon was the same as the Chichester. Lindley never actually spoke to Loudon about the tree, and Loudon assumed both the name and the 'vegeta' nomen. I think it was Gilbert White's brother in Chichester Hall, Rawreth (Essex) who selected the clone but I cannot firmly prove this.

Fashion elms were a post 1800 phenomena and John Brooks of Flitwick Manor, neighbour to the 6th Duke of Bedford at Woburn, friend of Hooker, Loudon, Lindley and Sir James Smith, listed over 40 in this handwritten Hortus of about 1838.

Rather surprisingly, the National Trust boasts no national tree record of distinguished trees on their estates, and garden catalogues are rare for the period with no great successor to John Harvey (1972) or Blanche Henrey (1975), but maybe it is in items like these that a nurseryman will be found with a pre-1801 date.

— *In his covering letter he continued —*

I contacted you in hope of further pushing back, or sideways, any information on the hybrid 'fashion' elm *U. vegeta*, first officially listed by John Lindley in the *Hortus Cantab* of 1823 but now known to have been grown by his father, George, at Catton in 1801. Buckinghamshire played a part as the Duke of Buckingham at Stowe ordered a Ford's Elm from Exeter as early as 1823 according to Frank Thomson (in a communication with him a couple of yeans ago). John Brooks, at Flitwick, held 40+ elms but he was a special case.

Because of the Dutch Elm Disease elms have become scarce on the national register but the Tree Register of the British Isles at Wootton still maintain a good listing due to competent observers such as Peter Bourne in Brighton and Owen Johnson in Hastings. Bucks sadly has no registered examples but I suspect this may be for want of looking! As a Bedfordian I suspect our six or seven specimens hail from the Laxton's nursery at Goldington. They bought out Ingram and Wood of Brampton in the late 1800s, hence the stock is Huntingdon clonal as opposed to Lindley's Chichester type which I now believe, though with no proof, comes from Thos. Holt-White FRS at Chichester Hall. He was a distinguished arboriculturalist, antiquarian and Latinist who did much to get Gilbert White's great Selbourne history into print & like all White's family was a good collector himself.

Early nursery catalogues are uncommon and although John Harvey (1972/81) & Blanche Henrey (1975) covered the ground

well much unnoted material in the last 30 years should have emerged (the GHS are hoping to update these researches in the not too distant future ed.). The discipline of historical research is essentially the same whether of tropical crops (my discipline) or 18th century trees and often keen researchers, notably in the US, go about it with gusto. There is much here which should not be beyond us here.

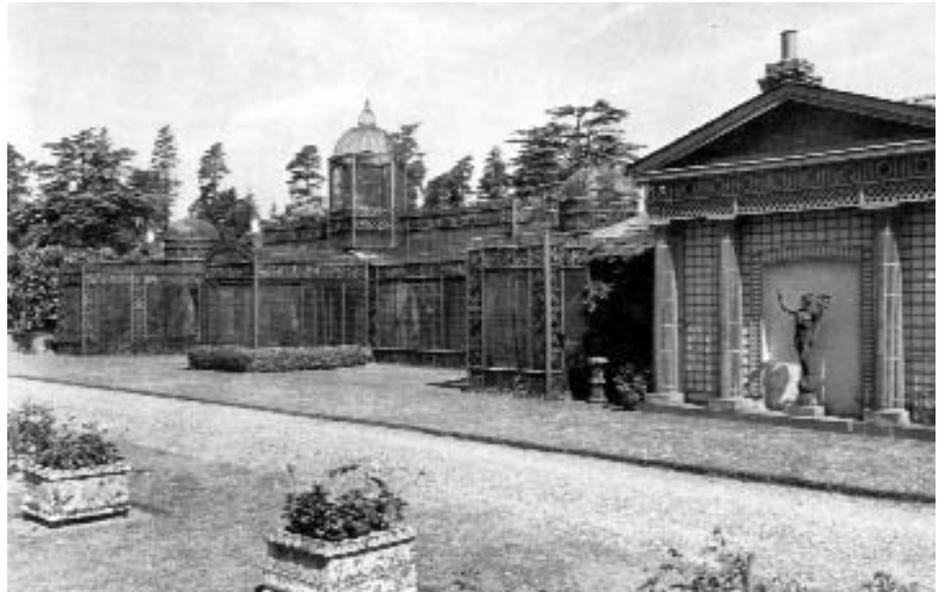
*(continues on page 13)*

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## WHEN BAD THINGS HAPPEN TO GREAT GARDENS; DROPMORE

Long-term members will know that I have certain pet subjects that niggle away at me, and of all the gardens in Bucks one of the ones I have been trying to get into for a long time is Dropmore. So it was with some excitement that I received a letter from Papa Architects inviting a visit to Dropmore the magnificent estate across the road from Cliveden. I won't go into its history here except to repeat the contention that for much of its life from 1795–96, certainly until as recently as the 1970s it was considered the greatest Pinetum in Europe, and many of the early introductions of exotic conifers from around the world were first planted there. Despite the estate now having been divided after the Grenvilles left, the area around the house, the pleasure gardens and pinetum remain as a unit, the only imposition being a large swimming pool complex (James Bond scale) in a less important part of the woodland.

