

The Bucks Gardener

Issue 19

The Newsletter of the Buckinghamshire Gardens Trust

Late Summer 2004

FROM THE CHAIR

Well as ever it has taken longer to get out this newsletter than I had hoped and that perhaps explains the few members who turned up to enjoy the sunshine and lunch in the wilds of Northamptonshire. For once my expectations were confounded and the curse of the BGT's out of county visits held off, it didn't rain; in August this year that is something of an achievement. We had a fascinating tour with Brian Dix of two very important sites. The archaeology of Holdenby was laid out before us. A field now occupied only by cows but containing a magnificent series of terraces with water features stepping down a hill towards three huge fish ponds, a marvellous site which would repay a thorough geophysical survey. The second garden at Harrington would repay a visit to see it as a present day garden, however we were transported back several centuries to the time when Charles I was imprisoned there; he may have walked the same terraces and mounds that we were. Again a magical series of terraces conjured up images of lost splendour and truly lost gardens, as opposed to the merely mislaid ones at Heligan.

I hugely enjoyed a scouting mission to Trentham last month and I hope many of you will feel that it's worth the wear and tear on your car to make the journey. Michael Walker has really taken on a fantastic task, but I hope the plans and drawings overleaf will inspire you. Why not make a weekend of it, there are other fascinating gardens to see nearby.

Sales for our Autumn Talks are going slowly and I do hope more of you will book up for them soon, both speakers are excellent and among the best in their fields, and bring your friends. As ever the shops and restaurants at Waddesdon will be open and the Manor is a good venue for a pleasant autumn lunch. I realise we have rather overdone the occurrence of these talks this year, lets hope for lots of rain this October, or perhaps, on second thoughts, not. We will be looking at a very different format next year. We will also I hope be running another one-off talk next March, details will appear in the next issue. I am only sorry that this issue has had to run a bit smaller than usual and one or two articles and book reviews have had to be held over until next time.

I am very glad to be able to report that our membership is growing steadily, and I would like to extend a warm welcome to all our new members. If you have any ideas for visits you would like to make to places it is difficult to get into please let us know and we will endeavour to sort out the details. Indeed if your own garden would make a suitable venue and you would like to host an event again make yourself known.

However the main missing piece in our jigsaw is to find a schools and/or education officer. We have lots of ideas that we would like to pursue, but they have to hang in the wind until a volunteer comes forward to fill the post. We have a willing team of people only too happy to help, but we do need a leader. Please let our honorary secretary know if you would be able to fill the post.

Charles Boot

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Excursion to Trentham, Staffs

From 12 noon, Saturday 18 September

Arrive at 12 noon and assemble in visitor centre

1pm: lunch in cafe or bring your own picnic

1.30: resume tour of gardens

3.30: lakeside walk to Sutherland Memorial

6pm: depart

Full details overleaf.

BGT AUTUMN TALKS AT THE POWER HOUSE, WADDES DON MANOR

Our theme this year is the historic garden at home and abroad. Three superb speakers, all experts in their field are going to take us on an enthralling journey. Booking for the Gala Event is going well, but the other Talks also need support, so please make your bookings soon. We will have a very different setup next year.

Brian Dix: Have trowel will travel — recent garden archaeology in Europe

2.30pm, Saturday 2 October

Brian Dix is an archaeologist who specialises in the archaeology of historic gardens and designed landscapes. He has been involved in restoration projects in many European countries and at major UK sites. He lectures widely and has taught courses in Conservation at the Architectural Association in London. His travels are incessant and his experience telling. Recently he has been at work in Cyprus, Russia and Romania, and led our jolly tour to Northamptonshire last weekend.

Gala Event

Melanie Asprey:

Rothschild gardens at home and abroad

From 3.00pm, Saturday 16 October

We start with a walk around the gardens, take tea, and then Melanie Asprey, archivist at the Rothschild Archive, will demonstrate the role of plants and gardens in the life of the Rothschild families in England and on the Continent with treasures from the archives. She is a delightful and witty speaker.

Contents

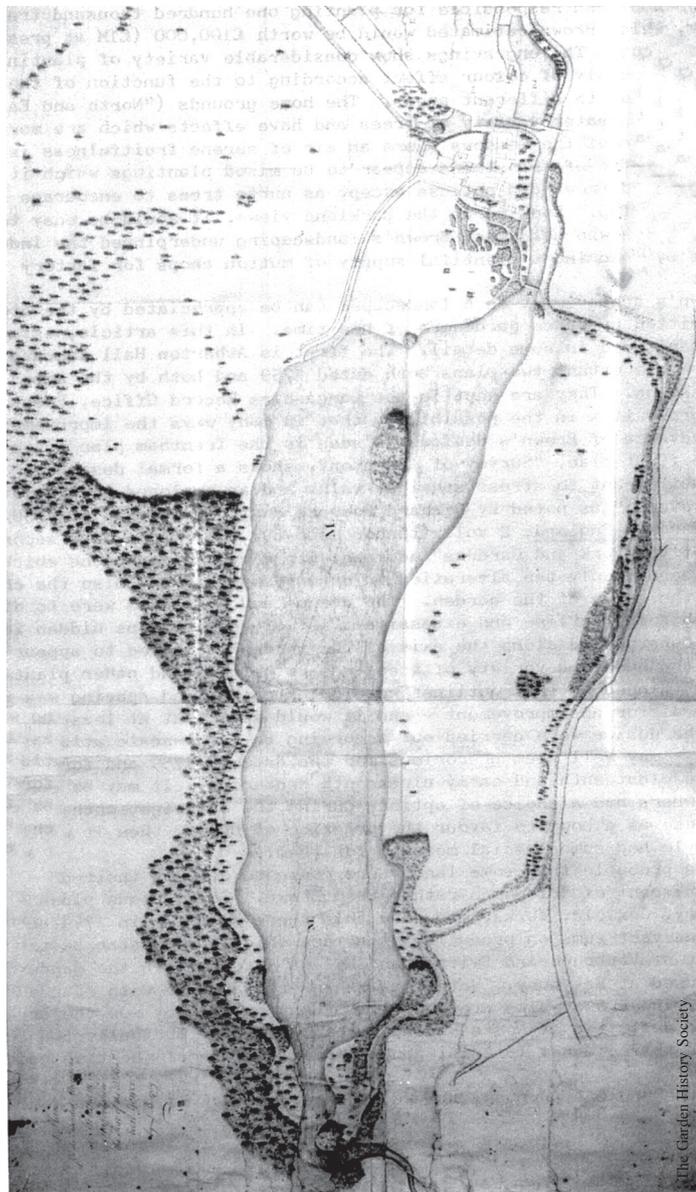
Excursion to Trentham, Staffs	... 2
Baron Ferdinand's Red Book (1897)	... 4
Stowe Gardens — The Return of the Statue of George II by Richard Wheeler	... 7
Report on a visit to Bletchley Park	... 9
Minutes of the AGM, Ashridge	... 10
A visit to Stoke Poges Memorial Gardens and Bulstrode	... 11
AGT Conference, 15 October 2004	... 12
A visit to Hartwell	... 12

This will be followed by drinks in the Wine Cellars and a dinner in the Stables Restaurant; we hope you will join us for what promises to be a stimulating event to celebrate our achievement of Charitable Status and to subscribe to our Reserve Fund.

John Harris: Snooping Derelict Country Houses

2.30pm, Saturday 30 October

John Harris is the pre-eminent architectural historian but he also, as those who enjoyed his books *No voice from the Hall* and *Echoing Voices* will know, grew up in Uxbridge on the Bucks Middlesex border. He cycled all over the area, and eventually all over the country, initially with his Uncle Sid in pursuit of fish and discovered the joys of 'country house snooping'. He managed to get into houses and gardens that looked as though they might never find a use again and, as importantly, described and memorialized them. He famously organized the 'Destruction of the Country House' exhibition at the V& A and his books include the seminal *The Artist and the Country House* and the delightful *A Garden Alphabet*. A good time is guaranteed.



