

The Bucks Gardener

Issue 29/30

The Newsletter of the Buckinghamshire Gardens Trust

Autumn 2009

IN MEMORIAM LT. COL. F. KNIGHT BOYER

This edition of *The Bucks Gardener* is affectionately dedicated to the memory of Lt. Col. Knight Boyer, who died on October 24, 2009 at the age of 72. He submitted the article, which plays such a major part in this issue, towards the end of last summer, 2008, and we very much regret he did not live to see it published.

Knight was a Bucks Gardens Trust member and long-time National Trust volunteer at Stowe; in fact Knight was one of the early Stowe Volunteers, almost single handedly carrying out the first tree survey. Born in Orange, New Jersey in 1937, Knight's academic achievements were notable: a BSc from the University of Colorado in 1958, an MA in Economics from the University of California in 1972, these followed by active service with the

USAF with assignments in Virginia, Germany, Vietnam and the UK, with appropriate decorations. Knight became Deputy Base Commander at Upper Heyford in 1971 continuing to work for the USAF at High Wycombe, Daws Hill, and from 1990 Stowe was fortunate enough to benefit of his expertise. Latterly Knight developed an interest in archaeology, helping on many digs and receiving an external MA in Archaeology from Oxford as the final achievement in a rich life. Our sympathy goes to Knight's wife Christine, and their children and grandchildren.

We will long remember him, and his joy in presenting Stowe to visitors, many of whom will remember his tours with pleasure, and of a job well done.

SPRING TALKS SERIES 2010

The Curious Lives and Adventures of the Johns Tradescant

Jennifer Potter

Saturday 30 January, at The County Museum

Author of *Strange Blooms*, Jennifer will tell us more about these seventeenth-century plant hunters. Jennifer is the author of *Secret Gardens* and *Lost Gardens*, written to accompany the TV series on which she worked as associate producer.

The World Garden

Tom Hart Dyke, of Lullingstone Castle, Kent

Saturday 27 February, at Hartwell House

Tom will talk to us about the **World Garden** which he has created within Lullingstone Castle's walled kitchen garden, modern day plant hunting and his time spent in captivity in Columbia whilst hunting for orchids.

Ars Topiaria: The art of design and the ancient Roman Garden

Dr Elizabeth Macaulay Lewis

Saturday 27 March, at The County Museum

A Classical archaeologist at Wolfson College, Oxford, Elizabeth is conducting research on *ollae perforatae*, Roman planting pots and their role in ancient Roman gardens.

Bloomsbury gardens

Dr Nuala Hancock

Saturday 17 April, at The County Museum

Nuala has recently completed a project in collaboration with the Charleston Trust, investigating the literary/artistic houses of Virginia Woolf and her sister, Vanessa Bell. Nuala will tell us more about the Bloomsbury Group and their extensive involvement with gardens.

Talks will be held at the Buckinghamshire County Museum, Church Street, Aylesbury, commencing at 2.30pm. The cost will be £10 to members and £12 to non-members, to include tea.

Our special Talk at Hartwell comes with the following options:

- Talk followed by Tea: £16
- 3 course Lunch followed by Talk: £29
- 3 course Lunch followed by Talk & Tea: £37

The Talk will be in Hartwell's James Gibbs room, Lunch and/or Tea in the adjacent James Wyatt Room; parking is free.

Please see the enclosed booking form

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FROM THE CHAIR

It's a funny thing is money. Earlier in the year you may have read about the new system for putting a monetary value to trees in the planning process. The most valuable turned out to be one of the plane trees in Berkeley Square, in terms of its size, age and landscape value. It was, I thought, a useful system but one unlikely to catch on.

But lo and behold, in a spring edition of the local paper there was a report on the front page of an act of vandalism on the Rye, High Wycombe, where a Silver Maple, of a substantial, but not unusual, stature has been killed in a chainsaw attack! Whilst this is sad, and indeed worrying, the front-page story values the tree at £35,000, a staggering figure, but important.

If one tree can be valued at such a rate what does this mean for the collections held in our county's historic parks and gardens? What price the Wellingtonia avenues in Langley Park, the ancient oaks in the park at Wotton, the, in comparison, modern collection at Waddesdon Manor (the recently removed hilltop double avenue?), uncountable numbers at Stowe or Ashridge? They must represent a sum of many millions and should completely alter the way society looks at trees and the role they play in the planning system. Perhaps, and in a much more tangible way than the often abused TPO system, the reality of the importance of trees in our lives and landscapes has finally sunk in? Giving a monetary value to such 'assets' may finally be the argument that makes developers and planners rethink their often blinkered attitude to the green background to our lives.

Bear with me. Elsewhere in the county the dispute over wind-farms continues. I know this is particularly of importance in the north of the county, where the expansion of Milton Keynes and development at Bletchley are already putting massive pressure on open space, and the more enlightened approach

to development of earlier years seems to have been forgotten. The impact of these enormous and dramatic structures on 'designed landscapes', or perhaps the more up to date 'cultural landscapes', often gets forgotten about. Certainly many of us are in the middle of the county are often reminded of this by the immense visual impact of the cooling towers of the Didcot power station. I think everyone accepts that we have to have a wider range of power sources and wind-farms may have a part to play in this. However if we accept that 'designed landscapes' are amongst our most subtle and influential creations, then perhaps more thought should be given to the impact on them of such huge structures. Certainly considerable thought was given to the landscaping of nuclear and other power stations in the 1950s and 60s

If we take as a precedent the £100 million to be raised for the pair of Titians from the National Gallery of Scotland (part of the national inheritance as even before the Second World War they had been, I understand, on public display at Bridgewater House, in London, from 1806) and albeit that sum is complicated by the long term loan of many other paintings from the Bridgewater collection, the massive sum is not unreasonable given the magnificence and uniqueness of the pictures. How then do we rate the value of our county's 'designed landscapes'? And what price if they are spoilt by the visual intrusion of structures they were never designed to accommodate. Surely if now we can value individual trees we can begin to redefine the value of our 'cultural landscapes' and thus give them a real value in the planning process, and thus the impact of development has a measurable effect. Or does this further help pave the path to madness?

I won't even ask why the Edinburgh Titians never got to Ashridge.

Chard Bee

PARKS AND GARDENS UK (PGUK)

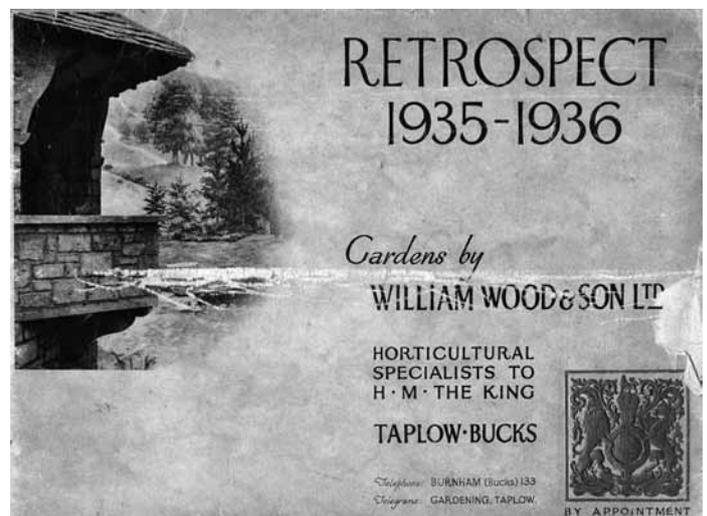
Based at York, the project has now been wound up. However it will continue in good health as long as the individual Gardens Trusts continue to contribute. One of the results that it has started to generate is the involvement of other organisations outside the garden history fold, which can only be a good thing. One such enquiry meant that a member of the project who had been able to help research and publish the following article contacted us; the results of his research appears below.

WILLIAM WOOD AND SONS LTD

by Jon Willmore

William Wood and Sons Ltd is familiar to many in Taplow as a well-respected local landscape design and horticultural business. A recent enquiry to HTS by John Warden of Parks and Gardens UK (PGUK), a project cataloguing all notable parks and gardens in the UK, stimulated the following brief account.

PGUK has established that Woods was accorded a Royal Warrant in 1955 for work carried out at Windsor, it is thought paid out of the Privy Purse, which means the work involved the Queen's private gardens. At present, the exact works are unknown, and enquiries continue. The business can be dated to at least the 1930s, based on copies of the firm's 1935 catalogues, currently offered for sale via a rare books supplier, where Woods is referred to as 'this key landscape supplies firm' [the BGT has a copy of this catalogue (*right*), vice-Chairman Sarah Rutherford a



slightly earlier one, which can be viewed on request]. Wood and Sons Ltd is still listed as a current Warrant Holder on the Royal Warrant Holders website, although the company's website and email contact details do not seem to be active [this may well refer to a pottery company of the same name! Ed].

My personal recollection of Woods dates from the 1969, when it was still a genteel firm of landscape gardeners, with whom I had my first job. I joined Dick (who came complete with pork pie hat and pipe) and his team, based in the potting shed about where the off-licence now is in the Bishops Centre: Dick's team comprised of Dick, Hazel, little Colin (who still lives locally) and myself.



The Duke & Duchess of York at the Chelsea Flower Show yesterday ... private view day. Mr. Wood is showing them his rock garden. The Daily Telegraph 20th May, 1936

The firm grew its own stock and had its retail site on the present Bishops Centre site. Much of my work was watering shrubs etc., interrupted by firmly adhered to meal breaks, the first of which was about 10am, after a 7.30–8am start, and involved Cornish pasties or similar, heated over a paraffin stove. Dick was an old-fashioned type of head gardener, who ruled his small empire with aplomb. The qualified nurseryman was John, a plant specialist, who lived in Lent Rise. There was still a sort of apprenticeship system, and promising youngsters were sent off to horticultural college.

The Woods landscape gardener I knew was Mr Brett, a gentleman in all senses, and a very well respected garden designer. Mr Brett lived next to us in what is now Hillmead (following demolition of the school building), but was then still the original Taplow Grammar School, which had closed I think in 1947, and was then put to use as flats. Our house, The Lodge, is the only remnant of the original buildings, and was the school housekeeper's dwelling (housekeeper upstairs, horse and trap downstairs) until my parents bought it in about 1951.

Around the late 1960s to 1970, Woods was taken over by the original Bishop (JS), a very different kettle of fish, who started to turn the plant sales business into a garden centre in the modern sense, and developed the landscape side vigorously. I went to work in the drawing office, and remember visiting Sid James' house to measure up for an outside swimming pool, and also John Lennon's large parcel of land, where Woods installed a very substantial lake. Bishops was probably a more dynamic operation than Woods had been, and I think got a good slice of the region's celebrity and showbiz business!

Gradually, the landscape side of the Bishops operation reduced, and plants sales became less important, until by the time Focus Do-It-All closed down and was replaced early in 2008 by Laura Ashley, plants were no longer sold. In my mind, accurately or not, I caught the end of a well-respected traditional firm of landscape designers in the post-war period, just as the market and society changed during the sixties, ushering a much brasher, pushier and more extravert design sense, in horticulture as in other kinds of design (eg. Conran). Makes me quite nostalgic to think of it.

