

The Bucks Gardener

Issue 5

The Newsletter of the Buckinghamshire Gardens Trust

Spring 1999

Loudon's Encyclopaedia of Gardening, 1828

7546. BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.

A surface of 318,400 acres, hilly, and abounding in some places in natural beech-woods, the soil rich, and on chalk. It does not abound in gardens or residences, but contains one long celebrated— Stow. The seedsmen procure many of their tree-seeds from the natural woods of the county; as beech-mast, from Amersham and High Wycombe, and also hornbeam, holly, haws, and juniper. Some of the nurserymen procure their stocks for standard roses from the same woods, and from copse-woods at their periodical fellings, or when they are to be rooted out.

7547. *Villas and demesne-residences.*

Bulstrode,— near Beaconsfield; the Duke of Somerset. The house is in no respect remarkable; the park contains 5000 acres, abounding in old oak and beeches. The gardens were formerly kept in good order, and also the farm.

Chalfont House,— near Chalfont St. Giles; in 1800, Thomas Hibbert, Esq. The grounds were laid out by the former possessor with much taste and judgment; and are finely ornamented with wood, and adorned with a pleasant piece of water. The gardens, in Mr. Hibbert's time, were richly stocked with tender exotics, especially heaths, and other Cape plants.

Cleafden,— near Woburn (Bedf.); a seat founded by George Villiers, second duke of Buckingham, in the reign of Charles II. Burnt down in 1795. The grounds are finely varied by woods, which descend on the side of a steep hill to the Thames, and are celebrated by Pope in his *Moral Essays*.

Fawley Court,— near Fingest; Strickland Freeman Esq. The mansion is handsome and spacious with four fronts: it was built in 1684, from a design of Sir Christopher Wren. The grounds round the house are rather flat; but the distant scenery is hilly, well wooded and the windings of the Thames are seen along a beautiful vale.

Hall Barn,— near Beaconsfield; Edmund Waller, Esq. descendant of the poet, by whom the grounds were laid out in the ancient style, verging into a sort of wildness at the extremities of the walks. The ground near the banqueting-house has been moved and remodelled by the poet at very considerable cost, and the place, on the whole, must have deserved the encomiums that were made on it when in its perfection, and in high keeping; at present it is rather neglected.

Hedsor Lodge,— near Woburn; Lord Frederick Boston. The

house is modern and elegant; the grounds are distinguished for their high sloping hills, deep valleys, and the wild luxuriance of the woods, which, combining with the bold swells or abrupt depressions of the surface, produce some very beautiful and picturesque scenery. The view from the brow of the hill, with the village church: the winding Thames, and the distant hills clothed with beech-wood, is very fine (1800.)

Latimers,— near Chesham ; Lord George Cavendish. A small place of no great note, but here introduced, because referred to by G. Mason as having been laid out by Brown.

Shardeloes,— near Amersham; T. D. T. Drake, Esq. The house is a respectable modern edifice, from a design by M. Adams, it is situated on the brow of a hill, overlooking a broad sheet of water, planned by Bridgeman. The park is much varied in surface, and richly clothed with beechwoods.

Stoke Park,— near Stoke Pogies; John Penn, Esq. The house was built in 1789, from the designs of James Wyatt, Esq.; and the grounds laid out by H. Repton, are beautiful, though of limited extent

Woburn Farm,— near Woburn; Earl Wharton (1770). This place was laid out as a *ferme ornée*, and was celebrated in the time of Wheatley, who gives a full description of it. It is now entirely obliterated, and the grounds let as a common farm.



A view of Woburn, the grounds south of the house showing various ornaments

Wycombe Abbey,— near Wycombe; Lord Carrington. The house situated in a bottom, has lately been much improved in the Gothic style by Wyatt. The grounds contain a curious artificial cascade, executed by J. Lane, a stonemason who executed the cascade at Bowood, in Wiltshire, and is celebrated

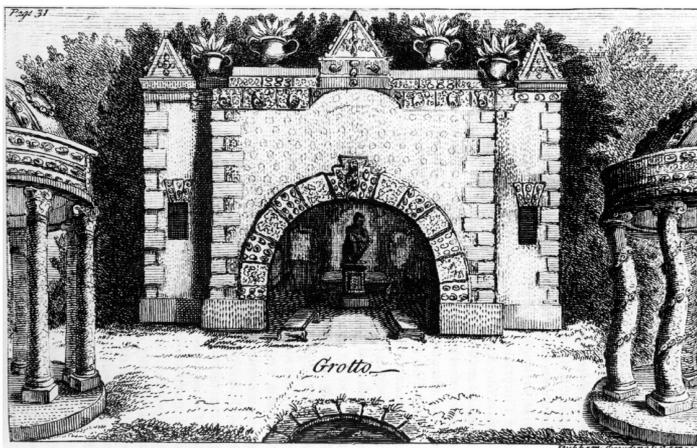
in this way. The park contains 200 acres, well wooded and watered, and bounded on the south by high hills.

