

The Bucks Gardener

Issue 26

The Newsletter of the Buckinghamshire Gardens Trust

Autumn 2007

OUR SPRING TALKS SERIES, 2008

All talks will take place as usual in the Power House at Waddesdon Manor, Aylesbury. This year's series, our eleventh, takes a new look at the development of the English Landscape style of gardening, arguably England's greatest contribution to world culture. The three speakers look at the subject from differing viewpoints, and the whole will make up a stimulating and exciting new overview of the subject, a mini-symposium in three parts.

Tim Richardson

The Arcadian Friends:

Inventing the English Landscape Garden

2.30pm, Saturday 26 January

Tim Richardson discusses the birth of the English landscape garden, specifically his suggestion that it began with the newly established English and Dutch politicians of the 1680s, making more naturalistic gardens as an expression of support for William of Orange. Tim will go on to explain how politics proved to be the impulse for the further development of landscape design, especially in the case of Joseph Addison, the journalist and Whig *spin doctor* whom Tim styles the Peter Mandelson of his day.

Tim Richardson is a council member of the Garden History Society, and a well-known writer on gardens, theatre and sweets! A degree in English at Oxford led to work on the biographical section of the *RHS Dictionary of Gardening* (1991). He has been gardens editor of *Country Life* and the founder editor of *Country Life Gardens Annual* and *New Eden* magazines. He is now a freelance gardens writer contributing to many publications, and edited *The Garden Book* for Phaidon, a book on Martha Schwartz and *English Gardens of the Twentieth Century*. His recent books include *Vista: The Culture and Politics of Gardens* with Noel Kingsbury and of course *The Arcadian Friends*, copies of which will be available on the day.

Caroline Dalton

'Out of Bushes, Boggs and Briars':

Sir John Vanbrugh as Landscape Designer

2.30pm, Saturday 23 February

The early eighteenth century was a time of transition in garden design, from the formality of the seventeenth century towards the freedom of the English landscape garden. The first twenty years of the century are often viewed as a time when writers such as Shaftesbury, Addison and Pope talked about informality, but there was very little evidence of it on the ground. Caroline analyses the scientific and political driving forces behind a garden design revolution that was palpable in the then new landscapes of Castle Howard, Blenheim, Claremont and Stowe by 1720. It examines the role of Sir John Vanbrugh and some of his associates in the Kit Cat Club, in designing landscapes that were sympathetic to topography and which encompassed the surrounding countryside, long before William Kent 'leaped the fence'.

After working in the Information Technology industry for 25 years, in the UK and in the US, Australia, Egypt and Norway, Caroline Dalton has returned to academia to pursue a lifelong interest in garden history, and completed the MA course at Bristol University in 2006. She is now working on a PhD, again at Bristol, entitled 'The Gardens of The Kit Cat Club'. She has taught on the MA Garden History course at Bristol, and has written a report on the evolution of the landscape at Newark Park Gloucestershire for the National Trust.

John Phibbs

Planting as Architecture

2.30pm, Saturday 15 March

John Phibbs asks how far one can analyse landscape by the same principles as those used in architecture, and what a Gothic (as opposed to a classical) planting might be; are garden features themselves Gothic or not? And if so, should one call them Whig or Tory? Looking at parallels and distinctions between the design of buildings and of landscape, this will be the first (and only) lecture he'll give on a concept which he has called 'inscription', and is 'a particularly cherished and unlikely theory'. After concentrating his thoughts for some years on the analysis of landscape design, especially through the use of projective geometry in seemingly informal landscapes, he moves on to set these landscapes in a broader architectural context, growing out of his ideas about the distribution of features within landscape. This approach proposes function as the root of English design.

John Phibbs is a garden historian with Debois Landscape

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Survey Group, founded in 1980, a practice that specialises in the management and understanding of historic landscapes; generally but not always places associated with country houses. They have worked on over 600 sites, the greatest concentration being in the south of England, where the storms of 1987 and 1991 had their greatest impact. He serves on various committees, notably the National Trust Gardens Panel (which guides overall policy on gardens in the Trust's ownership) and The Garden History Society's Conservation Committee, which is concerned with national policy on landscape, and with many individual cases of development in historic landscapes.

Tea is included in the ticket price, and the Manor's gardens will be open from 10am, along with the Aviary, Gift & Wine Shops, Restaurants and new Children's Woodland Playground. In good weather there is still a lot to see in the gardens so do try to arrive early and why not have lunch (reservations: 01296 653242). Talks are open to all; members of The Buckinghamshire Gardens Trust benefit from reduced prices. Tickets are £10 to members of the BGT, £12 others. Please book using your debit or credit card at Waddesdon, telephone: 01296 653 226, remembering to tell the office if you are members of the BGT or another County Garden Trust and/or the National Trust.

HALTON REVISITED

Some illustrations showing the gardens and Winter Gardens at Halton have come to light published in a *Supplement to the Gardeners' Chronicle* for 5 October 1889, a few years after the building of the house.

In her book *The Rothschild Gardens*, Miriam Rothschild says that Alfred de Rothschild "took an immense amount of trouble cramming his conservatory with palms, bamboos, a huge variety of ferns obtained from Veitch, exotic flowers and roses at all seasons of the year. It was a completely theatrical arrangement, but impressive."

I hope our illustration goes some way to showing this. Members who came on our visit will remember that the Winter Garden was demolished and replaced with the present handsome, if bulkier, RAF accommodation block. They will also remember that the fountain now only survives in a truncated form. Here it can be seen in all its former glory, with the flower beds and their urns marching cheerfully back up towards Alfred's chateau, rather than the current rather gloomy 'cypress' avenue.



Gardeners' Chronicle



Gardeners' Chronicle

FROM THE CHAIR

Rereading my last version, written in the Spring, brings it home to me how long this edition has taken to come out. I can't say put together because that does not take so long, and it seems a good moment here to thank my proof-reader Sarah (any mistakes, and there always are a few, are usually due to last minute additions made by me). It had been a very long and wet winter, and that editorial must have been written in April's brief hot spell. Now the first frosts have again been and gone, and on a short stay at my Dad's in France in November it snowed, on the Côte d'Azur! Climate change or weather I leave to you. We did manage to get out the *Flowers in the Landscape* symposium papers, and should have the follow-up *Talking Heads* out early next year. That will be followed by another Newsletter, in March, for which I already have quite a bit of material, and which should have most of next year's programme in it.

Richard Wheeler (who seems to have an even higher appearance rate than usual in this issue), dropped the bombshell

at the AGM that he had not become a Life Member because he never expected us to last but had to eat his words, as we are finishing our tenth year of existence. I would like to thank you all once again for staying with us, and to promise that I will maintain *The Bucks Gardener's* current erratic publication schedule as long as time and energy allow.

I am especially looking forward to this year's Talks programme. This mini symposium on the early days of the landscape garden, will be pulled together in the final talk by Johnny Phibbs who, as those who attended his Langley Park Walk will attest, can always be relied on to offer a thought provoking insight into the nooks and crannies of garden history.

I hope to say more about the AGT parks and gardens database in the next issue. It should be our springboard to researching the county's rich garden heritage; sometimes the big ones absorb all our interest. Perhaps Maureen Thomas's plea for information on the final page points to the way we ought to move forward.

Chard Boot

QUEEN CHARLOTTE AND PICTURESQUE FLOWER GARDENING

It is inevitable that as soon as one publishes something, new thoughts and connections occur. Shortly after we had gone to press with Flowers in the Landscape Mavis Batey sent in this item. Later again I was looking through an album of undated engravings, and found the illustration of the Orangery at Nuneham (overleaf), and Mavis kindly gave us her thoughts on that too. Just to recap, Lady Lee of Hartwell was the sister of Lord Harcourt at Nuneham, where she grew up.

Queen Charlotte's friendship with the Harcourts of Nuneham Courtenay would have a direct influence on her flower gardening at Frogmore. Lady Harcourt became Lady of the Bedchamber in 1784 and remained Queen Charlotte's intimate and valued friend for the rest of her life. The royal party drove over several times from Windsor to visit Nuneham. The King, George III thought it the most enjoyable place he knew with a most 'beautiful flower garden' and the Princesses thought the Harcourts 'the very best people in the Kingdom after Mama and Papa.'

Nuneham's flower garden, laid out by the Harcourt's poet-gardener friend William Mason, was made famous by Paul Sandby's painting, engraved in 1777 (*below*); it was seen as a revolution in taste and sentiment as by then 'Capability' Brown landscaped gardens were in vogue for the great houses and flowers were usually relegated to the kitchen garden. Mason did not like drawing up plans for his flower gardens as he thought they should be 'varied at will' but we can find one of 1785, not in the Harcourt papers, but in the Works documents (Work 38/349) which implies that it was probably drawn for Queen Charlotte, who had just visited and longed to have such a garden herself. To achieve it she would have to wait until she acquired Frogmore in 1792. Lord and Lady Harcourt were both in her household by then and were happy to hear that she would have none other than William Mason to advise on her new flower garden. The Queen had had the chance to see another garden like Nuneham, when, on a royal visit to Plymouth in 1789, she had asked specifically to see the flower garden at Mount Edgcombe which was based on Mason's principles. Queen Charlotte had realized that Mason had invented a system that would be influential on future gardening; it would, in fact, be patronised by her son in due course at the Brighton Pavilion and popularised as Regency gardening. 'How much must Mr Mason feel', she wrote to Lord Harcourt 'when he sees his own taste not only answer to the owner, but doing justice to by the generality of people'

Unfortunately Mason was not well enough to accept the invitation to advise at Frogmore and told his friend William Gilpin that he had 'turned the honour over to an Eleve of mine in the improving way, who had formerly been my curate'. This was Christopher Alderson, who in future would also be Mason's understudy at Nuneham, and so maintain a practical link there with royal gardening. Lord Harcourt's younger brother General

William Harcourt was also much involved with the royal family at Windsor. He had been in the Queen's household ever since she arrived in England, having, in 1761, accompanied his father to the court of Mecklenburg, where the Earl had made the proxy marriage proposal to her on George III's behalf. In 1767 William transferred to the King's household and in 1789 became Deputy Lieutenant of Windsor Forest in which he acquired a property called St Leonards Hill, where Mason advised on the flower garden. He had been responsible for negotiating the acquisition of the Frogmore estate. Another important figure involved in plans for the Frogmore landscaping in the early 1790s, was Major William Price, the Queen's Vice-Chamberlain, who was the younger brother of the Picturesque landscape theorist, Uvedale Price. As he kept the Queen's gardening accounts he is sometimes referred as the sole creator of the gardens without reference to Mason's substitute, Christopher Alderson. He may well have been responsible for the ornamental water and the forest glades but there is no doubt that, like Nerina in Mason's Book iv of his *The English Garden*, Queen Charlotte's heart was set on a flower garden set aside from the landscape gardening.