My thanks to John Warden of Parks and Gardens (PGUK) for help in the preparation of this note. PGUK is now well on its way to its 2009 target of 7500 records, and at present already has 4700 sites in its archive, of which 375 are in Buckinghamshire, (including English Heritage listed, locally listed and lost gardens). The local list system has stimulated awareness of a number of previously unrecorded parks and gardens, resulting in their becoming known to PGUK. At present, our council, South Bucks, does not hold a local list, and does not intend to establish one pending the Environment and Protection Bill, anticipated in 2010, so the PGUK provides a backup, being largely based on a BCC survey conducted for EH a decade ago.

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THE BIGGEST DONATION OF HOUSES AND GARDENS TO THE NATIONAL TRUST FOR MANY YEARS

Our congratulations, and thanks, must go to Richard Broyd, who has followed in the footsteps and intentions of Ernest Cook, by handing his three Historic House Hotels over to the National Trust. Inspired by the V&A's seminal 1974 exhibition "The Destruction of the Country House" Richard Broyd had the idea to save some such places by converting them to hotels, one of the few roles for which they were already eminently suited. In the 1980s he told the National Trust of his intention to eventually donate them to the Trust. So this is a very long-term project indeed.

Mr Broyd had created a very successful business, the employment agency, Accountancy Personnel, specialising in finding jobs for professional people, the offices of which were often based in handsome Georgian squares near the businesses that it was set up to help; he eventually sold it in 1987. This sale enabled the dream to come true. The first house acquisition had been made in 1979, Bodysgallen Hall, on the North Wales coast. Then being run as a B&B, it was to become a very comfortable country house hotel, a pioneer in that now familiar market. Furnished with suitable antique furniture, and in splendidly revived gardens, it was to acquire national attention when our very own Eric Throssell designed a magnificent obelisk to complement its landscape setting. A mere six weeks after buying Bodysgallen he acquired Middlethorpe Hall in Yorkshire, right next to York racetrack, and then in use as a rather seedy strip-club! Ten years later in 1989 came the opening of Hartwell House, the venue for our successful seminar series, again with Eric at the architectural fore.

It is probably not altogether coincidental that the latter was the intended home and jewel in the crown of the estates acquired by the late Ernest Cook, who himself was to give many houses and gardens together with their estates to the National Trust, places which are now at the heart of the Trust's ethos. All three Historic House Hotels are on the edge of towns, Bodysgallen's 220 acres keeping three nearby towns from merging, and thus as Mr Broyd

points out serve the useful function of giving a ‘green lung’, as well as providing local employment, important considerations in this new more conservation aware age.

Bodysgallen and Middlethorpe have fine well kept gardens, as does Hartwell, but as we have seen expounded at the three Seminars we have run there, there is possibly even more potential at Hartwell which we hope the collaboration with the National Trust can help build on.

To learn even more about the landscapes of all three Historic House Hotels you may like to read the special issue of *Garden History* which featured articles on all three, Volume 34:1 Summer 2006, £15, available from The Garden History Society’s printer Lavenham Press: 01787 249 286

MARKET HILL, BUCKINGHAM

by Geoff Huntingford

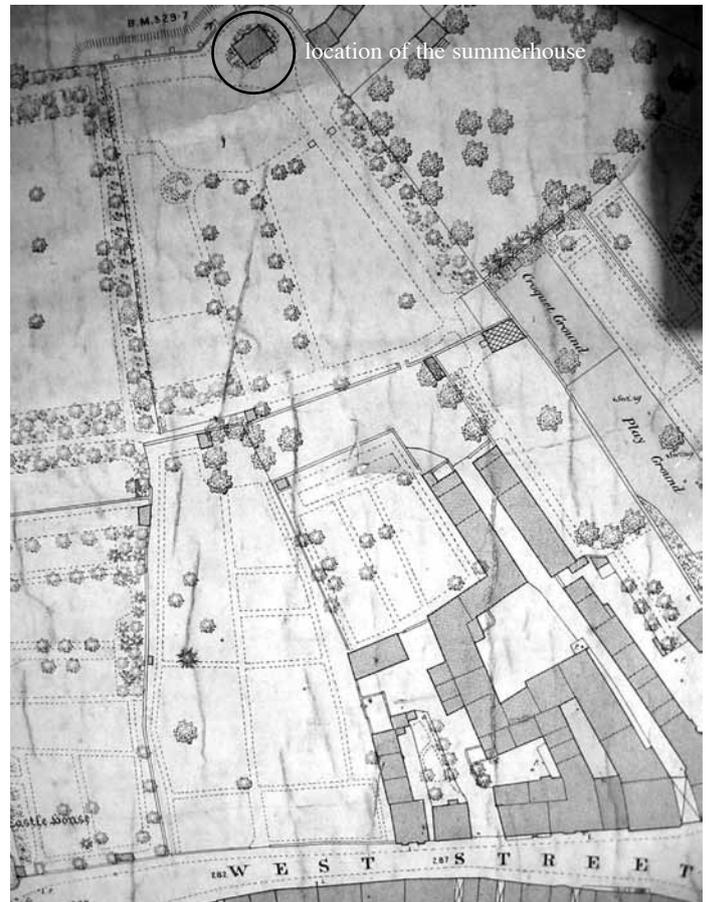
The Trust was contacted by Sandy Kidd, the County Archaeologist, to comment on an initially unprepossessing site in Buckingham. Research by members of our conservation group threw up some interesting points.

Following an informal proposal for a mixed use development of a large backland site to the north west of Market Hill and with an access to Moreton Road to the north east, we accessed the Archaeological Desk-based Assessment by John Moore Heritage Services, and scanned the planning history on the local planning authority website. I then visited the site on Sunday 14 September and took photographs. It is certainly very sad to see the current overgrown state of the site in comparison with the situation shown on the First Edition OS of 1881 (*right*). The site then was a sequence of pleasure grounds and put to productive or decorative use with at least two summerhouses evident within the application site or ‘red-edged area’. The layout appears to be similar to that shown on the Tithe Map of 1847 when we understand that much of the site was owned by the Duke of Buckingham and occupied by Thomas Swaine of the Cobham Arms on the Market Hill/West Street frontage.

Richard Wheeler thought it possible that the grounds may have been part of Lord Cobham’s private garden which he laid out at the inn in the early/mid C18. If verified, such a personal link with Cobham and Stowe gives the site added significance as the site and its structures may have early C18 origins. There is also the possibility that it was part of the garden to Castle House and in this capacity its design ought to be further investigated as a garden of an important town residence. The archaeological report seems to be lacking this contextual information and analysis which would not require great research but would provide greater understanding of its significance.

I was surprised at how easy it was to access the site, not expecting it to be crossed by the tarmac path which leads from the derelict rears of the Market Hill & West Street properties through the site to the lock-up garage court reached from Overn Crescent to the north. I followed the informal path through the undergrowth to the surviving summerhouse, which I found without any difficulty.

This is a single cell building of brick. The front elevation is almost completely covered in ivy but has a central door with a semi-circular fanlight flanked by two windows with brick voussoired heads. There may be decorative inset panels above the windows but it is difficult to see. The side elevations each have a single window of similar design. On the rear wall a central fireplace is set between two windows which have



wooden lintols similar to the others on the inside but without the decorative brick heads on the exterior elevations. Inside there are traces of a simple cornice that may have been further enriched on the ceiling side: the plaster ceiling itself has almost completely disappeared. The roof structure is revealed to have been a simple pitched roof behind a pedimented gable to front and rear. The front pediment may have had stone dressings but again the vegetation is extremely thick on the front elevation and it is difficult to be certain. There were scraps of timber amongst the debris on the floor. These may have been internal dressings for the windows. They have reeded decoration, suggesting an early 19th century date.



The (just) surviving summerhouse, Market Hill pleasure gardens

The ground round the summerhouse is higher than its surroundings, and the change in level is taken up with a semicircular ‘bastion’ comprising a brick wall with angled buttresses on its outer face, which shielded the summerhouse from

views from the north.

The summerhouse and its former location within a pleasure garden apparently associated with a county town inn, but possibly with a more direct link to Castle House or to Stowe is sufficiently significant to suggest that the building should not be demolished before it is cleared of vegetation and debris and recorded by measured drawing and photographs. Sarah Rutherford has suggested the hotel pleasure garden as a

neglected field of study and this would certainly be a good place to begin. More research should anyway be done to establish the origins of the former layout of the site. It is sad, however, that the lack of occupation and decades of neglect and vandalism make a future for this building unlikely in our view. We gave our opinion that the neglect of the site as a whole and the loss of its features make it unreasonable to try to recreate anything of this former layout.

THE NATIONAL TRUST'S ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS AT THE BOARSTALL TOWER

12 to 20 July 2008

by Knight Boyer

Background

The Boarstall Tower is situated in a triangle between Bicester, Aylesbury and Thame. The surviving tower is all that remains of a 14th Century moated and gated manor house and gardens. The tower (a gatehouse) has fascinating links to the English Civil War. The original Boarstall House was built between 1086 and 1141. The Tower was built in 1312 by John de Haudlo. Some may think that it was built to defend the house, but initially it was probably used as a status symbol. It was only later that its defensive capabilities help the occupants in the English Civil War.



Figure 1: the Boarstall Tower, a former gatehouse

Early 14th century evidence survives for a licence to castellate the gatehouse. The date of the licence and the dendrochronology dates of the timber beams in the gatehouse match! The site is well known for its involvement in the Civil War. Under the command of Sir William Campion it housed a garrison of Royalist troops resisting a Parliamentarian siege in May 1645. The Parliamentarians returned in 1746 and conducted an unsuccessful 10-week siege. The Royalist garrison finally surrendered in 1646 when they heard that the King had surrendered Oxford. Less well known is that the tower was one of several buildings on the site. It served as the gateway to a late-medieval manor house, which remained in existence until c.1778, when it was reputedly demolished under the instructions of Sir John Aubrey. The reason given for the demolition was that the Campion's son was, accidentally, poisoned (possibly by gruel tainted with ergot) and their sadness drove them to live at another

of their estates, Dorton, east of Brill, and demolish the scene of the tragedy. Little is known about the manor house; indeed the only directly useful source of information is a bird's eye view dating from 1695 (essentially a fanciful etching and almost 50 years after the Civil War) showing a sizable manor house arranged and surrounded by formal gardens. Looking closely at the engraving it is possible to suggest that the manor house (if late 17th century in date) had gone through several phases and style of building. An earlier map of 1644 also survives, but in keeping with the style of the times such a "map" was more representational, rather than accurate depictions; some even think they have elements of cartoons! It is also known that Prince Rupert ordered Boarstall to be fortified in 1644. Was this when the moat was dug? The "map" mentioned above suggests there was a moat on two sides.