Wycombe Park,— near Wycombe; Sir J. D. King, Bart. The house is small, by W. Ware, in the Grecian style and elegant. The grounds form part of a vale, bordered by a stream, and are deservedly much admired for their wood and water. They were laid out by Brown, and received some improvements from H. Repton.

7548. The following are *first-rate residences*:—

Ashridge Park,— near Hempsted; Earl of Bridgewater. The ancient abbey, lately pulled down, and a magnificent Gothic mansion, erected from the designs of J. Wyatt in 1815. The park is five miles in circumference, pleasingly varied with hill and dale, and furnished with some very fine oak and beech trees. The gardens are extensive; the culinary department is under the care of T. Torbron from Kew, an excellent gardener; and the flower-garden contains several acres, full of variety, and laid out from the designs of H. Repton, Esq. in 1814. The farm is managed by a Northumbrian bailiff.

Stow,— near Buckingham; Marquis of Buckingham. The chief ornament of the county, and celebrated for nearly a century for its gardens. When beheld at a distance, this place appears like a vast grove, interspersed with columns, obelisks, and towers, which apparently emerge from a luxuriant mass of foliage. The gardens, obtained their celebrity from the alterations effected by Lord Cobham, in the early part of the last century. The first artist employed was Bridgeman whose drawings are still in possession of the marquis. Stowe was the most eminent place in the ancient style, and set the fashion of employing numerous statues and architectural ornaments.



The Grotto at Stowe, now very different, and still as yet to be fully restored. Taken from George Bickham's 'The Beauties of Stowe'

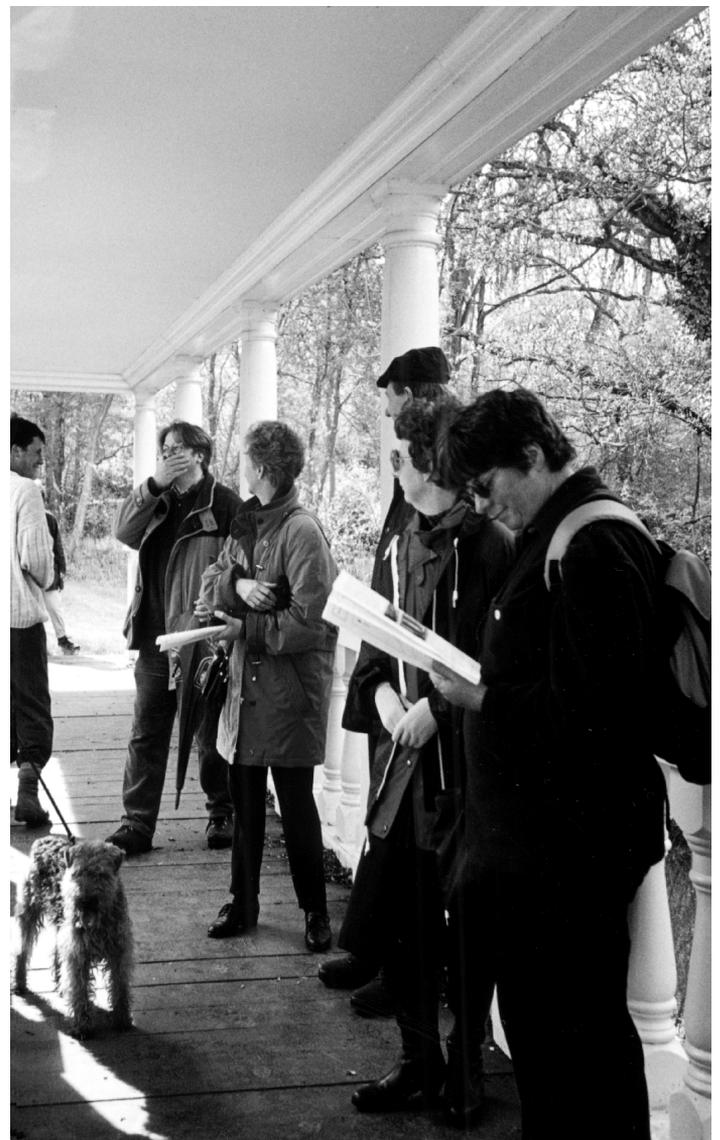
Kent was called in probably about 1755 or 1760; he abolished several formalities; and among other improvements substituted the sunk fence for the high wall. A stranger, in passing through the grounds, is astonished at the number, the beauty, and the

magnificence of the buildings; and the house, with its extended front, elevated site, and extensive prospects is a truly grand object. The gardens of every kind are kept in high order, especially the flower-gardens, lawns, and shrubberies. The buildings and other objects are too numerous to be even enumerated here; a copious account of them, accompanied by plates, will be found in *Seely's Description of Stow*.