'Tell me, she cry'd

Why, on these forest features all intent,

Forbears my friend some scene distinct to give

To Flora and her fragrance'



Paul Sandby's 1777 view of the Flower Garden at Nuneham

The Kew gardener, William Aiton, was available to carry out the actual planting of the Frogmore flower garden, which was made in the old kitchen garden. The Queen had always been interested in botany and at Frogmore it became a passion. Sir James Edward Smith, who had founded the Linnaean Society in 1783, had been called in to 'converse' on botany with the Queen and the Princesses and to assist with their herbaria. Horticultural matters could be discussed with William Townesend Aiton when he took over from his father as royal gardener in 1793. He would become a founder of the Royal Horticultural Society as for the Aitons botany and horticulture were one as their *Hortus Kewensis* with its catalogue of 5,500 plants, giving Linnaean names, country of origin and flowering period, showed. Nuneham greatly benefited by receiving Aiton's plants, many of them exotics transplanted from Kew to Frogmore and despatched by Alderson to Lord Harcourt, whose sister Lady Lee of Hartwell and also his brother William at St Leonard's Hill received royal plants for their Mason inspired flower gardens. It was not all one-sided as the Princess Elizabeth particularly coveted a blue hydrangea she saw at Nuneham and Lord Harcourt was able to give advice on feeding orange trees.

The Queen and Princess Elizabeth had already indulged in floral decoration at the Kew Cottage where Francis Bauer 'Botanical Painter to the Royal Gardens at Kew' made engravings, chiefly of flowers from the Cape, which they coloured under his supervision. The Cottage had been for them the sort of ladies' bower that Lady Harcourt had in the Nuneham flower garden, but more private. At Nuneham ladies were invited to gather up petals in the flower garden and make floral patterns on specially gummed paper left in the bower. Walter Clarke, the gardener seen

in Sandby's painting was always available to identify the flowers for them. At Frogmore the flowers from the garden were used in a decorative link with the house Princess Elizabeth painted flowers and made paper cut-outs on the walls of the Cross Gallery and, in a room named after her, the botanical painter Mary Moser painted garlands of flowers from the Queen's 'little paradise', her flower garden.

The Prince Regent was also interested in his mother's Mason-inspired picturesque gardening for his new Royal Lodge in Windsor Park; he had the help of William Townsend Aiton who had laid out the Frogmore flower garden. As George IV he would take this further in St James's Park where Aiton supplied the floriferous elements to Nash's picturesque shrubberies, some of which have now been successfully restored, as they have been at the Brighton Pavilion. Fortunately Prince Puckler Muskau was on hand in St James's Park with his note-taking gardener and watched the shrubberies being staked out. In his *Hints on Landscape Gardening* he helpfully gave a diagram to show how Aiton planted them, and followed the instructions on his Muskau estate. It was largely through his influence that picturesque gardening found its way to Europe.



To link the Hartwell story with the royal gardening which influenced Lord Harcourt when he was assisting his sister with her flower garden in the 1790s having made 'material alterations' at Nuneham influenced by Queen Charlotte it would be good to look out for any references to;

- Visits to Windsor or royal contacts.
- Christopher Alderson. *Mason's understudy at Frogmore and Nuneham who distributed plants.*
- *St Leonards Hill at Windsor where the younger brother William lived and had a Mason garden. It was given over to the Harcourt French refugees whom no doubt Lady Lee also befriended.*

THE GARDEN BOWER AT NUNEHAM

Mason's 4th book of his *The English Garden*, published in 1782, describes the flower garden he laid out in 1772 at Nuneham for his friend Lord Nuneham while Lord Harcourt was alive. The heroine of the romance tale, Nerina, like Lady Nuneham craved a bower 'to crown the whole' in Mason's garden dedicated to 'Flora and her fragrance'. Lady Nuneham, a poetess much admired by Walpole, had, like Nerina, rejected the orangery as suitable for her romantic pursuits. It was only in 1778 after her husband inherited and became the 2nd Earl Harcourt that she achieved her wished for 'woodbine bower'. This was not, however, a Spenserian arbour of Nature's 'owne inclinations made' but quite a substantial building with 'needful masonry' for which Walpole had tried to find a wallpaper of roses. The modest poetess used to write poems and hang them round the statues in the bower of Venus, Apollo, Psyche or Cupid and for her friends pen and paper were left on a table for them to write their own poems; those who could not compete with such a poetess could collect petals and arrange them in patterns on



gummed paper. Flora worshippers who wanted to make herbals were advised to consult Walter Clarke the gardener, whom Walpole called their Linnaeus, with any botanical enquiries.

Lord Harcourt described in his guidebook how the walk led from the Temple of Flora, seen in Sandby's painting (*above*), to the bower. Its position is clearly marked on the 1785 plan.

'The path bends to the right between large elms, and then reaches the bower, which was designed by Mr Mason for that particular spot. The front consists of three unequal arches; it is covered with climbers, and being painted green, both inside and out, is intended to convey the idea of a bower formed by the shrubs'

*Mason describes Nerina's bower more poetically as
Within the thicket, and in front compos'd,
Of three unequal arches, lowly all
The surer to expel the noontide glare,
Yet yielding liberal inlet to the scene.
Woodbine with jasmine carelessly entwin'd
Conceal'd the needful masonry, and hung
In free festoons, and vested all the cell.*

The newly-discovered illustration (*below*) shows the bower laid bare, divested of its honeysuckle and creepers and revealing Mason's 'needful masonry'. It seems to be an enlarged vignette from a pocket almanac, like Peacock's *Polite Repository*, most popular in Regency times. After the 2nd Earl's death in 1809 he was succeeded by his brother, who seldom visited Nuneham preferring his house at Windsor and the bower had by then obviously been divested of its romantic festoons and is called a pavilion in the illustration. He was the last true Harcourt of the line being followed by Archbishop Vernon, who took the name of Harcourt. The publisher was confused by the genealogy and the illustration is wrongly captioned, as there never was a Lord Courtenay. The Harcourt ancestral home was Stanton Harcourt; they moved to Nuneham Courtenay in 1759, but they had no relationship with the Norman Courtenays who held Newnham as it was called until 1764. The date of the illustration must be 1809–30.

By the time the Victorian Harcourt papers were written the bower had become merely an ornamental seat. In the 1970s restoration a wrought iron bower was attached to the derelict orangery wall and Marvell's inscription from the bower was put above the seat.

*Fair Quiet have I found thee
here,
With innocence thy sister dear
Mavis Batey*

SPOT THE CHURCH

As I read Mr Child's *Discovering Churches and Churchyards* (*see also our review on page 15*), I made a list of churches and churchyards in parks and gardens in Bucks. It occurred to me it would be even more interesting to try and categorise them within their landscape settings.

How were churches incorporated into designed landscapes? Sometimes as part of the furniture, low key and part of the background setting, or as a prominent but harmonious landscape feature within the park, the churchyard planted to fit with the park design and enhance views of the church. Or again, as a park

eye-catcher, a great flourishing declaration of the owner's taste, imagination and financial status.

Many mansions remain on the site of the medieval manor house. They usually stand close to the church, and the site of a settlement, whether or not it survived later landscaping works. The lowest key churches, which fit quietly into the background, include Chicheley and Chilton. Standing close to the house they form part of the adjacent settlement, setting and service spaces, while the gardens and grounds spread out on the opposite side, making the designer statement. No one seems to have bothered too hard to try and make a feature of them in the landscape design. Similarly, Mentmore church is prominent from the road but is largely hidden by trees and shrubs from the mansion and gardens. It was virtually rebuilt in the 1850s, funded by the Jewish Rothschild banking family shortly after Paxton and Stokes built the house, and laid out the great Victorian set-piece gardens and park. The church at Wotton Underwood stands behind the village green on the main road/drive to the house. It seems diffident, unsure whether or not to be part of the designed landscape, but forms a lovely part of the pastoral approach. By contrast at the sister landscape Stowe the one feature which was minimised in its impact was the modest parish church (in which 'Capability' Brown was married). It was retained but seriously sidelined and surrounded by trees to be kept out of important views. The adjacent village was replaced by the pleasure grounds, where the Temples preferred to promote pagan allusions mostly in alien Classical style to overt Established Church ones.

