

HERTFORDSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2019 AND ANNUAL REPORT



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From the President

The Hertfordshire Gardens Trust continues to flourish as it is guided by its still relatively new Chairman, Roger Gedye.

Congratulations to all those who have contributed their time and skills to the events and publications commemorating the 200th anniversary of the death of Humphry Repton, and to the Trust's Conservation Co-ordinator for her outstanding commitment to the protection of our county's historic parks and gardens.

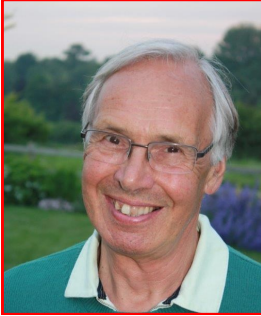
The research group continue their impressive work of documenting Hertfordshire's historic landscape. Some members are now researching Hertfordshire's orchards for the University of East Anglia's Orchards Project. This is an important project, and who knows, it may inspire some people to replant orchards in this county which once had so many.

As before there will be a tempting programme of events for members and their friends. In essence there will be outdoor activity for those who like to visit gardens and go for walks, and indoor occupation for those who like to be intellectually challenged.

The Hertfordshire Gardens Trust has something to offer everyone.

Dione Vanlam.

Chairman's Report - Roger Gedye



It is good to be writing this with the days lengthening and the cheerful prospect of spring on the way. An interesting programme of events and visits for members and their friends has been planned for the summer and can be found in the 'pink pages' of the Newsletter. There has been a good response to our four Winter Talks, which has extended the HGT season, and I am most grateful to our speakers and to the team who plan and organise this programme; they are presently preparing for the 2019/20 season. It is always helpful to have feedback from members, and any suggestions for future topics for Talks or for potential speakers would be gratefully received.

I am pleased to welcome two new members to the HGT Committee. Liz Carlin will represent the Walks and Talks team and develop our educational events; Deborah Spring as Newsletter Editor will look after the Trust's communications with members and the wider public. Both are experienced HGT researchers and it will be very helpful to draw on their combined experience.

As usual, there will be some fabulous gardens to visit, and I should like to thank Sonja Fillingham and her team, who year on year select the gardens and give us so much pleasure. The team would be delighted to learn of any member(s) who would like to join them in the organisation of future visits. Qualifications are a love of gardens and a spirit of adventure to seek out the best. To find out more contact Sonja at sonja.fillingham@btinternet.com.

A glance at the annual Research Report (p5) and the Conservation and Planning Report (p6) shows just how much we owe to the leadership of Anne Rowe and Kate Harwood respectively. HGT Research has moved on from the 18th century and the focus on Humphry Repton. The pressure to build in the Home Counties, with Hertfordshire more affected than most, has raised Kate's workload significantly. Do read her perceptive and personal review of the Local Planning process, 'Property is Theft?' (p10). The national Gardens Trust also draws on Kate's expertise, and she was responsible for co-ordinating the County Trusts' programmes of research on Humphry Repton in 2018. Toby Parker reports on a Study Day at the Garden History Museum (p18), organised by Kate to mark the finale of the year.

I look forward to meeting many of you at our AGM, to be held in Tom and Sue Stuart-Smith's beautiful garden at the The Barn, Serge Hill, on 11th July (p25).

Annual Research Report

Anne Rowe

Our magnificent book celebrating the work of Humphry Repton in Hertfordshire was published by the University of Hertfordshire Press in the spring of 2018 after a great deal of hard work by the editors, Professor Tom Williamson and Sue Flood, as well as by all those who contributed entries. A lecture by Tom at Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies on 19 April marked the official launch of the book. It has been well received by both local and garden historians (see p20), Ruth Jeavons, editor of *Herts Past and Present* writing, 'This splendid volume is a fitting and timely record of Repton's landscape work in no fewer than 18 Hertfordshire locations ... No expense has been spared to make this one of the most attractive and impressive volumes produced by the Press ...'.

While enjoying the accolades for this book, members of the HGT Research Group have also been busy on their individual research projects, producing the following bumper crop of site reports in 2018:

High Canons by John Sloan
Northaw House by Liz Carlin
Brickendonbury by Sue Friend
Hunsdonbury by Elizabeth Waugh
Bygrave Manor by Alison and Tosh Moller

In addition, a fine report on **Gorhambury**, compiled many years ago by Mick Thompson, has finally received some long overdue editorial finishing touches and, along with the above, will be added to the collection of HGT site reports in the Local Studies Library at HALS.