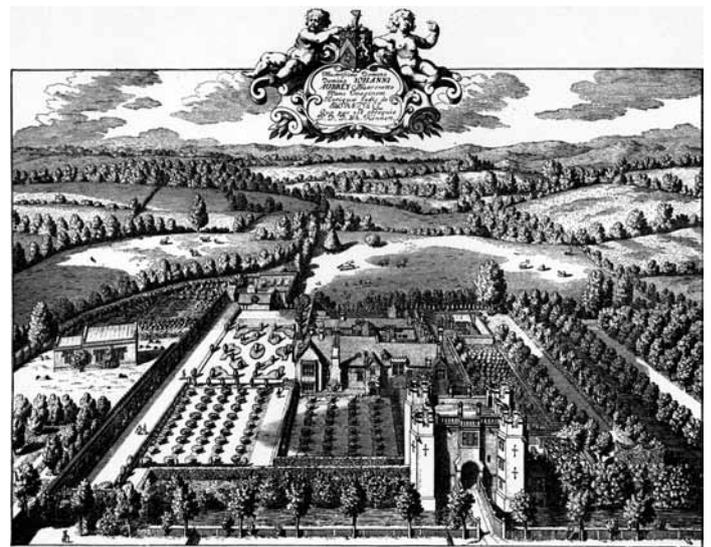


Figure 2: Boarstall in 1695 (see BG 27/28, p22 for larger version)

A geophysical survey by the National Trust in 2001 suggested the footprint of this group of buildings remains preserved beneath the southern half of the lawn. In order to assess this potential, and to answer various questions about the evolution and development of the site, a programme of archaeological work was carried out between 12 and 20 July 2008. Was there a correspondence with the excavation findings and the previous geophysics and the detail from the 1695 drawing? Additionally, the project also investigated surviving evidence from the 1695 drawing and also looked at previously un-surveyed areas, particularly the moat, the modern overflow carpark and immediate surroundings of the tower.



Figure 3: the lawn looking south; possible parch marks from old manor house



Figure 4: the lawn and some possible old garden residues to right

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK

The project involved further geophysics survey, topographical survey and excavation, with the primary focus upon archaeological excavation to ‘ground-proof’ the map, old etchings and geophysical evidence.

Geophysics

Geophysics is a way of seeing beneath the soil without digging. There are three methods: resistivity, magnetometry and ground penetrating radar. The method used by the National Trust at the Boarstall Tower was resistivity; this uses probes to measure how the soil conducts electricity using the principle that the damper the soil the more easily it will conduct electricity. Stone walls have high resistivity because they are drier and so do not conduct electricity easily. Ditches and pits are damper, so they give low readings.

In the case of this excavation the geophysics was used to target the most promising sites for the trenches. At the Boarstall Tower the National Trust used resistivity. Over the past several years, as manpower permitted, virtually all the open spaces behind the Tower were studied. In retrospect the use of one metre grid squares, one reading per square, gave an interesting, but grainy response. It was soon noticed at the start of the excavation that the ‘targets’ could have been more precise if a finer (but much more time consuming) resolution had been used. So, during the survey week some of the key areas were re-examined using 0.5 metre grid squares to give a finer resolution. The secondary surveys were somewhat better, but the absence of old walls (see below) made even these efforts unsuccessful.

In the overflow carpark, the resistivity was also inconclusive. No archaeological features were observed and, in particular, no evidence for the eastern moat.

Topographical survey

A topographical survey of the site was also accomplished. However, as this was done with a ‘total station’ (a rather sophisticated surveying instrument that measures distances, angles and elevations all at once), this data will have to be downloaded and placed in topographical maps before analysis can be accomplished and published.

Excavation

The excavation programme included five trenches, it was largely staffed by volunteers and friends of the National Trust. Because



Figure 5: the south front of the gatehouse; note visitors on roof; figures 3 and 4 taken from there



Figure 6: the moat east of the bridge to gatehouse



Figure 7: 19 July (day 8), the gardens showing trench locations
 Tr. 1 in the centre, Tr.2 NW,
 Tr. 3 under tree to left, Tr. 4 in the distance
 and Tr. 5 in the shadow to the right of the path
 (a wedding reception was being held in the gardens!)

everyone could not be on site for the entire nine-day period, personnel in trenches varied and only small trenches could be opened. Dimensions of the trenches were: Trench 1 was 2x6m, Trench 2 was 3x3m, Trench 3 was 3x3m, Trench 4 was 2x3m and Trench 5 was 2x5m.

On the first day (12 July) as might be expected, the digging brought little evidence of the old manor to light. It is suspected that this was because later owners had extensively remodelled the area of the gardens and just where the old house layers were was not well known in advance. It was only in Trench 4 that the first hints of an old building appeared.

By Monday, the third day, a few more hints of the old manor were becoming visible. However, what was becoming clear was that the old manor had not just been taken down; in large part it had been obliterated! This was the conclusion from the discovery of “robber trenches”, the residues of the complete removal of old walls and foundations.

Trench 1

The work in Trench 1 was expected to reveal the east wall of the entry porch at the front of the house. In fact, what was found appears to be the west wall of the porch (Figure 8). As digging proceeded, a posthole with stone at its base to provide support was discovered. The suggestion is that it was in the correct position to be the northwest corner of the medieval hall just behind the later porch. These findings suggest the hall was originally timber framed. When it was rebuilt or refaced in stone, it is possible that the original roof was retained.

Parallel with the stone footings visible in Figure 8, some early footings, which had no mortar, were uncovered. These appear to be the west wall of an earlier entrance porch and probably supported a timber-framed porch. The best explanation is that the early porch was replaced by a later stone structure that was probably wider and taller than the original; possibly when the manor house was re-clad.

Other than the posthole, all the other evidence suggests that the stone walls of the manor were completely robbed out on demolition. On the west side of Trench 1 (see Figure 9) it is now apparent that after demolition, piles of unusable rubble were just piled up and left.



Figure 8: Trench 1



Figure 9: Trench 1



Figure 10: Trench 2

Trench 2

Trench 2 was probably the most enigmatic of all the five trenches. During the week large amounts of iron nails, lead, glass, ceramic building material and local pottery were found.

By the end of the dig a large amount of rubble had been removed from this trench. These removals revealed a massive robber trench form which all the stone including the footings had been removed. Surprisingly, the size of the robber trench suggests that the wall removed was very large as the footings appear to have been almost 4 feet wide! This massive robber trench is visible in the back wall of the trench; see *Figure 10*.

Trench 3

Trench 3 was also a struggle for the digging team. Concentrations of material kept appearing, but as digging proceeded these turned out to be just more dumps of demolition material. Towards the end of the week, wall footings appeared (see *Figure 11*) that are now thought to be the footings to the northeast corner of the house. On the next to last day a brick structure was found, seemingly just outside the foundations of the house (see bottom edge of *Figure 11*). This latter feature is now thought to be a brick channel for carry water away from the house beneath a lead downspout.

Trench 4

This trench was sited to try and discover part of the back range of the old house.

Trench four was the first to reveal structural evidence. As digging proceeded, the footings found on day 1 were of several periods. Originally an open hearth fireplace in the kitchen, probably 17th century, that was later filled in with a 18th century range; since removed. As the trench became deeper, the original medieval floor was reached. It appears that above the medieval floor there was a Tudor layer, then a 17th Century layer and finally a mid-18th Century layer. As evaluation proceeded, it was shown that the open hearth (*Figure 12*) was part of a bread oven with the remains of a second bread oven to its right. These features can be related a chimney that can be seen in the 1695 etching (within the circle in *Figure 14*). These ovens may date from the 17th Century and one has been filled in with a smaller oven, possibly cast iron, since removed.

Towards the end of the dig, a waste-pit was discovered at the back (south end) of trench 4. Additionally, a row of stones was also uncovered in the back of the trench (*Figure 13* below). These stones were found, by the end of the dig, to be an early wall that predated any of the later structures, particularly the bread ovens (see centre of *Figure 13*). Thus, this early 'wall' relates to an early structure, probably medieval, that existed on the site.



Figure 11: Trench 3



Figure 12: Trench 4



Figure 13: Trench 4



Figure 14: Detail of the back range of the house; the circle marks the chimney that relates to structural finds in Trench 4

Trench 5

After the first day little could be seen other than what appeared to be a garden path with stone chippings. On subsequent days there was a suggestion of a wall, but this turned out to be nothing more than a concentrated dump of brick building material. From the makeup of this material, it would appear that earlier dumps of building rubble had been moved and re-deposited as part of later

garden alterations. Digging on the last two days produced very little new evidence, but interestingly, two large old keys were found in the bottom of the trench. Also found during these last days were some fragments of worked limestone that had clearly been part of decorated structure and a medieval floor tile with an image of a bird.

THE FINDS

There were many finds from the excavation. Not unexpectedly, these were ceramics, bone and some metalwork and glass.

The metalwork

The majority of the metalwork was old iron nails. Many of these were hand-forged blacksmiths' nails. The nails varied in size and most appeared to have been during the house demolition. In some contexts there were fragments of lead; primarily it was thought from the lead holding the small panes of mediaeval glass together. On the Saturday, a large metal key was found at the bottom of Trench 5.

Glass

The glass finds were relatively few and confusing. Most sherds were small and few appeared to be from stained glass windows. It is possible that on the house's demolition the decorative glass was moved elsewhere. No clear evidence was found for drinking vessels, but what was found could have been from cups and glasses. A handful of larger fragments that may have come from large bottles or lamps were also found. It will require an expert in medieval glass to evaluate these finds.

Ceramics

Much of the ceramics would have been for eating off. There was quite a bit of the locally produced Brill-Boarstall green lead-glazed ware. Additionally, there were a few bits that may well have been imported to Britain. A smattering of tin-glazed more modern looking material may have come from the later occupants of the Tower, before it came into National Trust ownership. Interestingly, the current tenant, Rob Dixon, of the Tower has found some ceramics while weeding the flowerbeds. Among these is a piece of Oxfordshire white-ware mortaria and another piece of Oxfordshire grey ware that would date from Roman times. This is not surprising as these Roman wares were produced in east Oxford near the Churchill Hospital site.

Bone

The bone recovered will help the understanding of the diets of the inhabitants of the house. Not unexpectedly, most of the bone was cow, sheep and pig. Not all recoveries were diagnostic as to animal, let alone sex and age. A large proportion of the bone recovered was in fragments, probably the results of butchery waste during meal preparation. Virtually no bird bones were found.

DISCUSSION

This dig by the National Trust was, by commonly used standards, a success. Despite not all trenches yielding evidence as found in Trench 4, there were many important findings. Trench 1 found that there probably was an early porch at the front of the house when it was timber framed. This would have been replaced with some thing more substantial when the house was re-clad and extended. These findings can be seen in *Figure 16* where the later porch at the right of the taller roofed old house that was extended at some point to the right of the illustration.



Figure 15: Trench 5

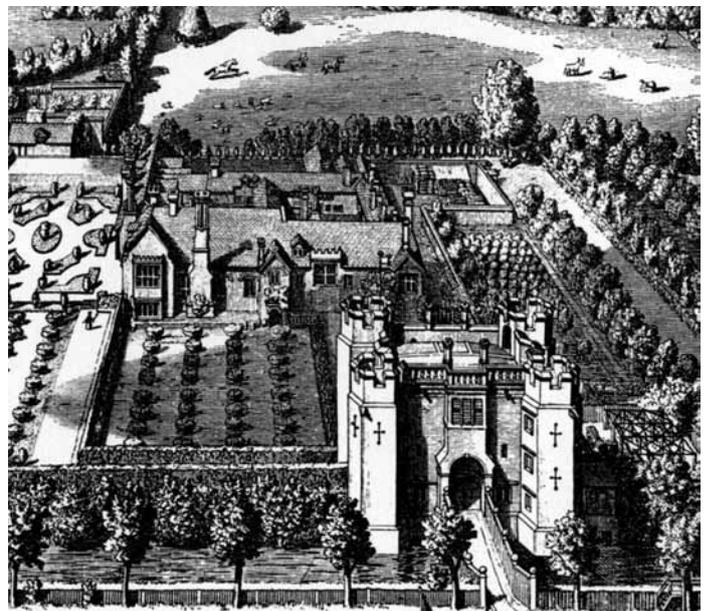


Figure 16: Boarstall House (detail)

The footings in Trench 3 probably relate to the northeast corner of the old house and seen to the left of the bay window in the illustration. The large robber trench in Trench 2 may relate to a back wall of the larger antecedent of the original manor. Trench 4 relates to the evolution of the buildings at the rear of the back range of the complex and near the chimney noted earlier. It is suspected that Trench 5 will have been outside of the complex proper; somewhere just to the right of the centre of *Figure 16*.