Others churches close to the mansion had to provide more positive interest within the landscape design. Gayhurst was rebuilt in the forecourt in the early C18 next to the Elizabethan house and is prominent from the park and main drive. Claydon stands next to the house in the park, again in the medieval relationship, and also forms part of the park scenery. A village must have gone from here like at Gayhurst, which was removed around the time the church was rebuilt and the park landscaped.

The medieval Chenies church stands adjacent to the formal avenue approach to the Tudor house, linking house and village. The church tower, as we rediscovered on our recent BGT visit, dominates the forecourt and kitchen garden but compliments the scale of the house and walled forecourt. But its real glory, the Russell chapel, is invisible, tucked away behind the church. Bradenham also stands next to the Manor House and its formal garden enclosures, making an iconic scene overlooking the cricket ground, reproduced on so many calendars. Even more engaging is the tiny church remnant at Horsenden, behind Princes Risborough station, set in a little churchyard that overlooks the modest early C19 Manor House across its front lawn.

Churches commonly formed prominent park features. Tyringham, Hughenden, and the Great Missenden all stand in the park on medieval sites, visible in the main approaches and detached from the house. Perhaps clusters of village houses have gone from their skirts. Others formed features at the park

boundary or entrance. At the Prime Minister's house Chequers an interesting group of three medieval churches mark the various park approaches and lodge entrances off the Icknield Way: Great and Little Kimble and Ellesborough. Stoke Poges church stands at the edge of Stoke Park.

Such landscaped churches were not aggrandized in the same way as West Wycombe and Hartwell. These were rebuilt in the mid-C18 as garden eye-catchers in exceptional landscape designs. The medieval West Wycombe standing detached on top of the hill, above the pleasure grounds, was remodelled as a Classical box in the 1750s. The tower was earlier heightened and ornamented, with a great gilded wooden ball, to be prominent in the approaches from Oxford, London and High Wycombe, which was constructed at the same time (today's A40). It could also seat ten or so men. It was the crowning glory of the ensemble rising up the hill above the pleasure ground, including the Gothic entrance to the Caves, and the huge Classical 1760s Mausoleum below the church. The view from the cascade is still stunning, with the Music Temple reflected in the lake below.



Hartwell's now redundant church on its mound near the house

Hartwell church was built from scratch on a new site close to the old one, 1752–53, around the same time as Sir Francis Dashwood was at work at West Wycombe church. It was more evidently a garden building than a place of worship. The chosen style was an engaging Gothick executed by architect Henry Keene and it formed a key element of the garden design, with a close relationship with the house at the heart of the garden. The churchyard was left on the other side of the lane; the real world was not allowed to impinge on the Lee's great landscaping scheme. The new and whimsical St Mary's did, however, face the distant tower and spire of another St Mary's, built in real medieval

Gothic on the hill in Aylesbury. Both Hartwell and West Wycombe are beautifully lit at night when they appear to float above their landscapes and mansions.

The final category of landscaping churches is distant eye-catchers, seen from viewpoints within the designed landscape. As we have seen St Mary's Aylesbury performed this function at Hartwell, as did Ellesborough. Of course the church could not be moved (or at least rarely!), but the landscape could be manipulated to ensure that planting and buildings framed important viewlines. Olney's needle like spire was important in views from the park at Weston Underwood, particularly the Gothic Seat, recently restored. High Wycombe church was visible from Wycombe Abbey, on the opposite side of the town, as well as from the Dashwood's Mausoleum at West Wycombe. Cookham church (Berks) draws the eye down the great cliff and across the Thames from the amphitheatre at Cliveden.

There seems to be much more to say about this subject. Numerous out-county examples can be compared (Rousham and Nuneham Courtenay in Oxfordshire for a start) and I haven't touched on the planting or other work that stitched the church and churchyard to the park or garden. Perhaps someone else may be inspired to take this on as a study in his or her spare time?

Sarah Rutherford

A SELECTION OF NOTABLE BUCKS AVENUES

Although we have had to put off Sarah Couch's intended talk on avenues and their trees we are compiling a list of avenues in Bucks for future reference. Here is our initial list, but if you know of more please let us know. We will add your suggestions to the list, there should be many others. SR & CB

Black Park & Langley Park, Slough. Avenues lead away from the house with 'Capability' Brown altering the west side of the one leading north from the house.

Bulstrode, Gerrards Cross. Ancient limes in pleasure ground west of house still there (can see tops from M40), on the layout of the first Bentink garden.

Cliveden, limes along entrance avenue; mixed oak and others along parallel Green Drive, both early C18 or late C17. Green Drive was extended south in early C19, with oaks.

Dropmore, Cedar avenue, probably planted with surplus trees by Frost in the mid-C19.

Hedsor House, has an extension of the lime avenue from Cliveden entrance avenue, probably planted by Prince Fredrick in mid-C18 when he annexed Hedsor to Cliveden. Still there but not visible from Cliveden.

Chequers, beech along main drive, donated by Churchill in 1950s.

Chicheley Hall, double lime avenue on approach drive.

Claydon, several avenues including one of limes.

Harleyford, villa next to Thames, along main drive, mainly lime.

Hartwell, long double avenue aligned on North vista on main front of house.

Mentmore, Wellingtonia avenue and other species along curved main drive, mid-late C19.

Shardeloes, formal early C18 landscape had many lime avenues radiating across park on main axes. Some specimens remain. Possibly by Bridgeman.

Stowe, of course, including the one replanted along Oxford Avenue. Bridgeman origins, but many replanted by the NT, on their original lines. Grand Avenue from Buckingham 1770s

Taplow Court, Cedar Walk, grass walk or ride along top of cliff, C18 and later, for Lord Orkney between house and Cliveden. This estate extended the Cliveden landscape south (Hedsor extended it north).

Tyringham, double elm avenue extending line of Lutyens' grand water garden, 1920s, gone

Waddesdon, there was a great double avenue linking Lodge Hill (later site of Manor) with Winchendon House across park, occasional remnant trees. New avenues planted to celebrate the millennium.

Wotton Underwood, many now gone radiating from house and pleasure ground into park. Main survivor is south of house (just replanted), also stretched out to north on opposite side of house, rather scrappily replanted.

NOTES FROM STOWE

During the summer we saw the return of the statues of the Shepherd and Shepherdess to the Grecian Valley. These are two of the statues that formed a circle around the, still missing, Dancing Faun. The return of these statues is due to the generosity of Mrs Barbara Edmondson. Barbara has been a volunteer at Stowe for many years and she is also a member of the BGT.

Richard Wheeler has explained in the *Bucks Gardener* (24 p.2-4) that this group of statues formed an important link between the mythical world of the Grecian Valley and the real world of rural life in the parkland. The central dancing faun represents the fantastic creatures of the mythical world and the circle of shepherd and shepherdesses the rustic life in the park. From this site there are views in both directions to enable the garden visitor to appreciate both worlds.

The National Trust organised a small "thank you" ceremony in September, then in October the BGT organised a small lunch celebration. I know that Barbara greatly enjoyed both events.

Barbara said of the day:

"The day the BGT invited me as a guest to this very unusual event was a truly remarkable one. It was remarkable if not just for the memory of Richard Wheeler reading from Milton, as I held an umbrella to keep him and his book dry. Then mysteriously a glass of champagne appeared in my left hand as I sub-consciously realised someone was passing me something meant for holding.

The shepherd and shepherdess were meant for Stowe. I was fortunate to be the person in that passage of their history that led to their return to the area intended by Lord Cobham...

Thank you and the members present for the excellent roast lunch, champagne under the beeches on a perfect day of autumn colours."



Members gathered at Stowe on a very wet autumn day to celebrate Barbara Edmondson and her return of the Shepherds to the Grecian Valley. The more observant will notice that we had to photoshop this to get rid of fences, bare earth and trees which spoil the view on the day!

At some future date when New Inn is restored and visitor entry to the gardens is via the Bell Gate, the western garden will feature more prominently in visitors' initial perception of the garden. With this thought in mind, more restoration work will be undertaken in this part of the garden.

This has already started in an area known as the Sleeping Wood, to the south of the House next to the great south axis. This wooded area was shown on a Bridgeman view of 1719 and on Sarah Bridgeman's plan of 1739. It was created in the early 1720s adjacent to the Queens Theatre. The plans show a typical 18th C wilderness with winding paths in a grove of trees with



“This Temple is situated at the Bottom of a lovely Recess, contrived with all imaginable Art, in the Middle of a cool dark Grove; far from all Noise, and breathing, as it were, Tranquillity and Repose. Six Walks centre in this Building, which is of Free-stone; and contains only a middling Hall, where commodious Canopies invite you to Sleep; and the Walls are adorned with most charming Fresco’s of the *Cæsar’s* Heads, with several Festons of Fruit, &c. On the Frise is this inscription.

Cum omnia sint in incerto, fave tibi.

Since all things are uncertain, indulge thyself.

