



CHESHIRE
GARDENS TRUST

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Newsletter

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- * Lindley Library and the Garden Museum
- * Mirepoix Apple Festival
- * Wreath making at Henbury Hall

Some future events:

- * Heritage Gardens of Ireland – 24th February
- * RHS Bridgewater – 17th March – **NEW DATE**
- * AGM, Henbury Hall – 26th April
- * Visit to Dorothy Clive Gardens – 14th May



It's a bug's life

An expert view on plant biosecurity

30 of us gathered at St. Peter's Rooms in Prestbury on a Friday morning in October to be entertained for two hours on Plant Biosecurity. For something so technical, it was absolutely fascinating. We were privileged to have two expert speakers from APHA (Animal and Plant Health Agency) – **Dr Paul Beales and Caroline Cawood.**

Paul told us that APHA is part of DEFRA (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs), aimed at creating a single agency responsible for animal, plant and bee health. It was

established partly as a response to the exponential growth in plant pests and diseases, in particular ash dieback.

Not all attempts to prevent outbreaks have been a success. Perhaps the most well-known is **Dutch elm disease**, a fungal disease spread by elm bark beetles. It has killed over 60 million trees in two epidemics in the UK and continues to spread today. The beetles are carried in wood and can emerge some time later. It creates grooves in the wood and the tree dies trying to defend itself.

Potato blight is a well-known historical problem, leading to widespread famine in the nineteenth century. It causes rotting of foliage and then tubers, devastating a crop in a few days to weeks. In Ireland between 1845-1852 approx 1 million people died and 2 million emigrated. It took until 1950 for the population to start increasing again.



Above – two views of potato blight

The cure also took a long time. It followed the accidental discovery of Bordeaux mix (copper sulphate and lime) in the vineyards of Bordeaux. It was originally used for the control of downy mildew (a similar fungal organism to the causal agent of potato blight).

Paul then covered the key pests and diseases with some wonderful illustrations. Just some of these are:

Chalara ash dieback

This was originally found in Poland in the 1990s. It gradually spread across Europe and was found in the UK in 2012. Because of its seriousness it resulted in a nationwide survey by the PHSI (Plant Health and Seeds Inspectorate) and was even the focus of a COBRA meeting (The UK's emergencies team). It resulted in collaboration across a wide range of agencies to prevent further spread. Despite this, ash dieback was present in a number of locations primarily in the east of the UK. Ash is our most common deciduous tree, dominant in



Symptoms of Ash die-back

areas such as the Peak District, Yorkshire and the Cotswolds, so the impact could be devastating. This fungal disease causes leaf loss, crown dieback and bark lesions. Once a tree is affected the disease can eventually kill the tree, although for mature ash this can be over 10 years. Some ash trees appear to be resistant and this may be good hope for the future.

The Asian Longhorn beetle is a spectacular looking creature (see below and front page). Its larva burrows through the wood of susceptible trees and emerges as an adult later. It originates in China and has been found extensively in the USA, but also in Europe. Luckily the only severe outbreak in the UK was attended to quickly and eradicated, so is unlikely to be a serious problem.



Phytophthora has had a great deal of publicity. There are over 50 different species in the UK (no wonder we get confused), one of which is the potato blight mentioned earlier.



Canker on an oak affected by *Phytophthora ramorum*

Perhaps the most familiar to us is *Phytophthora ramorum*, called “Sudden oak death” in the USA, but associated in this country with larch and *Rhododendron ponticum*. As you will be aware, many great gardens and estates have gone to great lengths to get rid of *R. ponticum*, but there’s a long way to go.

The most recent threat and possibly the most serious threat to the UK is *Xylella fastidiosa*. It was originally detected in Europe in 2013, killing olive trees in southern Italy. It has since spread to small areas in France, Spain and its Mediterranean Islands. Its symptoms look similar to drought or frost damage, including leaf scorch, wilt, dieback and plant death. It could impact over 359 species, including rosemary, *Hebe*, oleander and almonds. It isn’t yet in the UK, but the horticulture industry is aware of the potential impact. Following a request by the UK, EU has now introduced stricter controls.



Oleander affected by *Xylella fastidiosa*

Anyone importing host plants from the EU now needs to ensure that they are accompanied by a valid plant passport confirming that they have been sourced from a disease free site. There will also be more targeted surveillance and testing and the RHS has introduced tough controls for plants used at their shows and in their garden centres.

Caroline Cawood is a Plant Health Inspector with APHA and based in Crewe, so she is one of our local inspectors and has offered to deal with queries, especially on imported pests. She works closely with DEFRA policy teams and the Forestry Commission.

She sees plant protection as a continuum. Before plants are exported Caroline is the UK part of the Plant Passport process, ensuring that plants are free from unwanted guests. At the border, she is part of a team of inspectors at docks and other points of entry, inspecting plant imports. Once plants are imported she pays regular visits to garden centres and nurseries to make spot checks. In fact, she was involved in inspecting the exhibitors at the Four Oaks Tradeshow, to make sure they had a clean bill of health.