A substantial part of Lancelot 'Capability' Brown's 1759 plan for the Trentham Estate: he was to work here for the next 21 years

EXCURSION TO TRENTHAM, STAFFS

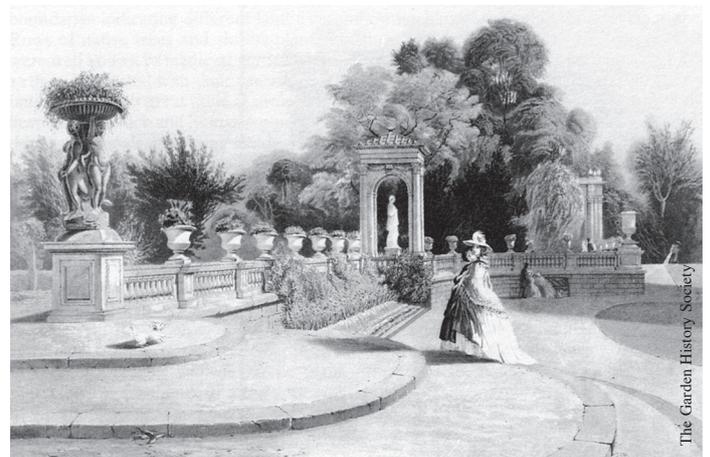
From 12 noon, Saturday 18 September

Lancelot Brown arrived at Trentham in 1759, to be faced with an estate that had been held by successive generations of the Leveson family since they purchased it from Sir Thomas Pope in 1540. Although the first surviving plan of Trentham dates from 1599, the land had been mentioned in the Domesday Book, had been a royal manor from that date and had both a monastic and royal pedigree, and of course had been a deer park. A new mansion was built in the 1630s by Sir Richard Leveson and, despite being on the losing side in the Civil War, both house and gardens survived intact until 1695, when Sir John Leveson's Estate Agent, the Reverend George Plaxton, proposed a layout with a pair of canals, a long walk and avenue. In 1703 the now Baron Gower commissioned a new hall, to be "both larger, higher and handsomer than it was before" a brief to be followed in each following scheme. In 1720 enclosing Kings Wood bank enlarged the estate and a brick wall was built around the park. In 1737/8 the hall was again expanded and in the early 1740s a stone bridge was thrown over the river Trent to be followed later in the decade by the removal of the causeway in between the canals and the creation of the first lake. But that was as nothing to what Brown was to achieve.

Granville, 2nd Lord Gower, was to oversee the execution of Brown's works. The lake was massively enlarged, the park wall repaired and expanded and Tunstall Fields, to the west of the hall, were turned into parkland, the line of the earlier avenue preserved only as a drive. Two lodges were built at the southwest end of the lake and a sunken fence created to separate the lawn from the deer park. Sweeping lawns surrounded the lake, with trees drifting down towards the lakeside to disguise its edges.

In 1793 another, iron, bridge was built over the Trent. A stump remains of what was probably only the second iron bridge after the eponymous one, and it is hoped to replace it. A picture turned up on only the second day of opening this year after new interpretation signs were put up; until then no pictures were thought to exist. Additions to the estate continued, a fine Mausoleum was built and the house further extended with wings.

The final great period of expansion of Trentham began with the succession of the 2nd Duke of Sutherland in 1833. Charles Barry was appointed architect and instituted a £123,000 building programme that involved a comprehensive redesign of the house, its conservatory and other buildings. A sculpture gallery, orangery and clock tower were to follow. But perhaps

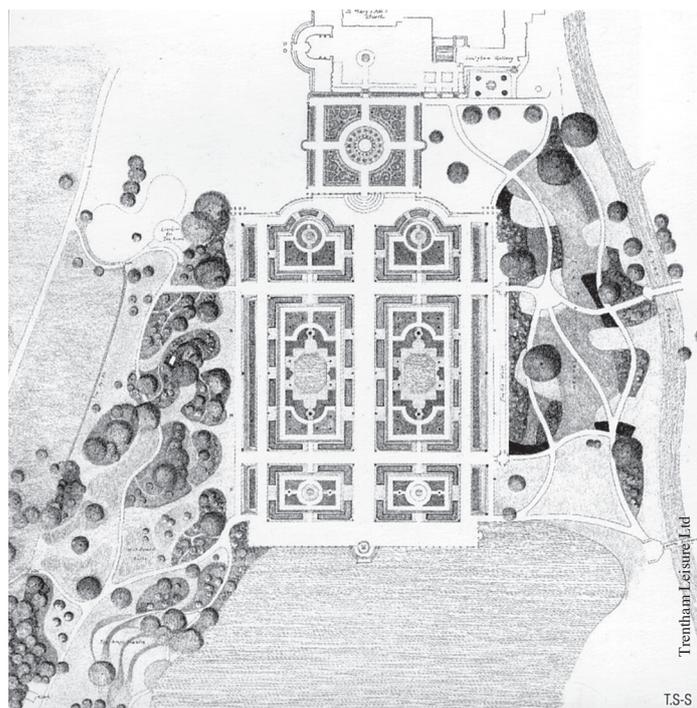


E. Adveno Brooke's view of the steps leading to the upper terrace at Trentham, from his *Gardens of England* (1858)

most significantly for us today it also involved the building of the massive Italian garden in between the house and Lake. Three terraces, on a gargantuan scale, are flanked by a wrought iron trellis to the east, and shrubberies to the west, dividing the terraces from Brown's open parkland. The terraces known as the Italian gardens were planted under the direction of the Sutherland's head gardener George Fleming, apparently no relation to the similarly named John Fleming at Cliveden. It was George who first planted the innovative ribbon bedding that was to become such a feature of both gardens.

Within forty years however the pollution of the Trent was becoming an increasing problem, a great stink descending over the gardens. It is perhaps surprising that the Sutherlands stuck it out as long as they did before biting the bullet and finally selling the house and its contents in 1911 and demolished, the County Council having turned it down. The Sutherlands continued to open Trentham as a venue for mass entertainment. A golf course and tennis courts were opened, a bandstand built and a successful lido was established by the lake. The gardens were maintained though on a far reduced level. It was not until the end of the seventies that the rot really set in. Despite a plan to establish a rival to Alton Towers plans came to naught and in the mid-eighties the NCB stepped in, draining and reinforcing the lake as continuing subsidence from mine workings caused problems. Finally in 1996 a local property developer St Modwen Properties PLC working with Willi Reitz, a German investor, brought the park and stated to "regenerate and restore the historic Estate and gardens". Some six years and many negotiations later things are finally moving.

Dominic Cole, of Land Use Consultants and Chairman of The Garden History Society, has provided a master plan for the estate; he is not attempting a restoration but a development in the spirit of the earlier head gardeners, Fleming and his successor Zadok Stevens. The appointment of Piet Oudolf and Tom Stuart-Smith to design new planting schemes has led to the appointment of Michael Walker as Gardens Manager this spring to oversee

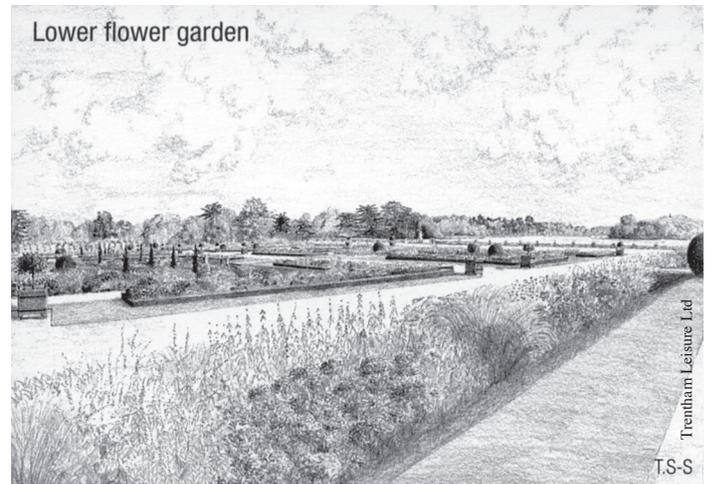


Tom Stuart-Smith's plan of the new planting overlaid on the old Italian gardens. The new entrance bridge is at bottom right

the conservation and management of the rejuvenated gardens.

Yet another new bridge has been thrown over the Trent, and despite early problems with what is perhaps the biggest ever order for herbaceous material, certainly in this country, the project is moving ahead. Perseus has been restored to his plinth at the head of the lake and the first of many tens of urns replaced on the restored balustrade.