Return to Wotton; a report by Carolyn Adams

Our visit to Wotton House was well placed between April showers, and we were fortunate to enjoy a relatively mud-free walk round the spectacular landscape with its calm reflecting waters. After a long period as a sleeping beauty, the park is being awakened under the princely direction of its present manager, Michael Harrison, who accompanied us and explained some of its design subtleties.

A formal landscape was laid out between 1704 and 1714 by George London, featuring formal avenues radiating from the house in its dominant position above the lakes. *Capability*



Members on the Palladian Bridge, talking to Michael Harrison (left)

Brown was first employed there in 1739, to lay out the kitchen garden, and subsequently assumed control in 1748, after William Kent's death. Characteristically, the parkland vistas are controlled by ground moulding and planting to create visual surprises, focussing on distant garden buildings and statuary. We were fascinated to see how trees were carefully placed to divide,

revealed the misalignment of a replanted avenue. A new, and brave, replanting will eventually put this to rights, at least along the length nearest to the house.

Imaginative use of cut-out silhouettes of Venus (Aphrodite) and Mars (Ares), placed to mark their historic locations, will eventually be replaced by real statues. Venus, now resting



Two of the views framed by the Octagonal temple. Found inches deep in leaf mould and other litter, the original path was dug out and reinstated, and the temple rebuilt across it. The views are up the lake to Grotto island, and across it towards the House, visible between the trees.

divide, and frame, the vistas, and to find the remnants of viewing mounds and associated shrubbery plantations.

Restoration of the garden buildings was initiated by Mrs Brunner, who facilitated the retrieval of the Rotunda, the Palladian Bridge, The Rustic Temple and the Turkish Temple and commissioned a replacement for the Chinese Bridge. David Gladstone, the present owner, is keen to see the reinstatement of the formal vistas and Michael is making good progress in clearing and replanting appropriate trees to achieve this. The removal of spoil and in-filling of a swimming pool have revealed

against the house, will soon be returned to her intended, more distant, place in the landscape. It is hoped that the surviving fragment of Mars's breastplate can be used to help recreate a copy of that god.

We hope that the Trust will be actively involved in propagating cuttings to reinstate some of the shrubberies, and willing volunteers for this should make themselves known.

We are indebted to Mr and Mrs David Gladstone for extending their welcome to us, and we look forward to return visits to witness the restoration of the landscape to its full splendour.

Milton Keynes and its Environs

We all arrived at the offices of the Milton Keynes Parks Trust at Campbell Park in time for coffee before Candy Godber welcomed us all and introduced Ray Darke the Landscape and Forestry Manager.

Ray gave us a brief history of the Trust since it was fortunately set up in 1972 on the termination of the Milton Keynes Development Corporation. They manage 500 hectares of land including the linear planting of the roadways, the river and lakes, the woods including three ancient ones and any other unusable land. The Trust is self-funded from a £31 m portfolio and has a 999 year lease which should protect it for many generations to come. The Trustees are drawn from many sources including the Royal Forestry Society, the Royal Agricultural Society, MK Sports Council commerce and industry.

We proceeded to walk round Campbell Park and discover the influences of the several architects involved including Andrew Mahaddie, whose original concept it was, Tony Southard, Mike Usherwood and Phil Wrey. Starting from the cricket pitch, of international standard, with its grass bank terracing, an events plateau, a labyrinth, a woodland area on the ridge, a belvedere



Walking through the centre of Milton Keynes

built with the spoil from the MK sewer construction with a beacon, three sculptures, a water garden, open air theatre and central meadows grazed by sheep. There are permissive paths, not rights of way, and bridleways running through the whole park and connecting with the surrounding areas. Many willow and birch trees, being fast growing, were planted for instant effect and are now being thinned and replaced by other interesting specimens.

The policy is to bring *fingers of the countryside into the urban environment* according to Ray Darke!