This article can only give a very brief summary of the talk. Thanks to Paul and Caroline for their fascinating information and great visual resources and to St Peters’ Parish for their splendid venue.

There is more information that can be found online, in particular:

The Plant Health Portal, part of DEFRA, which provides links to recent news, such as *Xylella*, a resources section which includes “The Chalara Viewer”, looking at its spread across the UK and the UK Plant Health Risk Register:

<https://planthealthportal.defra.gov.uk/>

This also has a link to the “New Northern Forest” recently announced and The Forest Commission especially the Forest Research pages:

www.forestry.gov.uk/fr/protectingtrees

Sue Eldridge
Photos Paul Beales

Double SOS

The Events group is in need of help. For our winter lectures we almost always struggle with setting up lap-top computers/projectors and sound systems. Sometimes speakers come with their own equipment or are very knowledgeable about IT, but not always. So, if there is someone out there who could be on hand to help, please let one of

the group know, we’d be very grateful. Thank you

Crispin Spencer, Membership Secretary has asked if you could let him know if you have moved recently or have changed phone number or email address. This is important for newsletters/events mailings. Contact crispin.spencer1@gmail.com

William Andrews Nesfield



Bamburgh Castle by William Andrews Nesfield

William Andrews Nesfield was a competent water colourist, but is best known as one of the most sought after British landscape designers of the mid-Victorian period. His trademark style was his formal designs of terraces and elaborate parterres, drawing his inspiration from late medieval English gardens, gardens of Renaissance Italy and the seventeenth century French “parterre de broderie”.

But, who was W A Nesfield and what impact did he have on the gardens of the many larger country houses, especially here in Cheshire? All this and much more was explained to over sixty of our members who attended our November meeting at the Hall at Marthall, by our new CGT Member, Dr Shirley Rose Evans, a well respected expert, who has spent a great number of years researching W A Nesfield’s life and commissions. Her book “Masters of their Craft: The Art, Architecture and Garden Design of the Nesfields” was published in 2014).

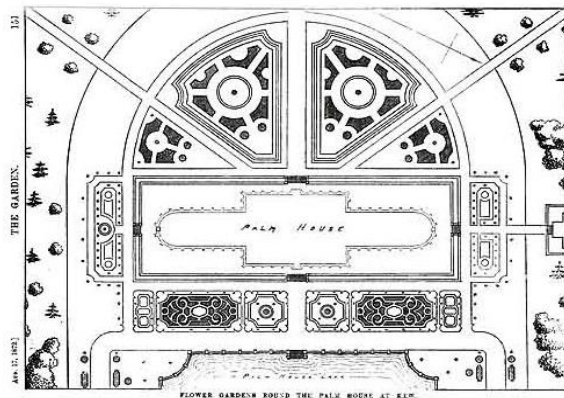
Nesfield was born at Lumley Park, Co Durham in 1794, the eldest son of Rev William Nesfield and his wife, Elizabeth Andrews of Shotley Hall, Northumberland. Nesfield was educated at Durham School followed by two homesick years at Winchester, before attending Bury St Edmonds Grammar School and going on to Trinity College, Cambridge.

He then entered the Royal Military Academy at Woolwich and, on becoming a 2nd Lieutenant in 1812, served under the command of Wellington in the Peninsular War (1807-1814) in Spain and later in Canada. After two years in Canada he returned home and was put on half pay before resigning his commission in 1818. On retirement from the Army, Nesfield decided to channel his talents and become a professional painter of watercolour landscapes. Based in London, sharing lodgings with his cousin, Anthony Salvin, he embarked on

sketching tours, including overseas, with members of the Old Watercolour Society, which included Stansfield and Landseer, who were to become well known artists. Indeed, Nesfield himself earned high praise when John Ruskin commented on his water colours as being nearly comparable to Turner.

In 1833 Nesfield married Emma Mills and settled briefly in Bath, and with the encouragement of his now brother-in-law Anthony Salvin became a landscape architect and garden designer working alongside Salvin on a number of projects.

Following the birth of their first son William Eden, the family moved back to London setting up home in Muswell Hill. By the beginning of 1840, Nesfield had travelled to France studying the work of the late 17th Century French gardeners as well as establishing a number of important clients. Apart from a brief move to Eton, his home and practice was to become based at 3 York Terrace, Regent’s Park, London where he remained until his death in 1881.



In 1844, Nesfield was commissioned to redesign the arboretum at Kew, including the Palm House (see above) and the associated re-working of the gardens and the formal landscape and lake.



The Broad Walk, Kew, November 2017

Although fashionable, Nesfield’s vision of formal parterres with their colourful displays was not well received by William Hooker who wanted to retain

and expand the principles of botanic garden layouts and therefore his overall plans were only partially implemented. However his designs for the Broad Walk at Kew (see page 4) have recently been reinstated.

