



CHESHIRE  
GARDENS TRUST

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# Newsletter

[www.cheshire-gardens-trust.org.uk](http://www.cheshire-gardens-trust.org.uk)

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- \* Paul Walton, Garden Manager, Biddulph Grange
- \* Research into circular overflows
- \* *Acer campestre* 'William Caldwell'
- \* Estate maps – Jonathan Pepler
- \* Garden magazines of the 19<sup>th</sup> century
- \* Reginald Ferrar, planthunter

## Some future events:

- \* RHS Bridgewater will now open in May 2021
- \* CGT Events cancelled till the autumn
- \* RHS Shows cancelled till the end of June
- \* NGS gardens cancelled till further notice, but you can donate



**In January 2020 Ed Bennis continued his garden history series, starting with the gardens of the Tudors and Stuarts (1485 – 1714).**

No original gardens remain from this period, though reconstructions have been attempted, such as the knot gardens at Moseley Old Hall and Little Moreton Hall and the herb garden at Hardwick Hall.

Gardens were a display of wealth; designed for pleasure and entertainment. The defensive mount

became the viewpoint, the labyrinth developed into the maze, walls became lighter, more decorative. The use of water included ponds, fountains and water jokes.

This was the era of the country house, with the gardens and wider parkland viewed from upper stories. A good example was Hampton Court. There was a large mount with a spiral walkway, an arbour and banqueting house on top. Newly imported exotic plant species were displayed. Other houses mentioned included Hardwick Hall,

Burghley House and Ham House (below).



The first Botanical Gardens were founded in this period. Padua (1545) and the Oxford Physic Garden (1621) were designed to study the medicinal and practical uses of plants.

Productive areas of nut trees and orchards were also important. Grafting, pruning and training skills were learned from France and Belgium. Over the period many plants were introduced. In the 1570s Huguenots brought plants from Europe such as anemones, ranunculus, tulip, carnation, hyacinth and auricula. American plants also arrived, including the potato in 1569, the tomato and the Jerusalem artichoke. By the end of the period Parkinson's 'Theatrum Botanicum' mentioned nearly 4000 plants.

### **Overlapping with the Tudors and Stuarts were the gardens of the French Renaissance (1494 - 1610)**

Ed began by referring to two chateaux from the early 16th century. Chambord was built as a hunting lodge for Francois I in 1519; the layout was later used as the base for Louis XIV's gardens. The gardens were restored in 2015-17. St Germain-en-Laye on the Seine was laid out with *parterres de broderie* and with grottoes, automata and water jokes as at the Villa di Pratolino.

In the early 17th century, books by Claude Mollet and his son André gave details of how to lay out parterres, *palisades*, shady walks, avenues and *bosquets*. Claude introduced the use of dwarf box which allowed for tight clipping.

The supreme example of the French renaissance gardens is Vaux le Vicomte (1661), designed for Nicholas Fouquet by Le Notre with statues by Charles Le Brun. Designed to be viewed from the chateau, the garden is integrated into the landscape. Formal parterres extend for 1500m from the chateau to the statue of Hercules on the hill. *Allées* are decorated with statues, basins,

fountains and topiary at regular intervals.

Fouquet aimed to impress the king with a lavish entertainment in the garden. Not to be outdone, Louis XIV of France developed the garden at Versailles with *bosquets* in order to host similar events. Later the garden was redeveloped on a grand scale based on an east-west axis after the extension of the chateau.



The water supply was inadequate for the many fountains (see above). There had to be a set route around the garden so that the water could be turned on and off as the king progressed around. At Marly, water was raised from the Seine over 6km away by a water machine - a series of water wheels, an aqueduct and three reservoirs.



The influence of French formal gardens spread to England as at Dunham Massey, seen in the Kip engraving of 1712. The gardens of Peterhof in St Petersburg were designed for Peter the Great by Le Blond, a student of Le Notre. These display many typical features with extravagant gilded statues (see above).

Ed made reference to Nikolaus Pevsner's view as to why formal gardens did not survive here. He thought it was because the British are reasonable; that formal gardens all look the same, are expensive to maintain and are not productive. A taster for the next session.....

## On 17<sup>th</sup> January we moved to The House of Orange and the English Renaissance

The Dutch style derives from the French but, due to the topography, is on a smaller, more intimate scale. Ed described two gardens designed by Daniel Marot for William III and Queen Mary. The Palace Gardens at Het Loo (see front page) were made in 1684 but overlain by an English landscape garden. They were restored in the 1980s with reference to a detailed guide written by the English physician, Walter Harris. The garden was designed to be viewed from the house, with symmetrical formal parterres (see below) and raised walks at either side.

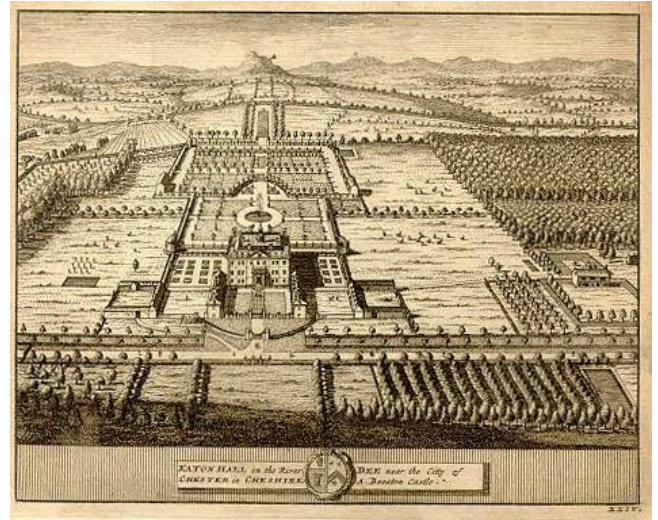


There are small water channels lined with tiles and some fountains but limited water pressure. As no planting plans existed, plants known from the period were used including roses and tulips. *Buxus sempervirens* was used with crushed brick and gravel in between. Trees were pruned from the bottom to allow view lines through, though some mature trees have been retained from the later garden. Orange trees in pots were used to represent the House of Orange and an Orangery was included to protect them over the winter.