Although the terraces are being restored, both planting forms



The lower flower garden on the Italian Terraces, shows the new planting and its relation to Charles Barry's formal layout. It features an apparently random mix of species suited to drier conditions

and style will be totally innovative. Charles Barry's beds are being reworked, with new planting and the forms of the formal layout adapted to allow greater contact with the fountains and plants. Planting will expand out into the park and under the tree canopy, with new features being incorporated. Plans will evolve, the discovery of an unexpected historic three-bay boat house has kiboshed plans for a water's edge amphitheatre, at least in the short term, and the retail village that will in part fund the scheme is perhaps more dominant than expected, notably on Brown's north-eastern water meadows. Having visited last month I am confident that such problems will be overcome and that this will be an exciting and innovative next step in the development of the Trentham estate. CB



The grass amphitheatre intended to be located below the meadow and prairie planting of the Western Pleasure Grounds

To complement our Gala Dinner at Waddesdon I felt it might be appropriate to print a transcript of Baron Ferdinand Rothschild's so called Red Book along with its dedication. I have included a couple of images from the late Nigel Temple's postcard collection in lieu of the Baron's illustrations.

BARON FERDINAND'S RED BOOK [1897]

I dedicate this album to my Friends, who have taken a sympathetic interest in the growth and development of Waddesdon, and trust it may be acceptable to them in remembrance of their visits to my now completed house.

Enquiries have been so often addressed to me as to the persons and means I employed in carrying out the works on the property since it came into my possession, that I have briefly given the required information.

1 November, 1897

In the autumn of 1874 I purchased from the Duke of Marlborough, by private treaty, his estate of Waddesdon and Winchendon, which had been put up for sale at Tokenhouse Yard in the spring of the year but withdrawn as the reserve price had not been reached. It then consisted of 2700 acres, to which I have since added about 500 more. I had been looking out for a residential estate for some time, and could I have obtained one I should not have acquired this property, which was all farm land, arable chiefly, with neither a house nor a park, and, though comparatively near London, was at a distance of six miles from Aylesbury, the nearest railway station. But there was none other to be had; there was not even the prospect of one coming into the market, and I was loth to wait on the chance. So I took Waddesdon with its defects and its drawbacks — of which more hereafter — perhaps a little too rashly. I was buoyed up with illusions and beguiled by the belief that within four years it would be connected with Baker Street by a direct line of railway, the first sod of which had not yet been turned. This much could be said in its favour: it had a bracing and salubrious air, pleasant scenery, excellent hunting, and was untainted by factories and villadom.

As soon as the contract was signed I set out for Paris in quest of an architect, and decided on the late M. Destailleur, whose father and grandfather had been the architects of the Dukes of Orleans, while he himself had risen to fame by his intelligent and successful restoration of the Chateau of the Duc de Mouchy. M. Destailleur accompanied me back to England to choose the site for the house. This being settled, he left me fully supplied with instructions, while M. Laine, a French landscape gardener, was bidden to make designs for the terraces, the principal roads and plantations. It may be asked, what induced me to employ foreign instead of native talent of which there was no lack at hand? My reply is, that having been greatly impressed by the ancient Chateaux of the Valois during a tour I once made in the Touraine, I determined to build my house in the same style, and considered it safer to get the designs made by a French architect who was familiar with the work, than by an English one whose knowledge and experience of the architecture of that period could be less thoroughly trusted. The French sixteenth century style, on which I had long set my heart, was particularly suitable to the surroundings of the site I had selected, and more uncommon than the Tudor, Jacobean, or Adams, of which the country affords so many and such unique specimens. Besides, I may mention that M. Laine was called in only after Mr. Thomas, the then most eminent English landscape gardener, had declined to lay out the grounds for reasons he did not deign to divulge.

By the side of the grand chateaux of the Touraine, Waddesdon would appear a pigmy. The Castle of Chambord, for example, contains 450 rooms, the smallest of which would dwarf the largest of Waddesdon. But its main features are borrowed from them; its towers from Maintenon, the Chateau of the Duc de Noailles, and its external staircases from Blois, though the latter, which are unglazed and open to the weather, are much more ornate. Though far from being the realisation of a dream in stone and mortar like Chenonceaux, M. Destailleur's work has fairly fulfilled my expectations.

M. Destailleur was a man of the highest capacity in his profession. He was a purist in style, painstaking, conscientious, and of the most scrupulous honesty. During the eighteen years of my relations with him there never was the smallest difference between us. But he was dilatory and unpractical. He had not the faintest conception of the needs of a large establishment, sacrificed the most urgent household requirements to external architectural features, and had the most supreme contempt for ventilation, light, air, and all internal conveniences. This, perhaps, need not have surprised me, for he and his numerous family lived huddled together in a small and musty house in a dingy back street which I never entered without a shudder. It took me many an hour to convince him that ladies need space for their gowns and their toilette, and men want rooms in which they can move at their ease and perform their ablutions. The delay in the first start, however, was only partly his fault. He submitted a plan to me at the end of a year on a scale of such grandeur that I begged him to reduce it, and another long year was spent on the preparation of a second and more modest proposal. This I sanctioned, though it did not quite satisfy me. 'You will regret your decision,' he said to me at the time, 'one always builds too small.' And he prophesied truly. After I had lived in the house for a while I was compelled to add first one wing and then another; and a greater outlay was eventually incurred than had the original plan been carried out, not to speak of the discomfort and inconvenience caused by the presence of the workmen in the house. Though more picturesque the building is less effective, and while spreading over as much ground it is less compact and commodious.

Lodge Hill, as the small but steep hill on which it stands is called — its highest point being 614 feet above sea-level — commands a panoramic view over several counties. On the north is the long range of the Chiltern Hills; on the south-west the Malvern Hills loom in the far distance; on the west is Wootton, the former abode of the Grenvilles, a corner of which peeps out of a dense mass of woodland. Towards the north the eye travels over a boundless expanse of grass-land, and on the east the Vale of Aylesbury winds along. Lodge Hill when first taken in hand was a misshapen cone with a farmhouse on its top, to which a rough track for carts led direct from the village. Often when hunting I had noticed its singular formation — the result probably of a volcanic eruption — and its fine hedge-row timber. When it came into my possession nearly all the timber had vanished, and but for a few hollies round the farmhouse there was not a bush to be seen, nor was there a bird to be heard; but luxuriant crops of wheat and beet told of the richness of the soil. A deep gash was made in its side by a limestone quarry which proved most useful in the construction of rockeries, and has since been converted into a basin and fountain.

The estate was bought in 1725, three years after the death of the great Duke, by Sarah, Duchess of Marlborough, from the trustees of the Duke of Wharton, of whose romantic and eccentric career we may well regret having such scanty records.

The residence of the Whartons, who had inherited the land from the Goodwins to whom it had been granted in 1623 by the King, stood about two miles south from Lodge Hill, near the village of Upper Winchendon, and at the end of an imposing avenue of elms which led up hill and down vale to Waddesdon. Its gardens and kennels were famous, and the whole of the property was studded with fine timber. Lodge Hill was outside the boundaries of the park, and had always been let for farming, but in the middle ages a monastery flourished close to the village of Waddesdon, where traces are still to be seen of its fishponds. Since the days of the famous Duchess, the Dukes of Marlborough had never set foot on the domain, except on one occasion, when the grandfather of the present Duke spent a brief hour in the village when the church was reopened after its restoration. Having been bought as an investment, the estate was only valued thereafter for the grist it brought to the mill, and was abandoned to the most cruel neglect. The land on the roadsides was encroached upon and built over; footpaths were made in every direction — the most objectionable of which, however, there being then no Parish Council in existence, I was able to close; short-sighted agents cut up the farms into small fields, and felled most of the timber. Stately avenues of elm, chestnut, and beech, all of which I have replanted, were ruthlessly cut down. Even the small Winchendon Wood was doomed and would have gone with the rest had I not stepped in in the nick of time.