Nesfield undertook 259 commissions, during a career spanning over forty years, a number of which were in Cheshire.

His early Cheshire commissions included Crewe Hall, though sadly little survives from this period. In 1860, the Hall suffered from a fire and Lord Crewe engaged the architect, E M Barry to reinstate the Hall and commissioned Nesfield to advise and develop the gardens. Nesfield, ably assisted by his son William Eden, advised on hard landscaping and planting, including the laying out of formal style parterre terracing using red and blue gravels.



Crewe Hall - W.A. Nesfield's design for the north parterre

Indeed Nesfield adapted the "Italianate" style of terracing with the use of coloured gravel similar to the French and Dutch gardens of the 17th Century and early 18th Century. This became the signature for his parterre designs.



Rose garden at Rode hall

Other garden commissions in Cheshire include work at Capesthorpe Hall, probably working with Salvin, Dorfold Hall, Combermere Abbey, High Legh Hall, Tabley Hall and Toft Hall. In 1861 Rode Hall was laid out with terraces and a rose garden, parts of which still survive. In the 1840s, Nesfield designed new formal gardens at Eaton Hall and a new central avenue leading down to an artificial lake. One feature employed within the parterres was to use the monogram letter W. Using heraldic motifs and monograms was to become a key feature in his designs.



Nesfield's designs at Worsley New Hall

Just over the borders of Cheshire, his commissions included Wythenshawe Hall in South Manchester and Keele Hall, Staffordshire, where his parterres were recreated in simplified form in 1985. At Worsley New Hall, his French inspired parterre design (see above) is to be restored by the RHS as part of the new Garden Bridgewater.

Across the country, including Scotland and Wales, Nesfield's commissions and designs can be viewed at many of the great houses and gardens including Castle Howard, North Yorkshire; Witley Court, Worcestershire; Regent's Park, London,



Watercolour of Witley Court in 1880 by William Nesfield

Arundel Castle, Sussex; and Holkham Hall, Norfolk etc. For a more complete list of commissions see the Parks and Gardens website:

<http://www.parksandgardens.org/places-and-people/person/987>

By the time of his death the popularity of his style of parterres, consisting of box and coloured gravels, had fallen out of favour with the late



Avenue Gardens, Regents Park, designed by Nesfield

Victorians, who preferred their gardens to be filled with plants.

Overall, a thoughtful and interesting lecture on a sought after landscape designer of the mid-Victorian period and our sincere thanks to Dr Evans.

And as a footnote, Dr Evans mentioned that W A Nesfield's paperwork, drawings etc have only recently "turned up" in Australia through a family member Robert Nesfield and the likelihood is that they could soon be auctioned by Sotheby's. Hopefully they will find a home in this country! Watch this space!!

Gordon Darlington

Photos Sue Eldridge

RHS Bridgewater image -EA Brooke/RHS

Library collections

Other images – Internet public domain

A grand day out taking in a Repton tour of the Lindley Library and a visit to the Garden Museum

Research and recording meetings are always interesting and varied but none more so than our 'grand day out' in London. The outreach officer at the **Royal Horticultural Society's (RHS) Lindley Library**, who originally suggested the visit, had retired leaving delivery to a younger colleague, Susan Robins. Susan offered a Repton tour, pertinent to our current research activities. The Library's research room was set aside for us, laid out with treasures from the RHS collections. Susan's tour painted 'such a clear picture of the great man and his work', surpassing all expectations. We were totally riveted for over two hours.



Moira Stevenson, Hilary Morris, Barbara Moth, Liz Roberts with Susan Robins, from the Lindley, looking at the Red Book

From a young age Repton aspired to be a gentleman. He used his connections to educate himself and only launched his career as a landscape gardener at the comparatively late age of thirty five. His Red Book for Waresley Park (Cambridgeshire) includes one of his business cards attached to the inside front cover, a card that shows him using a theodolite and implying that he has an assistant, i.e. he was a gentleman. Repton was not a project manager like his forbear Capability Brown; his plans were not based on actual surveys; he didn't predict costs or supervise teams of workmen. His watercolours were intended to suggest what was possible, the slides and flaps giving the client time to consider and weigh up his proposals. He stayed with clients at their expense, charging 35 guineas for the Waresley Park Red Book (and 50 guineas for Hooton Park). He was conscious of the period in which he lived – during the Napoleonic Wars and introduction of income tax - and therefore supported economy in his proposals, aware that clients might have to undertake improvements in phases over a number of years.

His Red Books followed a similar sequence – character and situation, water, park scenery, approaches and buildings. The changing views he presented had an air of theatricality, none more

so than in his Red Book for the Prince Regent's Brighton Pavilion where one watercolour demonstrated how an orangery in wintertime could become a stage in summer (see below).