After the Glorious Revolution in 1688 William and Mary came to England and created the Privy Garden at Hampton Court. Here the form of parterre used was a *gazon coupé*. Patterns were cut out of grass with coloured gravels between. Raised terraces at either side provided views over the parterres. Wrought iron screens by Jean Tijou (who also worked at Chatsworth) gave access from the Thames at the far end.

One local garden with some elements remaining from this period is Eaton Hall, which can be seen in a Kip engraving and this, along with other guide books and engravings, were on display.

Towards the end of this period talk of natural landscapes began to challenge formality.



Kip engraving of Eaton Hall

## The Eighteenth Century Dichotomy: The Beautiful and the Picturesque

Landscape painters, such as Poussin and Lorrain provided the inspiration for the 'Picturesque' which depicts rough and rugged scenery and the 'Sublime' which induces fear and terror (Salvator Rosa). Sometimes these styles appeared in combination. Ed gave an overview of the range of gardens and styles involved.

Studley Royal was developed by John and William Aislabe (1715-1781). Structures, including the Temple of Piety (below) and the Octagon Tower, were placed in the landscape to produce vistas. A lake, canal and moon pond were created. The culmination is the view of Fountains Abbey.



Hawkstone Park in Shropshire is considered to be the best of the Picturesque and Sublime. Here Richard and John Hill developed a sandstone gorge with terraces, tree lined walks and a shell lined grotto.

From 1727 Charles Bridgeman and then William Kent designed Rousham on the River Cherwell in Oxfordshire. This includes grottoes, cascades, pools and rills and views of classical statuary. It was a major influence on other gardens.

Stowe (1730-38) is a complex landscape worked



*Classical statuary at Rousham*

on in turn by Bridgeman, Kent and Brown for Viscount Cobham. There is a designated route around this influential garden which was probably the first to have a guide book.



*Temple of ancient virtue, Stowe*

The parkland at Castle Howard in North Yorkshire was designed alongside the house by Vanburgh. Views across the landscape include structures such as The Temple of Four Winds, a bridge in the Palladian style; a Mausoleum and a pyramid, both by Hawksmoor, and an obelisk. A village was inundated in the creation of a large Lake.

Lord Burlington built Chiswick House and garden in collaboration with William Kent. Influences included classical poetry, Whig and even Jacobite politics and Freemasonry. An engraving by John Rocque in 1736 shows a confusion of styles. The formal outline remains including the *patte d'oie*. Classical buildings, statues and winding walks, a grotto and a cascade were added.

An evolution in style occurred to the 'Beautiful' based on the ideas on aesthetics of Edmund Burke and William Hogarth. Capability Brown (1716 - 83) manipulated the landscape by creating artificial lakes, dams and canals and creating views to groups of trees.



*The bridge at Blenheim*

Ed described the sequence of gardens at Blenheim Palace from the fortified garden of London and Wise in 1710 through Bridgeman's woodland with walks to Kent's canal scheme of 1722-5. Finally, in 1764 Brown built dams and extended the water body making it visible from the house by partly engulfing the bridge.

By 1794 opinions were beginning to change again. Payne-Knight criticised Brown's destruction of the land, which led the way for Repton's mixed style.

**Monica Walker**

**Photos Ed Bennis and Sue Eldridge**

For further information see <https://www.cheshire-gardens-trust.org.uk/?Garden-History>

To be continued in July edition

## Paul Walton, Biddulph Grange Eighth in our Head Gardener Series

Paul Walton isn't actually a head gardener, he's a garden manager; and Biddulph Grange isn't actually in Cheshire but it is a Cheshire Garden of Distinction, so I'm stretching a point.

The Garden Manager role means that Paul does

all the normal head gardener jobs but is also responsible for a wide range of other activities such as events and placing contracts for building work. He has been at Biddulph for 27 years. When he left school he did a few jobs mowing lawns, for example. But his sister was working in



Paul Walton in the stumpery, one of his favourite areas

the tearooms at Biddulph and introduced him to the head gardener who took him on a two-year YTS scheme. He followed a gardener who had been there for 51 years, so big boots to fill. He became Assistant Gardener, then Senior Gardener and for the last 10 years he has been Senior Manager/Head Gardener.

Along the way Paul has undertaken a range of qualifications. Starting during his YTS days he took City and Guilds qualifications, then RHS Levels 1 and 2. While a Senior Gardener he took the RHS Level 3 Diploma at Rodbaston College (now South Staffordshire College), which he was able to do by combining half a day a week with evening study. As senior manager he took on more responsibility so added NVQs in team leadership and management. He was also able to access National Trust in-house courses. Tutors often visited him on site which has helped him develop his expertise, both in horticulture and management.

Paul feels he has a great team. There are 3 full time and one part time gardeners as well as around 40 volunteers with complementary skills. While I was there the team was involved in moving the monkey puzzle trees (*Araucaria*



*araucana*) from the formal bed (see previous column) in front of the house to a new area alongside the geological gallery. There are very few flat areas at Biddulph and much of the garden is very difficult to access. So a great deal has to be done by hand.

Every day he holds a team meeting, sorting out tasks. Every week he has a walk round the garden looking at tasks for the week ahead and further ahead. The day I was there he had electricians coming in dealing with a fire alarm fault and in the afternoon a drain survey. The following day he was off to Wales to collect new tree stumps for the stumpery, which is being extended. The stumpery is the oldest in the country and one of the most extensive; it was the inspiration for the stumpery at Highgrove. The oak stumps (below) are enormous and very heavy, so another difficult job to manage.