The party then moved on to Great Linford Manor where we were greeted by Peter Winkleman who now owns the Manor House with his family and runs the most sophisticated recording studio in this country. We were given a potted history of the site from Domesday to the present. Sadly all the papers of the Uthwatt family who previously owned the manor have been lost and so the restoration of garden and park surrounding the manor will need careful consideration. Paul Woodfield, a member of the BGT and a local architect, has been helping with this project. The Manor garden, in Peter's ownership, is lawn on three level terraces and a walled kitchen garden with some box hedging remaining and a very sad fig tree, presumably original, in one



The lost temple just outside the grounds at Great Linford Manor, Milton Keynes. This was apparently built to enable a distressed young wife to look back towards her birthplace, but both are long gone

The surrounding park is looking for lottery funding to restore some of the features now lost or overgrown. Unfortunately the parkland was intersected first by the canal and then the railway during the last century, making the landscape hard to read.

After a picnic, consumed in the cricket pavilion due to the inclement weather, we then went, in convoy, to Chicheley Hall.

Chicheley Hall was built by Sir John Chester between 1719 and 1724 and boasts much fine craftsmanship in the bricks handmade on site, plaster work and panelling. After the Second World War the house became the home of Admiral Earl Beatty. We were taken on a conducted tour of the house, now used for conferences, before going into the garden. After a cup of tea, Lady Nutting, whose home it now is, told us all that she knew about the garden which was laid out by London and Wise.

Charles Bridgeman was invited to bring the garden up to date but fortunately (?) the owner died before he had done anything and so the garden was left as it was.

There was once a large parterre surrounded on three sides by a canal, which remains, but the area is now down to grass. The structure of the garden is still formal in design with a magnificent lime avenue, a woodland walk with a ruined summer house, possibly earlier a privy, a dovecote and walled garden.

Lady Nutting has created two features to celebrate anniversaries, one being a lime and chestnut avenue on the same axis as the drive on the other side of the house and a *roundabout*, so called by her grandchildren, with standard evergreen oaks in a style similar to that in the garden at the Albany in London.

It was altogether a most enjoyable day and we learnt a lot,



The new roundabout at Chicheley House

It was altogether a most enjoyable day and we learnt a lot, particularly about Milton Keynes, its environs and the plans for the future. Maybe if more people understood the work of the Parks Trust the city would not be considered such a *joke*.

Stephanie Lawrence

Gardens Trust Roadshow

Members may have seen the first outing of the BGT roadshow in Aylesbury High Street on Saturday 15th May at the Greenfingers Fair. A small band of volunteers put together a display on Bucks gardens, both historic and schools gardens, emphasising the work the Trust has done so far, particularly with schools. The display boards were very generously lent by the National Trust, and a very stylish urn, planted in eye-catching manner (and kindly lent by Candida Godber), provided a welcome vegetative focus for the display. We were amongst various eye-catching plant nursery displays, and quite close to other voluntary bodies such as the National Gardens Scheme and the RSPB, but it was still quite a game trying to capture the attention of the ladies lugging their Sainsbury shopping bags around the town centre.



Our display at Aylesbury's Greenfingers Fair

As this was the display's first outing, we have generated plenty of ideas on improving the display and its message. We hope to buy our own display boards eventually, but until we have decided what is the best variety, we are borrowing boards from generous members *pro tem*. The next outing will be at the Chenies Plant Fair on 25th July, and we hope to see as many members as possible at our stand there. We will be contacting those members who expressed an interest in helping out with a stand, in order to make sure that we have adequate cover at Chenies. We also intend to show the display at the AGM on 28th July at Waddesdon Manor.

Sarah Rutherford

Lolly for Historic Parks

One of the other stands at the Greenfingers Fair in Aylesbury was run by **E. B. Buckinghamshire**, a company who distribute money, raised in the form of the Landfill Tax from two landfill sites in north Bucks, to various projects. One of the categories which they will support is *the provision, maintenance or improvement of a public park or other public amenity where it is for the protection of the environment, and within a ten mile radius from a landfill site*, and another is *the maintenance, restoration or repair of a place of ... historic or architectural interest which is open to the public and within the vicinity of a landfill site*. All projects are expected to demonstrate real community benefit. It is surprising how much land a ten mile radius covers!

There are also landfill sites between Gerrards Cross and Beaconsfield, and at Lidsey, in southern Bucks, which have a similar scheme operating within ten miles of sites managed by Onyx. We have only just heard about these schemes ourselves, and so have no direct experience of how they work, but they

would appear to be a good way to help raise matching funding (or possibly a better proportion than this) for deserving projects related to historic parks and gardens which are publicly accessible. Apparently school grounds are not usually eligible because of the inevitable associated restricted access.

If any member has a project which they think might be eligible, please contact Sarah Rutherford at Vine Cottage, Thame Road, Longwick HP27 9TA, tel. 01844 342472 for contact names and addresses.

HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW? BGT WORKING WITH SCHOOLS

An earnest 5 year old pipes up, pointing across flourishing potato plants to a far bed "one thing I can tell you for sure, those are onions". Others agree and show me infant tomatoes, broad beans and sweetcorn, adding that although they can't be **in charge** of gardening till they're in Year 4 (8/9 years old), they have (rather daringly, they think) planted four broad beans in the beds, from seed they grew in the classroom.



Ah but our hands did get dirty, after the clearing came the planting

Clive Bostle's generosity, both in time and resources is paying dividends; I know that the school now has a flourishing Gardening Club, led by a 10 year old with admirable delegation skills. I watched in admiration some weeks ago, as he deployed his troops to plant the remainder of their wonderful gifts from Sally Milner and Leonie Thorogood in suitable places during the lunch break. Watering is done by a troop of small but willing volunteers. supplied with wheelbarrows and cans of a suitable size. Yesterday, sixty pupils from Years 3 and 4 presented their

own incredibly imaginative miniature living gardens to a school assembly. These were absolute gems, most had ponds, paths, lawns and garden sheds, all had used tiny plants (with play people, model dogs, birds and tools) really well.



Getting to know the plants at Stoke Mandeville Combined

Eat your heart out, Ground Force, at Park School. Enormous thanks to RAF Halton, Stephanie Lawrence, Charles Boot, Worlds End Garden Centre and again to the two generous plant givers.



The RAF get into lawn laying, many thanks for their efforts at Park

A muddy, weed-filled piece of ground has been transformed into a proper garden, in time for the students there (all of whom have severe learning difficulties) to enjoy the summer [what summer? ed]. Students are really playing their part and deserve genuine praise. Due to their assiduous watering, the lawn looks superb and now, of course, needs mowing. The plants are beginning to spread and, indeed, to flower. Mowing can probably be part of the curriculum, but will in the long term be part of the school's mowing contract with the LEA.



Although its been a wet spring every little helps



Maintenance during the summer holidays is being carefully considered; both schools have devoted caretakers, but it cannot be a burden for them. We are discussing this.

Charles has produced a plan for a High Wycombe School and this has been approved by governors and is awaiting response from the parents.

The school in Amersham has been visited by Sally Milner and is revising its plans in view of the fact that their site for a wild garden is rather shady. Long Crendon have just completed their Ofsted inspection, and will, I am sure be in contact again, when there is something to report. A request has been received from a school in Brill for advice on an organic garden and I would really welcome help with this.

An urgent need now is to get some applications in for serious money. I have been in touch with various people about the New Opportunities Fund, and will try to enquire further (soon??!!).

Suzanne Millard

From the chair

Its been a strange sort of spring and one in which we have achieved a substantial amount. The activities with schools have really taken off, the brief report here doesn't really do justice to the fun we had pulling plants out of the back of cars, nearly as fast as they had been thrown in, and seeing them installed in new homes. To see the RAF lads in action had to be seen to be believed and was fortunately photographed. We have been very lucky with gifts of plants and time, and really this aspect of our activities is very exciting. Many thanks to all who have helped. It is the intention to set up a prize scheme, in the long term, to encourage schools to go on working on their grounds, long after our seeding activities have passed.

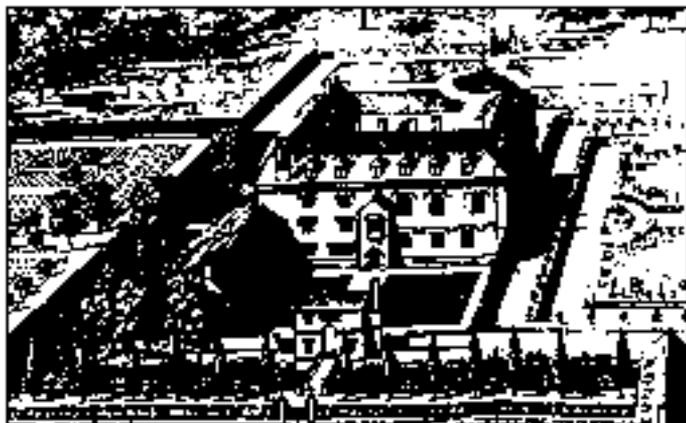
We have enjoyed a number of trips, Milton Keynes proving memorable for the sheer variety of landscapes within a new and diverse form of city. If only Aylesbury's counsellors cared as much for their surroundings...

Wotton, our favourite landscape in flux continues to astonish and delight, and by contrast Bledlow Manor and its gardens provide a fine model of what our own century can produce.