I called together a small team, Richard Wheeler, Simon Went (South Bucks Conservation Officer) and the BGT paid for



*Dropmore's aviary in its heyday, with one of the flanking temples, all planting has long gone.*

Anthea Taigel, Garden History Society Conservation Officer to attend. We were also able to invite South Buck's Tree Officer who was extremely interested in the named and recorded trees, well catalogued as recently as the RHS sponsored Conifer Conference in 1972.

Well as you can see (overleaf) things don't look too good. The world famous aviary and pergolas are in a terrible state, though quite restorable. The whole estate is terribly overgrown and the house remains a burnt out shell, with probably only one room in a restorable state. The view of Windsor Castle across the lawns is obscured by scrub, and the formal gardens are only patterns on the grass.

*(continues on page 10)*



*A long view, showing the remnants of the pergola, aviary and flanking temples. Whilst many of the elegant columns of the pergola have fallen  
The lumps and bumps of flower beds could be made out just below the deer and rabbit grazed 'sward', the gravel paths under a thin veneer of grass.*



*The aviary in close up, battered but still there, compare with the much later one at Waddesdon. This one has lovely ceramic panels.*



*The central path dividing the formal Italian Garden, notice the muntjac grazing line on the yew hedging.*



*they are still there. You can just make out the house on the far right of the picture, its magnolias were in magnificent flower when we visited. neer of turf, waiting to be rolled back. Note the conifers poking over the Italian Garden behind the wall. Anthea Taigel appears for scale!*



*The loggia (featured in Robinson's English Flower Garden, my copy 1902) at the eastern end of the terrace above the Italian garden.*



*This close up reveals the decay setting in in the columns, probably imported from Italy. Still restorable though.*



*Richard Wheeler discovers a Latin inscription.*



*The rather overblown but magnificent sarcophagus, near the grotto.*



*The last remaining (Pevsner says there were four) shell grotto in the aviary, presumably a feeding trough for the birds.*

*(continued from page 7)*

Of course this does leave the owner, about whom the representatives of Papa were somewhat reticent, with a number of options. The usual conference centre, hotel and health club options are being looked at, but I feel South Bucks are on the right track with their policy that it should go back to private occupation. After all, that's worked out at Denham Place. The house is simple and elegant, with not too many service buildings, it is wonderfully secluded, though with terrific links to the outside world; there would be no problem with helicopter access with Cliveden's route well established. So how about it: convenient for Pinewood, lovely trees, and much potential.

*Charles Boot*



*'This alcove was purchased at the demolition of Old London Bridge and brought to Hedsor Wharf and thence by horse-waggons to Dropmore. It was first laid on the grass at the back of the pinetum and in 1839 erected on its present site by Lady Grenville.' Text from the plaque visible on the left side of the structure.*

We will try to organise a member's visit to Dropmore next year; please support us in showing how important we think this garden is. The Dropmore Society were also invited to visit, so the architects are obviously keen to stir up local interest. Lets wait to see how this develops. Somewhat suprisingly though, they have not been in touch since our visit.

## ANOTHER GARDENS TRUST SPRINGS UP

*A special report by Sarah Rutherford*

At last! Oxfordshire, home of such outstanding parks and gardens (almost as good as those of Bucks), now has its own Gardens Trust. It has always been a surprise that the county which boasts places of the quality of 'Capability' Brown's Blenheim (a World Heritage Site), the Oxford college gardens, Nuneham Courtenay, Stonor Park, Wroxton and Shotover has not got a gardens trust going before now. I suspect that many likely members of such a group have been putting their energies into the Friends of Oxford Botanic Garden. Now is the time to remind everyone that many other gardens of the county are worthy of interest too. BGT has also benefited from this odd lacuna in Oxon, having acquired several members over the border who we hope very much will not abandon us entirely.

On behalf of the BGT I attended the launch of the Oxfordshire Gardens Trust on 27 June at Rousham House, near Steeple Aston, kindly hosted by Charles and Angela Cottrell-Dormer. The evening was balmy and we were in the company of a galaxy of the great and good of the garden history world. I had attended a couple of early meetings of the Oxon steering group earlier this year, trying to offer helpful pointers without interfering. It seems that this was useful and we hope that the BGT and OGT will enjoy a continuing warm and mutually helpful relationship.