James Bateman established the garden in 1841, spending 21 years there with his wife Maria Egerton-Warburton (related to the family at Arley Hall). They had originally been at Knypersley Hall where Bateman established his vast collection of orchids. This was at a time of planthunters exploring the globe and many of the plants used at Biddulph were brought back from China, Japan and the Americas. In fact Biddulph was as much as anything developed to show off the plants of the world. The house was Italianate with terraces and parterres stretching down to the lake. Bateman developed the small lake surrounded by rhododendrons brought in from the USA and the Caucasus region. Beyond the Italianate area and the lake he developed a series of small rooms, designed to be hidden from each other. In fact the current gardeners have to be careful not to prune too closely so that adjoining gardens can remain hidden. The Himalayan Glen is a favourite of Paul's with its rocks, ferns and streams. The upper layer has recently been

opened up again showing new vistas. The stumpery, another favourite, is just beyond.



The Chinese garden (above) is popular with many visitors, with the bright colour of its buildings echoing colour in the acers. Biddulph owes many of its plants here to Robert Fortune, planthunter in the 1840s. The Dahlia Walk (below) is of course another favourite. It's a year-long job aided by one of the volunteers, who keeps meticulous records of planting of both tulips in the spring and dahlias later.



Bateman left Biddulph Grange in 1868 and it was bought by the Heath family who stayed until the 1900s. It was taken over by the Cricklade Society and then the local authority and run as a hospital until 1988. At that stage it had been reasonably well maintained but several areas such as the terraces and the dahlia walk had been filled in and there hadn't been a lot of new planting. It was

taken over by the National Trust and following a big restoration was officially opened in 1991. A lot of historic research was needed using a wide range of sources such as head gardeners' records, photos in the 1905 Country Life magazine and diaries from Edward Cooke, Bateman's friend and collaborator. There is an invaluable report by Edward Kemp in the Gardeners Chronicle in 1862 setting out in great detail the planting and layout of the garden. This is still informing current developments.

Restoration is ongoing as more is discovered and, in many ways, it is a young garden. For example, the arboretum was filled with spoil from the hospital building and a lot of trees were lost.



The Wellingtonia Avenue (above) was replanted in 1996. This was hard work; 100 trees had to be felled, stumps and stone removed and 2 miles of drains put in before planting could begin. The trees although relatively young are already enormous. James Bateman had originally planted the redwoods with cedars in between. The Heaths took out the redwoods but these have now been reinstated.

Paul doesn't think he'll ever leave, there's so much still to do. With a small team he has to be careful that he doesn't develop parts of the garden that can't be maintained. For example, the geological gallery has been fully restored and land acquired alongside. This will slowly become a new area, with planting extended from the arboretum.

Overall an amazing garden with developments still to come, overseen by a head gardener/senior manager who you feel could turn his hand to anything and who has an incredible team of gardeners and volunteers.

**Text and photos Sue Eldridge**

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/biddulph-grange-garden>

# Researching Circular Overflows

In the January 2020 edition of the newsletter we reported on the Cheshire Local History Association History Day in October 2019, which featured three of our CGT members. We reported briefly on Barbara Wright's talk on pools and canals, but we thought you might to read of her research.



You may have seen the 'Cup and Saucer' (above) in the C18th landscape park at Erddig Hall near Wrexham. It was built in 1775 by the landscape improver **William Emes**, best known for creating sinuous lakes in new landscape parks. At Erddig, one of Emes' many tasks was to manage flooding in the valley of the Black Brook and to drain the surrounding pastures.

His unusual device still works effectively. Excess water drains into the 'saucer' and cascades down a 10' vertical central shaft to exit through a tunnel as a stone-lined stream.

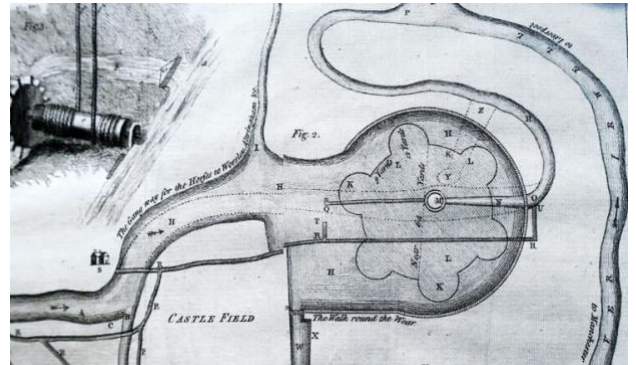
In the recent Channel 5 TV series "Secrets of the National Trust", Alan Titchmarsh and the Erddig Head Ranger were seen standing in the cascade (below).



It was suggested that Erddig's 'Cup & Saucer' was "the only known one of its kind in the UK". However two recent CGT research results question this statement.

Emes was not the first to build this clever device. In 1763 **James Brindley**, one of the first canal engineers, built a 'circular weir' on the Bridgewater Canal at Pomona Docks. Two years

later he built the giant 'Cloverleaf' at the canal's terminus in Castlefield, Manchester. Here excess canal water drops into a winding tunnel leading to the river Medlock (below).



1769 plan by Arthur Young (from: Wood, C. 2002. *The Duke's Cut*, courtesy of The Portico Library)

The circumference of the 'Cloverleaf' was 366 yards. It silted up and was rebuilt in 1830. It is now known as the 'Giant's Basin' (below).



On Brindley's Staffordshire & Worcestershire Canal surplus canal water is drained off through similar circular weirs to maintain the correct water level for the boats (below).