The Research volunteers continued to get together every two months or so at HALS to share experiences, knowledge and enthusiasm for our special branch of historical detective work. We met in January, April, June, August and November with an average of 8 attendees, including volunteers for the Orchards East Project and the occasional visitor. In addition I have met up with individual members to discuss their research, including Alison Robinson and Kate Banister working on Cheshunt Cottage (alias The Grange) and Elizabeth Waugh working on Hunsdonbury, and in November I accompanied Tina Rowland on a visit to Cambridge University Library to see an early map of Ware as part of her research into the history of the gardens of Ware Manor.

The manuscript of my own, long awaited, book on the Tudor and early Stuart parks of Hertfordshire was finally handed to the publisher in July and has been making steady progress through the editing process. Publication is expected in spring 2019 (see p. 8).

Annual Conservation and Planning Report 2018-19

Kate Harwood

This year has been much occupied with Local Plans and their Examination in Public. East Herts Plan has been approved although we were, and remain, very concerned about developments around Briggens and all the parks in the Hunsdon area, as well as encroachments in the central area around Panshanger. Plans for Welwyn Hatfield, St Albans, North Herts and Dacorum are all still in various stages of consultation and Examination and we have grave concerns in all of them about the effects on our historic parks and gardens and their settings. We have worked with the Central Herts Green Corridor Group on preparing a report on the heritage assets, ecology, and other issues in central Hertfordshire area which will be affected by proposed developments. We have also worked with other groups and individuals around the county similarly.

New threats coming forward include the Minerals Plan which includes proposals for quarrying near to Briggens and Stanstead Bury (and on a site of archaeological interest), Youngsbury and other sites.

There is also the new draft Transport Strategy for Hertfordshire. Lots more cycle ways are proposed, but more worryingly, a southern bypass for Hertford. There are three proposed alternative routes and all would affect historic parks to some degree. Hertfordshire has a very bad history of dual-carriageways slicing through our designed landscapes – the latest being the Little Hadham bypass currently being planned through the historic Hadham Hall landscape.

Two planning appeals have been fought. The Syon House appeal in London was rejected by the inspector in large part due to the harm it would cause the Capability Brown park. The appeal on a largely unspoiled local listed landscape at Rowney Priory has yet to be determined.

We have assisted several groups in the preparation of their Neighbourhood Plans: a group in Much Hadham to prepare a Heritage Landscape Assessment, and several groups or individuals with advice on restoring their gardens or landscapes. Our advice has been sought by several of the local planning authorities where development has been proposed or on conditions to apply to permissions.

There have been a number of national consultations and a revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) was published in August 2018.

We have continued working with Friends groups at Panshanger and Hemel Water Gardens and have given talks and walks on their behalf.

There has been a marked increase in planning applications affecting our historic parks and gardens and we have commented on all of them, which in many cases requires a site visit as well as detailed inspection of the documents – up to 50 different plans and assessments in some cases where a large number of units are involved – as well as phone calls to developers and planners.

Ongoing work on Panshanger with the group preparing the Heritage Management Plan, the group overseeing the restoration of the Capability Brown landscape and the survey of the landscape update has taken up a great deal of time. We will be arranging some walks and talks there over the summer.

Further work has been done with the team developing proposals for the restoration at Youngsbury, alongside Historic England. Proposals for changes to car parking at the National Trust Ashridge site have also taken up time, with further consultation on this imminent.

At our suggestion, Historic England took a look at the Briggens landscape and following a site visit have added it to the Heritage at Risk Register (HAR). In the past two years we have had two of our vulnerable landscapes added to the HAR (Panshanger was added last year).

The ongoing Orchards project is continuing with volunteers across the country surveying and researching orchards, both the 'disappeared' and the few surviving.

Next year promises to be equally challenging, with many of the local plans being approved and many more development proposals.

Annual Schools Report - Bella Stuart-Smith

Having decided to work only with schools that actively come looking for us, that is what we have done. It means the work load is greatly reduced, resources are targeted more carefully and we have worked with two out of the three schools who have applied. We funded raised beds and supplied tools for the children to have a productive garden in the Early Years department at Tannerswood Primary School in Abbots Langley. St John's in Digswell were revitalising their garden, and we helped supply a small green house and some gardening equipment which has greatly increased the number of children who can take part in these activities.