*An earlier reveller at Rousham, Oxfordshire.*

After we were all settled with a glass of wine in William Kent's Gothick pavilion, Peter Lindesay, Chairman of the Association of Gardens Trusts, gave a general overview of the work of the gardens trusts, all of whom are unique and independent. He emphasised that the AGT is not a 'head office' which dictates the activities of individual trusts, but acts as an umbrella group

run by the trusts themselves in order to offer mutual help in matters of communal interest. Mavis Batey, former President of the Garden History Society, then spoke and welcomed the formation of the Trust. She cut her garden history teeth in Oxfordshire in the 1960s, even before the formation of the GHS, when she was a campaigning member of the Council for the Protection of Rural England. She also used Oxon as a valuable pilot project in the 1980s to compile the first county volume of the *English Heritage Register of Parks and Gardens of special historic interest* in England. Although she now lives in Sussex, Mavis has a very special place in her heart for the parks and gardens of Oxfordshire, especially Rousham, and also for Nuneham Courtenay, where she lived with her family for some years when her husband worked for the University.

Ellen Bramhill, as a key member of the steering group of the OGT, thanked everyone for attending, and also the Dormers for kindly allowing us to meet at Rousham. She also mentioned the aspirations the steering group has for the Trust — very similar to those of BGT but specifically concerning Oxfordshire — and outlined the first few events that have been organised for members:

19th September: talk by **Richard Biggrove** (also a good friend of BGT) '*Gertrude Jekyll: gardening history of gardening?*'

21st November talk by yours truly (SR) '*The English Heritage Register of Parks and Gardens*' with specific reference to Oxfordshire sites where possible or similar...

Please contact [oxongardenstrust@btopenworld.com](mailto:oxongardenstrust@btopenworld.com) or tel. 01608 644205 for further details.

After the short talks we adjourned with our glasses of wine for an informal walk round the William Kent landscape (1737–41), superimposed over a 1720s Charles Bridgeman design. I hadn't visited the gardens and pleasure ground in the evening until now, and the evening light made it quite a different place. It is here that one can truly agree with Horace Walpole when he said in 1770 of Kent's work in the 1720s and 1730s that 'He leapt the fence, and saw that all nature was a garden'. In other words the rural views out of the pleasure ground over the 'borrowed' landscape of the Cherwell valley (which the Dormers did not own) are as important as the pleasure ground itself. The herbaceous borders in the walled kitchen garden looked stunning, and the longhorn cattle including engaging calves as well as the bantams (of a lovely speckled variety, Millefleur Barbiducal) give it that special domestic touch.

The BGT wishes the Oxfordshire Gardens Trust every success in its new enterprise and hopes that we may share some activities and work alongside each other where appropriate.

*Sarah usefully reports Peter Lindesay's remarks on the function of the AGT. Having just attended their Annual Conference in Leicestershire, the variety of Trusts was remarkable. They are made up of individuals who come together out of a love of gardens and an interest in where they came from, the people who created and worked in them and how we will pass them on to those who follow us.*

CB

Extra Yellow Book opening:

Gipsy House, Gt Missenden: Home of the late Roald Dahl; orchard; sunken gardens and children's maze.

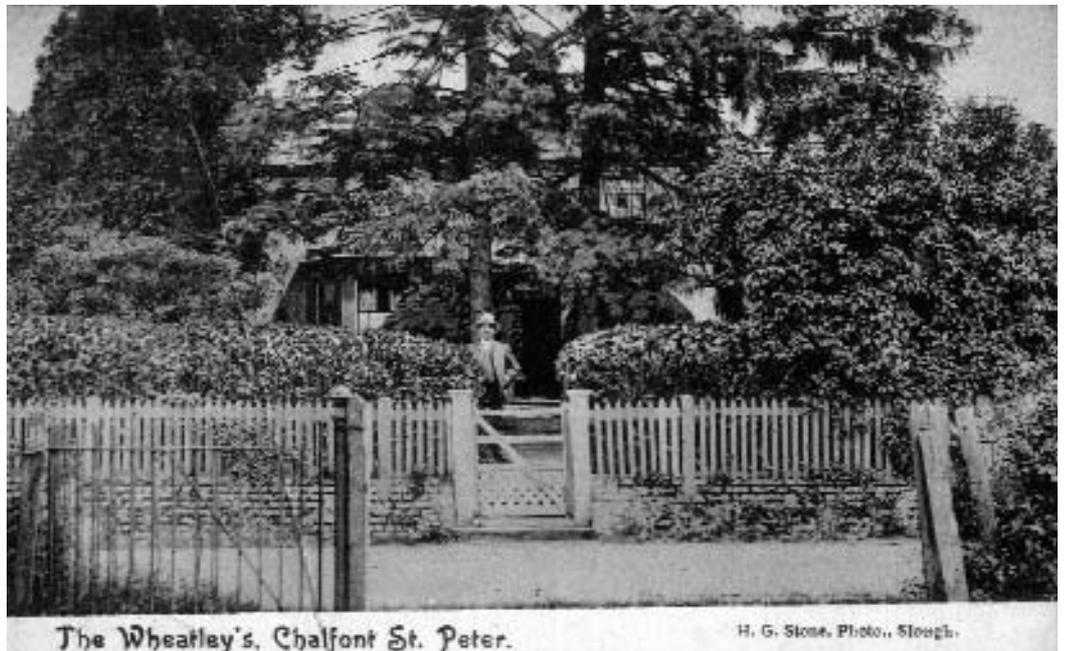
Open on Sunday, September 22 from 2-5pm.