'Lobsterpot Weir' at Compton Lock, built 1770.  
Photo © Roger Kidd, cc-by-sa/2.)

Within a historic designed landscape, the 'Cup and Saucer' at Erddig is not "the only one of its kind". CGT researchers have found not one but two other circular overflows in man-made lakes in Cheshire. One is the 'Swallow Hole' at

Capesthorpe Hall. This may date to the 1840s and so cannot have been built by Emes who died in 1803... but research is still in progress.

The other is in the lake at North Rode, a private property near Congleton. The owners kindly invited us on a site visit. It was a cold winter's day and the lake was very full, but the 'Plughole' (the owners' name) worked well, preventing the lake from flooding, or from breaching the dam and flooding the lower valley (below).



We saw the tunnel exit from the top of the dam. Stone piers direct the water into a pond, where it calms down and then continues as the Cowbrook in its original course (below).



After scrambling down the steep, wooded slope of the dam, we could see the tunnel exit (below).



The egg-shaped tunnel under the dam is ca. 27 metres long. At the back, white water cascades down from the circular shaft.

The tunnel exit is set within the original curved stone retaining wall. Only its east wing and pier have been lost over the last 200 years (below).



This whole overflow system was clearly built by an expert engineer. Who was this expert, and when was it built?

Documentary evidence from contemporary estate maps fixes the construction of this circular overflow, shaft, tunnel and dam to the years 1814 to 1818. This eliminates Emes. Strong circumstantial evidence points to **John Webb** (1754-1826). He trained under Emes and may well have witnessed the construction at Erddig. Webb rose to foreman and then became Emes' partner. In the 1790s, when Emes had moved to Hampshire, Webb inherited and enlarged Emes' landscaping practice. He worked for prestigious clients at sites like Tatton, Arley, Tabley and Eaton Hall. At Rode Hall, Webb not only executed Repton's plan, but designed and built the 50-acre Rode Pool (completed 1812).

So, when silk manufacturer and banker John Daintry of Macclesfield decided to build a lake at his estate in North Rode, who would he commission but the best known and much recommended landscape designer of the day? One day we hope to find that elusive contemporary written evidence of John Webb at North Rode.

Would you like to help finding more circular overflows? Please look for them when visiting the many historic designed landscapes of Cheshire (or, indeed any other county) – and tell the CGT Research & Recording team.

**Barbara Wright and Freyda Taylor**  
**Photos Barbara Moth and Barbara Wright**  
 (unless attributed above)



# *Acer campestre* ‘William Caldwell’

## A fastigiata cultivar of our native Field Maple

### **Reproduced from the 2019/20 edition of the Tree Register**

Over the last few years, ‘William Caldwell’ has started to become known as a strikingly neat fastigiata cultivar of one of our most attractive native trees, the Field Maple (*Acer campestre*). In the summer of 2019 I was contacted by Dono Leaman who first bred and sold this tree; our volunteer recorder Judy Dowling visited Dono and together they measured one of his first plantings, at Akebar in the Yorkshire Dales, which was duly installed as the new champion – proving to me at least how this superb clone maintains its shape, and continues to grow with greater vigour than I had thought would be the case. Keen followers of the Champion Tree list however have noticed the title-holder has changed twice more since then. John Weightman takes up the story...

### **Fastigiata habit**

Donovan Caldwell Leaman was a co-director of the Caldwell & Sons Nursery in Knutsford Cheshire when he made a remarkable discovery on 16<sup>th</sup> September 1976 (the year of the great drought). While examining several thousand seedlings of Field Maple which were destined for hedging material he noted among the swaths of prematurely yellow foliage a single scarlet sapling. Further examination showed the sapling to have a fastigiata habit in dramatic contrast to the normal plant. Dono quickly planted the sapling in his own garden in Knutsford.

### **King Canute**

Over the next two years he had successfully budded the plant onto common rootstock. One of the two budded stock produced was planted in the nursery display border in 1980 to mark the bicentenary of Caldwells and named ‘King Canute’, their trademark and emblem. In 1983 Dono renamed the clone in honour of his cousin Bill. Dono then moved house, planting the second of the budded stock there; later, the original sapling was also moved there but sadly it succumbed to Honey Fungus. Dono retired to Wensleydale in July 1992, shortly after the closure of the nursery.

A number of the early trees, raised from French layering found their way into local gardens in Cheshire, while some went further afield to such prestigious locations as Sir Harold Hilliers nurseries in Hampshire and RHS Wisley.

### **British champion**

Although this is an on-going project, I have



Donovan Leaman with one of his “William Caldwell” plantings from 1992 at the Friars Head public house in Akebar, Wensleydale, North Yorkshire. Planted in memory of a pub worker (Photo Judy Dowling)

managed to track several healthy specimens in Knutsford and Nether Alderley. The surviving tree in Don’s last house is currently the British champion for girth. The larger of two surviving specimens in a private Nether Alderley garden is currently the British Champion by height. There is every chance that there are others yet to be traced which may well exceed these recent ones in girth and height.

### **Intrigued**

A notable feature of these finds has been the open cooperation given to me by many householders, most of whom are not the original purchasers of the “Bill” Maples. All are intrigued that they may be the chance possessor of a British champion tree!

**John Weightman**

The Tree Register is a unique database of over 200,000 of our most notable trees, recording our wonderful tree heritage and home to the definitive list of champion trees.

For further information see <https://www.treeregister.org>



## Report on the Historic Landscape Project Members' Meet Up November 2019

This was the first Meet Up that I had attended so I really didn't know what to expect. It turned out to be an excellent opportunity for County Gardens Trust members to meet Gardens Trust representatives and raise questions, discuss ideas and solve problems. Those attending from the Gardens Trust were Tamsin McMillan and Sally Bate, both Historic Landscape Project Officers and Margie Hoffnung, Conservation Officer and HLPO.