Design for an Orangerie from The Brighton Pavilion Red Book



Flaps lifted to show conversion to a jolly stage

Repton used his illustrations from his Red Book commissions to illustrate his books, which were written to promote and assert his pre-eminence as a landscape gardener, and to rebut the assaults of Uvedale Price and Richard Payne Knight. Also Repton realised that his work might be imperfectly carried out so he wanted to be remembered through his publications.

Barbara Moth

Photos Freyda Taylor, with kind permission of Lindley Library

Following Susan's excellent talk on Humphrey Repton at the Lindley Library, we headed for the newly-refurbished **Garden Museum** for lunch, just a short walk away across Lambeth Bridge. Housed in St Mary-at-Lambeth Church, next to Lambeth Palace, it is the burial place of the two early 17th century royal

gardeners and plant collectors, John Tradescants Elder and Younger, who are at the core of the museum's founding. Within the church is a small room dedicated to the Ark of Curiosities that the Tradescants collected (and which formed the basis of the Ashmolean Museum). Some items are back on loan from the Ashmolean, including the surprising lamb-vegetable, a strange hybrid beast part animal and part vegetable.



Overall view of the museum and gardens

The new galleries within the body of the church have collections of tools, art, and garden ephemera, with sections on the evolution of gardening and its social history (a good section on allotments in the War), and garden design, as well as practical aspects like seed production. Since the talk at the Lindley had focussed on Repton's life, writing, and clever marketing strategy, I particularly enjoyed a video looking at one of his Red Books, assessing his qualities as a designer. The core collection remains the same, but there is a new room for changing exhibitions – the next one on John Brookes was in preparation. The new buildings are clad in glass and bronze tiles to reference and reflect the bark of the surrounding plane trees – a species introduced to Britain by the Tradescants. These buildings form a cloister around the old tombstones (see below) and Sackler Garden, newly planted by Dan Pearson.



Considering it was only planted up in May, it looked surprisingly full and lush for mid-November. Pearson said he had chosen unusual and exotic plants – in the way that Tradescant's plants would have been exotic and surprising. Too exotic for me to identify more than a handful – a planting plan would have been helpful. His planting on the road-side is hardier and more familiar, and its informality blends well with the entrance garden of clipped yews designed by Christopher Bradley-Hole. There is also an area at the front gardened by local volunteers, which was full of colour earlier in the year. In such a central, built up area, the museum really is a green, calm oasis to while away an hour or two.

Text and photos Liz Roberts



The end of a "Grand day out" in London

And if you've been inspired by these reports and you too would like a grand day out there are two forthcoming exhibitions that you might be interested in:

Collecting in the Clouds: Early 20th Century Plant Discoveries

RHS Lindley Library, 80 Vincent Square, London SW1P 2PE Mon- Fri 10am – 5pm until 2nd March
This exhibition tells the story of four key collectors who were exploring the eastern-most edge of the Himalayas 100 years ago; George Forrest, Reginald Farrer, William Purdom and Frank Kingdon-Ward.

John Brookes: the man who made the modern garden

The Garden Museum, Lambeth Palace Road, London, SE1 7LB Until 25th March
Sunday – Friday 10.30-5pm, Saturday 10.30-4pm, closed first Monday each month.
The exhibition showcases Brookes as the landscape designer who introduced Modernism to British garden design, revolutionizing the way people use their gardens and outdoor spaces.

Editor

Mirepoix Apple Festival

Deep in the South West of France, the unbelievably beautiful medieval town of Mirepoix holds its annual Apple Festival.

Who knew what delight could be had from stringing up a few apples! Creative skills unleashed myriad sculptures with a few elastic bands, some wire and a lot of apples. We had a go at creating a number 8 for the wonderful hotel where we stayed (the Relais de Mirepoix – see below), but our lack of expertise was evident when we compared our efforts to the beautiful sculptures in and around the town.



As we strolled through the town square, we discovered the extent of the ambition and imagination of the apple theme. Top hats, witches hats, a spider, a horse, a lion and a giant 'apple',



The apple lion

marking the fact that the festival is in its 20th year
(see below)



A troupe of new, old and ancient tractors drove around the town, whilst an apple press erected in the market hall (see below) was in constant use producing delicious juice and cider for the visitors.



The variety of apples harvested locally were all on show and for sale in huge bags on the market stalls– Melange, Goldrush, Chantecler, Fiji, and of course Golden. And this being France, cooking and eating also featured in the form of apple themed pies and pastries, and all selling like hot patisseries!

What an excuse for a party in the autumn sunshine. A whole weekend of gentle fun and indulgence. May it continue for many more years.

On returning home, I decided to look into the British traditions around apples, and was delighted to discover that there exists a very healthy British apple industry.