## A TREMENDOUS GIFT OF POSTCARDS

Dr Nigel Temple, whose article 'Humphry Repton — Landscape Gardener' appeared in *Bucks Gardener* Issue 14 has made a tremendous gift to the BGT. For many years he has been collecting postcards, in fact he has already given a considerable collection to the National Monuments Record. His collection is still growing and although he has not collected extensively in Bucks, he has nonetheless been able to produce an album for us (of good quality photocopies) that covers some 200 images. These have already been lent to Michael Walker, Gardens Manager, at Waddesdon as it includes a couple of images of the Aviary garden that may be of use in its current restoration. Since making the gift another small parcel of images has come forward, and we publish three of them here to provide a flavour of the collection. Does any member know of 'The Wheatley's' and if so could they give us some more information about the house? The pictures all feature people, but unfortunately the postcards don't have any writing on the back to give context.

The album ranges through many types and styles of gardens, and garden buildings. They range from the grand to the quite ordinary, and are a fascinating insight into late nineteenth and early twentieth century Bucks gardens. Dr Temple has deliberately cut off his collecting pre the second world war with one or two exceptions. The collection will, in due course, be placed in the County Record Office. Do any of our members have similar collections we could make copies of? See also the Bucks County website which features postcards among the many images it carries at ([http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/photo\\_database/](http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/photo_database/)). Once again, many thanks to Dr Temple for this most generous gift. I hope many of you will be able to see it at the Bucks Local History Network Fair in October.

Charles Boot



## FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

*From Mr Claude Hitching F.C.M.A.*  
James Pulham at Berry Hill, Taplow

I am currently researching the lives and work of James Pulham and Son, the renowned firm of Victorian landscape gardeners who specialised in the creation of picturesque ferneries and rock gardens, and who also produced a wide range of high quality terracotta and Pulhamite garden furniture, such as vases, urns, sundials, fountains, balustrading etc. My interest in this firm stems from the fact that no fewer than five of my ancestors — including my grandfather and great-grandfather — all worked for them as ‘rock builders,’ and my eventual intention is to write a book about them.

I am trying to visit as many of the sites as possible on which they worked, in order to assess and write them up, and my travels took me to Taplow a couple of weeks ago. They worked there for Mr John Noble, of Berry Hill House, in 1859 and 1868, and I have been able to see the artificial lake that they created, together with the rock ‘cliffs’ that they built behind the lake (from the house) in order to screen the view of the gasworks.

Having seen these, I thought my inspection was complete, but my host suggested that I should visit Taplow Court — HQ of the Sakai Gakki (?) Buddhist sect — before we left. We did so, and were fortunate in meeting Mr Richard Baynes, their UK Managing Director, who lives in one of the flats on the site where Berry Hill House once stood. He invited us to look at a ‘fernery’ that he said was in the grounds near the lake, but this was something of which I had no knowledge at all; we found a sunken structure in the middle of a clump of trees.

It is completely round, about twenty feet across, and has a low wall around it, about two feet high. Inside, it is about eight feet deep, and the inside of the walls are very rough — almost as if they may have been originally coated with imitation tufa, which was one of Pulham’s trademarks with ferneries. The entrances are imaginatively rustic — again, very typical of their work — and there is an alcove in the lower wall which looks as if it might have been used for charcoal burning. The central feature, albeit extremely overgrown, used to be a fountain about ten feet high. There is an old pipe-end that would have carried the water sup-



*The ‘fernery’ at Berry Hill, Taplow, identified by Claude Hitching.*



*The Pulham Fountain, just visible on left of previous picture.*

ply from the house. The piece of lead piping from this inlet to the fountain was ‘removed’ many years ago, and the residents of the flats now use the pit to tip their garden rubbish!