After a welcome from Tamsin, we introduced ourselves. From the County Gardens Trusts there were 8 members from Lancashire, 8 members from Cheshire, 2 members from the Welsh Historic Gardens Trust and 1 each from Staffordshire, Shropshire, Yorkshire and Port Sunlight Village Trust. Tamsin commented that this was the largest number of attendees at any Meet Up so far.

The Agenda of the meeting allowed for discussions under the headings of Conservation, Outreach and Research & Recording. Tamsin's excellent report on the meeting can be found on the Gardens Trust website at <http://thegardenstrust.org/news-from-the-north-west-meet-up/>. Please read it when you have time; I will restrict my comments on the meeting to interesting snippets that are not mentioned in the GT report.

### Conservation

Lancashire GT kicked off the proceedings by stating that they have 6 members working on Conservation. They have planning problems at several important sites with the Hulton Park proposed development going to public enquiry. The cost of defending objections to the planning application in terms of time and money is enormous.

It was agreed that there is an overall lack of statutory protection for parks even when they are on the Historic England List of Registered Parks and Gardens. Historic England has only four Landscape Officers to comment on planning applications for all of England. The Gardens Trust has just published further

guidance for Local Planning Authorities, see [http://thegardenstrust.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/PLANNING-DOC-Final-interactive-4\\_7\\_19-2.pdf](http://thegardenstrust.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/PLANNING-DOC-Final-interactive-4_7_19-2.pdf).

It was also noted that sometimes pragmatism is required. The example of Painswick in Gloucestershire was cited by Margie Hoffnung where there was some "give and take" over proposals for change. It was felt that without it, the garden would have been at further risk.

Barbara Moth, speaking for Cheshire, mentioned good results when we are consulted early, as for example at Dorfold Hall in Nantwich. We comment on Neighbourhood Plans drawn up by local Parish Councils; these rarely mention any registered or unlisted parks or gardens so we always have to remind them of their responsibilities.

### Outreach, including education, events, partnerships etc

Bursaries, free membership and other ways of attracting new members were discussed. To help publicise historic gardens at risk, the Gardens Trust, after some years researching the work of 'Capability' Brown and Humphry Repton, has chosen the new campaign topic of 'Unforgettable Gardens – Save our Heritage'. You can read about this at <http://thegardenstrust.org/campaigns/unforgettable-gardens-saving-our-garden-heritage/> or follow it on Twitter #unforgettablegardens.

### Research & Recording

Staffordshire and Shropshire are both looking at ways of outsourcing research into the historic gardens in their counties. It was thought that organisations such NADFAS could be interested in helping.

Barbara Wright introduced her fascinating findings of the drainage systems on William Emes' landscapes and asked to be notified if the same systems are discovered in other counties.

### In Summary

I was quite envious to hear that Lancashire have 6 members in their Conservation Group, many more than Cheshire. But, of course Lancashire GT

has a larger area to deal with than Cheshire. I found it interesting that some CGTs are looking to outsource research into the historic gardens in their county. In Cheshire the active Research and Recording Group led by Barbara Moth researches these sites in house. Reports are lodged with the Cheshire Heritage Environment Record and at the Record Office. The R&R Group meets about 8 times a year often on a site visit and they would welcome

new CGT members to the group at any time. As Tamsin commented in her internet report: “these relaxed and informal networking days always throw up interesting news and ideas and they are great opportunities to share and solve problems.” So next time there is a local Meet Up I would strongly encourage more members of Cheshire Gardens Trust to attend.

**Freyda Taylor**

## Estate maps, their origin and development

On Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> February a group of us gathered at the Quaker Meeting House in Chester to listen to retired County Archivist, Jonathan Pepler talk about the origin and type of estate maps, and their development from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Jonathan has extensive knowledge and experience and was very helpful to Cheshire Gardens Trust in the preliminary work on the Caldwell project. The objective of his talk was to demonstrate how estate maps inform us of the nature and content of estates in Cheshire.



© British Library Board, Shelfmark Royal MS.D.111 f.84v

Jonathan started his talk by showing the earliest map of Cheshire, that of Saxton around 1583. The Saxton map (above) was a revelation, giving the County an entity, seen as a focus of loyalty for the gentlemen landowners of the area. Indeed the map was a shrewd marketing tool and the landowners took the hint, going on to commission maps of their own estates.

Jonathan defined maps of this time as falling into two categories, either the all-purpose map of the estate or a map drawn for a particular purpose, such as to satisfy a legal argument in relation to the ownership of a particular area. The objective of a map today can generally still fit one of these categories. Jonathan stressed that to fulfil these purposes a map must show more than the

features of the landscape, providing the further information the landowner required.

As an aside, Jonathan gave us a fascinating fact by referring to the Cheshire perch of 8 yards as a measure of calculation, being twice the statute measurement! In fact the Cheshire perch was used in Lancashire until the 1820s. Land measurement allowed the landowner to have the means to calculate the value of an area when considering tenants' leases and rent reviews, again still the purpose today!