The finds will, when studied by experts, also yield valuable information as to the lifestyles, diets and living stands of the occupants. The bone will tell about diet. The lead will confirm that there were many windows, but just how fine they were may only be indicated based on the limited number of finds. The ceramics may be one source of important information. Looked at in detail the various periods of occupation will be known and the status and origins of the ceramic wares attached to the levels of excavation and their find spots in the building. Other bits of metalwork, such as the keys will also provide important details.

Another important aspect of this excavation were the social benefits. Many of the volunteers lived within a few miles of the excavation and their knowledge and interest in the medieval

history of the area will be enhanced. Also, the atmosphere on this dig was very positive, despite the wide range in archaeological backgrounds of the participants and former occupations; the dig was also opened to two local Young Archaeologists Clubs. Many persons not actively participating in the dig came to see what was going on. Many of these brought their children and the National Trust made special efforts to involve as many young visitors in bits of the operation as could be arranged. Feedback from the

families of such young people was very positive. Of course, the National Trust guides from the Tower were in evidence and everyone will have come away with their knowledge enhanced. Lastly, a particular thank you must go to the current tenant of the Tower Mr. Rob Dixon and his family for not only cooperating by having his garden dug up, but also for the active interest the Dixon family showed in the entire project.

HEDSOR, NEAR MAIDENHEAD, THE RESIDENCE OF LORD BOSTON
From *The Gardeners' Chronicle* 10 March 1900 [p53, 154-55, vol I]



HEDSOR

SITUATED near Maidenhead, Bucks, on a commanding eminence at 200 to 300 feet above the Thames, from which it is rather more than half a mile distant, stands Hedsor (see above), the seat of Lord Boston. The situation rivals in respect of natural scenery the adjoining estate of Cliveden. The approach to the house from the Taplow side is by a carriage-drive of rather more than a mile in length, running through woodland and park, and flanked by a free growth of Rhododendrons for a considerable distance, also by Conifers of good dimensions. There are fine specimens of *Pinus excelsa*, *Sequoia sempervirens*, *Cryptomeria japonica*, and others.

The mansion stands on the crest of a ridge which

overlooks the valley of the river Thames, which is very picturesque at this part. The mansion, rebuilt in 1862, in the Italian style, is of white brick with stone coigns and dressings; from it a grand view of the Thames and district is obtained. The pleasure-grounds surrounding the house are undulating. There is no flower-garden proper, but several beds are planted in the summer with Cannas, which are here much in favour, and others are filled with Pelargoniums in variety. These beds are in the spring made gay with multi-coloured varieties of Wallflowers, with Violas, *Silene pendula*, and a variety of spring-flowering plants. Tea Roses are rather profusely planted in borders and beds.

Attached to the mansion is a conservatory that is kept continuously gay with plants brought from the cultivating-houses in the kitchen-garden, which lies at a considerably lower elevation. Walking in the pleasure-grounds surrounding the mansion, good views are obtained over the river and neighbourhood, some of which are kept open by cutting back the trees when they encroach and threaten to obscure them, and in other instances peep-holes or tunnels are cut through the arboreal vegetation. Thus views are obtained of Cookham and Cookham Weir, and the Maidenhead district, while extensive views of open country are seen to the west and north-west over Marlow, and towards the Chilterns. On one of the Oak-crowned knolls in the park there stands an ornamental castellated structure that forms a pleasing object in the view from the mansion, and other points.

Another carriage-drive from the south-west side leads up from the Thames valley, off the Cookham and Wooburn roads, a considerable ascent. The parish church of Hedsor is at a short distance from the mansion. Here rest the remains of Fleming, for many years gardener at Cliveden, famous for his introduction or popularisation of spring bedding.

THE GLASSHOUSES

Very near to the church is situated a portion of the glasshouses, arranged on two sides of a square, devoted principally to Vines and Peaches. The Vines in the earliest house were pushing freely into growth at the time of my visit, the forcing, for a variety of reasons, not being early this year; but Grapes from this house have been cut in April for several years past. The next is a succession Vinery; a small connecting house is occupied by a Fig-tree. Then follow a Peach-house, and two lean-to vineries, but somewhat badly placed, being shaded considerably by an adjacent building and some high trees; although good crops of fruit are annually obtained. Near here a house with a north aspect contains *Azalea indica* in variety; and passing through a doorway on to the south side, is a house filled with 'Souvenir de la Malmaison' Carnations in good health is reached. The variety Princess May is noticeable for its exuberant growth — evidently a plant having a good constitution. Several heated pits are also found at this point filled with bedding plants.

The principal plant and fruit-houses are in the kitchen gardens, situated not far distant, but at a much lower level, a hundred or more feet below the mansion. Owing to the steepness of the paths, considerable labour is entailed in moving plants, &c., to the house and conservatory adjoining it.

THE KITCHEN GARDEN

has an area of several acres within the walls, and nicely trained trees of the usual kinds of fruits cover the different walls. Cordon Apples and Pears skirting some of the asphalt paths are in fine health, and bristle this year with fruit-buds.

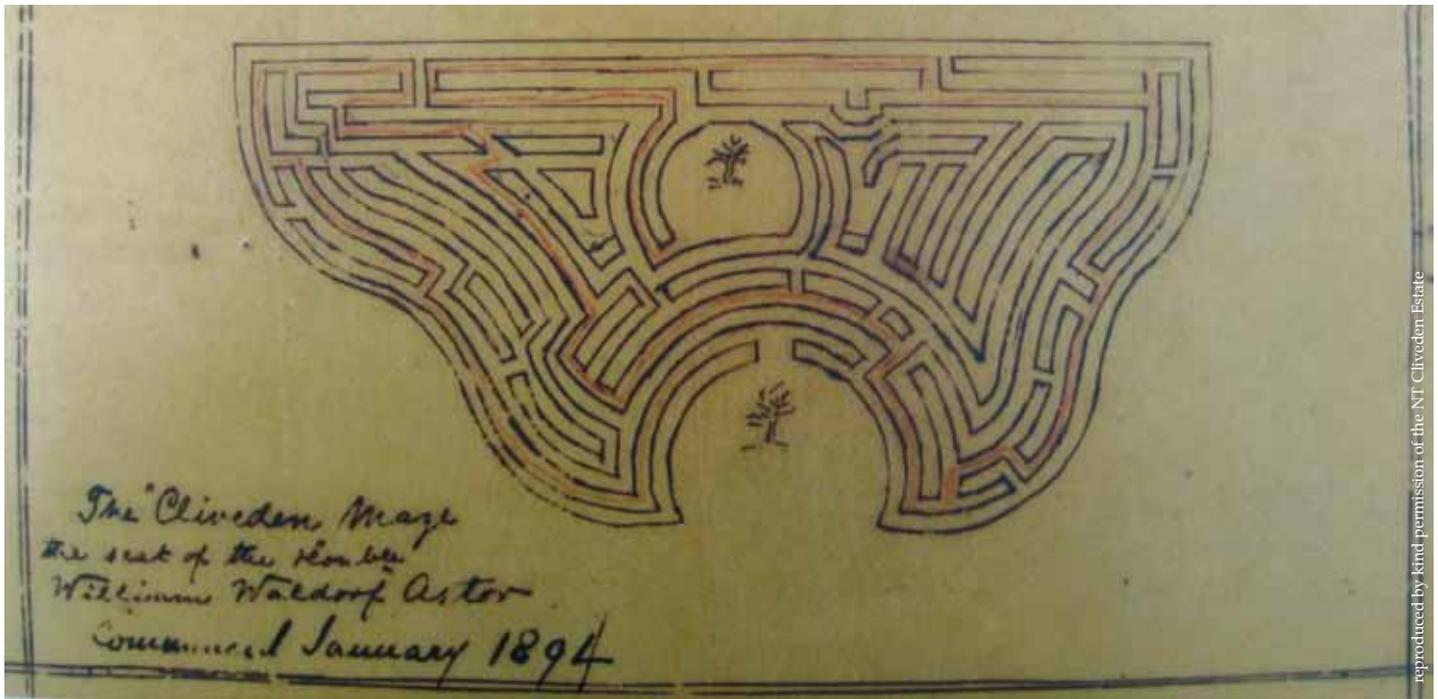
The houses here are arranged so as to form a quadrangle, and consist of two ranges of hip and

span construction; a couple of lean-to vineries, a span-roofed flower-house, besides heated pits with a sunken path running throughout. Entering the span-house standing at the end of these ranges, devoted to flowering plants, from which supplies go to the mansion and conservatory, I was struck with the fine appearance of a batch of *Lachenalias*, interspersed among *Primulas* and *Cyclamens*. *Lachenalia tricolor* is grown extremely well in 48-sized pots, and as many as thirty-two flowers were counted on one spike. *Solanums* raised from seed early last year had made finely-berried bushes in 32 and 24-sized pots. These had proved useful, furnishing plants throughout the winter, and were still very full of fruits, and fresh in appearance. They are treated on the planting out method during the summer, and lifted early in the autumn and potted. Seedlings for producing this year's batch of plants were just pushing up strongly in the seed-pans. *Richardias* are also grown in quantity, and treated somewhat similarly in the summer. *Euphorbias* (*Poinsettias*) were also numerous, and apparently the plants had been very fine. Besides cut flowers used in decorations in the mansion, others are furnished for church decoration, Lord Boston wishing special attention to be given in this direction, and large quantities have to be furnished on the occasion of Church festivals, as at Easter. Chiefly for this purpose, one house is now filled with *Lilium longiflorum* var. *Harrisii*, of which Lily Mr. Wood is a very successful cultivator, he having produced as many as eleven flowers on a spike last season. The plants in question look very promising, with deep green foliage quite to the base. Mr. Wood finds that this is best attained by not putting the bulbs deep in the pots, but by keeping them rather high, and not burying them more than half their height in the soil when first potted. Later on a small quantity of loam and fibre are added as a top-dressing, and weak liquid-manure from the cow-stalls is afforded. A house is devoted to the cultivation of *Codiaeum* (*Crotons*), a favourite table-plant at Hedsor, many of which are grown as well as half-specimen plants. Several dozens of young recently-struck plants from cuttings are in small 60's, and others were being rooted on the plants, the stem being cut round, and a small 60-size filled with light soil fitted to it. When the small pot has become filled with roots, a 4 1/2-inch pot is used for re-potting before the plant is severed from the parent. When the latter is partially filled with roots, the old plant is, allowed to gradually become very dry at the root, and then the young plant may be safely removed without the loss of a leaf. This method produces the most perfect table-plant, especially of such long and handsome-leaved, varieties as those of the Warreni type.