Both projects were completed in time for the children to get some enjoyment out of them during the growing year and our intervention at an early stage has certainly helped focus the minds of the staff or PTA who were driving the projects forward. This approach is more manageable in terms of time, but it greatly reduces the impact we make. Periodically there is a rather interesting request to talk at an assembly or do something that has no funding request attached, which I try and always respond to positively, but as I am writing with snow on the ground I can truthfully say that schools have yet to turn their minds to gardening at the moment so this report is short and sweet!

Tudor and early Stuart Parks of Hertfordshire: How not to write a book—Anne Rowe

My initial plan was to write about the fates of medieval deer parks that survived into the sixteenth century. This was to form a chapter in the second volume of *Hertfordshire Garden History: Gardens pleasant, Groves delicious*.¹ But when I started writing I very soon discovered I had far too much information for a chapter and had to abandon that idea. As a result, thoughts of writing a sequel to my *Medieval Parks of Hertfordshire* (published in 2009) started to take shape and, early in 2011, Hertfordshire Publications accepted my proposal for a book that was intended to continue the history of the county's parks to at least the end of the 17th century - thereby covering the period of the Civil Wars and Interregnum and including the many new parks created in Hertfordshire after the restoration of the monarchy in 1660.



Research and writing progressed in fits and starts over the next seven and a half years. As every researcher knows, it is the thrill of discovering new information that drives you on – finding the pieces of a very large jigsaw and putting them together to tell a story. The trouble with parks (and most other things) is that the more research you do, the more you find, and my list of parks just kept on growing. Eventually – as the book proceeded to expand to encyclopaedic proportions – it became necessary to curtail its chronological scope. Restoration parks will have to wait for another day!

Another unforeseen outcome resulted from the discovery that several monarchs – Henry VIII and James I in particular – had a major influence on Hertfordshire's deer parks and I started examining sources that revealed (as best they could) when the Tudor and early Stuart kings, queens, princes and princesses were in the county – and the places where they stayed or visited.

Detail of county map by J. Norden, 1598 (courtesy of Gillmark Gallery)

This was a whole new and thoroughly fascinating area of research for me. As the HGT's team of volunteer researchers will readily confirm, it is very easy to get side-tracked. Such was the magnitude of the royal influence on the county that the book took a major swerve to encompass this new and unexpected aspect of parkland history.

The exploits of Henry VIII in Hertfordshire proved to be of particular interest, not least the hunting holiday he undertook in the summer of 1530 during his courtship of Anne Boleyn. More than two and a half years before she became queen, Anne accompanied the King and a handful of his favourite hunting companions as they spent a month travelling privately from place to place – and most of those places were in Hertfordshire. Surviving documents do not record exactly what they were doing each day, but Henry's privy purse expenses include a series of payments to the keepers of the parks at Berkhamsted, Hertford (Hertingfordbury Park), Bedwell at Essendon, the three parks at Hunsdon, Pisho Park at Gilston and Moor Park at Rickmansworth. These payments strongly suggest that he and Anne (who also loved hunting) spent time hunting the deer in each of those parks. The King's party stayed at Hertford Castle, at Henry's new palace at Hunsdon and at The More, the moated house on the south bank of the Colne at Rickmansworth that had been recently enlarged by Cardinal Wolsey. The ill-fated Katherine of Aragon, Henry's queen for the previous 20 years, was to spend most of 1531 in enforced retirement at The More, as Anne Boleyn rose to open prominence at the royal court.

This new book is an exploratory foray into the development of deer parks in the sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries – a period of parkland history which, from a national perspective, is relatively under-researched. In Hertfordshire, at least, in-depth research shows that deer parks continued to thrive, and in increasing numbers, during the sixteenth century – contradicting the assertions of previous authorities. Within the county, I hope the book will contribute to a greater understanding of the development of Hertfordshire's landscapes and demonstrate how our attractive countryside was enjoyed and appreciated by the social elites of earlier periods. The extensive parklands have, in many cases, left a deep and enduring legacy in our modern landscape. That legacy deserves to be recognised and valued as an important ecological resource and heritage asset in a county which is currently facing immense development pressure.

The University of Hertfordshire Press is aiming to publish 'Tudor and early Stuart Parks of Hertfordshire' in the spring of 2019 and, at the same time, republish *Medieval Parks of Hertfordshire*, which has been out of print for several years.