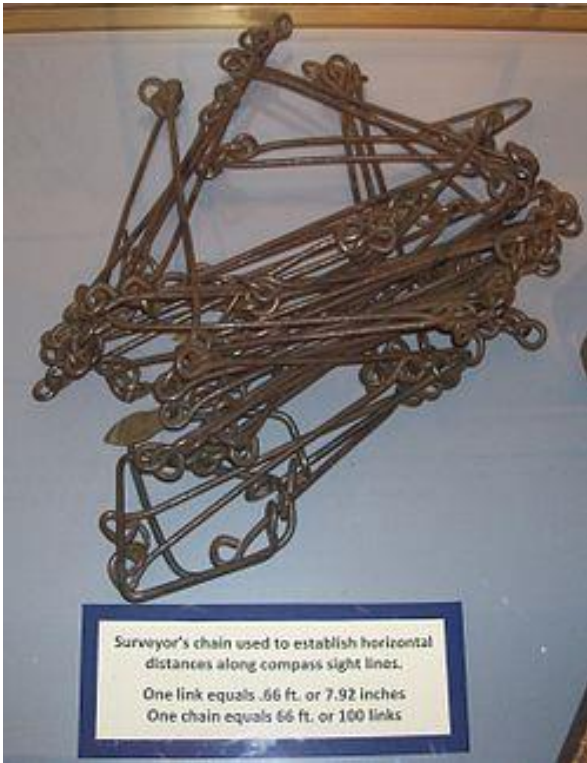
Jonathan then turned to the character of the maps themselves. Whilst all manner of information could be added to a map, maps were increasingly accompanied by a book of reference, with a series of numbers or letters on the map itself that cross referenced to the book. Sadly many of these reference books have gone missing or do not accompany the map. Jonathan referred to the work of Henry Fletcher who produced a map for the Poole Estate in Nantwich in 1601. The earliest special purpose map was that of the 1616 Survey of the Vale Royal estate; at the time the estate passed to the Cholmondeleys. The need to define the estate resulted in 13 detailed maps in one volume. There were major difficulties in storing maps and keeping them in good repair. However, Jonathan was pleased to report that the Cheshire archive has between 500 and 600 maps in its possession.

Attention was drawn to the reasons why the maps were commissioned in the days before the establishment of the Ordnance Survey. It was landowners who commissioned these maps for they were the ones who could afford to do so. Their reasons ranged from the general to the more specific, with inheritance, purchase and marriage as reasons for the commissioning, illustrated by the survey of Manor Burton in 1665 and 1666 at Pott Shrigley.

Initially surveyors were whoever could conduct

the work. But the late 18<sup>th</sup> century saw a rise in systematic estate surveys, including those commissioned by the Egertons and the Grosvenors. Joseph Fenna was highly regarded and often commissioned; Jonathan regarded him as a genius!

Throughout his talk, Jonathan gave illustrations with a series of slides. At this point he showed us a Gunter's Chain, his piece de resistance, acquired from the Highways Department at Ellesmere Port! The Gunter's chain (below),



a device for measurement, was designed and introduced as early as 1620 by English clergyman and mathematician Edmund Gunter, enabling plots of land to be accurately surveyed and plotted for legal and commercial purposes. This device together with a plane table and a

theodolite, a precision optical instrument for measuring angles between designated visible points in the horizontal and vertical planes, formed the essential tools until recent times. Moves were eventually made to rationalise surveying with the publication of a manual for surveyors in 1771.

It was interesting to note that the estate maps were usually confined to rural areas and few appeared for the north of the county. Common land was surveyed as were strip fields, such as in the Crewe and Farndon area. There were certain difficulties in drawing maps to overcome, such as indicating relief, as illustrated by the 1787 map for Sir John Stanley at Over Alderley. The iconography and the decoration of maps demonstrated the surveyor's particular skills, often illustrated by the owner's coat of arms, as shown by a map of Cranage commissioned by Thomas Hall. Maps were painstakingly hand drawn although a stencil might be used for trees. As decorative maps developed, they were often illustrated by classical ruins, with memories of the Grand Tour, or by idyllic pastoral scenes, with shepherds, dairy maids and the occasional church bell tower. An example was the view of Doddington Hall in 1762 by Probert. It was almost a throwback to a bygone age with no signs of modernity. Yet the impending Industrial Revolution would mean much change of land use for industrial purposes.

Jonathan concluded his fascinating talk by stating that maps provided a valuable tool for researchers into land ownership and its use, and also revealed the underlying social structure. He was thanked for giving us such an insight into the estates and their maps.

**Margaret Blowey**

## Gardening Magazines of the Nineteenth Century

A casual glance along the shelves of W H Smith or supermarkets will reveal many gardening magazines available to us today. In WHS I counted 12 gardening magazines and 3 flower growing/arranging magazines. One I subscribed to while I had an allotment – Kitchen Garden Magazine – was not there but a search on the computer confirmed it is still available. I am sure there are others. Then there are the specialist journals, such as The Garden (RHS) and GT News (The Gardens Trust) etc.

In 2009 the Amateur Gardening magazine

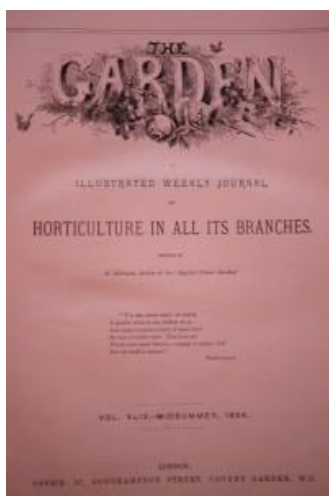
celebrated its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary and, surprisingly for me as I do not like clutter, I still have this particular copy. Last year it celebrated its 135<sup>th</sup> anniversary and it was this that prompted me to do some on-line research of the early gardening magazines.

**Amateur Gardening** may be the oldest surviving magazine but it was not the first. In 1826 John Claudius Loudon published the **Gardener's Magazine** which ran till 1843. This was the first periodical devoted solely to horticulture. Unfortunately Covid-19 meant we

had to postpone a talk by Simon Gulliver on John Claudius Loudon and his wife, Jane Webb on 21 March, but I hope we can re-arrange this for next year as it should prove to be a fascinating insight into their lives. The Loudons recognised that women were interested in gardening as much as men, so catered for women in this publication.