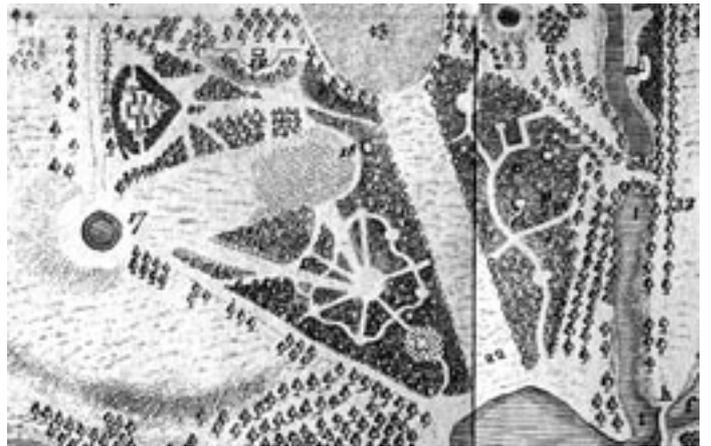
I must confess, that I think *Ovid* himself could scarce have buried the senseless God in an happier Retirement. This gloomy Darkness, these easy Couches, and that excellent *Epicurean* Argument above the Door, would incline me wonderfully to indulge a little, if these beautiful Ornaments did not keep my Attention awake: But there wants a purling Stream, to sing a *Requiem* to the Senses; though the Want is in some measure made up by the drowsy Lullabies of that murmuring Swarm, which this Shade has invited to Wanton beneath it; and, I must own, Sleeping is a Compliment as much due to this Place, as Admiration and Attention are to *Raphael*, at *Hampton Court*.”

from the Bickham’s *A Description of the Gardens*, 1753

shrubs and hedges. At the centre was a small temple designed by Sir John Vanburgh, known as the Sleeping Parlour, within the Sleeping Wood (20, upper right). Over the years various changes took place. Bickham’s plan, dated 1753, shows that the grove had been thinned. Views by Chatelain of the Queen’s Theatre do not show the hedges, so these may have been removed. The building itself was demolished in 1756 and additional trees planted. Ten years later the Seeley guide shows that views have been cut to the Rotundo and the Statue of George II (lower right). These changes made the area much less secret. By 1777 some of the winding paths had become overgrown and the cut views were being used as paths. The planting appears to be unchanged, with the shrubs now adorning the walk along the view. One of the winding paths had been extended from the Queen’s Theatre to the Quincunx, the smaller feature between the Sleeping Wood and the Octagon Lake. The Abele (poplar) Avenue (21, upper right) and some of the grove had been removed to create the south lawn and by 1820 some more of the wood was felled to extend the south lawn; but the paths and views remained essentially the same as on the 1777 map. A gravel cross path was added in the 1840s from Gurnet’s Walk through the Sleeping Wood, and many of the shrubs were removed. This left a few individual trees and two clumps. Finally one corner was lost when the golf course was created. Today, the only mature trees are some beech and a few limes at the Quincunx.



Detail of the map from Bickham’s *A Description of the Gardens*, 1753



Detail of the map from the Seeley guide book, 1763, showing changes

Archaeological work has uncovered the foundations of the Sleeping Parlour and some of the paths have been located. Current plans are to restore the wood and paths as far as practical (bearing in mind the hazard from errant golf balls) and to show an outline of the building’s foundations. This restoration will proceed in stages. Again, this has been funded by a generous benefactor.

The other event of note was the visit of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II to Stowe, on 29 November 2007. Her Majesty had lunch with over 100 guests, representing the School, National Trust staff and volunteers and local dignitaries. After lunch Her Majesty opened the new girls’ boarding house at the school. Then Her Majesty toured the gardens guided by Richard Wheeler. She met members of the National Trust staff and volunteers and together with Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, planted commemorative trees near to the Temple of Concord and Victory. They each planted a Scots pine near an existing pine so forming a small grove. This grove is in front of and just to the left of the Temple of Concord and Victory, on the edge of the view to Wolfe’s Obelisk out in the Parkland [watch out for a fuller report in the next edition].

John Walton

GARDENS FOR SCHOOLS

All thirty-four schools, originally responding to our flyer, have been visited by member volunteers, some with follow-up visits, but for many this has been a 'pump-priming' exercise.

The latest news is that **Waterside Combined School** in Chesham has received a grant of £200 from BGT enabling them to renew their pond liner and buy a green house. Not only this, but in 2007 they have won awards for Chesham in Bloom and the Regional Schools' Garden Competition. Laurette Read (one of our member volunteers) has been helping Waterside School with their gardening projects and must be congratulated.



Vegetables galore at Waterside Combined School

Little Spring School, also in Chesham, has been helped by Laurette to obtain a grant for £250 from the Chesham Building Society. A reception was held at the Society's offices in Chesham and the Headmistress was presented with the cheque.

Elangeni School in Amersham is also in process of receiving a grant from Amersham Town Council, at Laurette's instigation; much is happening on the Gardens for Schools front in the south of the county!

Jeanne Bliss is maintaining contact with six schools, also in the south of the county, and in particular with the three which have been given grants by BGT:

- **Disraeli School** in High Wycombe: £100
 - **Foxes Piece School** in Marlow: £50
 - **Broughton Junior School** in Aylesbury: £50
- and Jeanne is monitoring their progress.

Bearbrook Combined School, which has recently been given a grant of £200 by BGT, is making great progress with the help of the RHS group from Aylesbury College (the Horticultural Department is a group member of BGT). The RHS group, headed by Anna Robertson (one of our member volunteers), has designed a sensory garden for the school. It is hoped to have photographs of the scheme for the next issue of *The Bucks Gardener*.

At the **Pace Centre**, a school for children with motor impairment in Aylesbury, Mary Sarre (one of our members) is undertaking the design of a special garden for the children.

As one of our member volunteers observed, 'some schools answered our initial advert without any serious sense of commitment', but those who were committed have made the efforts of our member volunteers so worthwhile; thank you!

Rosemary Jury



Children and staff at Waterside receive their Award

From Waterside School, Blackhorse Avenue, Chesham

6 November 2007

Dear Mrs Godber,

On behalf of the whole school, and especially the Gardening Club, I would like to say a very sincere thank you for the cheque for £200 we recently received from the Bucks Gardens Trust.

Mrs Read, your local Bucks Garden Trust representative, has taken an interest in the activities of the school Gardening Club over the past year offering advice and donating plants. However, it was a complete surprise when she advised us of your generous donation and we are truly very grateful, especially as our gardening fund was down to the last few pounds.

We have 30 enthusiastic children aged from 6 to 11 years gardening every week. They gain a great deal of enjoyment and knowledge from their work in the garden and produce some excellent results. This was recognised recently in the Chesham in Bloom competition when you may have heard we were the Regional winners in the schools garden section for Bucks, Beds and Oxfordshire — quite an achievement of which we are very proud. Mrs Read thought you might like a photograph and so I enclose one showing the children receiving their award from the Lady Mayoress of Chesham.

We will be thinking very carefully over the coming weeks how best to use your donation and will, of course, let you know how we spend the money.

Once again, our sincere thanks to you and your colleagues for supporting us so generously — it really is appreciated by everyone involved in our school.

Yours sincerely,
Gareth Drawmer

To everyone at Bucks Gardens Trust
 Julie Hannah
 Many thanks for your generous donation
 from us all from Ross
 at Waterside School
 from all the gardeners! DIXIE
 Lisa Thompson
 Charlotte Cole
 Scott Rouse
 Sarah Callinicos
 Sarah Callinicos
 Sarah Callinicos

Quarrendon Tudor Water Garden visit — a report 29 April, 2007

If you are contemplating a visit to the remains of the Elizabethan country mansion and Tudor water garden in the parish of Quarrendon, just north of Aylesbury, do not be put off by the initial unprepossessing approach. The deeper one walks into the site the more lovely it becomes. I found our group visit utterly fascinating.

We were privileged to have Buckingham County Archaeologist, Mr Sandy Kidd, as our guide for the afternoon. The site has considerable interest, not only because of what it tells us about the history of the area, but because it has been at the centre of a twenty-first century planning debate.

The approach to the site is along an old concrete road leading to what had been, until the late 20th century, Quarrendon House Farm. All that now remains of the farm are the rusting skeletons of large barns. But although the farmhouse has disappeared, the trees and flowers that had once lined the driveway are still very much in evidence. After crossing a field that had once been the site of a medieval village we bore right along a track that took us to the remains of St Peter's Chapel. Today only a few crumbling walls remain, as the church was left to fall into disrepair during the 19th century. A large plaque on a nearby stone gives a brief the history of the site.

Just a short distance away are the massive earthworks of an elaborate Tudor water garden that had been part of the formal gardens of the moated residence owned by Sir Henry Lee (1533–1611), a courtier to Queen Elizabeth I. I had not been prepared for these gardens to be so vast. Paul Everson, Head of Archaeological Investigation for English Heritage describes them in the following way:

“There was a massive three-sided arrangement of broad raised terraced walks, standing as earthwork constructions over 2m high and 10–12 metres broad, and surrounded by water-filled canals. A diagonal channel within the complex probably served a mill, combining ornament with utility. The considerable amount of water within this complex fed subsidiary garden compartments to the south”.

Everson goes on to say “This 16th century garden is of great complexity and symbolism, and in its day had a major impact on the surrounding landscape” (*Conservation Bulletin* 40, March 2001).

To the east of the water garden is an area that was, in the 16th century, the moated mansion where it is believed Sir Henry might have entertained Queen Elizabeth. Beyond this is land that in the 16th century was a large enclosure or park. The distinctive group of mounds and banks on the near horizon are an extensive rabbit warren that would have been constructed to provide meat and fur for the Sir Henry's household.

During the next twenty years of the 21st century large-scale house building that is part of the South East expansion plans, will surround this Tudor site. Nearby fields will soon fall under the bulldozer as part of the Weedon Hill Development of 850 houses and ancillary facilities. Concerned local people, along with the Buckinghamshire Archaeology Department, have fought successfully to extend the area of land around the historic Tudor site in order to preserve more of the green fields. This will protect the atmosphere and beauty that the meadows and gentle slopes bring to the site.

I urge you to visit soon, before much of the surrounding area becomes a built environment.