I imagine that there used to be an iron-framed glass dome round the top of the wall, although there is no evidence of such a thing now, and I have tried a number of people to see if I can find any information about this structure, but have so far been unsuccessful. However, I couldn’t let this go unnoted; I feel that it could well be of historical interest, and ought to be recorded, restored and protected.

In my own rather limited experience, I have not discovered another fernery quite like this one, and thought your Gardens Trust may be the most appropriate body to tell about it. I know that English Heritage are very keen to protect Pulham’s work as far as possible, and I would be very interested to hear your reactions, and look forward to receiving any comments in due course.

Meanwhile, I remain,

*Claude Hitching*

*22 Reddings, Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire AL8 7LA  
Tel: 01707 323 391, or e-mail: claud@hitching.net*

*Following up this letter I had a most interesting conversation with Mr Hitching who expounded on Pulham sites in Bucks, not many are on his list as yet; Waddesdon, Eythrope and the above mentioned. However we perhaps need to have another look at Dropmore, the quarry garden at Stoke Park, the Winter Garden and Orangery at Langley.*

*CB*

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*(continued from page 7)*

Final thoughts, Dick Richens quotes John Donn (died 1812) as the ‘titler’ as he was the senior author of the 1823 *Hortus Cantab*, while Alan Mitchell talked of the mysterious Dr Richter of Cambridge.

Yours sincerely,

*Richard I. Smith*

*Summersbury, Chichester Rd, Midhurst, W Sussex GU29 9PF*

## POST-WORLD WAR II LANDSCAPES

A growing understanding of gardens and landscapes designed since 1945 has led to the increased interest of the general public, landscape students and amenity societies as well as plans for a formal survey of identification and assessment by English Heritage's Designed Landscapes Team.

During the early years of the *Register of Parks and Gardens of special historic interest*, only parks and gardens laid out before 1939 were eligible for inclusion. After the introduction of the '30 year rule' in 1987 by English Heritage's Building Listing Team, the same rule was introduced for the *Register*, but the inclusion of post-World War II parks and gardens was still minimal. From the 1450 sites now registered, only 12 have a significant post-war element or are completely post-war in design. It is thus clear that further research, identification and, if appropriate, registration of post-war landscapes, is needed.

### Assessing post-war landscapes

The National Heritage Act of 1983 allows English Heritage to compile registers of 'gardens and other land of special historic interest in England'. For the purpose of the current *Register*, this embraces gardens, parks, designed ornamental landscapes and places of recreation. Besides this definition, a set of criteria is used to select sites for the *Register*. To date, the assessment of most of the post-war sites recommended to us has shown that the existing *Register* criteria seem to be satisfactory and that the assessment process is usually no different from that of older sites. That said, English Heritage's Designed Landscapes Team has dealt mainly with smaller gardens and/or architectural gardens that are similar in type and concept to parks and gardens created in past centuries. These include, for example, garden designs rooted in the Arts and Crafts tradition, popular throughout the 20th century, as well as recreational sites for public use such as those created during or shortly after the Festival of Britain or influenced by the Floriade and Gartenschau organised on the Continent.

There are also gardens and landscapes using strong symbolism in their design, such as Geoffrey Jellicoe's landscape at the John F Kennedy memorial at Runnymede in Surrey and Barbara Hepworth's garden in St Ives, Cornwall (Grade II). In the latter, symbolism is explored through the use of sculpture and its careful positioning in relation to light, planting and water. Strong symbolism is also used in the spiritual gardens of Japanese or Asian style first explored by Christopher Tunnard in the 1930s. Strong architectural elements are included in Sylvia Crowe's garden at The Commonwealth Institute, London (Grade II), and Arne Jacobsen's garden at St Catherine's College, Oxford (Grade II). Assessing those types of landscapes under the existing criteria for the Register is not so problematic; they all are recognisable 'standard' historic landscape types. Nevertheless, there is still an urgent need to further identify those gardens and landscapes in order to create a better overview and a general framework for their further historical assessment.

### Novel landscape types

Some post-war landscapes will be identified that are intrinsically different in type and concept from the more standard types already described. The key to understanding and interpreting these landscapes correctly is to establish the role of the landscape architect or designer. Early members of the Institute of Landscape Architects (now The Landscape Institute), founded in 1929, were influenced by new fashions in horticultural design (for the first two months the Institute was called the British Association of Garden Architects). However, the Institute, like The Town Planning Institute founded 15 years earlier, was also influenced by Patrick Geddes (1854–1932) and Ebenezer

Howard (1850–1928) who envisaged the development of the town and city as a whole with a fully integrated landscape. From the early journals published by The Institute, including *Landscape and Garden* edited by Richard Sudell and the quarterly *Journals*, it is obvious that landscape architects thought increasingly in terms of the wider setting of their designs.