In 1841 the **Gardeners' Chronicle** appeared, published by Joseph Paxton. It only ceased to be published in 1986, nearly 150 years later. John Lindley and Joseph Paxton were two of the founding members and both went on to become editors. The Chronicle first appeared as a newspaper with home and overseas news as well as science and gardening information. Charles Darwin and Joseph Hooker were two contributors. By 1985 it was known as the **Gardeners' Chronicle & Horticultural Trade Journal: The Horticulture Week** but in 1986 the name was changed to just the **Horticulture Week**, and continues as a trade journal.

The Royal Horticultural Society (RHS), was founded in 1804 as the Horticultural Society of London. In 1861 it was granted the "Royal" in its title by Prince Albert, its patron, and in 1866 **The Journal of the Royal Horticultural Society** was produced. There had been other publications, transactions, proceedings, etc but this was the first journal and it continued until 1975 when it was renamed **The Garden** to commemorate the publication by William Robinson.



In 1871 William Robinson published **The Garden** (above). He wrote many of the articles himself, along with the likes of John Ruskin, Gertrude Jekyll and Dean Hole. He hated brightly coloured bedding but loved hardy plants and the "wild garden" where plants would be placed in areas where they thrived. He spread his ideas through **The Garden** (later Gardening Illustrated) and influenced the style of Gertrude

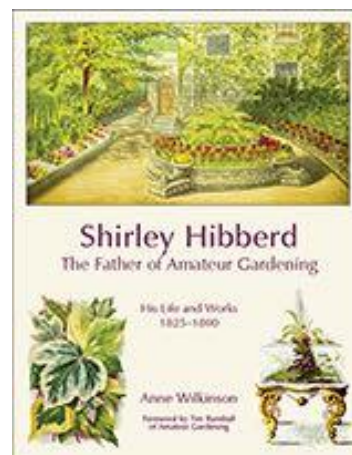
Jekyll. In 1879 Robinson published **Gardening Illustrated**.



Lastly we arrive at the **Amateur Gardening (for town and country)** magazine, first published in 1884 under editor, James Shirley Hibberd (see above). However, this was not the first magazine he was involved with, earlier ones being **Floral World** and **Garden Guide** (of which he was the editor from 1857 to 1873) and **The Gardener's Weekly Magazine** which he took over in 1862 and which was an ailing publication. He re-launched this in 1865 as the **Gardener's Magazine**. This became a serious rival to the well-established **Gardeners' Chronicle** and **Cottage Gardener** and put him in the forefront of horticultural publishing.

Hibberd was keen to help amateur gardeners rather than botanists. His new magazine was aimed at a completely new breed of gardener – the burgeoning middle-income classes, the amateur gardeners who wanted practical advice for their suburban home gardens.

Hibberd's biography is interesting yet not many people know much about him today. The book, Shirley Hibberd, The Father of Amateur Gardening, was written by Anne Wilkinson and published in 2012, and is a very good read.



# Reginald Farrer, planthunter (1880-1920)

This article first appeared in **The Gentian**, the magazine for members of Ness Botanic Gardens. In the second of a short series of articles on the plant hunters with links to Ness, Nick Lightfoot (Garden & Collections Manager) explores the career of Reginald Farrer (below).



## Early Life

Reginald Farrer was an energetic and colourful character who grew up in a well-to-do family at Ingleborough Hall in Yorkshire. Interested in alpine plants from an early age, he travelled extensively in the Alps, dispatching plants back to the nursery he set up near Ingleborough – Craven Nursery. Travels further afield included Ceylon (now Sri Lanka), where he converted to Buddhism.

## My Rock Garden

Farrer was a leading figure in Edwardian alpine gardening and wrote tirelessly. He also wrote well, and his most popular book, *My Rock Garden* (1907), turned him into a celebrity. For example, of the Gentian he writes: ‘no flowers of the rock garden give me more pleasure and more pain than the Gentians; pleasure when they do well, pain when they, so much more frequently, do ill’ and ‘if a Gentian is cross, cross it will stay’!

## Farrer and Bulley

As detailed in Brenda McLean’s book *A Pioneering Plantsman*, Reginald Farrer and Arthur Bulley had a fragile relationship. Bulley part-funded Farrer’s collecting trips to China and north-east Burma in 1914/15 and 1919/20, but Bulley and Farrer bargained hard and payments sometimes arrived late. On other occasions their relationship was more amicable. Bulley visited Ingleborough, and in May 1917 Farrer visited Ness – Farrer writing

letters on Ness-headed notepaper from the desk in the drawing room in Mickwell House.

## Luminous loveliness

Farrer introduced a number of plants that remain popular today. These include *Viburnum farreri*, described by Farrer with typical exuberance as ‘the most glorious of shrubs’ and by Bean, with more circumspection, as ‘the best midwinter blossoming shrub introduced since the advent of *Hamamelis mollis*’ – together with *V. grandiflorum*, introduced by Cooper it is one of the parents of the *V. x bodnantense* cultivars. At Ness we have a number of *V. farreri* planted, for example in the Specimen Area.

Perhaps the plant most associated with Farrer is *Gentiana farreri*. Farrer thought it a ‘marvel of luminous loveliness’ and I think most of our visitors would agree – at Ness it is planted in one of the stone troughs outside the Alpine House, where it is looked after in partnership with volunteers from the Wirral and West Cheshire branch of the Alpine Garden Society.