Among the varieties, the pretty small-leaved *Cerstedii* was noticeable with brightly-spotted yellow on a greenish-ground foliage; this also remains in a good condition when used for room decoration, much longer than other varieties. *Sunbeam* is a new and promising variety; *Prince of Wales* was very fine, as
[continues on p14]



*'A view of Dropmore', by W. Richardson
painted in London in 1850, John Rotheroe pulled this out of his car-boot during our visit in 2008
(see page 16 for more detail), and kindly gave us permission to reprint it here*



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reproduced by kind permission of the NT Cliveden Estate

CLIVEDEN'S MAZE REVIVED

There has always been an overgrown planting of yew just to the right as you enter the water-garden at Cliveden, and for many years I was puzzled as to what it might be. In 1999 I was looking at the first edition OS and realised it was a lost, blown out Maze. So of course we had to mention it in *The Bucks Gardener* 8, p10, and Philip Cotton (the then Head Gardener) quite rightly said, "Oh yes, it has always been there, but we don't have the resources to do anything there just now."

So it is good to see that an original plan has turned up, and a new computer aided version of this has now been made. As you can see it sticks pretty closely to the original design, though because of the access demands to the current NT carpark, it has had to be moved a bit further out from the works yard. It is now being laid out on the ground, with a metal edging to prevent wear and tear to the path edges. Amazing!



Charles Booth

[continued from p11]

were also *ruberrimum*, *picturatum*, *Hammondi*, an improved *Countess*, *Sceptre*, *Aigburthiensis* and many others.

Dracoanas are also well grown, and the tops of plants are rooted similarly to the *Crotons*. It was found that when removed after rooting into the small pot only, the bottom leaves were lost after repotting; but when this was effected on the plant some time previous to removal, a perfect plant resulted without the loss of any bottom leaves. Lord Wolseley is a variety of noted excellence as a table-plant.

A batch of *Eucharis* growing on the back stage was in robust health, and the small size of the pot when compared with the size of the plants proved what may be done in this way. Over-potting has undoubtedly wrecked many collections of these plants. Rough fibrous loam and charcoal is the potting medium here used.

Seedling Palms raised from home grown seeds are not of frequent occurrence, but Mr. Wood has for two or three years past flowered and seeded a couple of specimen-plants of *Cocos Weddelliana*, and young plants are now growing from some of these seeds. This Palm appears to thrive unusually well at Hedsor, young plants growing away with that vigour so desirable of the variety. The plants are kept in pots comparatively small for their size.

The next house is chiefly devoted to *Gardenias*, there being a fine batch of plants in 7-inch pots struck from cuttings last April, and promising an abundance of blooms. Young plants are grown on yearly, and the old ones thrown away after flowering. A portion of the roof of this house was covered by a fine *Stephanotis floribunda*, from which one large fruit was hanging, just changing from green to yellowish shade, and much larger than a hen's egg. A batch of *Pancratiums* was also good.

Two houses are devoted to two kinds of *Orchids*, one to *Cœlogyne cristata*, and the other to the old *Dendrobium nobile*, two of the most generally useful *Orchids*; and a fine sight they presented here. The *Dendrobiums* were fast opening their flowers, some three dozen or more of plants growing in plants ranging in size from a 6-inch to one of 16 inches diameter, and the larger plants each carrying many hundreds of blossoms. Grouped together with the admixture of a few *Maidenhair Ferns* and *Palms* the effect was very good. Of the large batch of *Cœlogyne*, many of the spikes of blossoms had been cut, but sufficient remained to show that the cultural requirements were well understood, the vigorous spikes, deep-green foliage, and fine pseudo-bulbs, showed the plants were in perfect health. A few of the plants are divided annually, and as these do not bloom much the following year after division, a good supply of strong flowering-plants is maintained by

dividing one or two plants annually. All are grown in shallow square pans about a foot in diameter.

Other houses in these ranges are occupied by *Peach-trees*, two in a promising condition. With one house, the latest, Mr. Wood remarked there had been considerable difficulty for several years in saving sufficient buds to secure a crop, so persistently had they dropped; but the past two seasons the lights had been taken off in the autumn, and allowed to remain off the house until the trees were pruned in February, with the result that the bud-dropping trouble had disappeared.

Another house had been re-planted with *Muscat Vines* last season, and they had made strong canes. A similar-sized house is filled with *French Beans* in pots in two batches, the earliest in nice bearing; and quantities of young *Tomato-plants* were



Hedsor today, note the very different roofline

quickly reaching a state suitable for planting-out. In a long range of heated pits in three divisions, the staging being very near to the glass, is a quantity of furnishing-plants coming on, including a large batch of herbaceous *Calceolarias*, which are here favourites, although not so often met with in gardens as formerly. The plants are in 7 and 8-inch pots, and in a very promising condition. One division was filled with *Adiantum cuneatum*, the fronds of which are in great demand for furnishing; and large quantities of that useful old double *Pelargonium*, *F. V. Raspail*, are grown for autumn and winter-blooming; while a batch of that favourite *Begonia*, *Gloire de Lorraine*, was still flowering freely.

Chrysanthemums are also well grown at Hedsor, and the young stock of plants were starting away well into growth.

The improved forms of the *Cactus Dahlia* are grown in quantity, and Mr. Wood has utilised a novel structure for wintering them in, and that is a disused gasometer, stood on a level surface, a doorway having been made for entering the iron structure. The roots are here plunged in a good depth of cocoa-fibre refuse, and a lamp-stool inside in severe weather to exclude frost. In the summer capital crops of *Mushrooms* are grown from beds made up as soon as the *Dahlia* roots are removed. The gardens have for some years been under Mr. Wood's charge, and it is pleasing to note that Lord Boston takes a lively interest in his garden, and the welfare of his *employés* generally.

C. H.

We have been invited to visit the gardens at Hedsor Park by their owner, a long standing BGT member. We are very grateful to Alexander Shephard for the opportunity to continue the exploration of the gardens clustered around Cliveden. Full details of this and our other visits will be given in the next edition of *The Bucks Gardener* due out in Spring 2010.

LAST YEAR'S EVENTS, A QUICK UPDATE

It's been such a long time since the last appearance of *The Bucks Gardener* that there is quite a lot to catch up on. Rather than giving a straight account of the events of last year I have tried to bring them up to date with some details that have arisen in the intervening period.

Visit to Boarstall: update Saturday 19 July, 2008

Although we did cover the visit to Boarstall Tower in our last issue Sarah Rutherford has uncovered an earlier visitor account, which may in part account for the lack of cannon balls found on the recent dig just described.

From: *The Torrington Diaries*;
A Selection from the Tours of the Hon. John Byng
1954, ed. C. Bruyn Andrews

A Ride Taken in 1785 (July 2nd to 12th)

"... we* enquired the way to Borstal House, of which civil war history saying much, had made me anxious to visit. At last we found it, (for the weather was very hot, the road intricate, and we puddle along in adventural conversation like another old Hudibras, and Ralpho,) seated in low bottoms, encircled by a moat, and surrounded by newly planted firs, and some old elms.

Within these 16 years the great old mansion was pull'd down; and now nothing remains but the gateway and the stables. The gateway is truly curious and antient, with a leaded and balustraded roof, to which we mounted, and in the windows of the stair case saw many cannon balls that are dug out of the moat. The inside was of late years paper'd, &c. but is now out of all order, and the best windows block'd up.

However it might be easily fitted up as a happy summer retreat, being seated out of noise and neighbourhood: at a small distance is a decoy pond, and adjoining to the garden the neatly kept church."

* 'we' includes Albermarle Bertie (1744–1818), 9th Lord Lindsey

Visit to Cliveden: update Saturday 16 August, 2008

On the Great Parterre, the Graham Stuart Thomas planting (which has been in situ since the 1970s and possibly replaces a simplification of the Fleming beds suggested by Norah Lindsay, *Sarah Rutherford*), is being cleared and has been replaced by seasonal bedding, in an attempt to recapture the excitement of Fleming's schemes (see *BG* 24, Autumn 2006). Having spent a lot of time and energy getting the surrounding box hedging back in order, this may now have to be reduced in height to regain its C19 proportions. In the Long Garden, considerable clearing has taken place in the shrubberies with the intention of re-examining the planting there. Progress on laying-out and replanting of the Maze is in hand (see *BG* 8, Spring 2000, and centre-spread). Metal edging has been going in and the path and planting spaces are showing clearly; this work is being accompanied by considerable thinning and replanting in the adjacent water

garden. A lot is happening and all this before the Conservation Management Plan is in place...

You may well also be interested in the following rather back-handed account from a back issue of the *New York Times* and spotted by Sarah Rutherford.

From *The New York Times* ©: February 4, 1898

W. W. ASTOR AND CLIVEDEN

THE AMERICAN CRITICISED FOR CLOSING THE PLACE TO
SIGHTSEERS AND ACCUSED OF BAD MANNERS

LONDON, Feb. 3.— *The Daily Chronicle* to-day publishes a letter, signed "English Citizen," in which, after referring to the beauties of Cliveden, the residence near London of William Waldorf Astor, and the "liberty the former noble owners allowed the public in the park, gardens, and House," the writer continues:

"A few years ago the property was sold to a rich American. First the park was surrounded by a hideous wall, covered with broken glass, and access thereto and to the house was forbidden. Even a spring of water, which for a century has been open to the public, quite distant from the house, is now closed, and the iron grille gate in the old park wall, allowing a view of the house and avenue, has been pulled down, and a dead blank wall is now building in its place, so sacred is the privacy of the present owner."



This 1813 Polite Repository view of the Spring at Cliveden, now made even more private in that it forms part of the Hotel managed area

After alluding to the fact that the public is admitted to two great estates adjoining Cliveden, the writer of the letter adds:

"No reasonable man wishes to prevent Americans or citizens of other States from inhabiting our country; but, if they wish to do so, their first duty is to show decent respect for the customs of their adopted country. Failing this, it becomes a duty to ask whether there is no way of teaching them good manners."

Referring to the old principle of English law, "once a highway always a highway," the writer says:

"Under ordinary circumstances there is no wish to press the maxim; but, when we see so gross a violation of the ordinary rules of courtesy in English life, we may fairly take advantage of the law intended

to keep the enjoyment of right of way on English soil open forever to Englishmen and give a lesson to wealthy strangers who would not dare to strain the rights of property in their own countries.”



reproduced by kind permission of the NT Cliveden

From the Cliveden archives comes a picture showing Waldo Story's Fountain of Love, not long after its installation, c1897, in which you can see a glimpse of the rather handsome urn capped 'clairevoyée'. Notice that the continuation of the avenue into neighbouring Hedsor had already been planted over.

Visit to Trentham: update
Thursday 11 September, 2008

Our visit to Stoke Trent to see the restored Trentham Gardens, was a great success. Pat & John Walton kindly drove the party in their 'people carrier'. Michael Walker spared 3 hours of his time to giving us a lively if slightly damp tour, which was much appreciated. The lushly planted Italian Garden was looking splendid as was Piet Oudolf's new prairie planting the Eastern Gardens.



John Walton

Michael Walker talks to intrepid members of the BGT who travelled well out of county to Trentham, and it didn't rain! They are standing in front of the magnificent restored pergola

If you are going up the M6 do consider stopping at Trentham (its only 5 minutes off the motorway). You can get a good lunch, buy some plants and see one of the most exciting garden recreations in the country.