¹D. Spring (ed.), *Hertfordshire Garden History vol. II, Gardens pleasant, groves delicious*, University of Hertfordshire Press, 2012.

‘Property is Theft’? Hertfordshire’s Local Plans

Kate Harwood

Even if you don’t agree with the anarchist Proudhon¹, you may sometimes feel that the proposals to build 460,00 houses on Green Belt Land is theft of our countryside. To quote the old rhyme:

*The law locks up the man or woman
Who steals the goose from off the common
But leaves the greater villain loose
Who steals the common from the goose.*

In Hertfordshire alone, we have nearly 45,000 more houses to build in the next few years, many on Green Belt Land², and more than in either Surrey or Essex.

Although each local planning authority (LPA)³ has to produce a Local Plan with their policies and objectives for the next few years (2020-36), the housing numbers are *de facto* determined by central government using the OAN (Objectively Assessed Need). In fact, this process is not objective and has put great strain on the LPAs. Preparation of the Local Plan follows a series of steps and documents on housing, including affordable housing (*affordable* being defined as 80% of the average local market value – rather than being within the grasp of many young and low-income people), employment, retail, leisure and commercial development. Policies and land allocations for all these are dealt with by LPAs. Other bodies such as the County Council and the Environment Agency, Highways England etc. deal with mineral extraction, waste disposal, schools provision, the flood risk, roads, and health.

The LPA must consult with the public, their neighbouring LPAs and a broad range of other consultees. Documents including Brownfield Register (an assessment of all previously developed land in the area), Memoranda of Agreement with neighbouring LPAs, Statement of Community Involvement, Equalities Impact Assessment etc. are all part of the process. Public consultation on the draft local plan is open to all, and HGT is involved in commenting on policies and land allocations which would harm our historic parks and gardens or their settings. In some cases, we have helped the LPA prepare Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD) on the historic parks and gardens within their area.

There are various stages of consultation and further studies can be undertaken such as the Green Belt Review across central Hertfordshire or Heritage Impact Assessments on Panshanger and the area round Gilston – all of which HGT found to be inadequate.

The plan is finally submitted to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government and an Inspector appointed to conduct the Examination in Public. Those consultees who have commented on the plan in the earlier stages can be invited to speak at the public hearings, although anyone can attend. HGT have attended as many of these sittings as possible, though with meetings which can last up to 11 hours, it is not feasible to fit them all in. There can be extra sittings to examine particular aspects, such as the joint East Herts and Welwyn Hatfield sitting with inspectors for both authorities hearing evidence

on the Birchall Garden Suburb proposal, on which the Central Herts Green Corridor Group made representation.

The inspector's task is to find out if these plans are sound, legal and justified – all terms which are defined in the NPPF⁴ - or whether more work needs to be done. The first test is the duty to co-operate with the neighbouring LPA, and Local Plans have foundered at this stage. Once the inspector is satisfied with the plan it can be adopted by the LPA at a full council meeting and East Herts Plan, despite the looming disaster that is Gilston Garden Village and the encroachment on the setting of Panshanger, has now been adopted. This will provide the framework for the next few years and all planning proposals will be judged against it.

Historic Parks and Gardens have no protection in law – they are a material consideration only – in stark contrast to buildings which do have such protection. Consequently, HGT try to influence, and encourage others to influence, the Local Plan to have robust policies regarding historic parks and gardens of all types and to make sure that land allocation for development does not harm our parks or their settings.

Other threats lie outside of the Local Plans such as major road schemes and minerals. The current draft Minerals Plan could harm a number of our sites. Even if this does not happen immediately, areas identified as suitable for mineral extraction (gravel and chalk mostly in Hertfordshire) cannot be built on until extraction and restoration have taken place (by which time it is a Brownfield site anyway)

In short, there is a democratic process in commenting and influencing the Local Plans for our area. This is so compromised by the diktats of central government that it is now almost just window dressing. For example, the OAN was based on the 2016 forecasts for housing need (by the Office for National Statistics – a lovely Dickensian title) until quite near the end of the Local Plan preparation process, when the government changed the goal posts and demanded that the 2014 figures be used. Why? Because the earlier figures are higher so the fact that demand seems to be falling is ignored. Consequently, some of our LPAs, having had to release large tranches of the Green Belt to accommodate the 2016 forecasts, now have to find room for another 2000 houses each.