Valerie Twiss

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at West Wycombe Park by kind permission of Sir Edward and Lady Dashwood Friday 23 June 2007

Present: The Chairman, 11 members and 2 visitors.

Apologies for Absence: Geoff and Jackie Huntingford, Stephanie Lawrence, Letitia Yetman, Valerie Twiss, Eric Throssell (drop in numbers accounted for by very, very, wet weather)

The Minutes of the 2006 AGM: The Minutes were received and accepted. David Hillier proposed the adoption of the 2006 Minutes, seconded by Richard Wheeler. Carried.

Treasurer's Report (Candy Godber): The Treasurer presented Accounts for the year ending 31 March 2007 which had been approved at a Council meeting earlier that day. She noted that printing costs again low due to fewer issues of *Bucks Gardener*. The increased subscription now covers all administration costs; eg insurance, printing and postage of all info and *Bucks Gardener*, and membership of organisations, Association of Gardens Trusts, Garden History Society, Bucks County Museum, Bucks Archaeological Society, advertising in Bucks leaflet for National Gardens Scheme (Yellow Book). This enables us to use surplus income from talks and events to fund schools work and other awards to charities eg Florence Nightingale Hospice £100 raised at memorable evening at Eythrope. The BGT ended the year with £3,444 in the current account and £2,091 in the reserve account.

David Hillier proposed the adoption of the Treasurer's report, seconded by Mick Thompson. Carried.

Chairman's Report (Charles Boot): Before this meeting we held a meeting of Council and have accepted the revised accounts and will be putting them to you for approval in a few minutes. Many thanks to Candy for preparing and presenting them; to Rosemary and Geoff and their teams who have enabled the preparation and execution of matters detailed in their respective reports. And to Sarah for organising agendas, minutes etc.

We would like to thank warmly, on your behalf, Sir Edward Dashwood for permission to hold our event here. I was delighted to be able to publish the accounts of earlier visitors in our last *Bucks Gardener*, and to note how contemporary their responses still feel.

It is a good exercise to look back over what we have done in the past year. We visited a rather down at heel Halton House. It may be of interest that the landscape of the Swiss Cottage above Halton, part of the original estate has been purchased by some Russians and restoration is in progress. This was followed by our successful seminar at Hartwell; the Ernest Cook Trust provided funding to enable the attendance of numerous interested head and other professional gardeners. It has taken longer to publish the papers than expected, but I hope they will be published in July. We had a well-attended tour of Langley Park, which has received Heritage Lottery funding, and is making progress. Their website shows progress. Among other things it seems this sleeping beauty is shaping up as one of the most important wood pastures in Britain. We had a lovely evening at Eythrope with hot sunshine, cold Saumur and good company, a fitting swan song to Anne Langton's support for the Trust. We also managed to slip in a speedy visit to Dropmore.

We had another very enjoyable AGM at Wotton Underwood, and finished the year with a visit to Nuneham Courtenay to see the gardens discussed at the seminar. Again well attended with visitors from as far afield as Bristol and Lincoln.

We had three successful talks at Waddesdon, Barry Juniper

delving deeper into the history of the apple that I had imagined possible, even passing around camel droppings to illustrate his point about seed distribution. Maggie Cambell-Culver battled uncooperative technology to give an inspiring talk on John Evelyn. Kath and Karen from Painshill reran the talk they had given at Hartwell, on the recreation and upkeep of C18 flowerbeds.

We produced two/three newsletters, with three notable articles on Cliveden (including our first excursion into colour), and contemporary accounts of Eythrope, Tyringham, West Wycombe and Stowe. I was pleased to include tributes to the late Christopher Lloyd and Philip Cotton. We began the distribution of our *newsletter* which reaches a wider audience and enables reminders and other events to be flagged up, and initiated a website, which should, in time, give us an infinite presence. And so our tenth year concludes. I do appreciate your support, and hope you will enjoy the rest of the evening.

Rosemary Jury proposed the adoption of the Chairman's report, Jane Bailey seconded the proposal. Carried.

Schools Report (Rosemary Jury): BGT has had an excellent year's interaction with schools, involving our members in a new and valuable initiative which looks set to grow. In September 2006 flyers sent to Bucks primary and Special Schools offered the help of BGT with potential garden projects, in support of an initiative by the Association of Gardens Trusts. 34 schools responded; 10 members nobly volunteered to visit the schools to see what could be done. All 34 were visited. We were surprised to find out how many children believed that carrots grew in polythene bags at Tesco, not in the ground. As expected, some schools required only one visit by way of a 'head patting' and encouragement exercise; others have implemented planting and fund raising ideas.

We now have 12 schools with gardening programmes that we are continuing to help and support, three by small grants from the Trust. These small grants are generally used as pump-priming funds to supplement schools' own funds raised from elsewhere. Council agreed to fund this as a pilot scheme and £817 was spent on schools-related expenses in 06/07. As a result £1000 has been allocated to the project for 07/08, this to include small grants of £50 to £200 for schools in particular need and to cover volunteer expenses. Grant aided schools are asked to provide reports on the use of grants to ensure that the money is appropriately used.

The RHS group from Aylesbury College has been most helpful, and as part of a certificate project is designing a sensory garden for one of our schools. So the Bucks Gardens Trust Schools Project is ongoing and I hope you will agree it is worthwhile.

Charles Boot proposed the adoption of the Schools report, David Hillier seconded the proposal. Carried.

Conservation and Planning Group Report (Geoff Huntingford): The following was undertaken:

Addington Park: Comments to AVDC on planning application for enlargement of car park and replacement of temporary stables with permanent structures.

Stowe: Comments to AVDC on PA for synthetic sports pitch with associated fencing, floodlights and access road, Bourbon Playing Fields.

Stoke Park: Comments to South Bucks DC, change of use & alteration to Health Pavilion & bedrooms

Wotton Underwood: Comments to BCC on potential repair of bridge on North Drive.

Quarrendon Tudor Garden: participated in AVDC/BCC discussions on future ownership and management

MK Landscape Character Assessment: responded to MKDC

on poor coverage of historic designed landscapes

Submission Draft of Statement of Community Involvement for Minerals & Waste Local Dev. Framework: comments to BCC

Heritage White Paper: comments to Department of Culture Media & Sport after discussions with GHS/AGT/English Heritage

Sarah Rutherford proposed the adoption of the Report, Candy Godber seconded the proposal. Carried.

Election of Council: The Chairman asked for other members to join the elected management body, Council.

The election of Council members and officers to serve for 2007/08 was proposed as follows:

Charles Boot (Chair); Sarah Rutherford (Vice-Chair and Secretary); Carolyn Adams; Candy Godber (Treasurer); David Hillier; Geoff Huntingford (Planning Co-ordinator); Rosemary Jury (Membership and Event Secretary); Mick Thompson; Richard Wheeler.

It was noted that the Treasurer wishes to stand down next year. Anyone wishing to take on this post should contact the Chair or Secretary.

Laurette Reed proposed the election, Linda Shiner seconded the proposal. Carried.

Election of Trustees: As the Trust is an officially constituted charity and a limited liability company it has four trustees who are responsible for controlling the management and administration of the charity. One third of the trustees are required by the Trust's Articles of Association to retire annually, but are eligible for re-election. All four trustees stood down and were willing to stand for re-election.

David Hillier proposed the election, Julia Harvey seconded the proposal. Carried.

Any other business: The Treasurer proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman for all his hard work over the previous year. Carried.



The meeting was followed by a tour of West Wycombe Park kindly guided by Richard Wheeler and a jovial picnic in the welcome shelter of the South Colonnade. The sun nearly broke out as we left West Wycombe's hospitable embrace.



Members and guests making the best of it at West Wycombe. You can't stop us enjoying ourselves, despite the best an English summer can throw at us. I hope we lived up to Sir Francis Dashwood and the Hellfire Club's expectations.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE GARDENS TRUST
Accounts for year ending March 31 2007

INCOME

2006		2007
£950.00	Members subs	£1,350.00
£4,698.00	Events	£3,281.00
£0.00	Donations	£150.00
£0.00	Misc	£0.00
£0.00	Inland Rev-Gift aid	£242.56
£5,648.00		£5,023.56

EXPENDITURE

£197.98	Admin	£365.87
<small>£141.33</small>	<small>Postage</small> <small>£51.40</small>	
£1,906.26	Events	£5,044.58
£338.76	Printing	£408.68
£410.75	Misc	£761.00
£0.00	Donations, prizes, grants	£100.00
£0.00	Schools	£817.60
£2,995.08		£3,444.43
£2,652.92	Surplus for year	-£2,525.57
£3,316.55	Carried forward 1/4/06	£5,970.17
£5,969.47	Total	£3,444.60
£0.70	Adjustment	-£0.17
£5,970.17	In bank 31/4/07	£3,444.43

BALANCE SHEET MARCH 2006

Fixed assets	£576.00	
Less depreciation	£57.60	
		<u>£518.40</u>
Current bank acct	£3,444.43	
Sundry debtors	£0.00	
Less current liabilities		
Sundry creditors & accruals	£0.00	
Net current assets		£3,817.23
Net assets		£4,335.63
Business instant access account		£1,550.62
Transfer from current account	£500.00	
Interest	£41.33	
In bank 31/4/07		£2,091.95

Notes to accounts

As usual a full set of our accounts can be obtained from our Treasurer Candy Godber; her address appears on the final page of this newsletter.

Administration is higher as we got two AGT charges in one year, all to do with year end differences.

