



**CHESHIRE
GARDENS TRUST**

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Newsletter

www.cheshire-gardens-trust.org.uk

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Special edition

This edition is additional to the normal quarterly newsletter and has been produced in order to keep members involved, and possibly entertained, during the Covid -19 lockdown



In February 2020, Ed Bennis's fifth session on garden history covered two very different themes. The first was "Horticultural Excess and the 19th Century" followed by "Allusion and Illusion in the Chinese Garden". Ed also brought in several books from his collection of historic gardening books for us to look at.

The 19th Century saw significant social and economic changes with the rise of merchant and middle classes, the industrial revolution, the

movement of people from the countryside to towns and significant rises in population, particularly in towns and cities. The 19th Century was also a great period for the introduction of new plants and the rise in books and information on gardening being available to a wider audience.

Garden design, both for the wealthy and the less well off, was influenced by AJ Downing, JC Loudon, Humphry Repton, Joseph Paxton,

William Robinson and many others. It was a time of very different opinions on gardening and some quite acrimonious discussions on styles and whether 'gardenesque' or 'picturesque' was to be preferred. Industrial developments included the invention of the lawn mower to replace scythes for cutting lawns; and the development of glasshouses, to enable cultivation of the numerous exotic plants being introduced.



The Roman Boathouse, Birkenhead Park

Paxton, of course, was responsible for the Crystal Palace at the Great Exhibition of 1851 and the development of a number of public parks, including Birkenhead Park, where Edward Kemp was superintendent. It was also an era for the rise of the 'garden village' such as Port Sunlight and significant private gardens such as Trentham Gardens (see below) and Eaton Hall.



Following a welcome cup of tea after this huge subject we moved onto something quite different, "Allusion and Illusion in the Chinese Garden". Ed had lots of photos from his time as a visiting lecturer in China about this very different style of gardening, not always successfully imitated outside China. Ed referred to two types of gardens, the Imperial and the Private. Imperial gardens were originally hunting estates and were usually very big, with large areas of water, covered walkways, statuary and lots of buildings, including pavilions with exotic names such as "The Think Deep and

Aim High Pavilion". They were used for holding court and entertainments, including opera and fireworks, and growing mulberry trees for the breeding of silkworms. Private gardens also had two types, and were for scholars or the wealthy. Scholars' gardens were for retreating and contemplation. Those of the wealthy were more ostentatious and for displaying wealth. Interesting snippets of information were that 60% of plants in UK gardens are from China, Japan or Korea and the use of '*Chinense*' or '*Japonica*' in plant names does not necessarily mean the plant is just from one area, they may be from either.

Ed's last session on Garden History covered two more subjects. The first was **When Garden became Landscape** and the second **Modern Designs**. Again, Ed brought in more of his books and pictures including an engraving of Oxford Physic Garden from 1680/90, "Design with Nature" by Ian McHarg and "Gardens in the Modern Landscape" by Christopher Tunnard.

Today Ed talked about the development of gardens in the 20th and 21st century, including some he had been involved in, particularly where these were public spaces rather than private. As usual, he had lots of photos to show us. One of the drawbacks of some public garden areas is the lack of expertise to maintain to a high standard.

Themes permeating the period were:

- Urban Regeneration such as the High Line Park (below) in New York, opened in 2009, on the site of an historic freight rail line running above the streets of Manhattan's West Side.



- The rise of interest in Therapy Gardens of different types, either sensory gardens for touch, smell, sight, hearing and taste; or remembrance therapy gardens using old fashioned plants to stimulate memories.

- Memorial Landscapes including Ground Zero Memorial (below) and the Diana Memorial Playground.



- Personal Interpretations including one garden of risqué sculptures from Korea, where Ed showed us the 'politest' sculpture!

The 19th and 20th century brought forward new theories about cities and the development of garden cities and communities such as Port Sunlight and Saltaire. There were more influential designers and gardeners, including Robinson, Blomfield, Lutyens, Jekyll, Sackville-West, Mawson and Johnson. The Arts and Crafts movement also brought new styles of hard landscaping with softer planting, such as Tirley Garth.

There was a recognition that gardens are ephemeral and sometimes change or decline and die out but may be restored in some form. Ed talked about Hestercombe (see front cover), Sissinghurst and Hidcote. One of the problems in managing these gardens, which are now open to the public, is coping with the impact of much larger numbers of visitors than were envisaged



Hidcote

when they were created.