¹J-P Proudhon *What is Property? Or an Inquiry into the Principle of Right and Government* 1840

²CPRE *State of the Green Belt 2018*

<https://www.cpre.org.uk/resources/housing-and-planning/green-belts/item/4931-state-of-the-green-belt-2018>

³In Herts: Broxbourne, Dacorum, East Herts, Hertsmere, St Albans, North Herts, Stevenage, Watford, Welwyn Hatfield

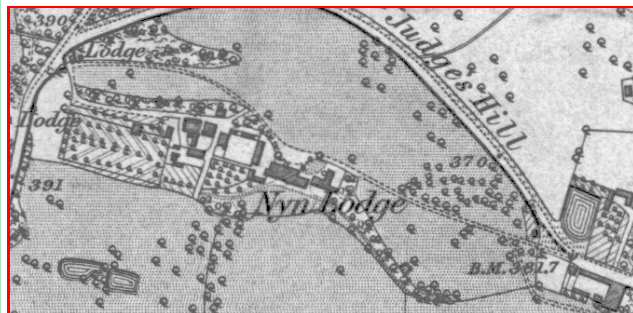
⁴National Planning Policy Framework https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/740506/National_Planning_Policy_Framework_print_version.pdf

Northaw House - Liz Carlin

I had been researching Northaw House and grounds for several years, preparing a (now completed) report for HGT¹. The House is set in the grounds of the manor of Northaw, which has a distinguished history, passing from the estate of St Albans Abbey after the Dissolution through the hands of several Tudor aristocrats, including Ambrose Dudley, Earl of Warwick. Elizabeth I visited Nyn Hall, its manor house, four times.

Originally called Nyn Lodge, the house was built in 1698 by Lord of the Manor William Leman, the son of a London woollen draper and High Sheriff of Hertfordshire who had bought the estate at the beginning of the century. It was tenanted or used by the family until 1774, when Nyn Hall, 'despite having been adorned with magnificent gardens in the taste of the time and having much good accommodation in it, came out of repair and was taken down'².

John Leman moved to Nyn Lodge and immediately set about improving the house by extending it, and replacing Pease Lane which ran along the front of it with a new road, Judges Hill, which enabled him to enlarge the park and improve the view to the north. I could not trace any details of the garden at this time, although as the family had previously laid out attractive gardens at the manor house, it is reasonable to assume there was an



Nyn Lodge. OS Map Second edition 1900

interest in enhancing their new surroundings if a garden did not already exist. Certainly, the first edition OS map of 1880 shows a well laid out garden with pleasure grounds close to the house and two ponds separated by trees in the field south of the large walled garden. Three greenhouses are shown, one within the walled garden with a building outside the wall adjacent

and three outside in the yard. The drive curves around from a lodge house on Coopers Lane round a grass lawn with two specimen trees backed by a line of large trees. A lane leaves to the right towards what had been the old lane down to Potters Bar through the yards surrounded by cottages and buildings. The drive sweeps round to an open space in front of the house and continues along the line of what had been Pease Lane to join Judges Hill by the farm buildings and the east lodge with its small garden. There is a copse to the north of the west lodge. There is an orchard to the west of the house and a path leads from the end of the old road round through trees to the back of the house. Trees are planted along the line of the old road which is marked as starting again at the end of the field. The paths across the lawn lead into pleasure grounds which arch down to the south west like a tail. I also discovered sales particulars from 1811 where there is mention of gardens and pleasure grounds, 'a good garden, partly walled' and a 'spacious courtyard'. As well as a

brew house, a laundry and a bake house, there is a gardener's room. A garden did then exist in 1811. This prompted the thought that it had begun when John Leman moved there in 1774. A clue that the garden might have been an interesting one came from my research into one of the tenants, Lady de Clifford, Sophia Southey. She moved into Nyn Lodge in 1783, and was seriously interested in plants and planting. I found that in 1793 when she was living in Nyn Lodge, she sent two letters to John Edward Smith, the founder of the Linnean Society³. In the first letter, she thanks him for arranging for her to exchange plants with Sowerby, the gardener at Bulstrode, and is very satisfied with the results of this exchange. Sophia said that she was pleased with the sapercalia plants which had come up, but was worried that they did not look like Lady Hume's and so she asked for Sowerby to send 'a copy of his drawing that he did of that plant' as soon as he could so she can send to China for one 'as some India ships go out this month'(1 November 1793). She wrote again on 1st December, asking which seeds and plants were most worth sending for to Sierra Leone as she had a contact offering to acquire some for her. This lady clearly had a great interest in plants, and in the ten years she lived at Nyn Lodge she must surely have used the garden there to further this interest.