Michael Walker will be talking about Trentham's restoration for the GHS Winter Lecture Series in London, 6.30pm on

Wednesday 3 February, at The Gallery, 70 Cowcross Street, EC1M 6EJ (just up from Farringdon Station). £8 for members in advance (the BGT is a corporate member), send an SAE for tickets booked in advance by post or, subject to availability, bought at the door on the night (£10) from 6pm (advisable to ring first on 020 7490 2974).

Visit to Dropmore: update
Wednesday 24 September, 2008

On our 2008 visit to Dropmore, John Rotheroe brought a picture out of the boot of his car (see centre-spread), a large watercolour of a Monkey Puzzle tree beside a lake. He bought it as 'A View of Dropmore' in 1975, but had been unable to confirm this until our visit. It is by W. Richardson, and was painted in London in 1850. He writes, "I thought Dropmore was fascinating and thankyou for the opportunity to see it. For over thirty years I have wondered if this picture was Dropmore, as claimed by the vendor — it seems he was right".

Given the excellent records of the plantings at Dropmore, it may even be possible to identify which tree it is, and when it was raised and planted. Its lakeside location marks it out as one of the earliest plantings of Monkey Puzzles there. Following the visit the BGT made a donation of a small group of young Monkey Puzzles to the gardens, which still need considerable work, following on the very fine rebuilding of the house. It's all gone a bit quiet there since the onset of the curent financial situation...

Visit to Hall Barn: update
Sunday 26 October, 2008



A View of Part of the Garden at Hall-Barn near Beckonsfield in Buckinghamshire, a Seat of Edmund Waller Esq., designed and engraved by Woollett, published July 1760. It also shows the Temple of Venus, upper right



A View of the Great Room &c., at Hall-Barn near Beckonsfield in Buckinghamshire, a Seat of Edmund Waller Esq., as above

Our final visit of the year (and our first return visit since our Launch there in 1998), was to the wonderful Hall Barn. It is so little changed from the ubiquitous engravings by Woollett (*below left*), dating from 1760, that it is hard to now imagine the shock that was caused by the M40 being thrust through the park.



The Temple of Venus, sorry it's a bit dark, it was a rather dim day, this is the view from the garden side, losing the effect of the view from below, anyway currently obscured by trees

On entering the Temple of Venus, Rosemary Jury thought she recognised the names of those responsible for the exquisite plasterwork as being by the same hand as that at Hartwell. She adds “the three eighteenth-century stuccatori Adalberto Artari (1693–1751), Guiseppe Artari (1697–1769) and Giovanni Bagutti (1681–after 1730) were closely associated with the architect James Gibbs (1682–1754), and you [Jenefer Farncombe] said they did the plasterwork in your Temple of Venus. Gibbs described them in *A Book of Architecture* (1728, 2nd edn. 1739) as ‘the best fret workers that ever came to England’.

They also worked with Gibbs, at the Chapel of Cannons House, Middlesex (1716–21) for the Duke of Chandos; at Orleans House, The Octagon for James Johnson (c1720); Ditchley House in Oxfordshire (1722–27) for the Earl of Litchfield; the Senate House, Cambridge (1722–30), St Martin’s in the Fields (1722–26) and the Radcliffe Library, Oxford (1737–38) ... amongst a number of other prestigious projects.

“Joseph Friedman who wrote an unpublished *History of Hartwell*, 1997, states that, ‘the most striking feature of the Great Hall is the plasterwork. This may be the work of the Italian stuccatori Guiseppe Artari and Giovanni Bagutti’. An interesting connection, although not mentioned by Terry Friedman in his book, James Gibbs, (YUP, 1997).”

Recently the Farncombe’s have overseen the restoration of the Obelisk and the Gibbs pattern Alcove (though there is no record if he actually was responsible for it’s execution).

Do we perhaps dare assert that Gibbs was at Hall Barn and might have been responsible for at least the Alcove and Rotunda, though Mike Cousins in his article in *Follies* (Vol 8, No 2) stuck to the accepted attribution to Colen Campbell, though this is a piece he is promising to update.

More recently again (at the 2009 Wotton Conference), Richard Wheeler has pointed out the similarity in the Temple of Venus’s escarp edge setting with the Rotunda at Petworth, another link to investigate.



*By now it’s really getting dark, as members pause in front of ‘Gibbs’s(?)’ garden alcove, taking in the view towards Beaconsfield church, now in part masked by the mounded bund of the M40. Even if not directly by Gibbs it certainly matches a design in his *A Book of Architecture* (1728)*

Spring Talks 2009: update

Our Spring Talks series started at a new venue, the Plant Centre, Waddesdon, but after the first one we had to take an executive decision and re-locate to the County Museum, Aylesbury. We even had a robin in the audience, a first (*below*). Our apologies to those of you who didn’t hear about the relocation in time, and our thanks to our speakers who as usual proved very stimulating, and perhaps especially to Sarah Gray and her staff at the Museum who were so helpful in accomodating us at such short notice.



We were very sorry to have to change the venue for our Talks series from the Power House, Waddesdon Manor. They were initially held in the ‘Autumn’ and then, with changes to all year round opening, we very happily moved to the now more familiar ‘Spring’ dates. As the Manor had become busier we were asked to move our venue to The Plant Centre, which we duly agreed to; but it has proved impractical, both from a noise and acceptable disturbance point. Whilst for plant and gardening demonstration purposes it would be an excellent venue it didn’t work for what are, after all, academic type lectures. I cannot thank the staff of the Plant Centre enough for their help in trying to accommodate us.

We have had a long and mostly very happy relationship with The Manor since our first event there back in 1997 when we were trying to get the idea of the Bucks Gardens Trust off the ground,

and Michael Walker, the then Gardens Manager, very kindly offered us the use of The Buttery for our initial public meeting. The relationship blossomed as we began to hold regular Talks there in the very well equipped Power House with its discreet facilities for showing both slides and more latterly PowerPoint. We were able to bring in a good-sized audience to use both the shop and restaurant at otherwise unfashionable times of the year.

But alas, times move on, demands on the Power House grew, and we were shocked to discover last year, rather too late in the day, that a deliberate policy had come in to switch off the heating during the winter months... Goodness knows what it was doing to fragile electrical equipment let alone our valuable members! Members may be unaware that we also able to use the Power House for our four times yearly meetings. Our thanks must nonetheless go to Lord Rothschild and all at The Manor for their help and kindness in accommodating us over the years.

EVENTS 2009

You will have seen the brief reports on our visits to **Hall Place, Buckingham** and **Thenford** in the *Bucks UG* earlier in the year. We continue our reports of other events here with that on the AGM, followed by the accounts.

The AGM, Wotton House, Wotton Underwood Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of The Buckinghamshire Gardens Trust held at Wotton House, Sunday 19 July, 2009

Apologies

Apologies were received from Carolyn Adams, Kate Distin-Harvey, Candida Godber, Jackie Huntingford, John Rotheroe, Richard Wheeler and Letitia Yetman.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 2008 and Matters arising.

The minutes were accepted as a fair record of the meeting.

Proposer: David Hillier. Seconded: Stephanie Lawrence.

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

Chairmans Report

This took the form of a review of the previous year along with thanks to individuals and garden owners for making the year such a success.

Chairman opened with a vote of thanks to two dedicated members of Council. Firstly to Dr Sarah Rutherford for her sterling work as Honorary Secretary for many years. Sarah stood down from this position not long after the 2008 AGM. Chairman also thanked Candida Godber for all her fine work as Hon Treasurer. Similarly Candida had stood down as Hon Treasurer after the 2008 AGM.

Events had included visits to Evenley Wood, Cliveden, Boarstall Tower during Archaeology Week, Dropmore, Trentham and, for the first time since the launch of Bucks Gardens Trust in 1997, a tour of the gardens at Hall Barn. All had been a great success and Chairman thanked the organisers and owners.

Another successful event was the conference on *Gibbs and Gardening* held at Hartwell House. Chairman apologised for the lack of published papers relating to this conference.

The series of Spring Talks from Nicola Smith on *Allotments*, Peter Howell on *Triumphal Arches* and Dr Sarah Rutherford

on *Asylum Gardens* had been a success and well attended. Unfortunately the venue had to be changed after the opening lecture and some members missed the second lecture due to the change in venue for which the Chairman apologised.

Chairman concluded with a consideration of Bucks Gardens Trust schools programme. This was doing well with PACE in Aylesbury and Cheddington School considered worthy of special praise.

Treasurers Report

Treasurer presented the accounts year ending March 2009 for approval. It was noted that the accounts were very similar to 2008, with income and expenditure following a similar pattern as well as transfers of funds between the Current and Savings accounts.

Points raised from the floor included a question about reduced printing costs that was explained by the lack of newsletters being produced during the year and a question of how much spending there had been on research. Chairman responded that much research was undertaken by volunteers and hence would not appear in accounts. Bucks Gardens Trust had contributed a considerable amount of material to the UK Gardens Database.

A comment was made by Joanna Matthews (Oxfordshire Gardens Trust) that the balance of reserves being equal to one year's income and expenditure was not as advised by the Charities Commission.

A proposal to accept the accounts for 2009 was made by Charles Boot. Seconded by Dr Sarah Rutherford. Accounts accepted.

Election of Officers of Council and Trustees of Bucks Gardens Trust

The following Officers of Council were proposed for election:

Chairman: Charles Boot.

Proposed by Stephanie Lawrence, Seconded by Rosemary Jury.

Honorary Secretary: Mick Thompson.

Proposed by Charles Boot. Seconded by Stephanie Lawrence.

Hon Treasurer: Lisa Watson.

Proposed by Geoff Huntingford. Seconded by Rosemary Jury.

All three elected *nem con*.

Election of Trustees

Under the terms of the Articles of Association of Bucks Gardens Trust (Items 29-37) one third of the Trustees must retire from office. Candida Godber stood down in 2008. The remaining Trustees (Charles Boot, Dr. Sarah Rutherford, Lisa Watson and Stephanie Lawrence) agreed to stand again.

Proposed by Geoff Huntingford. Seconded by Mick Thompson.

All four trustees were duly elected.

Resolutions

None.

Any Other Business.

Charles Boot informed the meeting that Berkshire Gardens Trust had been formed and an official launch would take place on 23 July 2009. Geoff Huntingford would attend on behalf of Bucks Gardens Trust.

Visits to Kelmarsh, Ashridge and Miton Keynes Parks Trust had been arranged for the coming months.

A programme of Spring talks for 2010 was circulated.