After a welcome tea break, Ed moved on to "Modern Designs" and talked about many modern gardens related to modern architecture and the impact of new thinking, the use of new materials and of geometric forms, even gardens which have barely any planting. By the 1920s some gardens were being designed to look at not to be in. Another development in the 20th century was the building of Garden Cities, based on the theory that towns should be controlled in size and that new towns should be built with green belts between them. The 20th century also saw the development of private gardens as outdoor rooms and spaces for people. Some features of good garden and landscape design are:

- Connecting people to places
- Inspiration
- Creating mood and feelings
- Conserving and enhancing natural and cultural heritage.
- Creating quality places for people.

We thank Ed for an interesting and stimulating six sessions on this endlessly fascinating subject.

**Patricia Hazlehurst
Photos Ed Bennis and Sue Eldridge**

The Editor's garden this Spring



Nicholas Hawksmoor and Wray Wood

Private View Day at Castle Howard, Yorkshire July 2019, organised by the Gardens Trust, and led by Dr Christopher Ridgway (Curator at Castle Howard) and Dr Sally Jeffery, of the Gardens Trust.

Some years ago, Dr Sally Jeffery was working at Wilton House, Wiltshire and amongst the archives was a small ink sketch, established to be by Nicholas Hawksmoor but unrelated to anything at Wilton. She later worked with Castle Howard and realised that this small scrap showed ideas for a corner of Wray Wood – she had found its home.

Inheriting his title in 1692, Charles Howard, 3rd Earl of Carlisle, had by 1698 leased from his grandmother the estate of Henderskelfe Castle and by 1700 was developing the house and landscape of what was to be Castle Howard.

In the Archives, we looked at three estate maps spanning its 18th century development.

The first, dated 1694 shows the estate as it was when Charles Howard took control: the earlier house, Henderskelfe Castle, on an E/W axis, with walled forecourt, church and a small village, and a road leading east past an ancient woodland known as Wray Wood.



Group looking at 1694 map with Dr Christopher Ridgway

The castle was beyond repair, having suffered fire damage in 1697 and Carlisle decided to knock it down and build something more in keeping with his status. He employed John Vanburgh, who was not known as an architect at this time, but as a playwright and theatre designer. But the two men, obviously inspired by the spirit of place, produced a flamboyant statement of a house and a Picturesque landscape for Wray (or Ray) Wood. Nicholas Hawksmoor, an experienced architectural draughtsman who had worked with Wren on St Paul's Cathedral, was brought in to

work with Vanburgh on the designs.



The second map, dated 1727 (above), shows the development of the proposal for house and landscape. The house was repositioned slightly to the east, and on a N/S axis. The village and church are gone. This made the topography of the landscape a critical part of the design. The house sits at the centre of two natural basins; the inner ring from house to pyramid then an outer ring of estate land. The whole estate is approached through castellated walls and gateways, with vistas along straight avenues and allees. The original castle forecourt becomes the walled kitchen garden; the house is symmetrical, with its south face overlooking a large parterre dotted theatrically with obelisks and statues, leading to a Wilderness of more 17th century design. But Wray Wood has been left in its entirety, and the proposal is to contain it within a Bastion Wall, entered by a gateway, bridge and Exedra clearing, to the north front of the house. At the end of the wood is the Temple of Diana, now known as the Temple of the Four Winds (below). It was built by 1730, designed by



Vanburgh and based on the Villa Rotunda, denoting a shift to a more classical style. By the time of this map Vanburgh had died (1726) and

the house, started in 1701, was two thirds built; the final west wing was not built for another thirty years, and then to a totally different design. Hawksmoor continued to work on the landscape and its buildings.

Wray Wood itself was an important element of the design for Carlisle, an ancient woodland of oak, chestnut and beech, dating back at least to the early Tudor period. The sketch found by Sally Jeffery with others in the Archives at Castle Howard show Hawksmoor's preliminary ideas, and are thought to date from c1705. A natural style of woodland garden, was developed from around 1701-1715. It was built concurrently with the house, and the sketches show details of winding rills, rockwork, grottos, cascades and water features (below).



The 3rd Earl died in 1738, having retired in 1715 to devote himself to building Castle Howard. One of his most remarkable buildings is the Mausoleum (below). Building work did not finish until 1744, so it was a while before he could finally be laid to rest; but all the notable landscape features were planned or in place by his death.