Events costs appear high as our Roy Strong trip was included in this year's accounts as he mislaid his cheque, and failed to notify us, so surplus had to be carried over. Also the donation from The Ernest Cook Trust towards the Hartwell Seminar was carried forward from the previous year and sat in the bank till the bills were paid in the summer.

Talking Heads — Garden Statuary in the C18
The Bucks Gardens Trust Hartwell Seminar 2007

Hartwell House is a splendid and utterly appropriate setting for a garden history seminar; the garden illustrates the subject. After registration and a welcome cup of coffee, we were all welcomed by our host Richard Broyd, of Historic House Hotels.

The first speaker was John Edmondson, from the National Museums Liverpool, who spoke about Ince Blundell, to set the scene for the C18 century sculpture collectors. Henry Blundell acquired a large collection of antique statuary; he was, in fact one of the great collectors of the late C18. He then set about displaying his collection in and around the landscape on his estate at Ince, near Liverpool. He erected two garden buildings as galleries in which to display his sculpture. One of these buildings was in the form of a miniature version of the Roman Pantheon. At this time it was an unusual use for garden buildings. Other pieces of sculpture were displayed, in the open, around the garden. The collection was acquired by Liverpool Museum and a programme of restoration is now under way.

Richard Wheeler entertained us in his inimical fashion with a look at the statuary at Hartwell during the time of Sir Thomas and Sir Richard Lee, based on the set of eight pictures by Balthazar Nebot. These pictures show the garden, with avenues lined with high hedges, regular canals, much classical statuary, a range of figures including both the gentry and the estate workers and the inevitable flying herons. Richard gave us an amusing insight into what was supposedly happening in these scenes. The Lees were related to John Hampden and shared his political ideals and these are reflected in the buildings and statues that graced the garden. A talk by Richard would not be complete without some poetry, in this case a poem by Alexander Merrick on the delights of Hartwell.

Tim Knox, director of the Sir John Soane Museum, London, spoke about the problems of caring for and restoring sculpture. Problems have arisen as a result of well-meaning but harmful restoration that had been done in the past. The problems of lead statues were particularly amusing, as these can partially collapse and ladies being held aloft can end up looking most undignified. Chemical corrosion can cause disfiguring stains that are not easy to remove or prevent. We are all familiar with the erosion that the elements can wreak on soft limestone and sandstone. Often, if these statues are to be preserved for posterity then replicas must take their place in exposed environments and the originals stored in a controlled atmosphere, indoors.

After coffee, Jan Clark, a volunteer from Painshill, took us on a journey following the travels or should I say the travails of Charles Hamilton's statue of Bacchus. This sculpture's peregrinations led from his Temple at Painshill to Fonthill, Wiltshire, on to Hafod in Wales and back to England to Ashridge and on to his present (I daren't say final) resting place at Anglesey Abbey, Cambs. Jan spoke eloquently about the people involved and their reasons for moving this important work of art.

Richard Wheeler's second talk concluded the morning session. This was on the choice of Hercules between vice and virtue, which features prominently in gardens such as Stowe, West Wycombe and Stourhead. Hercules is often portrayed in pictures having to choose between the path of virtue, which is steep and rocky and is pointed to by a virtuous maiden, and the path of vice, which is smooth and level and is indicated by a lady of a more tempting disposition. Richard mentioned the overt sexual imagery at West Wycombe, and the fact that at Stourhead the Temple of Virtue (Apollo) is at the highest point of the Gardens. At Stowe the visitor, entering through the Bell Gate was

immediately faced, firstly with Sleeter's murals in the 'heathen' Lake Pavilions depicting scenes from an opera, where the hero prefers his hounds to his lover. Then he had a choice to turn to the left and take the path of vice down towards the Temple of Venus or to take the path to the right through the garden of virtue and eventually up to the Temple of Ancient Virtue. Richard tackled this choice between vice and virtue with his usual gusto!

After an excellent buffet lunch, in bright summer sunshine, we set off on a tour of the garden with Richard. We were able to relate what we can see today to the earlier views of the garden as shown in Richard's morning talk. We then had our own choice to make but not between vice or virtue but between whether to take a walk with Eric Throssell to see the restoration work that he has undertaken and to see the preliminary stages of the restoration of Lady Elizabeth Lee's flower garden or to go with head gardener Mark Jackman & Richard Wheeler and venture out as far as the Egyptian Spring.



Richard Wheeler and Term at Gibbs's Temple at Hartwell House

After two long walks under a hot sun, tea was very welcome. The seminar concluded with a chance to question the day's speakers.

John Walton



Talking Heads *should now be out early in 2008. CB*

Bletchley Park — Independence Day Celebration Saturday June 30 2007

Although we were celebrating with our American visitors their Independence day we were also commemorating a momentous event which brought us together in May 1943. A British/ United States of America agreement, unofficially called BRUSA, was drawn up opening the way to full scale intelligence co-operation between Bletchley Park and Arlington Hall, our American counterpart. No other two foreign powers had ever taken such a step before and it was indeed the beginning of a 'very special relationship', as Churchill called it, which lasted through the Cold War and still exists between GCHQ and NSA today.

The person who had nursed the relationship even before

America came into the War was Commander Denniston, who had been the Head of the Government Code and Cypher School since it was set up after WW1. He established a firm friendship and understanding with America's ace cryptographer, William Friedman, the Director of the US Army Signals Intelligence Service at Arlington Hall in Virginia. When Denniston first visited him in 1941 the common ground was the breaking of the Japanese diplomatic code generated by what was called the 'purple machine'. Earlier in the year Friedman had surreptitiously sent over his model of it to Bletchley Park. Denniston's secretary, Barbara Abernethy recalls the great secrecy of its reception in his office, the room ahead of us, how on no account must it be revealed that the four persons who had brought it were Americans; she must just bring in the sherry and depart asking no questions.

After Pearl Harbor when Americans could be officially recognised as allies, intelligence co-operation came first with the Navy owing to the desperate need to co-operate over breaking U-boat codes in the Battle of the Atlantic on which so much depended. The first American naval officer to appear sent by OP-20-G, the Navy's communications intelligence section, was Joe Eachus, in 1942, not as a visitor or liaison officer but as a working cryptographer on naval codes in Hut 8. This was the beginning of a different kind of special relationship as later he married Barbara Abernethy, Denniston's secretary, and when he appeared on a TV programme and was asked about Bletchley Park he said that the best thing about his intelligence work there was finding Barbara. He was not the only American to find a bride here.

A much wider field of co-operation between all the services was needed with the planning of the invasion of Europe in 1943, when breaking German army, air force, secret service and diplomatic codes would be of vital importance. The details of BRUSA agreement, which would bring nearly 300 Americans to Bletchley Park, were worked out in the same room in front of us where the sherry was brought out for the original incognito Americans, but this time Commander Travis was in charge, Denniston having been transferred to London. Alfred Friendly, later to become managing editor of the Washington Post, who would be one of the new recruits bewildered by Bletchley Park, described it as a 'ghastly late Victorian mansion' built by some tycoon, whilst another thought it must be a left over 1920s movie set. Be that as it may, the morning room of Lady Leon, the tycoon's wife, was to become an historic site at the May conference. Travis had asked William Friedman to chair the meeting but he insisted that the honour should go to Colonel Tiltman, the British chief cryptographer, who provided hospitality after the business was over in his house by the gate to toast ULTRA, the name agreed for the intelligence derived from breaking German top secret codes and disseminating it securely to commanders in the field.

Friedman came over here for a celebratory dinner on VE day when the allied co-operation on all fronts had brought victory in Europe; the menu was Soup ULTRA, Chicken ARLINGTON and a Dessert à la mode BRUSA, which tied it all up nicely. It was on Bletchley Park's 60th anniversary of D-day in 2004 that it was decided to plant an American garden trail with state tree and flower emblems and today we continued the trail by planting an American dogwood, the emblem of Virginia, in this shrubbery to commemorate the very special relationship we had with Arlington Hall and our American colleagues in WW2 ULTRA days.

Mavis Batey

BUILDING IN GARDENS — from the CPRE

Q: Developers want to build 48 houses in an old garden in my village. They say that it's a 'brownfield' site so the council cannot refuse planning permission. Is this inevitable?

A: No. The Government's planning policy on housing (*PPG3*) requires previously developed ('brownfield') land to be developed before greenfield sites, to make better use of land and protect the countryside. The definition of previously developed land (*PPG3, Annex C*) includes 'the area of land attached to a building', including gardens. But just because land fits the definition doesn't automatically mean that it must be redeveloped. What brownfield land has been identified in your planning authority's urban housing capacity study? Sites like disused factories should be brought back into use before gardens are considered.

Villages get a special mention (*PPG3, paragraph 70*) as being unsuitable for significant extra housing (which can be fewer than 20 houses in a small village) unless a number of conditions are met, which include local need and design in keeping with the village's character. Other conditions must be met, too. Where are the nearest jobs, shops and leisure opportunities? Would new residents need a car to reach them? If so, the site would fail the test of ensuring that new housing is built where occupiers do not need a car to meet daily needs.

Other groups can help with a proposal. Is the garden valuable for wildlife? Contact your local Wildlife Trust or English Nature. Are there important trees, which should be protected? Ask the council to consider a Tree Preservation Order. Could the garden be historically important? Contact the Garden History Society. Is it in a conservation area? Special rules apply. Clearly, there's nothing inevitable about garden development.

If the land meets all development conditions and you think it could be a good place for well-designed, affordable housing for villagers, then ask your council to 'seek to match every new market house with an affordable home', as is mentioned in the Government's Rural White Paper. And use *PPG3* to push for good design, respecting local character.