Joanna Matthews (Oxfordshire Gardens Trust) informed the meeting of;

- Study day to be held at Bushy Park on 1 October 2009.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE GARDENS TRUST
Accounts for year ending March 31 2009

INCOME

2009		2008
£1,275.00	Members subs	£1,155.00
£3,583.00	Events	£3,808.00
£0.00	Donations	£315.00
£0.00	Misc	£0.00
£617.50	Sales	£1,531.93
<u>£229.10</u>	Inland Rev-Gift aid	<u>£238.37</u>
<u>£5,704.60</u>		<u>£7,048.30</u>

EXPENDITURE

2009		2008
£234.61	Admin	£30.00
£228.70	Postage	£97.08
£3,069.45	Events	£2,718.80
£367.42	Printing	£1,651.49
£436.60	Misc	£171.00
£0.00	Donations, prizes, grants	£0.00
£300.00	Schools	£1,128.12
<u>£00.0</u>	Purchases	<u>£192.30</u>
<u>£4,663.78</u>		<u>£5,988.79</u>

£1,040.82	Surplus for year	-£1,059.51
	adjustment	-£0.10
	Carried forward 1/4/07	£3,444.43
	Total	<u>£4,503.84</u>

<u>£4,503.84</u>	Carried forward 1/4/08	<u>£4,503.84</u>
<u>£5,544.66</u>		

In bank 31/3/09 £5,544.66

BALANCE SHEET MARCH 2009

Fixed assets	£466.56	
Less depreciation	-£46.70	
		<u>£419.86</u>
Current bank acct	£5,544.66	
Sundry debtors	£0.00	
Less current liabilities		
Transfer	-£3,500.00	
Sundry creditors & accruals		
Grant agreed for PACE	-£500.00	
Net current assets		£1,544.66
Net assets		<u>£1,964.52</u>

Business instant access account 31/3/2008	£2,156.43
Transfer from current account	£3,500.00
Interest	<u>£48.45</u>
In bank 31/3/2009	<u>£5,704.88</u>

• Historic Parks Foundation competition for the best published garden guide.

David Hillier informed the meeting of a seminar of 7 lectures to be run by the Local History Network on 1 October at RAF Halton on the theme of Famous Buckinghamshire People.

Chairman apologised for the lack of Newsletters during 2009.

In future 2 newsletters per annum rather than 3 per annum would be produced.

Details of the Wotton Landscape Conference to be held on 16 and 17 October 2009 were circulated.

The meeting closed at 2.50.

Chairman thanked David & April Gladstone for agreeing to hold the AGM at Wotton.



Members and guests gather around a new lakeside urn, placed on a pre-existing mound near the boathouse at Wotton

Following the meeting we had another very entertaining and interesting walk with David and Michael around the pleasure grounds; each time we visit there is more to see. This time there was the recently restored, second, Lake Pavilion; the new views through the Worrals; a whole new vista along the lake to an urn from the far side of the Octagon, previously this had all been overgrown. The revelation was the view back from the Turk, this clearance had resulted in a complete change in the balance of planting, the grass sweeping up from the lake giving a new layer to the landscape; trees, grass, water, grass, a view that shows how so many Brownian landscapes are suffering from the breakdown in the relation of wood, grass and water, a considerable thinning of trees along lake sides is called for. We got back in time for tea, always a pleasure. Many thanks to all at Wotton.

Visit to Kelmarsh Hall Gardens, Northamptonshire
Saturday 25 July 2009

On a beautiful sunny Saturday a large party of BGT members (thirty in all, despite our Chairman's misgivings concerning the weather on 'out of county' visits) spent an informative and most enjoyable afternoon in the gardens of Kelmarsh Hall. Head Gardener Esther McMillan gave us a insightful tour of the gardens created by Nancy Lancaster, Geoffrey Jellicoe and Norah Lindsay, the peace of the afternoon only being a little disturbed by an English Heritage festival on the far side of the lake, and a wedding party in the Hall. The review of troops over the ages was highly reminiscent of the scenes depicted of the parade ground at Stowe.

Our afternoon culminated in a shared picnic tea in the triangular walled garden, and the sun continued to shine! On returning to the carpark we spotted a rather forlorn five-bay Orangery that has a fine view across the fields to the Church. This had been rescued and brought to Kelmarsh in 1954, from the demolished Brixworth Hall. It looks as though it is in danger again, and we

hope the Trust charged with looking after the future of the Hall manages to fund its restoration in the near future.



Bucks Gardeners enjoying the sun (& cakes) in Kelmarsh's Walled Garden, after the official tour

Visit to Ashridge

Saturday 5 September, 2009

Saturday dawned rather cool and grey, but nevertheless seventeen intrepid Bucks Gardens Trust members made their way to Ashridge (only half 'out of county' as Ashridge sits on the county divide between Bucks and Herts). This proved to have been a more than worthwhile journey as Mick Thompson, Landscape Manager for Ashridge, and our own Hon Secretary, gave us an excellent tour of the gardens and the landscape, finishing in 'Capability' Brown's 'Golden Valley' which dispels any negative thoughts one might have harboured regarding his capabilities. We were also provided with a delicious tea! Many thanks Mick for such an enjoyable afternoon.



the sumptuous neo-sub-tropical bed outside the Fernery at Ashridge

Wotton Landscape Conference

Friday 16 & Saturday 17 October, 2009

You will be able to read the papers for this year's Wotton Landscape Conference in the *New Arcadian Journal*, edited by Patrick Eyres, himself a speaker at the two-day seminar (see the enclosed flyer). Other speakers were Prof Timothy Mowl, who gave us an overview of Brown as 'Innovator or Manipulator?', particularly praising his earlier 'more minimal' works. Mike

Cousins really hit the ground running with new research and a newly transcribed contemporary account of visiting the gardens. Steffie Shields, tried to get to the bottom of the Wotton waters, three lakes apparently fed by one small stream. Sarah Couch gave an in depth look at the Avenues, a few remnants of which survive even today, but had done so, surprisingly strongly, right into the twentieth-century despite the allegedly informal landscape. After exploring the earlier part of the landscape, walking around the Worralls, and seeing the newly placed former roof top urn on the far side, we came back to hear from Michael Bevington, who really got to the bottom of the familial relations with Stowe and other estates. Patrick Eyres tried to piece together the iconography or lack of it by comparison with Stowe and Kew, and intriguing relationship.



A distant urn can just be glimpsed through the central arch of Wotton's Octagon; a vista recently recreated by clearing scrub and trees that had grown up over the last 60 years

Michael Symes started the second day by examining the role the family played in the design of the gardens, particularly seizing on the role played by Pitt, much to David Gladstone's interest. Kate Felus, gave us a real feeling for the ways in which the Pleasure Grounds were used, perhaps not so differently from today; the idea of teaching children patience by introducing them to fishing needs looking into, as does the fondness for miniature naval battles. John Phibbs re-examined the role, or not, of Brown in the design of Wotton, and the complex web of the views. Richard Wheeler took the gardens even further afield, setting them in a national context, taking in Croome and Petworth, and relating Wotton to the wider world. A second walk enabled us to see the further part of the garden, and even included an examination of a canon ball from those nautical exchanges, and for the braver souls a chance to see the view from the top of the Chinese Bridge. The papers threw up much food for thought and with the illustrations in place will make a fascinating souvenir of the two intense days. Our thanks to all who made it such a stimulating seminar.

Visit to Milton Keynes Parks Trust

Friday 23 October, 2009

Perhaps rather surprisingly this visit attracted fourteen members. Even more surprising is the work being carried out by Milton Keynes Parks Trust, created in 1992 to care for 4,500 acres of green space that make the Parks Trust the city's biggest landowner. As well as parkland, the Trust is responsible for



Bucks Gardeners with Rai Darke of Milton Keynes Parks Trust

lakesides, woodland, farmland and landscaping alongside main roads, in fact a twenty-first managed landscape.

Following an excellent sandwich lunch, David Foster, Chief Executive of the Trust, gave a fascinating presentation on the Trust's work, completely dispelling any previously held ideas concerning concrete cows. Later we were led on a walk by Rai Darke, the Trust's Operations Manager, around Campbell Park which boasts a wonderful Tree Cathedral, carefully considered planting, and a viewing point reminiscent of an Elizabethan mount, these amongst other delights.

The visit to the Milton Keynes Parks Trust was at the suggestion of Candy Godber, lately our Treasurer, whose husband Richard was instrumental in setting up the Milton Keynes Parks Trust. Thank you Candy for such an inspirational and eye-opening visit.

Visit to Evenley Wood, Northamptonshire Sunday 8 November, 2009

Although the weather on the morning of Sunday 8 November did not look promising, twenty Bucks Gardens Trust members and friends arrived in the car park at Evenley Wood garden to be met by the owner, Tim Whiteley, who over the last twenty-five years has planted an already existing wood (many centuries old, though managed in several different ways at different periods), with a feast of ornamental trees and shrubs.



Bucks Gardeners get close up to plants at Evenley with Head Gardener Mike Fisher, on a surprisingly clement November afternoon

We had come to see the autumn colour in this sixty-acre woodland, and we were not disappointed. As we were enjoying

a lunch of home-made soup, hot rolls, delicious cheeses, grapes, cakes, tea and coffee, provided by Mrs Whiteley, the sun came out lighting up the turning leaves of the oak, maples and beech trees. Tim Whiteley and Head Gardener, Mike Fisher, led two groups around the Wood pointing out trees and plants, explaining their provenance and telling us of their future plans. Evenley is a joy at all seasons of the year and, if you were unable to join us on 8 November, please visit the Evenley Wood website and watch the video; you won't be able to stay away!

Rosemary Jury & Charles Boot

WIND FARM IN NORTH BUCKS

Some time ago now, the BGT and many others raised objections regarding the planned wind farm for seven turbines, each twice the height of Olney and Hanslope church spires, important local landmarks, in the Ouse Valley near Olney. These would dominate the beautiful Ouse valley just north of now spreading Milton Keynes, which makes our rural spaces even more important.

Unfortunately local objections from those most affected were ignored and the proposal passed by Milton Keynes Council by the narrow majority of 6 against 5 votes. This decision was immediately challenged on the grounds that the Council had not acted properly in that job investigation was withheld and full details re wind speeds etc. were not provided until the last minute. We expect there to be a review.

We all realise that the government demands alternative energy supplies but these turbines would be in a very low wind area and likely to produce at the most only 20% of that estimated. They would dominate a treasured and unique landscape that many of us value in an area that is being heavily urbanised by the growth of Milton Keynes.

Candida Godber

Windfarms are highlighted in the Autumn issue of The Garden History Society's *micro-news* (the BGT is a corporate member). It seems there is hope, though the numbers of applications are rising. To quote, "English Heritage guidance in *Wind Farms & the Historic Environment* states that 'the effect of wind farm developments on the setting and visual amenity of historic buildings, monuments or areas should be fully evaluated in determining planning applications.' This is also a view upheld by the Planning Inspectorate in several decision notices. ... In Northamptonshire we have two schemes under consideration at present, one of which would be close to the as yet-unregistered (but clearly registerable) landscape at Kelmarsh Hall with its associations with Norah Lindsay, Geoffrey Jellicoe and Nancy Lancaster; and the other which would affect two Grade I landscapes at Boughton and Drayton, and the Grade II Wicksteed Park. Another scheme in Leicestershire would affect Stanford Hall (Grade II), and further proposals in Bedfordshire have the potential to affect some twenty-five registered sites. This is the tip of the iceberg, and gives a mere hint of the scale of problem we face in assessing applications for this type of development.

'Going green' and supporting renewable energy generation is fine; but if such potentially damaging schemes are to be given a preferential status within the planning system (and unfortunately the draft PPS15 lends itself to this interpretation), the Government ought to balance this by an acknowledgement of the positive benefits 'green spaces', including historic designed landscapes, can make to mitigating the effects of climate change and global warming.'

Jonathan Lovie, GHS Principal Conservation Officer

WORKS AT LANGLEY PARK, OCTOBER 2009 from Amanda Outen, Bucks Country Parks

Over the past couple of months we have had a specialist company in, at Langley, called Remora, working on the Lake. They have been brought in to scan and clear the lake of any suspicious finds, including munitions. Due to the site's historic links to military use, we needed to clear the lake of all metal objects before we could continue with the lake restoration. Langley Park was used during the 1st and 2nd World War as an officers' hospital, it was the HQ for the Home Guard, and the Polish armies used the site to prepare for D-Day.