The third map dates from 1773, and is the most complete. The house has its new, asymmetric wing. The layout of the walled garden is shown, and Lime Walk, an allee of trees between it and

the parterre. Obelisks on the parterre seem to have been replaced with statues on pedestals.



Plan of 1773

The Wilderness had also gone by the 1740s. The south lake is shown, and there is a bridge over the river. The Bastion Wall round Wray Wood has been extended, and now includes the Temple and a further small temple, to Venus. There is a direct avenue from the south facade of the house into the wood, and the line of the old road has become a grassy walk leading to the Temple, lined with classical sculptures on pedestals. Wray Wood now shows its network of winding paths and glades, but little remains of the original cascades and water features. Most of the statues lining the old road, now known as Temple Terrace, date from the early 1700s and were most probably moved from Wray Wood. This map marks the end of fundamental changes to the layout and landscape of Castle Howard, apart from the addition of the Great Lake in 1790s.



However, over the next two centuries, there was some further design input. In 1848 William Andrews Nesfield was engaged and introduced a large circular reservoir at the top of the Exedra in Wray Wood to feed the spectacular Atlas Fountain (above) on the south parterre. He also developed the South Lake with fountain and cascades.

Castle Howard was used for troops in WWII, and Wray Wood clear felled, the Temple of Venus destroyed by a falling tree. The wood was

replanted after the war, its winding paths and clearings reintroduced, and is now of course quite mature. Old pieces of carved stone are still to be found and in a clearing there is an astounding 'Aztec Pyramid', original to the early garden. James Russell, the subject of a talk by Emma Hill in February 2019, worked and lived here from the 1970s for the last 20 years of his life. You can see his planting throughout the wood – most notably a double line of *Rhododendron* 'Polar Bear' through the centre of the Exedra, crown lifted to look like small multi-stemmed trees (see next column). His work is most evident within the now decorative walled garden. Emma had talked of his use of purple leaved hazel, grey leaved weeping pear, and *Chamaecyparis* 'Kilmacurragh' to emulate cypress – all here.

The earliest statue commissioned by Carlisle for Wray Wood, was of Apollo in 1709. This now stands at the end of the Lime Walk, atop the most wonderfully carved pedestal, depicting

rocks and villages and animals and wooded crags and cascading streams, surely the most evocative relic of Wray Wood.



Text and photos Elizabeth Roberts

Rachel Pemberton, Sandymere

Ninth in our Head Gardener Series



Rachel Pemberton

During the COVID 19 Lockdown, obviously your editor couldn't get out and about so I am very grateful to Rachel Pemberton who agreed to try an email interview; these are her words. Cheshire Gardens Trust visited Sandymere, the family home of Sir John Timpson, in Summer 2016.

"I was born in Chester in 1972. I grew up in Little Budworth with my older brother. I went to Tarporley Primary and Tarporley High School and went on to study at Hartford College. My main ambition then was to become a private secretary. I have two children, Ben, 20 and Dan, 16. After living in Norfolk for 7 years and having a house with a large garden, I realised that being

in a garden was where I wanted to be. In 2009 I moved back to Cheshire and took the opportunity to move into horticulture.

As my mum had already been working as a gardener for the Timpson family for 25 years in 2010, I was already acquainted with the family and decided to go and see the late Alex Timpson to see if she had any vacancies. She very kindly took me on for 6 months during the summer months and I have never looked back.



Sandymere

In March 2010 I began my new career in horticulture at Sandymere. At the time, the head gardener was Mr Terry Shears. My first job was to work alongside my mum in the vegetable

garden. I have to say I learned a lot from my mum as I worked with her in my first few years at Sandymere and it was great. I was offered the opportunity to study for RHS Level 2 at Reaseheath College which I thoroughly enjoyed and loved being taught by Anne Harrison, who I believe has retired from teaching now.



The rhododendron glade at Sandymere

During the 5 years I have been head gardener, three colleagues retired so I had the challenge of finding new gardeners to join the team. Over the past two to three years, I have found my perfect team who work well together and also individually and have high standards which is so important at Sandymere.

My team consists of six colleagues. Margaret, my mum, who has been working at Sandymere for 31 years and is now part time. Mike Edwards and Emma Edwards, brother and sister, who look after all the ground works. Emma Cresswell, Sue Murray and Angela Benbow who are all amazing gardeners. I have let them all redesign areas around the estate which are shown to Sir John to have the final say. I am very proud of my team making Sandymere look amazing all year round.