Continuing this years series of visits, we hope to see you at Tyringham, or later this month at the AGM at Waddesdon Manor's Powerhouse. Details of the event at Ashridge have to be finalised and will follow next time. We have two fine speakers to look forward to, in the run up to Christmas, for our winter talks, again to be held at The Power House Waddesdon, details on the back page

For something a bit different, why not try the AGT conference at Cirencester this Autumn, details overleaf, worthwhile both to meet members of other trusts and to see some fine gardens.

Charles Boot



17th Century and Early Formal Gardens in Gloucestershire at The Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester, 10th to 12th September 1999

The Association of Gardens Trusts' Business Meeting and Weekend Conference, organised by The Gloucestershire Gardens & Landscape Trust

Each year one of the Garden Trusts organises a conference on behalf of the AGT. The weekend is given over to a series of visits and talks, as well as the AGT's business meeting. This year the conference is organised by one of the older Trusts, which is, I think, unique in being one and the same as its county's branch of the NCCPG. All members of Garden Trusts are entitled to attend, it is a good opportunity to meet other members of the Trusts & compare notes, spin ideas.

Gloucestershire is endowed with many gardens and parks whose origins date from the 17th and early 18th century, constructed in the formal styles typical of that period. Whilst some have been the subject of ongoing development through successive changes of fashion in landscape gardening or ownership, a number still retain much of their original structure, or have been restored. This weekend will explore the range of styles and gardens that can be found in Gloucestershire.

Programme

Friday 10th September

- 3.00pm Registration
- 4.00pm AGT Council Meeting
- 7.00pm Reception
- 7.30pm Dinner
- 9.00pm Welcome by Cotswold District Council
- 9.15pm Lecture by Mike Calnan, Head of Gardens, National Trust

Saturday 11th September

- 9.00am Introductory Lectures
- 9.45am Arrive at **Cirencester Park**. *Tour of principal allées and garden buildings within the extensive Park landscape*

- 12.00pm Visit to **Stanway House**. *Lecture and tour under the guidance of Lord Neidpath including the restored lake and cascade*
- 1.30pm A light lunch
- 3.00pm Visit to **Rendcomb**. *Lecture on the sites' varied history, tour of the grounds to examine the remaining 17th century features and consider its garden archaeology*
- 5.30pm Return to Royal Agricultural College (RAC)
- 7.00pm Leave RAC for evening entertainment
- 7.45pm Arrive at Farmers Arms, Guiting Power for skittles and dinner
- 10.30pm Return to RAC

Sunday 12th September

- 9.00am Introductory lectures for Hardwicke and Westbury Court
- 10.00am Depart RAC for visit to **Hardwicke Court**. *Tour of pleasure grounds to examine the layers of development from the original 17th century structure*
- 1.00pm Lunch at the Apple Tree, Minsterworth
- 2.15pm Visit **Westbury Court Gardens**. *Tour of the 17th century water gardens— one of the earliest restoration schemes by the National Trust*
- 4.00pm Return to Royal Agricultural College

Accommodation has been reserved at the Royal Agricultural College, where both single and twin-bedded rooms with *en-suite* facilities are available. There is ample parking at the college, which is situated less than half a mile from the historic Cotswold market town of Cirencester. Main-line rail services are available from Paddington to Kemble, which is a short taxi ride from Cirencester. Transport for all the visits and for the Saturday evening social will be provided in executive coaches.

Conference Fees

Entire weekend (including accommodation and all meals from Friday dinner to Sunday lunch); £185.00