Apple products on display

A group called Common Ground took up the cause of the British apple to encourage its resurgence and launched the first Apple Day in October 1990 in Covent Garden. This event had 40 stalls made up of fruit growers, nurseries and producers and included the Womens Institute with their apple chutneys. The initiative spread, and the following year 60 events were held around the country. By 1999 there were 600! It has been one of the impetuses behind the Farmers Markets which are doing so much to encourage awareness of the links between our food and the land. This increased focus enables accurate provenance and traceability of apple varieties for the food industry. Old and ancient orchards have been rediscovered and redeveloped. These play an intrinsic role in the shaping of the countryside and landscape. Many community groups, allotment societies, schools and even housing developments are planting apple trees. These are all registered with the People's Trust for Endangered Species who are constantly adding to their lists. In this way we ensure we do not lose any varieties. A recent find was the Bringewood Pippin, a variety first bred in the early 19th century, one among several discovered on the Shropshire/Welsh border. The desire to seek out forgotten ones has gained momentum and now National Apple Day is an integral part of the calendar of the National Trust, the Wildlife Trust, innumerable schools, colleges and restaurants. Long may it remain as a celebration of our British food heritage.

Text and photos Mim Butler



Wreath making workshop at Henbury Hall

In Victorian times it was the Head Gardener's duty to make Christmas wreathes for the family who employed him – a great honour.



New member Christine Arnold and member Carolyn Yardley

In November eleven CGT members and guests were welcomed to Henbury Hall by Sean Barton, Henbury's Head Gardener and professional florist. Mince pies, mulled wine and a blazing log fire set the scene.



Guest Cathy Knowles



Following the morning's exertions, the group sat down to a superb homemade lunch prepared by Pauline Roberts, Henbury's housekeeper.

Sean Barton (above), demonstrated making a traditional wreath, against the background of the stunningly decorated Tenants' Hall.

Everyone completed their individual wreath and looked very pleased and proud of themselves!



Members Susie Levy, Tina Theis and Fran Paul



Member Jill Gallagher

With grateful thanks to Gilly de Ferranti, Sean Barton, Pauline Roberts, Sue Flack and all at Henbury for a most enjoyable and informative day.

Jane Gooch

Photos Christine Arnold, Jill Robinson, Fran Paul and Jane Gooch

Z is for Zoological Garden

A Zoological Garden is "A garden or other open-air area for the keeping, display and study of animals, most of which are native to other countries."

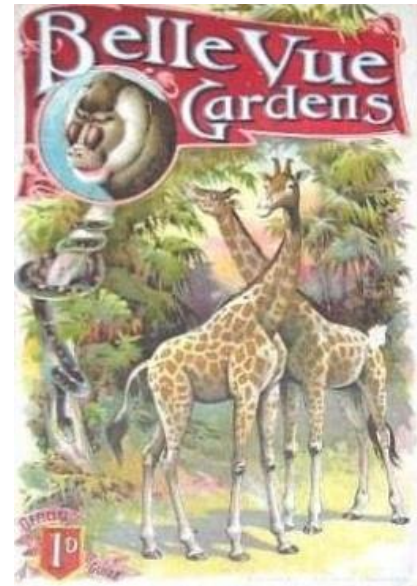


The concept of the zoo has its origins in the hunting parks of Assyrian Kings. In England the first collections of exotic animals were those of Royalty who were keeping lions at the Tower of London c 1210 (see above). By the 18th century nobility were establishing their own menageries as spectacles of curiosity to amuse guests. Capability Brown included one in his 1770 commission for the Earl of Craven at Coombe Abbey (Warwickshire).

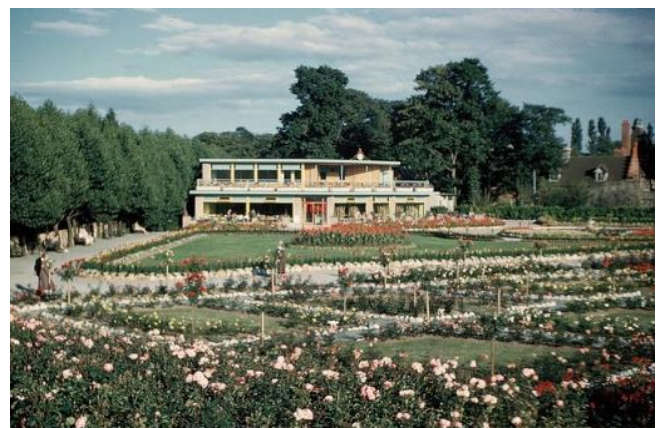
World exploration and the recording and importation of 'new' animal and plant species led to discussions between Joseph Banks and others which resulted in the founding of the "Zoological Club of the Linnean Society of London" in 1822. The idea was that London should have an establishment similar to the Jardin des Plantes in Paris, housing a zoological collection "which should interest and amuse the public." In 1828 the Zoological Gardens situated in Regents Park (see below) were open to members, in 1847 opened to the public, and soon possessed the greatest collection of animals in the world.



This was a serious venture for scientific study, a far remove from the exotic animals displayed to the public in association with pleasure gardens and travelling menageries.