Angela setting out new pebbles around water

In normal times, my team all have their own areas to look after, so they all know on a daily basis what they are doing with any guidance from me if

required. My areas are Alex's Boathouse which was built in memory of Alex back in 2014. I also look after the wildflower meadow, Granny's Garden and the Japanese Garden which is a new project now on hold due to current circumstances with the COVID-19 pandemic. I plan with the team what plants we will grow during each season which I order from local suppliers where possible. There are many daily tasks to carry out including health and safety checks, making sure all PPE is available for the team where necessary, that tools are all in good order and anything else that requires my attention.



Looking across the lake from the boathouse

On your last visit I believe the Boathouse was being built. That was completed in 2017 and was the final large project. Since then, we have redesigned the vegetable garden. This has been reduced as produce is not in as much demand now. We have created a bee and butterfly garden and are currently developing a large area for a lavender garden. Hopefully, we will be introducing beehives (see below) which can enjoy the lavender garden and produce lavender honey.



I do have one new project up my sleeve which is the Japanese Garden. I am hoping my design will get approval for 2021.

On 24 March 2020 the country went into lockdown and there was a dramatic change at Sandymere. My team were furloughed until further notice and just key team members stayed on to look after the estate as best we can. Sir John did offer to mow the lawns, but he didn't think I would be very impressed, but I do like a giggle!! Myself, Mike, Emma and Margaret are doing our best to keep Sandymere looking good. Mike and Emma are busy cutting grass while Margaret and I are planting up new bedding plant deliveries and trying not to drown in weeds now the weather seems to have started to warm up. We can only do our best during these strange times. I am so thankful for the continued support and commitments by my team.



The rill in January 2019

Even though the COVID-19 pandemic is a worry, I can't think of a better place to be than out in



Autumn 2019

the garden where I can forget what is going on in the world.

With regards to Sir John's business and charities, I can only imagine how tough it is for him and his son James, as they have had to put all their shops into temporary hibernation, as a result of the COVID-19 Lockdown, but they still have their online services running and locksmiths working hard. I am sure the charities will also be suffering like any other at this time, but I am sure Timpson's will come back fighting. Sir John has been self-isolating for around a month now and it is lovely to have him around the estate enjoying the gardens as he is usually a very busy man out and about.

Let's hope life will be back to normal very soon."

Rachel Pemberton

Photos Rachel Pemberton and Sue Eldridge

Lectures at Ness Gardens

I'm sure most of us are familiar with Ness Gardens on the Wirral. These wonderful gardens were originally developed by Arthur Bulley and are now the Botanic Gardens for the University of Liverpool. Among the many events and activities they offer they have a number of Sunday afternoon lectures through the year which are usually free to attend, although one or two do have a fee attached. Usually, you can just turn up but some this year have been free of charge but required advance booking. I only discovered this when I arrived for a talk about hedgehogs in the garden to find that it was fully booked and with a waiting list! Unfortunately, I didn't get to attend but had a lovely walk in the garden instead. The next talk I was interested in was on 23rd February and was by the resident botanist, Tim Baxter, whose subject was "What makes Ness Gardens such an important plant

collection?". This time I booked in advance!

Tim talked about why Ness had plant collections and how they select plants to grow. Reasons being biological conservation and preservation of rare cultivated species. They also select plants which will grow well at Ness and which suit the garden's needs. The gardens cover 25 hectares, have 7 gardeners and have 8,000 plant taxa with a high proportion of plants being of documented origin. There are a lot of very rare and unusual plants and many from China and Tibet. The noted plant hunter, George Forrest, was one of the people who provided seeds and plants to Mr Bulley.

The staff at Ness work with other Botanic Gardens, both in the UK and abroad, in conserving endangered plants and conducting research.

Ness has national collections of *Betula* (birch) and

Sorbus, some of which are very rare and/or endangered. Many of the over 200 varieties of birch are of wild origin and include 10 of the world's rarest species including:

Betula chichibuensis which is native to the Chichibu region of Japan, where it grows only on Mount Kamo-San and has a global range of less than 10 square kilometres. There are thought to be less than 200 specimens in the wild. It is critically endangered and the subject of an Anglo-Japanese project to preserve the species. Ness has 40 specimens of this very rare tree.