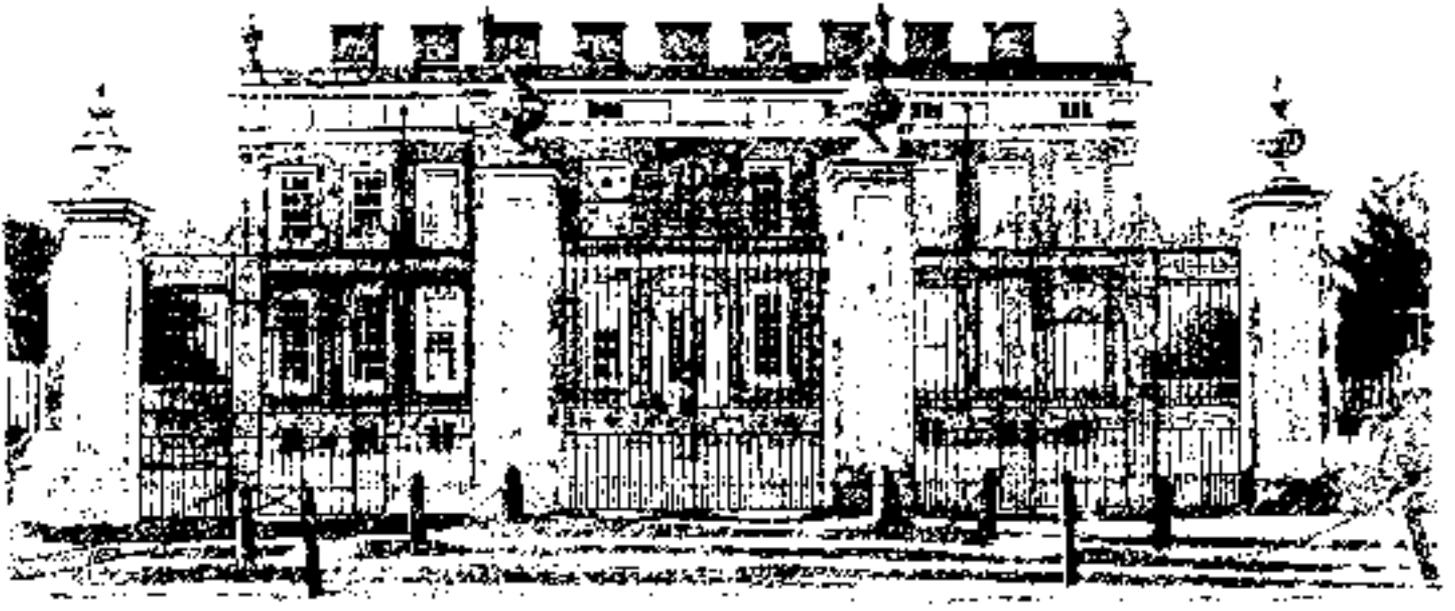
Entire weekend (excluding accommodation); £130.00

Saturday lectures, visits and meals, including evening social; £55.00

Saturday lectures, visits and meals, excluding evening social; £40.00

Sunday lectures, visits and meals; £35.00

*A booking form is available from our (Bucks Gardens Trust's) office. Please complete and return this form together with payment in full to guarantee a reservation. Cheques should be made payable to **The Gloucestershire Gardens and Landscape Trust**. Booking forms should be sent to: Mr Peter Lindesay, Gloucestershire Gardens and Landscape Trust, Court Lodge, Avening, Glos GL8 8NX*



Wotton House, Wotton Underwood, 'the entrance front has a forecourt with low walls that lead to the two flanking pavilions...'

Journeys into Buckinghamshire

Anthony Mackay.

The Book Castle, November 1998, £20.

"The great attraction of Buckinghamshire lies in its ancient villages with their exquisite parish churches and richly varied domestic architecture"

The book is one of a series by the artist which also covers Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Oxfordshire. The Bucks volume itself is divided into three parts of the county; the Chiltern, the Vale and the Ouse valley and is accompanied by a helpful map by which to orientate oneself.

Any resident of the county will instantly come across both buildings and landscapes they know and love. A broad range of architecture in both type and style is covered, showing the diversity and wealth of styles this county has to offer. Ecclesiastical architecture is well represented with a myriad of churches the length and breadth of the county being illustrated. Vernacular buildings covered by several manors and cottages. Civil engineering: *Marlow Bridge* and the canal locks at *Soulbury*. The Modern Movement is represented by Amyas Connell's *High and Over* in Amersham. The grandest houses of the county are well illustrated with several views of *Waddesdon*, *Cliveden*, *Stowe* and *West Wycombe*. The varied townscapes of Wycombe, Aylesbury and Milton Keynes feature alongside and rural scenes of the Ouse and the Chiltern.

Many places either already visited or soon to be visited by the Gardens Trust are depicted, among them: *Wotton*, *Bletchley Park*, *Great Linford Manor*, *Chicheley Hall*, *Cliveden*, *Waddesdon* (which almost rivals *Stowe* in the number of

drawings !) The book also gives a tantalising insight into some normally unvisitable places, which even we haven't reached yet.

Mackay's style of drawing is more the accuracy of the draughtsman than artist's impression. The style could not exactly be described as mouthwatering; the town scenes particularly betray his background as an architect. However, the accuracy does portray the flavour of places rather well; *Nether Winchendon* looks as edible a confection as it does from the hill above. The drawing of the gates and forecourt of *Wotton Underwood* is a particular favourite. The awkward angle of the view of the *Kings Head* in Aylesbury serves to remind us how unfortunate the building in front of it is.

The text which Mackay has placed alongside his drawing is understandably full of personal opinions. On opposite page from the *King's Head* view he says of Aylesbury "the town is still compact," which is perhaps a lamentable oversight particularly in view of our concerns over Hartwell. While he makes some valid criticisms of Milton Keynes, he also appreciates it as an interesting place. Unfortunately the small space allowed to the verbal descriptions of places means there are inevitable simplifications and one shouldn't view the book as an accurate architectural history; this is particularly highlighted by the section on *Stowe*— which is almost impossible to sum up in a couple of paragraphs.