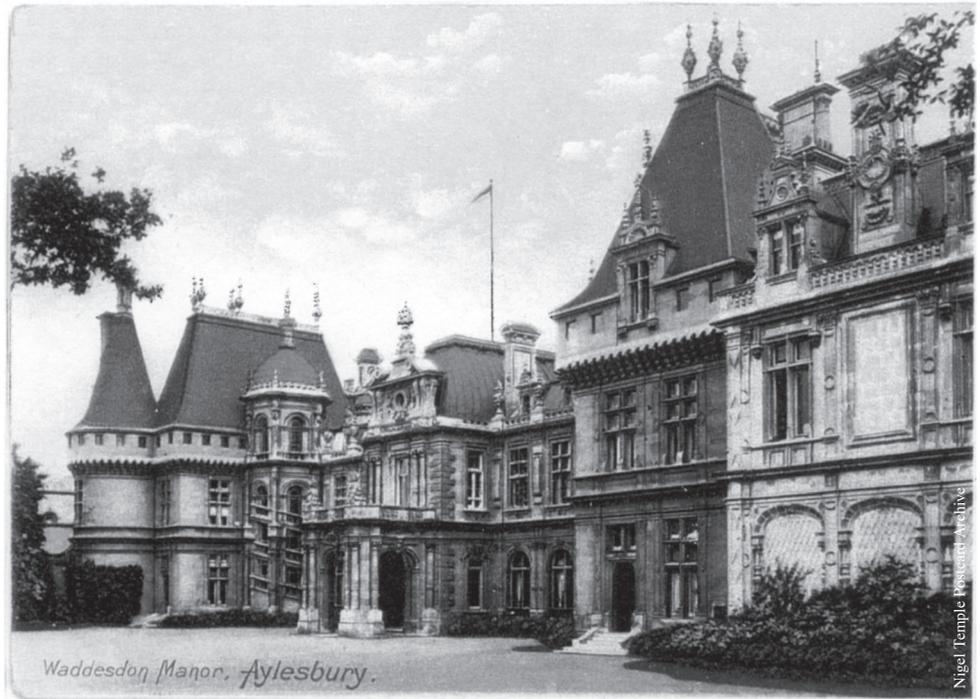
Of the house of the Whartons only a wing of the offices, which was my own abode during the progress of the works on Lodge Hill, and is now occupied by my bailiff, was allowed to remain; while a high-road leading from Aylesbury to Thame has been constructed past its windows, precluding the possibility of erecting a new mansion on the old site. The gardens, which may still be identified by the lines of their terraces, have long disappeared, and when I first saw them, were covered with sheds, squalid cottages, and pigsties, presenting an indescribably repulsive appearance.

Nestling in the wood and fronting Lodge Hill stands an ancient cottage, round which hangs a curious tale. It was said to have once been a kind of Rosamond's Bower, where a Lord Wharton secreted a French lady, deeming her secure there from the jealous eyes of his wife. But Lady Wharton discovered her rival, whom she soon got rid of by poison. I attached little credence to this story. But recently, when the crypt of the Winchendon Church was being restored, a coffin was found among the tombs of the Whartons with a brass plate bearing the inscription, 'Madame B.,' and the date corresponded with that assigned to the French lady's death by tradition, which was thus — in part, at least — vindicated.

As soon as the architect, the landscape gardener, and the engineers had settled their plans, we set to work, but at the outset were brought face to face with a most serious consideration. This was the question of the water supply, as the few springs in the fields were not to be relied on in a drought. The Chiltern Hills fortunately contain an inexhaustible quantity of excellent

water, which an Aylesbury Company works with much skill to the advantage of the immediate neighbourhood and profit to its shareholders. Not a moment was lost in coming to terms with the Company, laying down seven miles of pipes from the county town to the village and thence to the projected site of the house, and building a large storage tank in the grounds. This subsequently proved insufficient for our wants, as one dry summer the water supply failed, and but for the Manager's energy, who sat up all night at the Works sending us up water, we should have been compelled to leave the next day. To obviate the recurrence of a similar difficulty another and a larger tank was constructed.

Then we had some trouble with the foundations of the house. The part of the hill we had selected for its site consists of sand, and the foundation after having been proceeded with for some months proved not to have been set deep enough, as they suddenly gave way. The whole of the brick-work had then to be removed and thirty feet of sand excavated until a firm bottom of clay was reached. I now began to realise the importance of the task I had undertaken. But the difficulty of building a house is insignificant compared with the labour of transforming a bare wilderness into a park, and I was so disheartened at first by the delay and the worry that during four years I rarely went near the place. Slowest and most irksome of all was the progress of the roads, on which the available labourers of the neighbourhood



were engaged, supplemented by a gang of navvies under the direction of Mr. Alexander, a London engineer, and M. Laine. The steepness of the hill necessitated an endless amount of digging and levelling to give an easy gradient to the roads and a natural appearance to the banks and slopes. Landslips constantly occurred. Cutting into the hill interfered with the natural drainage, and, despite the elaborate precautions we had taken, the water often forced its way out of some unexpected place after a spell of wet weather, tearing down great masses of earth. Like Sisyphus, we had repeatedly to take up the same task, though fortunately with a more permanent result. The stone for the house, which came from Bath, and most of the bricks, which came from all parts of the country, were conveyed on a temporary steam tram from the railway direct to the foot of the

hill, up which the trucks were drawn on rails by a cable engine. Other materials for the building, as well as for the farmsteads, cottages, and lodges, and the trees and the shrubs, had to be carted some miles by road. Percheron mares were imported from Normandy for this purpose, and they proved most serviceable, for though less enduring they travelled faster over the ground and were much cheaper than Shire horses. They have since doubled in price. When worn out they went to the stud.

These horses were employed principally in connexion with the cartage of large trees which were brought from all parts of the neighbourhood, and for the moving of which on to the highways the telegraph wires had to be temporarily displaced. They were transplanted with huge balls of earth round their roots, and were lowered into the ground by a system of chains, having been conveyed to the required spot on specially constructed carts, each drawn by a team of sixteen horses. The trees answered their purpose for the time, for they quickly clothed and adorned the bare hill. But if I may venture to proffer a word of advice to any one who may feel inclined to follow my example — it is to abstain from transplanting old trees, limes and chestnuts perhaps excepted, and even these should not be more than thirty or forty years old. Older trees, however great may be the experience and skill of the men engaged in the process, rarely recover the injury to their roots, or bear the change from the soil and the climatic conditions in which they have been grown. Young trees try your patience at first, but they soon catch up the old ones, and make better timber and foliage.

But much that was of far greater moment had to be accomplished before any appreciable show was made.

Small properties that ran into the estate on all sides had to be obtained from a variety of owners, of whom some were unwilling to sell, others held their land by a complicated title, and others again had let it on long leases. Tenants had to be dispossessed and otherwise provided for; a large silk factory and three public-houses had to be acquired; the dilapidated homesteads pulled down and rebuilt elsewhere; over 150 cottages and a huge flour-mill purchased and demolished to make room for the proposed improvements and then rebuilt further off; the whole of the land had to be drained, interminable double hedgerows dug up, ridges and furrows levelled, the arable fields sown with grass, and, last though not least, extensive coverts and shrubberies had to be planted.

It would be wearisome to give a more minute account of the protracted and vexatious, nay exasperating negotiations which attended the purchase of these small properties, or to enter into a detailed description of the various works which had to be carried out, and which at one time seemed hopeless of final accomplishment. The removal of one nuisance frequently opened out a vista to another which it became equally imperative to sweep away, and the acquisition of one plot of ground usually necessitated the purchase also of the plot adjoining it. In the same way, the planting of a covert or a shrubbery on one naked spot showed up the bareness of its surroundings which had then also to be planted; and as we kept on extending the boundaries of the park fresh alterations were constantly demanded. Even when after many years we had virtually come to an end of our labours the park could not be enclosed in a ring fence, for on one side some of the Duke of Buckingham's land came to the very edge of the principal drive, and on the other, thirty acres, which belonged to a tenant farmer, stood in a direct line with the terrace. Neither the Duke nor the farmer would hear either of purchase or exchange. 'I am anxious for this ground of yours,' I once said to the Duke, while on a visit to Wootton; 'for were you to put up buildings on it my view would be spoilt.' 'Come,' he replied

with a smile, and he took me to a window on the first floor of his house. 'There; look out,' he said, pointing to the spot; 'were you to build on it, and you might, my view would be spoilt.' After the Duke's death his successor, Lord Temple, proved more tractable. I owe the possession of the farmer's thirty acres to the passing of the Parish Council's Act. They skirt the high road, and if turned into allotments or small holdings would have been a terrible eyesore. It was most unlikely that the Parish or County Council would use their compulsory powers for this object, the village being sufficiently provided with allotments; but on my hinting to the farmer the possibility of the danger which threatened him on that score he at once closed with my offer.