Betula murrayana which is native to Canada, is also critically endangered. Ness is thought to have the only specimen in cultivation and supplies seeds to other botanic gardens.



Multi stemmed birch at Ness

Betula bomiensis which is native to Tibet. Again, very rare in the wild and in cultivation and Ness has the only breeding specimen.

Among the many *Sorbus* at Ness are 15 'type specimens' for those varieties and they think they have an undescribed species new to science.

This was a thoroughly interesting and entertaining afternoon followed by a lively question and answer session.

Unfortunately, the planned lectures for March and April had to be postponed but are scheduled for later in the year and are:

11th October 2.30pm to 3.30pm. "Life through the Lens" by Iolo Williams, talking about his work with the RSPB. This talk has a fee of £13.50 for members of Friends of Ness or £15.50 for non-members. It was fully booked for its original date but you may be able to book for later in the year.

22nd November 2.30pm to 4.00pm "Burton - Estate to Market Town to Garden Centres" by Ed Hilditch, talking about why Burton has so many gardens and cultivated green spaces. This talk is free to attend but you are advised to arrive early to ensure a seat.

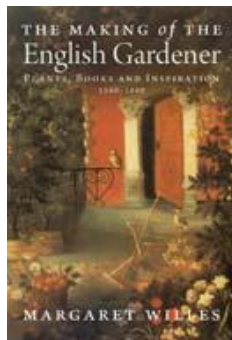
Why not put a date in your diary and enjoy a visit to Ness when hopefully this COVID-19 Lockdown is all over?

Patricia Hazlehurst

Book review

"The Making of the English Gardener: Plants, Books and Inspiration 1560 - 1660
by Margaret Willes.

Margaret Willes is a former publisher for the National Trust and author of "Pick of the Bunch - the Story of Twelve Treasured Flowers" and "The Gardens of the British Working Class".



This fascinating book is not just about gardens and gardening books but also covers social history and developments from the Tudors, through the Stuart's, the Civil War and the Reformation. It was a time of massive change

with an influx of new plants, changes in gardening fashions, developments in botany and scientific thought, the creation of botanic gardens, developments in printing and publishing which brought books about gardens and gardening to a much wider audience and major changes in society.

I was amazed to discover that the Frankfurt Book Fair was already well established in the 1500s and was a vehicle for the distribution of the many new books on gardening and I laughed out loud at Francis Bacon's recommendation that a garden should be no less than 30 acres, divided into three areas, the green (four acres), the main garden (twelve acres) and heath around it (nineteen acres).

The book has lovely illustrations and an extensive bibliography. I was pleased to discover I already have a number of the books listed and I've now got a list of some more to add to my collection.

Patricia Hazlehurst

CGT Members' gardens in Spring

In the last edition of the newsletter *The Editor* asked for photos from members' gardens. Here are a couple of lovely examples.

Margaret Blowey's garden

"Here are two photos of our garden which is not big as a result of the house being on a corner and because of our building extensions over time!



In the front garden (above) we have three camellias; the white and one of the two reds Henry rescued from his previous garden when we came to Sandown Drive when we got married. The white one had been cultivated by his mum who was quite a gardener. There used to be a pond in the corner of the garden with a waterfall - and Henry built a very heavy wooden bridge for it! Twelve months ago we decided to do away with the pond and have it paved over. We were very pleased with the result, done by Ed Wolstenholme from Bollington. And earlier this year our neighbours replaced an unsightly hedge with a welcome fence which saves a lot of pruning! The two flowering cherries are really old and should be replaced but we like the privacy they provide.

The back garden (below) was designed by Graham Hardman in about 2003/2004. We had had the office built to replace the garage, and a small conservatory - the lawn was in a terrible state as a result! Under Graham's direction a small garden with Japanese influence was created - but it has become a bit higher and fuller than



Graham intended! We did retain a few plants that we had already planted, including the pink camellia. We have just been pruning the crab apple right at the end near the shed; we remembered that this was originally in the middle of the lawn 40 years ago and Henry and a friend moved it so I could have a clothes dryer there when we first moved in!

Graham had also an influence on the front garden in the shaping of the lawn which was done to give an impression of more space.

So that is our garden, evolved over 40 years, nothing special, but looking lovely at this time of the year and with the greater care we have given it in recent weeks of lockdown!"

Ed Bennis's garden will be familiar to many of you because of events held there and talks he has given.