Geoffrey Jellicoe (1900–96) wrote in *The Landscape of Man* (1987) that 'the most significant single factor in land design was the birth of the modern science of town- and country-planning'. This new science increasingly led to the creation of landscapes for architectural projects and large-scale town planning schemes. Examples include civic schemes such as Harlow New Town and the rebuilding of Plymouth and Exeter after World War II as well as housing schemes such as the Alton Estate, Roehampton, and the Barbican, City of London.

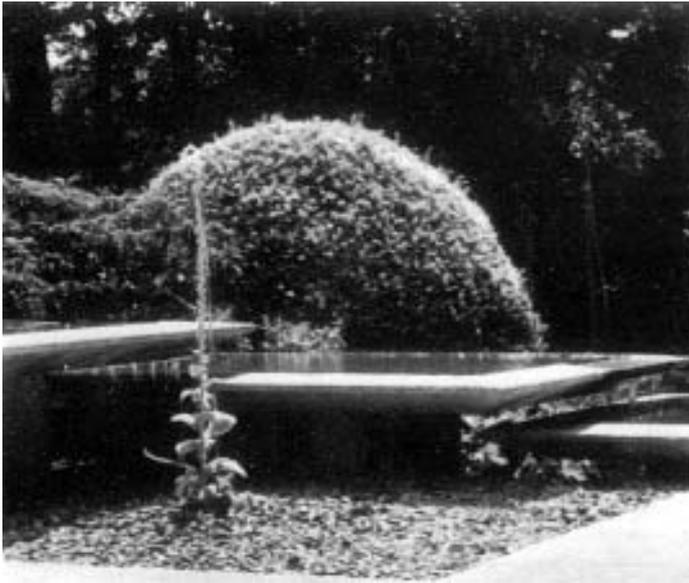


*The tree plan developed for Milton Keynes in the 1970s  
This is one of the most significant such sites in the country.*

Alongside the creation and expansion of these urban landscapes, there was a growing awareness of the fragility of the countryside, as for example expressed by the landscape architect and planner Sir Clough Williams-Ellis (1883–1978). One of the main tasks of the landscape architect became the creation of 'ecological' landscapes, often on a very large scale and designed to ensure the 'natural' integration of new development — housing, factories, motorways, airports, power stations and commercial forestry — into the existing, often rural, landscape. This integration was achieved by creating naturalistic lakes and tree belts, often involving massive earthworks, such as at the Guinness Brewery, Park Royal, London (1959) by Geoffrey Jellicoe and at Rutland Water Reservoir near Leicester by Sylvia Crowe.

The expansion of the professional role of the landscape architect during the 20th century led to the recognition of the term 'landscape' in its broadest sense. It is obvious that these large-scale designed landscapes need further research and interpretation in order to evaluate their historical significance. Subsequently it will be necessary to decide whether we wish to conserve any of them for the future. If so, decisions need to be made about including such sites in the *Register* as well as devel-

oping relevant criteria for assessment, or considering whether a broader type of landscape designation may be more appropriate.



*Brenda Colvin's delightful water trays at Wexham Springs. Colvin, Jellicoe and others worked on gardens at the Cement and Concrete Association's former headquarters at Wexham Springs. The results were widely published and influential in the garden press.*

#### **Post-war landscapes at risk**

English Heritage's Post-War Buildings Listing Programme and associated public consultation has created considerable public awareness and appreciation of our post-war heritage. Although focused on architecture, the programme has shown that there is a significant overlap of buildings and designed landscapes. This overlap has occurred also in the Cold War and military sites under consideration by Monuments Protection and Thematic Listing Programmes. Nevertheless, post-war landscapes are still rarely highly valued and are particularly vulnerable to development, inappropriate repair and planting, change or increase of use and general neglect. This seems especially the case with urban landscapes of New Towns and post-war town centres such as Plymouth or Exeter, which consist of interesting municipal squares and walks forming part of a wider urban landscape.

Recently, English Heritage formally objected to the proposals for the relocation of Frederick Gibberd's Water Gardens (II\*) in Harlow New Town, as part of an overall re-development scheme for the town centre. The Water Gardens form an integral part of a very fine and early example of post-war new town planning as conceived by Gibberd in the late 1940s and early 1950s. English Heritage believes that relocating the historically significant Water Gardens would damage the overall design concept to such a degree that the proposals could be seen as amounting to demolition.