Our main contractors, UPM Tilhill, have begun removing the build up of silt. Once this removal is complete, the lake will be re-edged and we hope to have it filling up again with water by the end of the year. The grass and vegetation surrounding the lake will be re-established by early spring 2010 in time for the nesting bird season.

Scaffolding has been going up around the new Visitor Centre, contractors are building a weatherproof cover over the construction site to allow them to work on the build in all weathers. The building should be complete by early spring 2010. So far all the foundations have been established, including connections to all the services required for the building. The build of the frame will begin very soon.

New formal benches are now installed within the park, and there will soon be a different style of bench installed across the wider parklands. New finger posts, helping visitors to navigate around the site, and to work out distances to and from areas, have also been installed. In the new year there will be new orientation and interpretation boards going into Langley Park to help visitors find their way around and learn more about the site's interesting past. There will also be new themed trail leaflets developed for visitors to follow.

Most of the new and restored gates and fences in the parkland are complete. The enclosed garden at the Park Stile entrance will be re-planted by the end of November. The restoration of the Temple Base will be complete by the new year.

Different elements of the restored park will take varying amounts of time to re-establish. We kindly ask if all users could please use the park with extra care during this time, especially on the newly restored paths, but please do come along and see the progress being made. If you would like to know any more about the restoration project, please get in touch.

Amanda Outen, Access & Interpretation Officer
Bucks Country Parks, tel: 01753 571069 or
email: aouten@buckscc.gov.uk
www.buckscc.gov.uk/countryparks

THE BUCKS TREE CLUB

The BTC formed in 2008 as an initiative to make more of *The Dendrologist*, the quarterly publication for those interested in all matters concerning trees both here and abroad. The aim of the club is to benefit its members through; getting together to share interests; discuss ideas and projects and air any local concerns. The Club also arranges visits to venues with special trees or interesting collections of trees.

The 'Best in Bucks' project is compiling a list of the best of each tree species to be found in the county and is published on their web site. Anyone can submit a 'candidate' for consideration for inclusion as a Best in Bucks tree. Alongside this people in each town and village may also want to compile a list of the best trees to be found there. On St. George's Day 23rd April Club

members are actively encouraged to note the trees and shrubs in flower that day as a local phenology record. Tree identification courses are offered from time to time to encourage this skill.

To join the Bucks Tree Club send your name, address and email together with a cheque for £10 made payable to *The Dendrologist* to PO Box 341, Chesham, Bucks. HP5 2RD. You will receive *The Dendrologist* quarterly and a copy of 'Where to See Trees in the British Isles'.

OBSURE MAPS SOURCED

Over the last few years the Internet has made an enormous difference to tracking down the difficult and the downright obscure and has proven to be a superb tool for the historical researcher, particularly the amateur or private researcher. Often we want to find either details of historic sites or map details regarding these sites. Whilst the Internet is great for this type of work, it does fall down when it comes to providing large scale historical maps, which is where Blackwell Bookshop (Oxford) enters the equation.

The main shop in Broad Street is their specialized map section and has not only the answer to any present day map problems, but also has 3 exciting historical options as well. These are:

- O/S Maps that are site centred for most properties or areas for virtually any year from around 1800 in scales of 1:1250 and 1:10560.
- Reproductions of most original O/S Map sheets from the same period also in scales of 1:1250 and 1:10560.
- Historic Map Packs that are site centred on a specific area or property showing changes to the area via a number of maps from around 1800 to the present day. These are only in the scale of 1:2500.

For further details and prices of all such options please contact either Sharon Smith or David Crick: 01865 333677 or email: osoxford@blackwell.co.uk and they will be able to discuss these options and advise you on all aspects of mapping.

NEW ROWLANDSON AT THE COUNTY MUSEUM

The Beauties of Stowe... by Thomas Rowlandson



This spring, the Bucks County Museum was successful in raising £22,500 to purchase a rather wonderful watercolour by Thomas Rowlandson (1756–1827), *The Beauties of Stowe: Bacchantes dancing and lounging by the Temple of Ancient Virtue*, pen, ink & watercolour (c1804–05).

This charming work combines Rowlandson's interest in figure drawing and landscape in a work that shows him at his most

lyrical and witty. The animated group of dancing bacchantes are drawn with great verve and display Rowlandson's talent as an observer of human nature. The gorgeous Bacchantes are a soft feminine counterpart to the rigours of the Temple of Ancient Virtue. This is the first example of Rowlandson's work in the Museum collections and an important addition to its collection of material relating to Stowe Landscape Gardens. It went on display in the summer and we hope you may be able to see it during the winter too.

THE FRUIT VARIETIES AT DROPMORE IN 1906

by Joanna Matthews

In the article from the *Supplement to the Journal of Horticulture*, 8 March 1906 quoted in full in *The Bucks Gardener* 27/28 Summer 2008, p14–19, there were a number of varieties of fruit named, principally apples and pears. I thought I would look up these various kinds, to see if any of them were old, possibly now lost kinds, or if they were of Bucks origin. Taking the pears first, these are the dates of introduction to Great Britain (as far as I have been able to ascertain them.)

- 'Williams Bon Chretien': before 1770. (Bon Chretien goes back a very long way, and William's reintroduction of the variety was also a long time ago. This is the one that comes in tins these days)
 - 'Winter Nellis', 1818; one of a series of pears called Nellis, a nurseryman.
 - 'Beurre Hardy', 1820; still available.
 - 'Thompson', 1820
 - 'Pitmaston Duchess', 1841; still available.
 - 'Doyenne du Comice', 1849; probably the best dessert pear of any.
 - 'Olivier de Serres', 1861
 - 'Conference, 1885'; named after the Pear Conference at which it was launched, still sold in supermarkets.
 - 'Nouvelle Fulvie'; was still in the Brogdale fruit tree collection in the 1950s.
- And finally, 'Le Lectier', and 'Marguerite Marrillat', are a bit of a mystery.
- As for the apples, one of them was actually bred at Dropmore.
- 'Ribston Pippin', 1707; a very old variety originating at Ribston Hall in Yorkshire, probably of French origin.
 - 'Langley Pippin', late 1800s; Veitch, sounds local.
 - 'Lane's Prince Albert', 1825; know parentage, but which Prince Albert?
 - 'Cox's Orange Pippin; Buckinghamshire origin, cross of Ribston Pippin and' Blenheim Orange.
 - 'Grenadier', recorded 1862; of unknown origin. I think still available.
 - 'Egremont Russet', 1870s; from Petworth.
 - 'Tyler's Kernel', Exhibited 1883.
 - 'Royal Jubilee', 1887; that date is obvious, of course, from a Hounslow nurseryman.

These I couldn't find out about: 'American Mother' (it was still in the trade in 1950s); 'Gloria Mundi', 'Loddington Seedling', 'Lord Grovesnor', 'Lord Woolseley' and 'Wealthy'.

And the most important of all, in the context of Dropmore: 'Charles Ross'. It's still available. But after whom was it named? I thought I ought to check my source for the allegation that Charles Ross apple originated at Dropmore. Sorry, but it didn't. My eye had slipped in the list from Berkshire to

Buckinghamshire. So, Charles Ross was the head Gardener at Welford Manor, near Newbury, and was a prolific breeder of new varieties of apple. I don't know his dates. The information is in Sue Clifford and Angela King's, *The Apple Source Book* (2007) p183

The editor adds: a bit more digging draws out pear 'Marguerite Marrillat'; its on the Bernwode Plants list, and a bit more about some of the apples at least.

'Gloria Mundi'; also in the Bernwode Plants catalogue 'Lord Grosvenor', c1873; recorded as 'new' in Scott's Orchardist from Merriot in Somerset.

'Wealthy'; the story is a bit confused, it was raised by Peter M. Gideon of Excelsior, Minnesota in the late C18 from seed sourced in Bangor in 1760, though my book seems to have misprinted a date or two. It was apparently imported back to Britain in the 1800s, and enjoyed a period of popularity before fading away.

These are from the excellent and delightfully illustrated *The English Apple*, written and illustrated by Rosanne Sanders, Phaidon (1988), as is the illustration of apple 'Wealthy' (below).



EVENTS BY NEARBY GARDEN TRUSTS

Berkshire Gardens Trust Event

What is a Jekyll Garden?

Richard Bisgrove

Saturday 28 November 2009

Richard is an international consultant and lecturer on the restoration and management of historic gardens. His lecture will be on the career of Gertrude Jekyll and the dilemmas that a Jekyll garden poses for those involved in garden conservation *At the Purley Barn, off Beech Road, Purley on Thames Reading, Berkshire RG8 8DR. Tickets: £6 for trust members, £8 for non-members. Send a cheque with SAE (made out to Berkshire Gardens Trust): Tall Trees, Tanners Lane, Chalkhouse Green, Reading, Berks, RG4 9AD. Tickets at the door on the night if available. Please phone 0118 984 3170 if you have any queries or would like to join the Trust. Come early and enjoy a glass of wine.*

Oxfordshire Gardens Trust Events

All lectures are held at Kellogg College, 62 Banbury Road, Oxford (see further details below). Doors open at 7.30pm. Talks start at 8.00pm. OGT members £4, guests and non-members £5, including a glass of wine or juice. Payment may be made at the door. Special lectures may require increased fees.

Turn Arches of Triumph to a Garden Gate

Peter Howell

Thursday, 3 December 2009

If you missed this in the 2009 BGT Spring Talks series why not go along, it was excellent. Peter will talk about the various structures in gardens and elsewhere which owe their inspiration to the Roman triumphal arch.

Recent Excavations at Ascott Park

John Steane

Thursday, 18 February 2010

John will talk about last summer's dig, and what it revealed about the lost house and landscape of the Dormer family. This is the site near Stadhampton where OGT have worked at recording the dovecot, so-called 'granary' (probably a summer-house) and the six gate piers beside the road.

Repton and Loudon and the designed landscape of the Great Tew Estate

Rob Parkinson

Thursday, 18 March 2010

Rob will talk about the early-nineteenth century layout and J C Loudon's model farm experiment. To be followed by an Oxfordshire Gardens Trust site visit in April.

Gardening rules OK in the UK



Spotted at 9.45am on Wednesday 8 July, topiary was celebrated on the Fourth Plinth in Trafalgar Square where, this summer, the sculptor Antony Gormley invited anyone and everyone to volunteer to be part of a astonishing living monument — on a space normally reserved for statues of the great and good, usually of a military persuasion.

Every hour for twenty-four hours a day, for one hundred days, different people could and did make the plinth their own. The selection was random, the rule being that you must stand on the plinth alone, for a whole hour, doing whatever you wish; providing it was legal. You were permitted to take anything with you that you are able to carry. It is hoped that our intrepid gardener of 8 July might have had some help with her tree and garden shears!

Rosemary Jury

Contacts

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Events & Membership Secretary and Schools co-ordinator: Rosemary Jury, 11 Fledglings Walk, Winslow, Buckingham MK18 3QU

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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 e-newsletter, just send an email to enewsletter@bucksgardenstrust.org.uk labelled sign up

The deadline for the next *Bucks Gardener* (31) is 1 March 2010, 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