Cornus 'Eddie's White Wonder'

"Moving here 30 years ago, there was a hedge and six plants, the hedge is still here but everything else has changed in what is effectively a town garden, long and narrow. As a series of spaces, the garden gives us different areas for sitting, although there seems never to be enough time to really relax in it. I love the diversity of plants, their form, colours, textures etc. Many of the plants reflect where I grew up in Georgia so there are magnolias, azaleas, camellias and dogwoods. I am particularly pleased with two forms of *Cornus* white (see above) and pink



and *Cornus canadensis* (above) as a ground cover. A *Liquidambar* and a *Cercis canadensis* have been grown from seed from my family's garden in Atlanta.

The structure of the garden has many influences both from an understanding of garden history, and our travels and work abroad with a sense of an English garden rather than an American garden. We have several ceramic pieces from Gordon Cooke, and one from T K Maxx that

Gordon seemed to admire, that one cost a grand total of £15! There are two real problems, thirty years of fighting Mares Tail; I think it is winning. And where to find space for the next interesting plant.



A recently painted bench with a Gordon Cooke ceramic in the background

The Editor is very grateful to Margaret and Ed for sharing their gardens. Please keep sending your garden photos but, in particular, brief articles on projects undertaken during lockdown.

Garden related online resources

Most gardens normally open to the public are now closed. But, just like watching Shakespeare online, we can visit gardens, learn something new and get inspiration from online resources. So here are some of the best:



The Gardens Trust has a regular blog (which you can sign up for), with articles on the Tradescants, William Goldring, the Jardin des Plantes and more <https://thegardenstrust.blog>.

It also has a quarterly newsletter which is available on the site or will be sent if you are a member. <https://thegardenstrust.org/research/newsletters/>



The National Garden Scheme may have had to cancel all its garden visits but it has a wonderful

resource on its website with virtual garden visits <https://ngs.org.uk/virtual-garden-visits/>. You can also donate online.



The Royal Horticultural Society

<https://www.rhs.org.uk> has plenty of advice on gardening and plants and a regular newsletter that you can sign up to. It also has:

Links to nurseries that would have exhibited at the RHS Shows, including Tatton.

The results of the Royal Horticultural Society competition for 2019 and 2020.

And of course a **virtual Chelsea Flower Show** online.

Every morning of the virtual event between 18 and 23 May, a leading designer, florist or gardening personality will provide a tour of their own private gardens.

Lunchtimes will see RHS advisers being joined by

a special guest for an interactive Q&A session, while a special series of programmes celebrating the show will be broadcast on BBC One and Two throughout the week.

UK growers who would have been at the event will also provide behind-the-scenes tours of their nurseries and some will replicate the displays they would have had in the Great Pavilion.

Daily "school gardening clubs" will take place to provide activities for families to garden together, while "potting bench" demonstrations will show techniques for growing and maintaining plants.

RHS Bridgewater will now open in May 21. You can download their latest newsletter on their website or sign up for an email edition.

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/gardens/bridgewater/newsletter>



The National Trust

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk> has a wealth of resources:

- A guide to bird spotting
- How the tulip became the world's most coveted flower
- The nation's nature diary – the first day of spring

And much more

Several of the local National Trust sites have interesting information, particularly history, on

their sites:

Lyme Hall has "life at Lyme Hall during the Second World War

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/lyme/features/home-front---life-at-lyme-during-the-second-world-war>

Hare Hill

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/hare-hill> has the history of Hare Hill and Hare Hill Wooded Garden project

Quarry Bank Mill has Samuel Greg and the beginnings of Quarry Bank Mill

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/quarry-bank/features/samuel-greg-of-quarry-bank>

Dunham Massey has a history

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/dunham-massey/features/a-brief-history-of-dunham-massey> and a garden for all seasons

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/dunham-massey/features/a-garden-for-all-seasons>

The Garden Museum has a regular online newsletter which you can subscribe to

<https://gardenmuseum.org.uk>

Trentham Gardens appears on the BBC website with its Spring Festival of bulbs.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-england-stoke-staffordshire-52458738/coronavirus-trentham-estate-puts-its-blooms-online>

Rode Hall <http://www.rodehall.co.uk> has information on its history, gardens and collections

Sue Eldridge with help from Freyda Taylor and Joy Uings



Don't forget there will be another extra edition in June before the normal newsletter in July. Keep your articles and photos coming. Thank you.

Copy date for June newsletter is 31st May 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