It is not only through large development proposals such as at Harlow that post-war landscapes are at risk. The change or increase in the use of a site can also cause problems. The Civic Square in Plymouth (Grade II), designed by Geoffrey Jellicoe in the early 1960s, includes significant hard landscaping. The decorative paving and concrete seating, however, were not intended for the intensity and range of uses they have today, and after 40 years they show considerable decay. Car parking, the annual merry-go-round, the weight of maintenance vehicles and certain cleaning methods have caused considerable damage to the original fabric. As with many other historic urban parks and squares,

a decision needs to be made about preserving the fabric and design of Jellicoe's work and making it a public place fit for safe use and enjoyment.

#### **Next step forward**

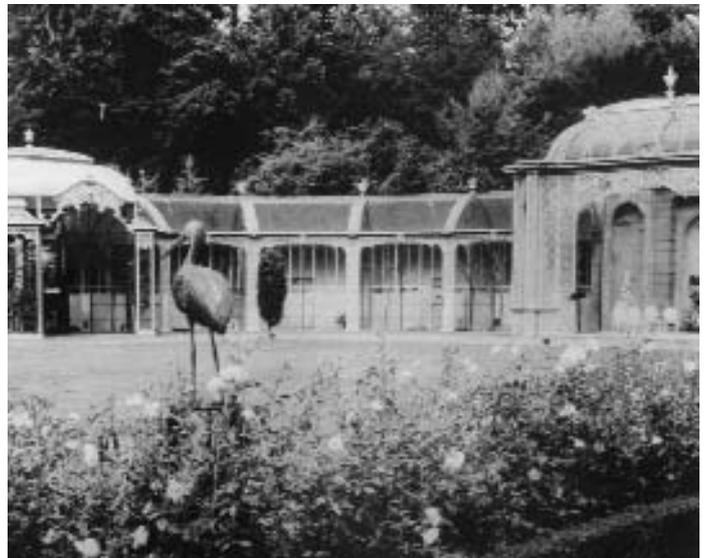
English Heritage continues to be encouraged and inspired by conferences organised by amenity societies, and in particular, the recent workshops organised by the **Garden History Society** as a result of discussions of the Harlow case described above. Growing numbers of landscape conservation students show an interest in modern landscape research, and some **County Gardens Trusts** now include post-war landscape design in their surveys and bring them to the attention of local authorities.

English Heritage's **Designed Landscapes Team**, has started a formal survey to identify and assess post-war landscapes in England. Alongside this survey, the Team will need to consider the scope of the *Register* and whether it is a suitable designation for large and complex post-war landscapes. English Heritage will continue to discuss the key issues with all those involved in the care and conservation of our historic environment.

One of the key messages in *Power of Place*, the recently published review on the future of the historic environment, states that people value places, not just a series of buildings and sites. A more rounded and comprehensive approach in the assessment of the historic environment, without losing the finer details, should result in an integrated designation, which seems to be more appropriate now than ever before.

*Fridy Duterloo-Morgan*  
*Register Inspector*

*Designed Landscape Team, English Heritage*  
*July 2002 (a slightly shortened version reprinted from*  
*Conservation Bulletin Issue 42, March 2002)*



*The Dairy at Waddesdon Manor, Lanning Roper's only executed design in Bucks, though he provided planting advice elsewhere. Ironically, though I think correctly, this garden is being dismantled as we go to press. It will be replaced by a garden more accurately reflecting the intentions of the gardens original intentions.*

*Bizarrely in her book on Lanning Roper, Jane Brown refers to this design as a restoration. Note the bird on a stick, Michael.*

*Its been quite hard to think of outstanding post-war landscapes in Bucks and although Campbell Park, Bledlow Manor and Turn End spring to mind perhaps they (and many other of the Yellow Book gardens) are too new to qualify — however its a subject we are going to have to start considering. If you do have any suggestions, please let us know about them.*

The Association of Gardens Trusts & The Gloucestershire Gardens and Landscape Trust regional Research and Recording Study Day, Buscot Park, Faringdon, Oxfordshire  
Saturday 5 October 2002, from 10.00am  
Cost (includes coffee, lunch and tea); £25.00

- 10.30 Introduction: Sue Illman, Chairman, Gloucestershire Gardens and Landscape Trust  
10.45 **A History of Buscot and its families**  
11.15 **Buscot's Agricultural History**: Juliet Phibbs, Property Manager, Buscot Park  
12.00 **The Landscape History of Buscot Park**: Simon Hoare, Colvin and Moggridge  
12.30 **A Brief Introduction to the Buscot Archive Material**  
2.00 **Understanding Buscot and Assessing its Significance**: John Sales  
2.15 **Visit to Buscot Park and Gardens**  
4.00 **Understanding Buscot and Assessing its Significance**: an overview of the issues involved & an opportunity for discussion relating to the visit to the park; John Sales  
4.30 Chairman: Summing up (4.45 Close)