**Nick Lightfoot**  
Member of CGT Council of Management

For more information about Ness Botanic Gardens, please check out their website: <https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/ness-gardens>

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- Reginald Farrer, *My Rock Garden* (London: Edward Arnold, 1920, 6<sup>th</sup> Impression)
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- Trees and Shrubs Online  
<https://treesandshrubsonline.org/>

## June Lancelyn Green



*June Lancelyn Green in her garden at Poulton Hall*

We are sad to report the death of June Lancelyn Green (1926-2019) in October 2019. She was a long time member of Cheshire Garden Trust. She leaves her sister Enid, her daughter Cilla, and elder son Scirard,

Barbara Moth commented that “June was an absolute trooper and so supportive of Cheshire Gardens Trust. When she couldn’t drive herself, she would get a friend to bring her to events. She was always gracious, generous and encouraging,

with a twinkle in her eye and sense of fun, ever grateful for the contributions of others”.

We reproduce an obituary which appeared in the Autumn edition of **The Gentian**, the magazine for members of Ness Botanic Gardens.

*We sadly report the death of June Lancelyn Green of Poulton Hall, Wirral.*

*June was a member of Ness Gardens for many years, believing it most important ‘to keep alive the vision of Mr. Bulley, to make these botanic gardens very special for visitors’. Twenty years ago she took on the role of Editor of **The Gentian** amongst her many other activities.*

*June was well qualified to take on this role, having an interest in gardens and gardening and being an inspiring speech and drama teacher as well as an enthusiastic and skilful local theatre producer. The outdoor productions at Poulton Hall and Hillbark were particularly memorable especially an amazing production of Lewis Carroll’s ‘Alice in Wonderland’.*

*At Poulton Hall, June restored the walled garden in memory of her husband, Roger Lancelyn Green, to reflect Lewis Carroll’s writing, a subject in which he had great expertise. She opened the gardens to the public under the National Gardens Scheme, raising thousands for charities.*

*As well as Ness Gardens, June supported a number of local organisations including the Neston Flower Show and Bebington Rotary Club. In June 2008 she was awarded an MBE for her work in the community.*

Reproduced with grateful thanks to Scirard Lancelyn Green and Ness Botanic Gardens

## Shire Publications at Bloomsbury

Many of you will have come across Shire Books, and may have one or two on your bookshelves. They are small paperbacks on an eclectic range of specialist topics, from Bungalows to Tapestries to British Goats. They were taken over recently by Bloomsbury Publishing and you can see a catalogue and full listing on their website: <https://www.bloomsbury.com/uk/non-fiction/history/heritage/>

Publications can be ordered from this site or, during restrictions, from Macmillan Distribution, 01256 302692. Currently there’s a 30% discount on many publications and free delivery on orders over £25. Eventually you can also often find them at gardens open to the public and museums.

I think it’s a delight when you come across a stand of their publications and can browse. It’s difficult not to come away with one or two titles.

Examples of garden related titles are:  
 Botanic Gardens by Sarah Rutherford  
 Glasshouses by Fiona Grant  
 London’s Royal Parks by Paul Rabbitts  
 A Glossary of Garden History by Michael Symes  
 Humphry Repton by Laura Mayer  
 The Tudor Garden by Twigs Way  
 Walled Kitchen Gardens by Susan Campbell  
 And many more

**Sue Eldridge**

## A Caldwell snippet

Every so often I google “Caldwell, Knutsford” to see if there is any new information to be found about the Nurseries. Today I struck gold. The Gardener’s Chronicle of 11 October 1879 carried a report on the proposed Heaton Cemetery in Bolton. A competition – closing date, March 1877 – had been held for a design. Thirteen entries had been received. The Winning design (£30: about equal to six months average earnings) had been jointly produced by R. K. Freeman, esq., and Messrs. W. G. Caldwell & Sons, of Knutsford. Not only that, but Caldwell’s was also chosen to supply the trees and shrubs, though not to do the actual landscaping. That fell to Mr. W. Longworth, who had been gardener to

Mr. Ainsworth, of Smithills Hall, near Bolton. A nice snippet of information, but of course it never ends there. Who was R. K. Freeman? It turns out that this was Richard Knill Freeman (1840-1904) an architect who began his career in Derby before moving to Bolton. He was president of the Manchester Society of Architects from 1890-91. He was the architect on a couple of projects where Thomas Mawson was the landscape gardener (Bryerswood, Far Sawrey and Graythwaite Hall, Newby Bridge). Mr. W. Longworth was William Longworth. All I can tell you about him is that he was left £10 in the will of Mrs. Elizabeth Ainsworth.

Joy Uings

## Weeding Women

English Heritage has some fascinating pages on its website entitled ‘Weeding Women’ which charts the contribution that women have made to gardening and horticulture over the centuries.

It’s worth a look.

<https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/learn/histories/women-in-history/weeding-women/>

## Gardening over the coming months

Keep safe and well over the coming months. I hope you all enjoy your gardens. Unfortunately it’s not going to be easy to get supplies but there are nurseries prepared to deliver, sometimes in bulk, so do try local nurseries. For example:

Bluebell Cottage Gardens and Nursery <https://www.bluebellcottage.co.uk/shop/>, is closed but is still offering mail order or click and collect, online or by phone 01928 713718

Plantagogo selling heucheras and perennials by mail order. See <https://www.plantagogo.com> or phone (01270 820335)

Parkers Nursery is back in business for online sales after temporarily suspending its services. <https://www.jparkers.co.uk>

I’m sure there are many more but many have had to stop taking orders temporarily because of unprecedented custom. Others tend to concentrate on bulk orders or have a minimum charge for orders.

Whatever you do over the coming months please send your garden photos to the editor for the July edition.

## And finally



This is Ben, Barbara Moth’s grandson, with his bean, just after it was potted up. He is so pleased with it but did say to his daddy that he hoped there wouldn’t be a giant at the top when it finished growing. In fact the experience of growing this bean has encouraged the family into gardening with some small raised planters for vegetables.

Inspiration for us all in the coming months

Copy date for July newsletter is 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020

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 [newsletter@cheshire-gardens-trust.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@cheshire-gardens-trust.org.uk)