In 1880 I first slept in the so-called 'bachelor's wing', and in 1883 in the main part of the house. We had a grand house-warming in the month of July of that year, though the stables were not yet built, and the horses and carriages we required had to be accommodated in tents and in the village inns. The stables were built in the following year from plans made by my stud-groom, my builder, Mr. Conder — than whom I have never met a more trustworthy business man — and myself. Only the elevations were designed by M. Destailleur, and no other architect was ever called in for the alterations and additions subsequently carried out at Waddesdon. The whole credit of the work is his. I must take my full share of whatever blame there may be. 'You should always begin with your second house,' a lady once wittily said to me. But could this paradox be put into practice the second house would be as much open to criticism as the first. However great your experience may be, you cannot arrive at perfection. I was anxious from the outset to sacrifice every consideration to ensure comfort, and for this reason determined against the introduction of a central hall, which, in my opinion, is fatal to all comfort; or if made into a cosy and liveable apartment, condemns every other sitting-room to complete solitude. But a hall is, nevertheless, an indispensable feature in a country house of any size, and the want of a large room where my friends could all meet, and read and write without disturbing each other, was so much felt, that in 1889 I built one of this kind, which though not in a central position has to some extent at least redeemed the error I had made.

A word may be expected from me concerning the internal decoration of the house. In this M. Destailleur took but a very small part. I purchased carved oak panelling in Paris for several of the rooms, to which it was adapted by various English and French decorators. Most of this panelling came from historic houses; that in the Billiard Room from a chateau of the Montmorencis; that in the Breakfast Room and the Boudoir from the hotel of the Marechal de Richelieu in the street which was named after his uncle the great Cardinal, and which has now been transformed into shops and apartments; the Grey Drawing Room came from the Convent of the Sacre Coeur, formerly the hotel of the Duc de Lauzun, who perished on the guillotine; and the Tower Room from a villa which was sometime the residence of the famous Fermier-General Beaujon, to whom the Elysee also belonged.

The ornamental ceilings are either exact replicas of those of the rooms from which the panelling was taken, or copied from ones still in existence in Paris. The old mantelpieces I secured from the houses for which they were made; the one in the East Gallery was in a post-office, formerly a residence of the celebrated banker, Samuel Bernhard. The modern mantelpieces are copied from old models.

I have refrained from going into an elaborate description of the pictures, furniture, and ornaments, which are photographed

in this album, as it would be as tiresome reading as a catalogue. But so much I may say: their pedigrees are of unimpeachable authenticity. In my young days I burnt my fingers pretty often and severely, but experience taught me caution, and from the time I seriously entered the lists as a collector, I have only acquired works of art the genuineness of which has been well established.

My grateful thanks are due to those who from first to last assisted me in my undertaking. They, too, may have remembered me kindly. M. Destailleur was entrusted by the Empress Eugenie with the construction of her house and church at Farnborough, and M. Laine by the King of the Belgians with important works on his estates. These commissions they owed — the former indirectly, the latter directly — to me. Of M. Laine I have nothing to say but praise. Still, I may be pardoned for mentioning that he only designed the chief outlines of the park; the pleasure grounds and gardens were laid out by my bailiff and gardener according to

my notions and under my superintendence; while all the farm buildings, model cottages, and lodges, were built by a local architect, Mr. Taylor, of Bierton.

Waddesdon now has its hotel, its hall and its reading-room, its temperance and benefit societies, and its inhabitants are prosperous and contented. The Metropolitan, now called the Great Central Railway, sets down passengers at a station not a mile from the park gates, and my visitors are spared the tedious drive from Aylesbury, on which I expended many a strong

epithet during twenty-two long years. A few more plantations are required to furnish the park, and some hovels should be removed, which obstinate proprietors will not be tempted to part with. Otherwise, save a judicious 'Keep,' there is little the hand of man can still do. Time must be relied on to improve the house by colouring the masonry and giving it that rich mellowness



of tone which age alone can produce, and beautify the grounds by allowing the trees to grow and expand. A future generation may reap the chief benefit of a work which to me has been a labour of love, though I fear that Waddesdon will share the fate of most properties whose owners have no descendants, and fall into decay. May the day be yet distant when weeds will spread over the gardens, the terraces crumble into dust, the pictures and cabinets cross the Channel or the Atlantic, and the melancholy cry of the night-jar sound from the deserted towers.

STOWE GARDENS — THE RETURN OF THE STATUE OF KING GEORGE II

Sir Richard Temple, Viscount Cobham was one of the Duke of Marlborough's generals in the wars in the Low Countries, and like a number of his colleagues, turned his hand to gardening on his return to England. Within 30 miles of Oxford there are not only the Duke's own paradise at Blenheim, but General James Tyrell's garden at Shotover, General James Dormer's at Rousham, and of course Lord Cobham's Stowe, just over the county boundary in north Bucks.

But Cobham's garden was not just classical allegory and designed landscape. It was a political and moral essay in landscape and buildings setting out the choices between vice and virtue, and the political ideals of the Whig party. And it is within this latter context that the statue of George II lies.

One of the main tenets of Grand Whiggery was that the King was a constitutional monarch appointed by parliament, just as the Witan appointed the Saxon or Gothick kings (hence the importance of Stowe's Gothic Temple), and the Hanoverian succession was in itself a construct of parliamentary legislation. And power lay, not with the King, but with the great Whig families behind the throne, so the very fact that the King spoke

no English was a positive advantage to the success of this system of government.

So how is this interpreted at Stowe?

First, on the North Front lawn, there is the great Van Nost equestrian statue of **King George I**, in the guise of Marcus Aurelius, the most thoughtful of Roman Emperors, (and in 18th century construct, one of the five 'good' emperors) and the most iconic in terms of Empire, another ambition of 18th century Whigs. The inscription on his plinth is taken from Virgil's Georgics, and to the visitors of the time was quite clear. It read:

In medio mihi Caesar erit...

[in the middle of my garden I shall have the Imperial Caesar...]

But although this is Latin verse, it does not scan. It is only half the line. The cognoscenti would have known that the omitted words were:

'templum que tenebit'

[and he will have a Temple]

i.e. Richard Temple and his family behind the throne pulling the strings.

Secondly, one had to remember that the succession was not just King George, but his whole family as well. This was to be dynasty to last, not just a stopgap to keep out the turbulent Stuarts. So whilst there was no Queen Consort (she had been divorced by George and left locked up in a castle in Hanover), there were the new Prince and Princess of Wales. It is in this incarnation that **King George II** and his wife **Queen Caroline** appear at Stowe; as Prince George Augustus, and Caroline, the Princess of Wales, occupying the new gardens to the south of the house. George stands on his Corinthian column overlooking the whole of the south and western gardens, whilst Caroline is on a lower quadricolumnar monument with the inscription 'Divae Carolinae', [to the Divine Caroline]. She was representing Cybele the mother of the gods looking across a formal canal to Venus, her daughter, holding centre stage in the Rotondo.

Later on, in the 1730s, when George Augustus had become King, his popularity at Stowe took a nosedive, and the gardens around him were reworked as a garden of vice, to contrast with William Kent's garden of virtue in Stowe's Elysian Fields. Other monarchs, notably **Queen Elizabeth** and **William of Orange** found places of virtue in the Temple of the British Worthies, but not the Hanoverians.

Poor George was only redeemed in the 1770s, a decade after his death when his faults began to pale in the mist of time and Stowe found that, actually, his grandson George III was worse. In addition, Earl Temple was desperate to advance his title to a marquessate, or even a dukedom, so some gesture towards the memory of the late king was necessary.