Send your application, together with a cheque for £25.00 per person made out to **The Association of Gardens Trusts**, to: Sally Walker, Association of Gardens Trusts, 70 Cowcross Street, London EC1M 6EJ

Give your name, address telephone number, and mention your BGT membership

Visit the AGTs web site [www.gardenstrusts.org.uk](http://www.gardenstrusts.org.uk) for up to date information, contacts and other forthcoming events

A reminder:

Bucks Local History Network Conference 2002  
Saturday 5 October, 10.00am

Cost £12.50 (does not include lunch)

**The origins of the Buckinghamshire village**; Prof C. Dyer  
**Early non-conformity in the Chilterns 1450–1700**; Prof M. Spufford

**The C18 landscape park in South Bucks**; Dr D. Brown  
**The fall of the Grenvilles in perspective**; Dr. R. Quinault  
**An extra-ordinary industry in north Bucks in the C19**; Mr N. Loudon

**Bucks in 1851— the evidence of the Census**; Dr D. Thorpe  
Details of the Local history Network were on an orange flyer in

the last *Bucks Gardener*; contact Dr Thorpe, County Museum, Church street, Aylesbury, Bucks HP20 2QP.

Would you be able to help staff our stand on the day, please contact Mr J. Chapman, at the address below?

## THE HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND ANNOUNCES FUNDING FOR THE UK PARKS AND GARDENS RECORD

The **Parks and Gardens Data Partnership** (PGDP) are very pleased to announce that the **Heritage Lottery Fund** has earmarked £481,000 for the main project to upgrade the **UK Parks and Gardens Record** and have awarded the sum of £30,400 towards the cost of the Stage One development phase. The project is to provide a freely available source of information relating to the historic designed landscapes and green spaces of the United Kingdom, which will be disseminated and available to all, including schools and individuals, to widen knowledge and interest in the heritage.

PGDP comprises a partnership between the Association of Gardens Trusts, representing the 33 County Gardens Trusts in England and Wales, the Garden History Society and the Landscapes & Gardens Department, the University of York.

The development phase will involve a thorough review of the database originally created by York University together with wide consultation with national agencies, schools, researchers and user groups to ensure that any modifications to the database will allow the widest possible access.

Stage One is programmed to be completed in six months. Stage Two of the project, expected to last three years, will involve the development of the database and training of volunteers throughout the country to enable them to input information directly to the database.

The AGT already has over 7500 members in individual County Trusts, all volunteers, many of whom have been researching historic parks, gardens and landscapes for several years. This project will ensure that the information which they have collated can be held on a central database, in a uniform manner and that core data can be available to the widest possible audience.

*Peter Lindsay, Chairman, AGT*

*This is great news, as anyone who has tried researching using the database at York will know that it currently only records a bare minimum of information. Given the BGTs current energy for research [hollow laughter] we can only wish the project well and offer our scant efforts. The day conference on the right may fire up enthusiasm at home. Of course its just typical that it falls on the same day as the Bucks Local History Network Fair..*

### Contacts

*Chair & Newsletter Editor:*

Charles Boot, 1 Letterbox Cottages, Bryants Bottom Road, Gt Missenden, HP16 0JU ☎ 01494 488 669

*Vice-Chair:* Sarah Rutherford, Vine Cottage, Thame Road, Longwick, Princes Risborough, HP27 9TA ☎ 01844 342 472

*Honorary Secretary:* John Chapman, Scots Craig, Hillcrest Waye, Gerrards Cross, SL9 8DN ☎ 01753 884 119

*Honorary Treasurer:* Hon Mrs C Godber, Hall Farm, Little Linford, Milton Keynes, MK19 7EA ☎ 01908 611 196

*Events & Membership Secretary:* Rosemary Jury, 11 Fledgelings Walk, Winslow, Buckingham, MK18 3QU ☎ 01296 715 491

*Northern Recording Group:*

Stephanie Lawrence, Blackfields Farm, Beachampton, Milton Keynes, MK19 6DU ☎ 01908 562 182

*Southern Recording Group:* Pauline Ellison, Rowan House, 8 Amersham Hill Drive, High Wycombe ☎ 01494 527 111

*Conservation and Planning Group:* Geoff Huntingford, 2 The Avenue, Princes Risborough, HP27 0HL ☎ 01844 345 563