One gets the impression that the author must have spent a happy summer or two, pottering round the county capturing images of its highlights. He definitely, and indeed understandably, has more of a feeling for buildings than landscapes and gardens, but these he does so well that the book is not worse off for it.

Kate Felus

OUR EVENTS IN 1999

There remain various events large and small, in fact the first, Tyringham is almost on us. We hope to have a report of the recent day at Bledlow House in the next Newsletter, it was a great pleasure to see so many members there. If you have places in the county you would especially like to see, please let us know, and we will try to arrange it.

Tyringham House

Thursday July 15th, 2.30pm

Tyringham is perhaps best known as the work of Sir John Soane, for Sir William Praed, (MP and Grand Junction Canal Company director), and although much of this has gone, the recently restored gate house shows what might have been. The house and gardens were much *improved* in the Edwardian period. Although the original walled gardens remain near the stables, the evidence of Repton's involvement is harder to find. Charles F Rees was responsible for formalising the gardens, laying out the front court, terraces, pergola and rose garden, but it was Ned Lutyens who made the real impact. He extended the formal layout with two long pools, a round pool with leopard topped columns connecting the two, with two domed pavilions, *temples* to bathing and music.

Although this is a landscape in decline, a landscape plan has been prepared by Mick Thompson of Ashridge, who will be showing us around. It is an important landscape. The house is currently a health spa.

Cost £ 6 members, £7 non members.

AGM, Waddesdon Manor

Wednesday July 28th, starts 6.30pm for 7.30pm

We have kindly been allowed to use the Power House, at Waddesdon, for our regular meetings. It has been decided to hold the AGM at this venue for the convenience of all. Michael Walker has kindly agreed to give a brief tour of the gardens, notably the new Millennium countdown bedding scheme, after which we will be holding the AGM. Food and drink will be available, so do come and meet us all. This is going to be a fairly informal meeting as we have not yet applied for our charitable status, but it will be conducted properly, with the accounts being given. Details will be sent on to all members requesting them.

Free, but please let us know if you intend coming.

Ashridge, Berkhamsted (partly in Bucks)

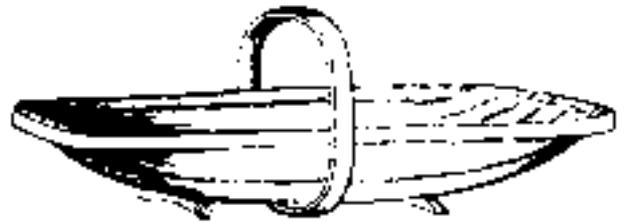
Saturday October 16th

Many of you will know the Ashridge Estate and its monument
The Newsletter of the Buckinghamshire Gardens Trust

since the 13th century as the site of a monastery and was later taken over as a palace by Henry VIII, it should be best known for the landscapes created by Capability Brown and Humphry Repton, who worked for the 7th Earl Bridgewater, from 1813. Here, in one of his last and greatest works, he created a series of small and intimate gardens inspired by their monastic predecessors, within the wider landscape parkland. As is the way of things, these plans were *interpreted* by the Countess and her head gardener Hemmings and have changed over the years.

With the National Trust doing much work on the park landscape (another of Richard Wheeler's pet projects) there is much to be seen. We hope to start the day with an introductory talk from the Ashridge College Gardens Manager Mick Thompson who has prepared the conservation plan.

This is going to be an all day event, including lunch. Pencil the date in your diary, further details in the next Newsletter.



BGT Winter Talks at Waddesdon Manor

We have changed the time and venue for this years Winter Talks. Just two talks, on a Victorian theme will lead us up to Christmas. The shops at the Manor will be open, as will the restaurant and Santa's Grotto. This is an ideal opportunity to combine a bit of Christmas shopping, with two really excellent speakers. These talks will be open to the public and we hope you will encourage friends to come. If you would like further copies of the poster and have a suitable place to put them up, feel free to photocopy it, or ask John Chapman at the office for more.

'The Victorian Gardener; life in the bothy'

Saturday, November 20th, 2.30pm

Keith Goodway will reveal the life of the work force behind gardens such as Waddesdon in their heyday. Dr Goodway is a former chairman of the Garden History Society.

'The High Victorian Garden in Buckinghamshire'

Saturday, December 18th, 2.30pm

Brent Elliott will talk on the range of such gardens in our county, and highlight the magnificent style of Victorian gardening carried on here. Dr Elliott is the Lindley Librarian of the Royal Horticultural Society.