Belle Vue Zoological Gardens (see above) and Bristol Zoo Gardens both opened to the public in 1836, followed by Dudley Zoo in 1937. It was seeing caged animals at Belle Vue that inspired George Mottershead, founder of Chester Zoo, to aspire to having a 'zoo without bars'. From a market garden and florists shop near Shavington he began to sell pet birds and then stocked some exotic animals which proved a great attraction. In 1930 he managed to acquire Oakfield House at Upton near Chester set in a nine acre estate to develop his zoo concept. Zoo newsletters provide a valuable record of the development of Chester Zoological Gardens. Under Phillip Gallup, appointed as first head gardener in 1953, the ornamental gardens became known for their floral displays, a tradition continued by his successor Walter Worth.



Chester Zoo - 1960 image courtesy of the late Walter Worth – fountain restaurant garden with Caldwell's roses.

Many of the plants were supplied by Caldwell's Nurseries. (For further details see <http://www.caldwellarchives.org.uk/places/sites-supplied.html>)



2016 image of the same area, Fountain restaurant and garden now reduced to the Madagascar Market Place and Ice Cream Parlour!

Whipsnade Park Zoo which opened in 1931, the Zoological Society of London's second zoo, was the first in the UK to display exotic animals in the natural surroundings of a safari park. During the late 20th century the nature of Zoological Gardens changed to focus on the conservation of animals and their habitats. High maintenance beds of massed roses and colourful seasonal displays to attract visitors have largely been replaced by naturalistic planting, as exemplified by Chester Zoo's recently developed Islands area. Most zoos still retain 'Gardens' in their full title, suggesting that 'gardens' remain an attraction or are important to the sales pitch, even though the offer has changed.

Barbara Moth

Photos Walter Worth, Barbara Moth and Wikipedia – public domain

Olympic Park revisited

Five years ago I visited the Olympic Park for the athletics and reported on the planting developed by Sarah Price, as well as James Hitchmough and Nigel Dunnett, famous for their wildflower meadows.

Now, five years later, I had the chance to revisit the park for the staging of the World Athletics Championships in August. Obviously much has changed. Many of the venues and hard landscaping have gone, though the Olympic Stadium, velodrome and Copper Box are still there. It is now very much a public park, surrounded by residential and retail areas. It is a place for all, especially families, to stroll, play, jog, picnic and generally enjoy themselves. There are plenty of grassy areas and generous seating.

Most of Sarah Price's planting remains. She developed the London 2012 gardens, with perennial planting alongside bulbs, shrubs, trees and other plants. Here is the geographically themed planting, with planting from North Africa

The Southern Hemisphere, Asia and Europe. The North African planting was looking particularly good, with rudbeckias, asters, *Echinacea* and *Verbena bonariensis*, but the Southern hemisphere planting, which was stunning when I last saw it was now mostly over. Only the *Eremurus* was really at its best. But overall, the planting in these beds, which had to be sourced from specialist nurseries, has matured, the trees in particular coming into their own.

Last time, nearer to the stadium were annual flower meadows, with jewel like planting, reflecting the Olympic theme. These beds have been remodelled and designed by Piet Oudolf and show his iconic grasses and prairie planting. In fact it reminded me of the Trentham Gardens planting, with grasses, *Eupatorium*, anemones, *Rudbeckia* and *Ammi majus* (see below).

The whole area, which has doubled in size since the Olympics, has a way to go, but already has the feel of a modern, public London park.



Text and photos Sue Eldridge

The Historic Landscapes Assembly 28.11.17

Held in Birmingham, the day attracted representatives of 25 County Gardens Trusts and 21 external organisations making for some lively question and discussion sessions between the presentations.

First up was Linden Groves, Strategic Development Officer for The Gardens Trust (TGT), reflecting on how the organisation is developing - seeking to be more effective through improved communications, sharing resources, and being bolder and more proactive in the search for funding to support specific objectives.

David Lambert, Trustee of TGT and former Garden History Conservation Officer, presented principal findings from the Vulnerability Brown report <http://thegardenstrust.org/vulnerability-brown-capability-brown-landscapes-risk/>.



Walpole's comment "that his work will be mistaken for nature" (1783), is proving true – the scale of his work and the subtlety of his earthworks are often not recognised: his vistas, drives and rides extend beyond the estate and registered landscape making the protection of setting so important; the silting up of lakes and their designation as reservoirs under the Reservoirs Act, and the numerous small buildings in Brownian landscapes, buildings that have limited possibilities for re use. David stressed how the threats to these landscapes are exacerbated by lack of awareness and knowledge among planning officers and therefore how the expertise, understanding and research of gardens trust members is so important. In Norfolk some Brown landscapes have been designated as Conservation Areas to give them protected status. This is perhaps something that Cheshire Gardens Trust (CGT) should consider promoting for some of our important historic designed landscapes. The threats and recommendations towards the end of the report could apply to any designed landscape. The Repton anniversary in 2018 will use the experience and contacts gained through Capability Brown 300. There are many events to choose

from, see

<http://thegardenstrust.org/news/celebrating-humphry-repton-2018/repton-200-events/>