The inscription on his column, previously merely 'Georgio Augusto' was reworked as:

*'Crevere Vires, fama que & Imperi
Porrecta Majestas ad ortum
Solis ab hespero cubili
Custode rerum Caesare-*

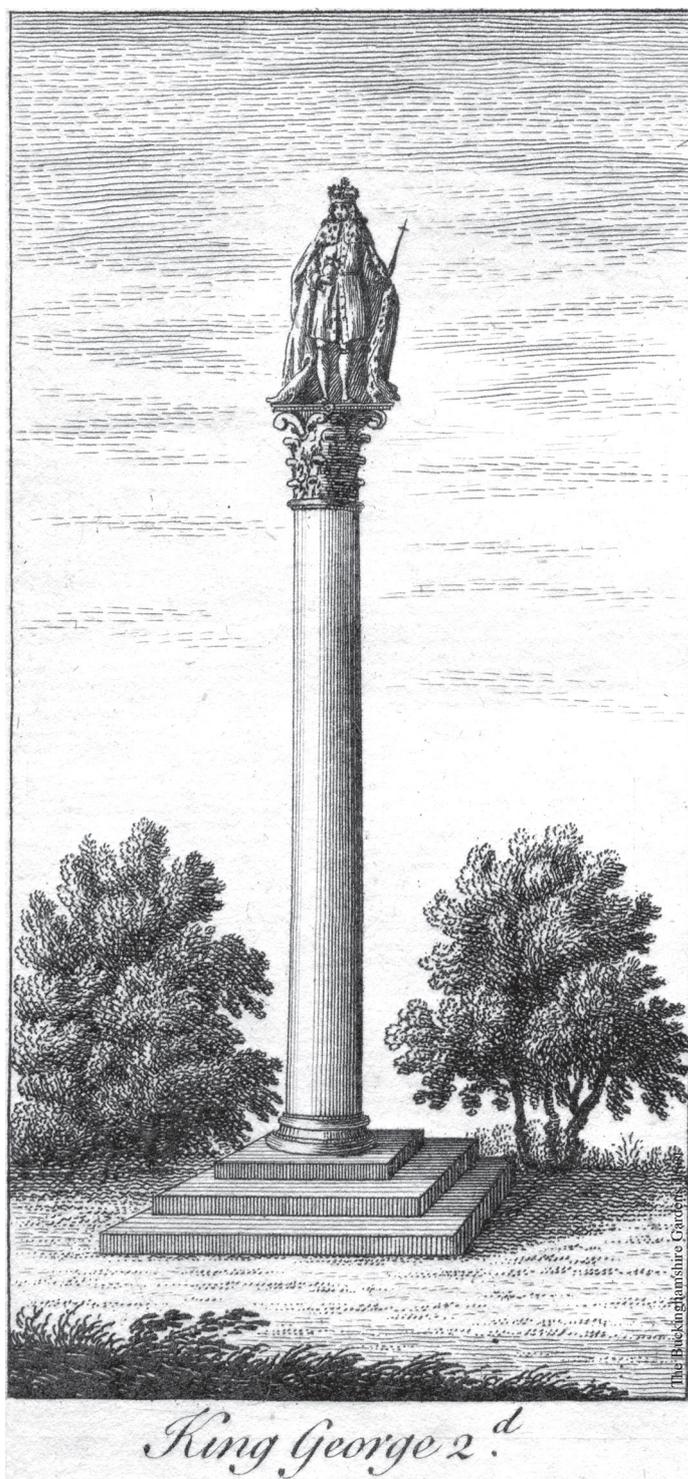
*[Under the care of Caesar's scepter'd hand
With strength and fame increased, this favour'd land
The majesty of her vast empire spread
From the sun rising to his Western bed.']*

Temple, writing in 1771 to his sister Hester, the wife of William Pitt, says:

'Our royal guest the Princess Amelia was much pleas'd with it; she came last Monday sennight and left us the following Wednesday...'

But Temple was perhaps not being quite as straightforward as at first sight. The inscription is taken from Book IV of Horace's *Odes*, written at the time of the Emperor Augustus. Although Horace had been a supporter of the defeated republicans, Brutus and Cassius at the battle of Philippi, he had become the foremost court poet, under the patronage of Augustus's friend and colleague Maecenas, and on one level his Book IV can be read as adulatory propaganda for the imperial regime. Poetry was the mass medium of the time of imperial Rome, but since its language was far above ordinary everyday speech, subliminal messages could easily be included, that were only apparent to those seeking them. So Temple, just as Horace before him, may be mocking George Augustus as being no military leader, but one who achieved empire despite himself. The architects of victory in the Seven Years War, which gave Britain its empire in Canada, India and the West Indies had been the Stowe cousins, William Pitt and the Grenvilles, not the derided King, George II.

The ploy worked, and Earl Temple's nephew, who succeeded him at Stowe, became the Marquess of Buckingham, and the



Marquess's son became the 1st Duke of Buckingham. However, when the family had reached the top, there was only one way to go. The 2nd Duke left Stowe in 1848 with debts of over £1million, and despite the best endeavours of the 3rd Duke and his heirs, Stowe was sold in 1921.

These Stowe sales of the 1920s were devastating to the understanding of the place, and most of the statuary was sold. Surprisingly both King George I and Princess Caroline survived. The latter was restored by the Trust in 1992, and King George I in 2002, as a part of the overall English Heritage grant programme. Sadly, however, George II was bought by Sir Philip Sassoon and now forms an integral part of that wonderful garden at Port Lympne. However, the present owner Mr Aspinall, very kindly allowed the Trust to make a cast of him, and this was paid for by the Trust's continuing Stowe statues appeal.

In addition the Kensington and Chelsea Association, at a Charity Auction organised jointly with Christies raised £35,000 for the column and pedestal onto which he will shortly return.

This magnificent achievement marks a new landmark in the restoration of Stowe. Both King George, and Earl Temple would be pleased.

Richard Wheeler

REPORT ON A VISIT TO BLETCHLEY PARK

I feel I have already published quite a lot about the gardens at Bletchley Park. Suffice to say we had a very interesting visit to Bletchley and saw much positive work since our last trip there. It was revealing to see what work was being done to the grounds in the current Anglo-American project which has led to Mavis Batey contacting our member Mary Sarre who has been involved in planting up the new lakeside beds, with both state emblems and plants which have found a home over here. Much of the plant material was sourced from Bernwode Plants. Mavis prepared a leaflet for the garden trail's opening by the American Chargé d'Affaires on 21 August containing much of the material from her previous article as well as a list of state flowers and trees (below and shown on the plan at right).

Although the gardens are not a prime part of the project at Bletchley and the walled garden with its ranges of glass houses has been built over, the main part of the pleasure gardens seems to remain to be discovered (perhaps another good place to start some geo-physics) and may make an interesting restoration in the future.

Brothers of the Spade

Horticulturally there had already been an Anglo-American relationship for over three centuries. Even before the first colonists arrived pioneer British explorers were searching for 'curious' plants in the American wild which would soon become our well-loved garden plants. The settlers did not venture far into the wild being content to cultivate the plants they had brought with them 'making them hereditary in the new land'.