As a county gardens trust we are there for just such situations. If you have noticed this happening near you please let us know, The AGT has been prominent in supporting the various Private Members Bills to promote this cause, though they have yet to prove successful.

LANGLEY PARK ON THE TV — again

You may have seen Langley Park on the television recently in yet another drama series. The front of the house provided the backdrop for a party in Stephen Poliakoff's recent three part BBC drama, and the upper storey of the former Winter Garden did service as the converted Winter Garden at Michael Gambon's character's London house. Both Langley and perhaps more especially Black Park regularly appear in films and on television, due to their useful location and a discrete gate opening directly from the Pinewood Studios backlot.

LOTTERY SUCCESS FOR LANGLEY PARK

Buckinghamshire County Council has achieved a major Heritage Lottery Fund award for the beautiful and historic Langley Park in Wexham. The award of just under £2 million will provide a major boost for the Park as part of a £3 million project to restore rare and historic features, including the extensive rhododendron garden, the Lancelot 'Capability' Brown designed

lake and to provide better pathways, improved facilities and more information for visitors.

Langley Park is owned by Buckinghamshire County Council and is one of the oldest parks in Buckinghamshire, dating as far back as the C13. A large area of the Park is operated by the Council as a country park, including the popular rhododendron garden set around a stunning viewpoint towards Windsor Castle some five miles away. The Park is full of historic features, including many magnificent old trees that provide a stronghold for rare insect wildlife.

The award comes as the result of an extensive programme of surveys and research into the Park's history, on-going consultations into what local residents and visitors need to help them access and enjoy the Park, and a considerable amount of support and assistance from local volunteers and partner organisations. Much of this work was funded through an earlier project development grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Margaret Dewar, Cabinet Member for Community Services said, "I am so pleased for everyone involved in this project. It has been such hard work over a long period of time, nearly seven years, to achieve this award. Langley Park is a beautiful and fascinating place and is a tremendous asset to the County Council and the community in Buckinghamshire. This award will enable us to conserve the special features of the Park and make it easier for all visitors to enjoy its heritage, especially visitors with special access needs. So many people have helped us in this project, for which we are very grateful, and without their commitment and enthusiasm this award would not have happened. We now look forward to working with them again as the project goes forward."

Sheena Vick, Heritage Lottery Fund Manager for the South East of England, said, "Our parks are a much loved legacy from earlier generations and it is our aim to ensure that everyone has access to a park they can be proud of. Today's news will restore Langley Park to its former glory for future generations to enjoy."

PARKS & GARDENS UK DATABASE PROJECT LAUNCH

The AGT had a very successful launch of the database website in October. The Association of Gardens Trusts described their involvement and support for the project. A presentation explained the background, current structure, objectives, and strategy for the future and included a demonstration of the website and database.



The second half of the launch consisted of all present breaking into small groups of 6 to 8 people each to discuss a list of topics provided by the project. All responses were then communicated through and have been compiled into one document. A wealth of useful feedback was received, which will be taken into consideration as the project progresses. You can visit the website to view current progress; www.parksandgardens.ac.uk

This resulted in a follow up document from the launch meetings containing the following:

- information from the presentation slides
- compiled feedback from the topics for discussion
- a list of attendees

I hope that you find this information to be useful and encourage you to send through any additional information or queries you may

have. Please continue to visit the website over the next year as we will be developing and adding to the content on a regular basis.

Rachael Sturgeon, Project Manager



The BGT aims to carry more about this project in future editions, and how we intend to take the research project forward,

a mere ten years after our first attempt... See the final page to understand how we might take research forward. We will be relaunching our Research Group, for which we will need a leader. If you would be interested in taking part or even better leading this part of the Trust's activities, we will be letting you know to get involved soon.

BOOK REVIEWS

Castle House

by Julian Hunt and John Clarke

Phillimore 2007, £14.95

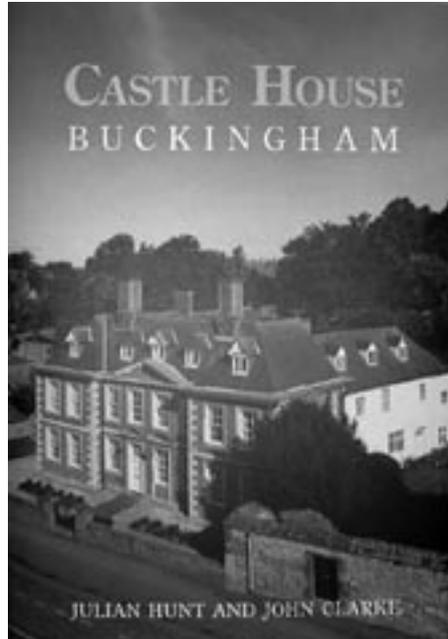
ISBN: 978-1-86077-449-2

I would have been very disappointed had I not enjoyed this book. Barbara Edmondson told me some time ago that she had asked John Clarke to write a history of Castle House, Buckingham. At that time it did not seem as if she envisaged a well-printed and glossy hardback book. I expressed an interest and asked if I could have a copy when it was finished; I also suggested that other friends and local people with an interest in the history of the area would like to have a copy. Barbara seemed surprised at the idea that there would be much interest in a history of her family home. Clearly other friends must have voiced similar sentiments for the project evolved into a fully-fledged book. Julian Hunt was brought in to co-author the book.

Barbara has written the foreword; this gives an outline autobiography and an explanation of how she and her late husband came to purchase and restore Castle House. The introduction explains the confusion that arises from the name "Castle House". It is not and never has been a castle, neither is it the house described by Browne Willis, which was on the site of the old castle. Other authors have also confused the issue by referring to different houses as "Castle House". The first time that the house that we now know as Castle House was called by that name appears to have been by the Hearn family about 1840.

The book goes on to consider the importance of the house's location and the purpose for which it may have been originally built. The oldest parts of the building date from the C15 century. It was extensively rebuilt during the reign of James I, and the frontage which we now see facing West Street is an C18 century Georgian extension.

The book gives extensive details of the distinguished visitors that the house has enjoyed. Henry VII visited Buckingham and stayed with Richard Fowler who was one of the early owners of Castle House, Catherine of Aragon visited 20 years later.



The Bartons were the first owners, it then passed to the Fowlers through marriage. Edward IV made one of the Fowlers Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster. Eventually the Fowlers sold the property to Francis Dayrell but the story gets convoluted. The house had been leased to Thomas Lovett and he had sub-let to Raphael Moore, so Francis Dayrell did not have vacant possession. Dayrell then sold the house to John Lambert, whose family had a long connection with Buckingham. Whilst this transaction was proceeding, other events were taking place elsewhere. The Dayrells had rivals, the Wentworths, and they had been granted a patent to take such "lordships and lands as were concealed or unjustly detained from her majesty". It would suit them if they could claim the property that the Dayrells, had just acquired. However, the Wentworths sold their interest for cash and this interest passed through several hands until it was owned by Theophilus Adams. In 1597 Adams started a lawsuit against John Lambert. Although, Adams won his case, Lambert eventually settled with Adams to become the undisputed owner of Castle House. This is an example of the complicated and fascinating history of this house that the authors have researched and explain so well.

Under John Lambert's son, William, the house was remodeled to become a Jacobean mansion; the initials of William (WL) and his wife Mary (ML) and the date 1617 carved on the oak chimneypiece record this. There are also date stones in the wall. About this time a conduit was laid to bring water to the house from St Rumpold's well. The history and the appearance of the house might have been very different had John Lambert not settled with Adams.

The Civil War brought about another chapter in the history of Castle House; on 22nd June 1644, Charles I came to Buckingham and stayed at Castle House. He held a council of war and if he had decided to act on a bold plan to attack London the outcome of the war and the consequences for this country may well have been different.

Again there were changes of ownership but by 1680 the house was owned by John Rogers, whence it passed to Mathias Rogers and it was he who undertook the next rebuilding; giving the house its present day appearance on West Street. The Rogers had wide trading links with other members of the family and when one of them, John Gore became bankrupt, building work ceased. Which is why we still have the splendid Jacobean and Medieval parts of the house unaltered. The house went through several more changes of ownership until Philip Box acquired it, before 1782. In 1786 he opened Buckingham's first bank.

Several members of the Box family owned Castle House but in 1835 it was sold to Thomas Hearn. The house was sold again in 1903, to Herbert Edward Bull. In 1964 the house was sold to Buckingham Borough Council and it was used as offices until Buckingham became part of Aylesbury Vale District Council in 1974. Castle House was sold and Barbara Edmondson bought it. She and her husband, Derek, then undertook a comprehensive restoration of the house.

This house has had a long and fascinating past; it played a significant part in some major events in this country's history and has been the most important house

in the town of Buckingham for nearly six centuries. Many different families have lived in this house. The authors have meticulously searched conveyances; wills; court records; registers of births, deaths and marriages; family histories and other historical records to piece together this story. In the course of which there are links to events elsewhere in the country, social commentary on the lives of those involved and a great deal of detail about what was happening in Buckingham at the time. There are over sixty good illustrations in this well produced book. If you have any interest in local history then this book is thoroughly recommended.