Karen Fitzsimon, Landscape Architect and Garden Historian spoke on "Compiling the Record of mid to late Twentieth Century Landscapes", a Gardens Trust campaign, see <http://thegardenstrust.org/compiling-the-record/>. Interestingly the Cadbury factory at Morton on the Wirral (featured in W for Water gardens in the April edition of the CGT newsletter – see below), nominated by CGT, received two nominations, and Walkden Gardens in Sale has been nominated by the Friends of Walkden Gardens, but overall nominations for the northwest were low. Several power stations and other large scale post war landscapes by Sylvia Crowe and Brenda Colvin have been nominated, begging an interesting question – can these be included in the Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest, or is a new category of designation required?



This issue was touched on by Jennifer White, National Landscape Adviser for Historic England, and remains up for discussion. Of the fourteen sites added to the Register in 2017, eight were 20th Century sites.

Jennifer encouraged participation through:

- * listing of garden features as a means of protecting sites,
- * 'Enrich the List' <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/enrich-the-list/> by adding snippets of information and photographs online
- * Taking part in "A History of England in 100 Places" <https://historicengland.org.uk/get-involved/100-places/>

Elaine Willett, Historic Environment Senior Adviser Natural England, stressed that parkland continues to tick a lot of boxes for agri-environment grant schemes. Standing deadwood is the rarest habitat type in Europe. After lunch there were presentations about the legacy of the Great Storm, a Hampshire planning

case study, and an East Midlands Gardens Trust Research and Recording project for which HLF funding is being sought. The day concluded with drinks and a book launch – "Windblown: Landscape, Legacy and Loss, the Great Storm of 1987". Tamsin Jones, the author, spoke of a veteran Turkey oak at Kew that was wrenched from the ground during the storm but set back upright, surviving and thriving to such an extent that it has added 25% to its canopy due to de-compaction and increased air in the root zone. Treatments to the root zones of important veteran trees now mimic this tonic - without the violence.

Altogether a worthwhile day - things to inspire, information to follow up and actions to take; a chance to establish and maintain links with TGT officers, trustees and other garden trust members, and to gain a broader perspective for our activities.

Barbara Moth

Planthunters fairs 2018



March 2018

Sat 17 National Memorial Arboretum DE13 7AR 10am-4pm, free entry (P&D parking)

Sun 18 Alderford Lake SY23 3JQ 10am-4pm Fair free

Sat 24 Carsington Water DE6 1ST 10am-4pm Country park and fair free entry (P&D parking)

Sun 25 Ness Botanic Gardens CH64 4AY 10am-4pm Fair £1

Fri 30 Whittington Castle SY11 4DF 10am-4pm Castle grounds and fair free

Sat 31 Bodenham Arboretum DY11 5TB 10am-4pm Fair free

April 2018

Sun/Mon 1/2 Dorothy Clive Garden TF9 4EU 10am-5pm Gardens & fair £4

Sat 7 Hoghton Tower PR5 0SH 10am-4pm Fair £1

Sun 8 Middleton Hall B78 2AE 10am-4pm Fair £2

Sat 14 Sandwell Valley Park B71 4BG 10am-4pm Country Park & fair free (P&D parking)

Sun 15 Consall Hall ST9 0AG 10am-5pm Gardens & fair £3

Sat 21 Battlefield 1403 SY4 3DB 10am-4pm free

Sun 22 Bramall Hall SK7 3NX 11am-4pm Park & fair £2

Sat 28 Sugnall Walled Garden ST21 6NF 10am-4pm Gardens & fair £1

Sun 29 Cholmondeley Castle SY14 8AH 10am-5pm Gardens & fair £3.50

May 2018

Sat 5 1620s House Donington Le Heath LE67 2FW 10am-4pm Gardens & fair £1

Sun/Mon 6 & 7 Weston Park TF11 8LE 10am-5pm Gardens & fair £3

Sat 12 National Memorial Arboretum DE13 7AR 10am-4pm free (P&D parking)

Sun 13 Adlington Hall SK10 4LF 10am-4pm Gardens & fair £3

Sat 19 Arley Arboretum DY12 1JX 10am-5pm Arboretum, garden & fair £2.50

Sun 20 British Ironwork Centre SY11 4JH 10am-4pm Displays & fair £1

Sun 27 Pottertons Alpine Garden LN7 6HX 9am-5pm Gardens & fair £3

Mon 28 Carsington Water DE6 1ST 10am-4pm Country park and fair free (P&D parking)

<http://www.planthuntersfairs.co.uk>

Edward Kemp postscript

2017 was the bicentenary of Edward Kemp's birth and we reported on this in the January, April and October editions of the newsletter. Birkenhead Park, opened in April 1847, was designed by Joseph Paxton and his plan implemented by Edward Kemp. Kemp remained the park's Honorary Superintendent for the rest of his life and lived in Italia Lodge, in the grounds.