Old world plants (*) State emblems (E) see picture on right

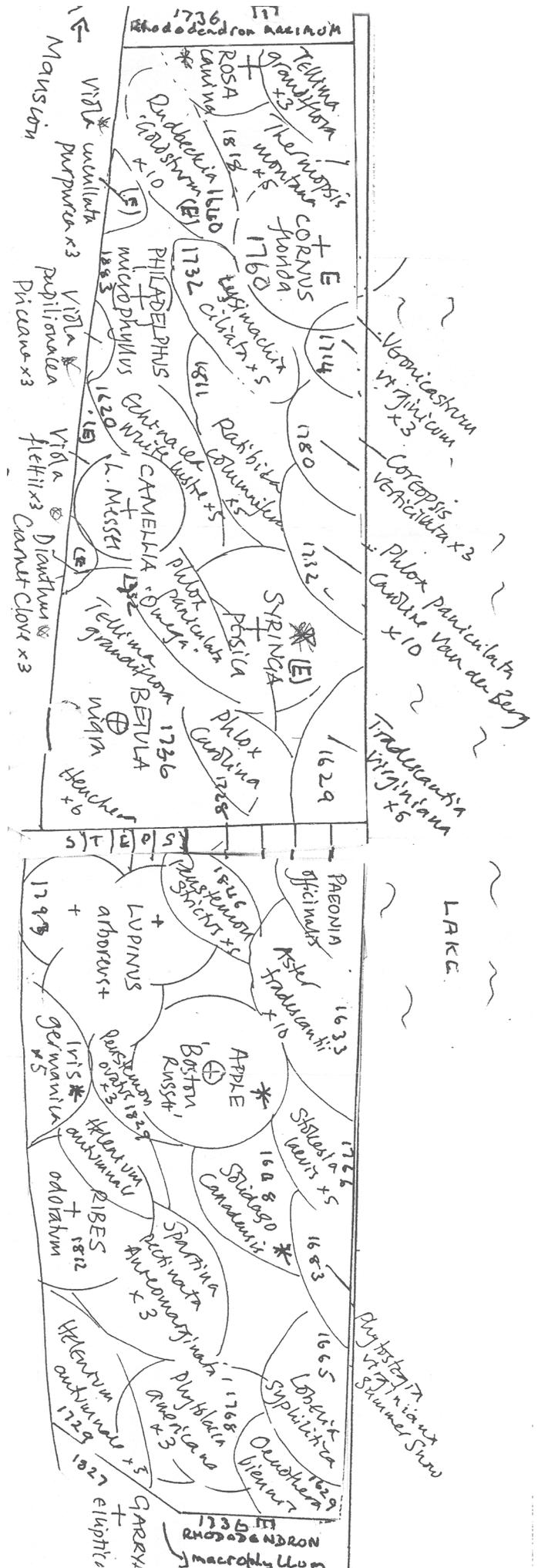
Iris germanica; TENNESSEE: the purple fleur-de-lys and the yellow flag iris which fringes the whole lake, are the oldest flowers in cultivation. Apple blossom; MICHIGAN, ARKANSAS: seeds taken out by the colonists gave rise to American cultivars. Violas (also native); ILLINOIS, RHODE ISLAND & WISCONSIN. Lilac; NEW HAMPSHIRE. Dianthus (clove gilly flower); OHIO. Briar rose; NEW YORK

Raleigh's 'New Found Land'

John Tradescant the Younger was the most famous of the early Virginian plant collectors. His swamp cypress, tree emblem of LOUISIANA, can be seen on the north side of the lake and on the southeast his tulip tree, emblem of TENNESSEE, INDIANA, & KENTUCKY. In the lakeside beds, his golden rod, and Michaelmas daisies flourish. The Museum of Garden History at Lambeth is dedicated to his memory.

American Wild to British Gardens (E)

Solidago, Golden rod; KENTUCKY & NEBRASKA. Rudbeckia, Black-eyed Susan; MARYLAND. Dogwood MISSOURI, VIRGINIA & N.CAROLINA. Betula, paper bark birch; NEW HAMPSHIRE. *Rhododendron maximum*; W.VIRGINIA. *Rhododendron macrophyllum*; WASHINGTON. Philadelphia, Mock orange taken out from old world but American species introduced here later; IDAHO



18th century enrichment of landscape

Plant collecting extended when Bishop Compton of Fulham, Palace sent out missionary-botanists but the most important garden link was made in the 1730s by two Quakers, Peter Collinson of London and John Bartram of Philadelphia. Around the lake are trees, now state emblems. Sugar maple; VERMONT & WISCONSIN. Red oak; NEW JERSEY, and by Block B *Magnolia grandiflora*; LOUISIANA

Opening up the West, 1804

Spectacular west coast discoveries were made especially by David Douglas, sent out by the RHS first in 1824. He introduced many conifers including the Douglas fir, emblem of OREGON (lawn in front of house). His popular *Garrya elliptica* was named after a Hudson Bay Company official. The Californian poppy along the trail and *Lupinus polyphyllus*, the ancestor of our renowned hybrids, are also his plants.

Mavis Batey

MINUTES OF THE AGM

HELD ON WEDNESDAY 26 JUNE 2004

AT THE FERNERY, ASHRIDGE

Present: The Chairman, 12 members and one visitor.

Apologies for Absence: Carolyn Adams, Geoff & Jackie Huntingford, John & Kathy Chapman, Nigel Halse, Stephanie Beacham, Brian Dix, Richard Wheeler, Letitia Yetman

The Minutes of the 2003 AGM: The Minutes were received. The confusion about the Garden History Society subscription mentioned in the Treasurer's Report has been resolved.

David Hillier proposed their adoption, seconded by John Walter. Carried.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer, Candy Godber, presented the Accounts for the year ending 31 March 2004. She explained that because of the new charitable status and creation of the associated limited company, the accounts would now be for the f/y March to March, rather than July to July as had previously been the case. She also pointed out that the events income appeared low because the profit from the Winter Talks had not been paid by Waddesdon Manor until the end of the f/y.

Charles Boot proposed their adoption, seconded by Eric Throssell. Carried.

Chairman's Report: The Chairman thanked Mick Thompson for a very enjoyable, informative and hospitable tour of Ashridge prior to the AGM, and commented on the good progress achieved in restoring the garden since the Trust last visited several years ago. The Chairman also thanked Candy Godber and her accountant for all the diligent hard work on keeping and presenting the accounts, now a much more complicated task due to charitable and limited liability company status. He also thanked John Chapman for his hard work as Trust Secretary, a role he had as of this AGM relinquished to Vice Chairman Sarah Rutherford. An Education Officer was still needed, and the Trust had yet to get a co-ordinated research group under way, although some research was occurring on an ad hoc basis with the results appearing in the Bucks Gardener. He thanked Council for all their work, notably Geoff Huntingford as Planning Co-ordinator for his work on planning inquiries and his two assistants, Sarah Rutherford and Carolyn Adams. He remarked that it would be difficult to find a better qualified team for such work.

The Chairman was able to report that charitable status had at last been achieved, piloted by the expert hands of Richard Mawrey, QC, of the Oxfordshire Gardens Trust to whom the Trust is greatly indebted. Bucks Gardens Trust is now a

registered charity and holds a limited liability company.

The Chairman thanked an absent friend of the Trust and former member of Council, Michael Walker, who had been Gardens Manager at Waddesdon, but in January took up a new post at Trentham, Staffs. and had to resign from Council. Michael had provided unfailing hospitality at Waddesdon and friendship to the Trust. The Chairman also thanked Stephanie Swann at Waddesdon for taking over the rather complex booking system for lectures and Rosemary Jury for continuing to manage the membership and ticket sales for other events.

The Chairman provided a resume of the year's activities, including visits to Dropmore, Stowe and the lesser-known gardens of Slough including Baylis Park, Herschel Park and Ditton Park, and beyond the county: Sarsden and the inter-gardens trust croquet match at Chastleton, both in Oxon. He thanked the organisers for their hard work. The Winter Lecture Series at the Power House included excellent lectures by Brian Dix on Garden Archaeology and Janet Waymark on gardens at home and abroad. A highlight in March was Sir Roy Strong's talk about the creation of his garden at the Laskett, which we hope to visit next year. Lord Rothschild kindly entertained members of Council and Sir Roy to lunch before the lecture and provided warm hospitality at the venue for this talk, the Dairy at Waddesdon, for which the Trust is very grateful.

Planning Co-ordinator's Report: In the absence of Geoff Huntingford, Sarah Rutherford presented an outline of the Planning Group's activities during the year, as part of the Chairman's Report. Sarah explained that the work divided broadly into casework advice and comment on draft policy documents. There seemed to have been an avalanche of weighty policy documents this year.

Casework: The Trust had contributed advice towards BCC's action over dumping of waste on a second site adjacent to the parkland at Latimer Park, a grade II Registered site. The Trust had advised the County on the unacceptably detrimental impact which leaving the waste in situ would have on the designed landscape, and that spreading the waste on the registered site was also unacceptable. At Mentmore (registered grade II*) advice was provided to the Forestry Commission on proposals for grant-aided planting of parkland trees which had not taken account of the ornamental character of the adjacent planting. At Weston Underwood comments were made to MKDC on the



Mick Thompson leads us around the gardens at Ashridge, and what a surprise the BGT is over the county boundary and it's raining again

likely damage to the historic character and fabric of the C18 walled garden which would occur as a result of the proposed scheme for building of a new house in the garden. At Bulstrode Park (registered grade II) we offered no objection to South Bucks DC regarding the conversion of the stables into residential accommodation, as at Denham Place (registered grade II) where the house is being converted back from offices to a domestic house. At Cliveden (registered grade I) we offered no objection in principle to South Bucks DC regarding the development of the hospital site for housing as long as the new scheme did not affect the registered site. At Dropmore we advised South Bucks DC on the conversion of the burnt out house and associated buildings to residential units, with the intended restoration of the very dilapidated garden (registered grade II).