John Walton

Discovering Churches and Churchyards

by Mark Child

ShirePublications 2007, £12.99

ISBN 978 0 7478 0659 2

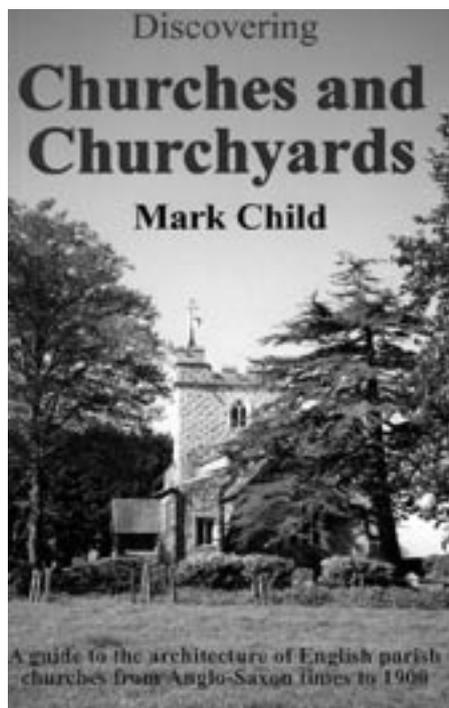
Keep this book in the car, in case we can ever get out to visit churches again (I write as the waters are steadily rising in the West Country and along the Thames). Some churches are particularly vulnerable to inundation, as Mr Child's photograph of Bisham church clearly shows, standing right on the edge of the Thames.

Our esteemed Editor sounded rather doubtful when I suggested a review of this book. But I persuaded him of its relevance to you, the membership. Churches so often form a key feature in park and garden design; churchyards are another type of cultural landscape, themselves often forming ornamented elements of the landscape park. They often formed part of the iconography of parks and gardens.

The book is obviously written by someone who knows his stuff, and has many examples to illustrate his points. Church architecture, furnishing and features take up about four fifths of the 260 or so pages, with a decent section on the churchyard at the back in the final fifth. I particularly liked this part because it neatly summarises the various aspects of these attractive spaces. It also has a useful bibliography for those wishing to go further with the subject. A useful additional reference is Francesca Greenoak's *Wildlife in the Churchyard, the Plants and Animals of God's Acre*, Little Brown Books, 1993.

Bucks churches are not the most grandiose county collection. We cannot match the C15 Suffolk Perpendiculars funded by the wool trade, the glorious mellow medieval Somerset towers, or Wren's purposeful Restoration City of

London churches. But we do have some of great distinction, together with many modest ones each with its own interest, and Olney can give the Somerset towers a run for their money any day. Bucks also boasts most of the 22 Norman so-called Aylesbury fonts scattered in towns & villages around the county town. They form a great early sculpture collection. The best survivors are at Great and Little Missenden, Aylesbury, Bledlow, Great Kimble, Weston Turville, and make a nice compact church-crawler's route for a Saturday afternoon. A couple of good set-piece Classical churches stand in the Frozen North at Willen, Milton Keynes (1680) and Gayhurst (early C18) and should not be dismissed.



Visiting numerous churches with my Pa as a child (I always preferred castles, but these are a bit thin on the ground in Bucks), I naturally acquired various books on the subject (what a little swot I must have been). Wing and Stewkley were always illustrated, for their unique Saxon apse and stunning Norman completeness respectively. But Mr Child does not discuss and illustrate the standard icons alone, and he gives Bucks a good outing, amongst his country-wide examples. A C13 column in Ivinghoe is annotated to demonstrate the features of a typical example of its period. This church also demonstrates medieval religious beliefs, with a beautifully carved medieval mermaid on a poppyhead pew end. The poor lady was the symbol for pride, lust and deceit on account of her siren-like effect on 'susceptible' human males.

Of churchyards, Aylesbury is illustrated as the first example. How gratifying! I had always taken God's Acre here for granted; it took this book to point out just how attractive a space it is in its own right, not just as the setting for the church. We were lucky Mr Pooley washed his hands of it in the 1960s when he was planning to inflict his wonderful Brutalist county hall, bus station and Friars Square complex on otherwise innocent areas of the old town. When propelled round churches by Pa, churchyards were always more appealing, possibly because of the frisson of the connection with dead bodies, and the surprise of finding a skull and crossbones carved in gruesome relief on a headstone (although I remember these most dramatically in Scotland). Churchyards were so much more inviting in the light and fresh air than the great still, unknown building interiors.

Further Bucks examples feature in Mr Child's churchyard section. A double revolving wooden gate with a ball weight and pulley stands at the entrance to Weston Turville churchyard, and a similar one as part of a lych gate at Marlow. Other features discussed include stocks, sundials, crosses and of course headstones and other monuments. Geology is an additional dimension with the masonry of church buildings and headstones. Great Bucks mausolea include the Freeman Mausoleum at Fawley near Henley and of course the so much more flamboyant and zany classical Dashwood Mausoleum at West Wycombe. I always took this one for granted too, as the standard example of a mausoleum, until when grown up it occurred to me that here was an exhibitionist having a joke with an unparalleled structure that could be seen for miles around.

The social side of the churchyard is explained, with the medieval uses including religious and secular business transacted, markets, jolly fairs and feast days. Civil War skirmishes are discussed, and unlucky Alton in Hampshire even had a full scale battle. A section on wildlife raises an extra dimension, discussing the natural elements, beyond man's intervention. Do become a lichenologist by examining the ones homing themselves on headstones and church walls, so I can pick your brains about all those living on my garden benches. They are so sweet, living as they do in colourful and sometimes hairy patches, but I have no inclination to try and tell one from another other than by naming them Kylie, Jade, Beckham, Gordon, Bryson, etc.

Sarah Rutherford

WILLIAM GOLDRING (1854–1919)

I wonder if you can help me? I am studying for an MA in Garden History at Bristol University, and have chosen to study William Goldring (1854–1919). My reason for choosing him was because of a garden he designed here in Wrexham, my home town, for Frederick Soames, owner of Border Breweries.

Kew trained, he was the leading landscape designer of his day. He is neglected by garden historians but has designed over 700 parks and gardens, not only in this country but in France for the Rothschilds at Chateau de Laversine, the Maharajah of Baroda in India, and for the British Pavilion Exhibition at St Louis in 1904 for which he received a Gold Medal.

His commissions in Buckinghamshire were:

1892 Bohemia, Gt Marlow, for E. Ridey

1896 Addington House, Winslow, for Lord Addington

1896 Butlers Court, Beaconsfield, for Sir F. Grenfell

1896 The Lodge, Stone, Aylesbury, for General Sir H. Smythe

1897 Gathurst (Gayhurst), Newport Pagnall, for W. Carlisle

1897 Brickhill Manor, Bletchley, for Lady Duncombe

Some of these I am trying to trace independently, but would be very grateful if you could suggest where I might access the archives and plans. Professor Mowl has suggested that I try and locate gardens and sites that do not have published material about them. My list of over 100 gardens and parks was obtained from Goldring's great, great granddaughter, but is only an extract. I am trying to work my way through the Gardens Trusts as well as individual contacts, but so far with little success. I have had a list of Goldring's articles in *The Garden* from the Lindley Library, during his time as a Horticultural Journalist.

From: Maureen Thomas, Secretary, of the Clwyd Branch of the Welsh Historic Gardens Trust

12 Glanllyn, High Street, Gresford, Wrexham, LL12 8PT

01978 855 885.

ROUNDUP OF OTHER EVENTS

Tudor & Stuart Gardens Course

Sheila Ottway is giving a Further Education class at Ewert House in Summertown, Oxford. Starting in January, on Friday mornings, lots of Royals and palaces. The course will examine the history of parks and gardens in England and Wales in the Tudor and Stuart periods (spanning 1485–1714). The parks and gardens of royal palaces and country houses, with regard to their overall design and the various purposes for which they were used. Details at <http://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/courses/details.php?id=O07P656HCW>

GHS Winter Lectures, in London

Herman van den Bossche *Protection and Maintenance of Parks and Gardens in Flanders, 1931–2008*

6.30pm, Wednesday 23 January

Jane Kilpatrick

Garden Plants from China: Forgotten Pioneers

6.30pm, Wednesday 6 February

Anna Parkinson

That Other John: The Rediscovery of John Parkinson

6.30pm, Wednesday 20 February

Stephen Crisp *Winfield House: Horticultural Diplomacy*

6.30pm, Wednesday 5 March

6th Annual GHS Lecture

John Hopkins *Cultured Landscapes: The Olympic Park*

6.30pm, Wednesday 12 March

The first four lectures are at The Gallery, 70 Cowcross Street, London EC1M 6EJ (Farringdon Station). The final one is at the Royal Horticultural Halls and Conference Centre, Greycoat Street/Elverton Street, London SW1P 2QD (Victoria Station).

Doors open 6pm. Wine or soft drinks will be available. Tickets: 020 7490 2974 (or at the door on the night from 6pm). £8 for lectures at The Gallery (23 Jan to 5 March), £15 for Annual GHS Lecture at RHS (12 March) or season ticket for all five lectures: £40 if booked before 31 December 2007 (a saving of £7), £45 if booked from 1 January 2008.

Historic Gardens and Landscapes Course

There is also a two-day course in April coming up on 'Historic Gardens and Landscapes: Threats and the Conservation Tool Kit'. Rural and urban historic gardens and landscapes are at risk from development pressures and a history of under-investment, yet they are often the essence of countryside character or the key to urban regeneration. An opportunity to examine the threats and challenges facing these landscapes, and to discuss the professional's 'tool kit' for protecting, conserving and managing sites. More at <http://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/courses/details.php?id=O07P269AHR>

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To keep up to date with the latest about the BGT please look at our website www.bucksgardenstrust.org.uk

We now have an newsletter, just send an email to enewsletter@bucksgardenstrust.org.uk labelled sign up

The deadline for the next *Bucks Gardener* (26) is February 1, and it should appear not too long after that

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: newsletter@bucksgardenstrust.org.uk or at the address above