On 5th April 2017, 170 years to the day after its formal opening, the Mayor of Wirral unveiled a blue plaque at the visitor centre in the Park to commemorate Edward Kemp.



Edward Kemp's design for Castle Park, Frodsham, was an early private commission by owner Joseph

Stubs who was keen to include recently discovered species. Castle Park has continued to add exotic introductions as opportunities have arisen. On 28th November a Korean Fir (*Abies koreana*) was planted to commemorate Kemp's bicentenary.



Cllr Lynn Riley, Cheshire West and Chester, donated and planted the Korean Fir, watched by Kath Gee and Tom Blundell, Frodsham's volunteer Tree Warden.

Kath Gee



A Public Parks Crisis Training Day will be held in the East Midlands in April 2018 (date and venue tbc). Public Parks are suffering due to severe funding cuts during this period of austerity. This day course will look at how the crisis came about, how parks have been affected and what CGTs can do to help to protect your local parks. Speakers will include David Lambert, director of the Parks Agency and Gardens Trust Board Member; and Katy Layton-Jones, of the University of Leicester. Together, they have produced the Gardens Trust's accompanying

report, *Uncertain Prospects*.

Tickets will be free for CGT/Gardens Trust members, donation of £7 towards lunchtime catering; contact

tamsinmcmillan@thegardenstrust.org

On 14 March in London Maria Luczak, a member of Cheshire Gardens Trust, will speak on The collaboration of Lord Leverhulme and Thomas Mawson in the creation of Rivington Terraced Gardens near Bolton, Greater Manchester, and their recent restoration. Maria will repeat the talk in Birmingham on 18th April.

Booking is available online or by phone. Contact Sally Jeffery for the London venue: sally.jeffery2@gmail.com or phone 07817 128147; or Advolly Richmond for the Birmingham lecture: ilex@advolly.co.uk or phone 01743 369060

This will be followed by a visit to Rivington itself
Rivington Terraced Gardens the lost garden of Lancashire,

11am to 4pm, Saturday 12 May 10.30 am-4pm, £40 for members of Gardens Trusts, £45 non-members, includes tea/coffee, lunch and afternoon tea.



These historic gardens (grade II) laid out on the very edge of the West Pennine Moors, with fine and extensive views, were originally created for soap magnate Lord Leverhulme as a spectacular venue for him to relax in and entertain friends and family. Situated on the steep hillside below Rivington Pike, the Gardens were designed by landscape architect Thomas Mawson and his son between 1905 and 1922. Following Leverhulme's death in 1925 they fell into a state of extreme decay, but with a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund they are undergoing a three-year major programme of work by heritage professionals aided by enthusiastic volunteers to repair, stabilise and consolidate the extraordinary array of eleven listed buildings, structures and landscape features.

Guided tours will be led by Liam Roche, the site manager for Groundwork's contractors and Elaine Taylor (Lancashire Gardens Trust), who has researched both Rivington and other Mawson gardens in Lancashire.

Walks will start and finish at Rivington Church, where parking is available. The terrain at Rivington is challenging and sturdy walking boots are essential. There will be two groups one taking a slightly easier route. This visit is not suitable for those who have difficulty walking. Bookings will be made through Eventbrite via the Gardens Trust website.

<http://thegardenstrust.org/events-archive/page/2/> Contact Claire de Carle: claire@decarle.plus.com

Danish Landscapes and Gardens Study Tour Monday 4 to Sunday 10 June

Visiting Sanderumgaards, Egeskov and the Hans Christian Anderson garden in Odense. Then travelling to Copenhagen via Zealand, visiting Frederiksborg, Frederiksberg, the Kings Garden and the Botanic Gardens in the centre of Copenhagen. Followed by a variety of parks and gardens further afield and, for those who are up for it, half a day on bikes with a landscape architect and a boat trip. Costs will be around £1500.

For further information contact Robert Peel mapeel@btopenworld.com

Head Gardeners

Ambra Edwards' book "Head Gardeners" was published in September. It's too late now for Christmas, but it would make a lovely birthday present.

Ambra Edwards interviewed fourteen head gardeners, all very different in background, outlook and setting. You will find some familiar faces, such as Troy Scott Smith at Sissinghurst, Michael

Walker at Trentham and Fergus Garrett at Great Dixter; and some less familiar, such as Martin Ogle at Lowther Castle, Carol Sales at Headley Court and Paul Pulford at Queen Elizabeth Hall. All very thoughtful and beautifully photographed by Charlie Hopkins. A great book to dip in and out of.

Sue Eldridge

A Happy New Year to all Cheshire Gardens Trust members

Copy date for April newsletter is 31st March

Contributions to the Newsletter are very welcome. If you want to comment on articles in this edition or would like to contribute one for the next, please contact the Newsletter Editor, 148 Chester Road, Hazel Grove, Stockport SK7 6HE or email sue_eldridge@hotmail.com