It was pointed out to members that the Trust is not invited as a matter of course to comment on applications for historic parks and gardens by some Bucks planning authorities, and that at other sites we have learnt of proposals too late to comment. For example, at Tyringham (registered grade II) we were too late to comment on the proposed new houses to be built on the outside of the Sir John Soane walled garden which are intended to help finance the restoration of the house, garden and Lutyens garden pavilions. Members were asked to watch out for proposals in their local area of Bucks which it would be appropriate for the Trust to comment on and inform members of the Planning Group. The level of expertise in Bucks local authorities on how to approach historic parks and gardens is often minimal and being reduced, particularly with, for example, the loss of Mike Ryan at MKDC whose post as Conservation Officer will not apparently be directly replaced as part of a cost cutting exercise.

Policy: The Planning Group had responded to at least 5 major draft policy documents which covered historic park and garden issues and particular thanks was due to Carolyn Adams for her advice. Responses had been provided for the BCC Planning and Environment Service Plan 2003-06; Department of Culture, Media & Sport Designation Review paper regarding the revision of the current major heritage designations: listing scheduling and the gardens Register; Sub-regional strategy for the South Midlands and Milton Keynes; BCC Structure Plan; BCC Housing Potential Study.

It was explained that the Planning Group always welcomed new members and would be pleased to hear from anyone who wished to participate.

Rosemary Jury proposed the adoption of the Chairman's Report, seconded by Sarah Rutherford. Carried.

Election of Council: The Chairman appealed for other members to join Council. The Trust is now an officially constituted charity. The election of the 2003/04 Council members en bloc, minus Michael Walker and John Chapman, to serve for 2004/05 was proposed by Eric Throssell as follows:

- Charles Boot (Chair)
- Sarah Rutherford (Vice-Chair and Secretary)
- Carolyn Adams
- Stephanie Lawrence (Research co-ordinator)
- Brian Dix
- Candy Godber (Treasurer)
- David Hillier
- Geoff Huntingford (Planning Co-Ordinator)
- Rosemary Jury (Membership and Event Secretary)
- Richard Wheeler

Mr Everett seconded that they be re-elected en-bloc. Carried.

Any other business: There was no other business raised.

A VISIT TO STOKE POGES MEMORIAL GARDENS AND BULSTRODE PARK

Never before have I visited a memorial garden of such scale and splendour, so our group tour of Stoke Poges Memorial Gardens on 17 July was for me a special and fascinating experience.

These memorial gardens are registered as Grade II listed gardens on the English Heritage *Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England*. They are considered unique in England and are one of the few examples of gardens of the period that remain unchanged. They are an important example of the work in the 1930s of Edward White, a leading landscape architect of his day.



Another illustration from Peacock's *Polite Repository* (1806) showing the original site of the Memorial Gardens as seen by Humphry Repton in 1806

The gardens cover 20 acres (9 hectares). The original concept was to provide a sense of unity to the site, whilst still allowing individuals to purchase and care for small plots within the area. A strong architectural design was needed to make such a concept work well. There was no existing precedent for such a design. A central path leading to a pond and fountain forms the main axis from which secondary paths extend at right angles, and link to winding paths and small gardens, and water gardens around the perimeter.

By the end of the twentieth century the fabric of the gardens and the trees and plants were suffering from ageing and disease. The Heritage Lottery Fund provided £500,000, The Mobbs Memorial Fund provided £200,000 and South Bucks District Council £200,000. A two-year refurbishment of the gardens was completed in 2004. There has been replanting of trees, reinstatement of paths, an impressive new wooden arch leading into the main garden, replacement of beams in the colonnade, and the installation of 32 fountains. Water sources and rills and bridges have been repaired, and there has been a major replanting of the rose gardens and parterres.

The central axis is formal and tightly designed; as one moves out to the edges of the site, the style becomes more rustic, and in the case of the individually owned gardens, more idiosyncratic. It is still possible for members of the public to purchase plots, and to visit the gardens.

Our next visit that afternoon was to Bulstrode Park, near Gerrards Cross, and this offered a strong contrast with the Memorial Gardens. The estate, originally about 300 hectares, and owned by the Dukes of Portland, is now vastly smaller in size [this is debatable, we only visited part of it, Ed.], and in the possession of the Worldwide Evangelisation for Christ International organisation. In the 17th century the gardens were laid out formally, but during the 18th and 19th centuries both Capability Brown and Humphry Repton made their mark on the

estate, introducing a much less formal design, with woodlands, lakes and exotic developments. Despite reduced circumstances, the WEC works hard to maintain the gardens. A small lake has recently been cleared, and there is ongoing work to care for and replant the many beautiful trees. The WEC makes visitors most welcome so if you were not able to join our visit in July but would like to look at Bulstrode Park phone 01753 884631.

Valerie Twiss

AGT CONFERENCE 2004

THIS GREEN AND PLEASANT LAND: THE CASE FOR SUSTAINABILITY IN THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

Friday 15 October 2004

EH Lecture Theatre, Savile Row, London W1X 1AB

The aim of the conference is to highlight new policies and to examine case studies that demonstrate ways of achieving successful regeneration in areas that are part of our heritage. With development comes pressure on green space, be it a space between two buildings or a Repton park. Development requires an interdisciplinary approach so that the historic environment and new initiatives can co-exist, to the benefit of both. The knowledge of how sustainable quality solutions can be achieved is paramount to the success of new projects in sensitive areas.

PROGRAMME

9.30 am: Registration and coffee, 10.00: Conference opens

Chairman: Gilly Drummond, President AGT

KEYNOTE SPEECH by The Rt Hon John Gummer MP

Green Spaces: The Catalyst for Change

Peter Matthew, Head of Liveability and Sustainable Communities, Office of the Deputy Prime Minister

HELM: The Historic Environment and Local Management

Deborah Lamb, Director of Policy and Communications EH

Sustaining our Heritage: Ten Years of HLF

Kate Clark, Deputy Director of Policy and Research HLF

Buffet Lunch

CABE Space: Open for Business

Alan Barber, Commissioner, CABE

Ensuring the Future of the Peak District National Park

Jim Dixon, Chief Executive, The Peak District NPA

Practical Solutions to Stakeholder Sustainability

T N H Sanderson, Eshott Hall Estate

The Sustainable People's Park

Michael Rowan, Director of Mile End Park, London

Campbell Square and the Rope Walks: Conservation and

Regeneration in Partnership

Charlie Parker, Executive Director of Regeneration Liverpool City Council

Summary of the day by the Chairman

4.45: Tea and close of Conference

CONFERENCE FEE: £75,

to include coffee, buffet lunch and tea

The Association of Gardens Trusts gratefully acknowledges the help and support of the following organisations: English Heritage & NFU Mutual

AND FINALLY A VISIT TO HARTWELL

A big crowd of Gardens Trusts members assembled at Hartwell for a bit of light croquet, a simple tea and a tour of the gardens to see Eric Throssell's restoration of the Folly Arch and surrounding garden elements. After a rousing match we set off into the southern pleasure gardens, ably led by Eric. After a look at surviving elements of the ha-ha we approached a small doorway, now found to contain elements that have enabled Eric to reconstruct, if only on paper, the Long Gallery of the earlier house. We then went on to admire the reconstituted Folly Arch with its many re-carved elements based on surviving fragments and Eric's interpretation of Nebot's paintings. Finally we toured the further garden with its newly reconstructed clinker archway and another temple that Eric may have to rebuild. There are also the walled garden and glass houses to reconstruct... A small party went off to view the rediscovered viewing mount.



The Oxfordshire Gardens Trust's winning team, led by Chairman Richard Mawrey, power ahead of the field

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The deadline for the next issue of *The Bucks Gardener* is 15 December 2004

Items are welcomed on all aspects of gardens and gardening in Bucks (and elsewhere), both ancient and modern.

Please send all contributions to me, preferably electronically, at: charlesboot@mac.com or at the address above.