I had never heard of Bulstrode, so I looked it up and discovered it is in Buckinghamshire. The grounds are today Grade 1 listed, and the house a hotel. Bulstrode had been the seat of the Dukes of Portland, and Margaret Bentinct, the wife of the 2nd Duke, used the property to house her natural history collection. The botanists Joseph Banks and Daniel Solander donated many exotic plants to develop the garden, which became the inspiration for Mrs Mary Delany's floral paper mosaics, now housed in the Enlightenment Gallery in the British Museum.



I knew little about Mary Delany, so I entered her name into Google and discovered that she was a very well-connected woman. A close friend of Margaret Bentinct, better known as Margaret Cavendish, and widowed for the second time, she spent a great deal of her time at Bulstrode and enjoyed the Cavendish patronage. Her connection with the collections, and meetings there with Banks and Solander, encouraged her already considerable interest in botany and gave her the knowledge on which many of her flower paper mosaics are based. A descendant Ruth Hayden writes of her skill in delineating 'conspicuous details but also contrasting colours or shades of the same colour so that every effect of light is portrayed'⁴.

Flower mosaic by Mary Delany: 'Rubus odoratus' ©The Trustees of the British Museum

This is a wonderful illustration of how research can lead you down new paths and surprise you. Once I had got over the idea of sending to China for replacement sapercalias, and to Sierra Leone for seeds and plants in the late 18th century, I was caught up with the fascinating notion of Sowerby quickly sketching flowers - in lieu of Instagram - and the rivalry implied between Lady Hume and Sophia for presenting the best sapercalia. Then finding the story about Bulstrode Park and the famous connections. All this shows the great interest in plants and planting in the 18th century amongst those with the time, money and leisure to devote to it. Although I'm still not sure who made the original garden at Northaw House - I do have evidence that there was one!

¹Northaw House, formerly Nyn Lodge'. Hertfordshire Garden Trust. HALS 2019

²Cussens, *History of Hertfordshire* Vol 111 P1L

³Dawson W. R. (1934) Catalogue of the MS in the Library of the Linnean Society part b1, The Smith Papers Correspondence of Sir James Edward Smith GB -110/JES/COR/21/109 and 110,q1 Nov 1793 and 1st Dec 1793.

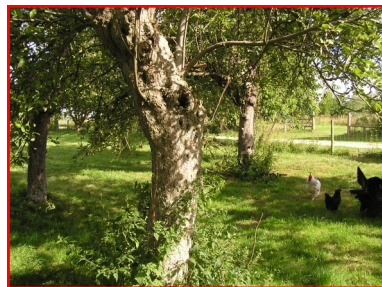
⁴Hayden, Ruth (2000) *Mrs Delany: Her life and her flowers*. British Museum Publications, p.13

Winter Talks 2018/19— Roger Gedye

The 'Orchards East' Project and Hertfordshire's Historic Orchards

This talk was given by Professor Tom Williamson of the University of East Anglia (UEA), director of HGT's research group and joint chairman of the 'Orchards East' project, based at UEA. Speaking with his customary enthusiasm and humour, Tom explained how the 'Orchards East' project, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, uses volunteers to identify, survey and record the history of orchards across the counties of the eastern region. By comparing this data with information shown on the second edition 6" OS map of 1900, a profile of changes in the distribution of orchards during the past century can be established. The project seeks to restore important older orchards, to promote their cultural history and to encourage the creation of new orchards for communities, farms, schools and private land owners.

A significant number of early *farmhouse orchards* survive, notably in the more rural areas in the north-east of the county. *Commercial orchards*, providing apples and cherries for the London market, were laid out from the late 19th century, and were associated with the growth of the railway system. Large numbers of *garden orchards* were planted during the development of suburbia in the early years of the 20th century, and many large *institutional orchards* were planted in association with schools and hospitals.



Garden Orchard—Tom Williamson

Surveys of historic orchards can reveal the local and regional varieties associated historically with the eastern region. Tom quoted the case of the Norfolk Beefing apple, a variety which is practically inedible when freshly picked, but after a night spent in a low temperature oven provides a breakfast treat beyond compare!

The Water Gardens of Geoffrey Jellicoe

This talk by Kate Harwood, HGT's conservation team co-ordinator, followed her enjoyable guided walk around the recently restored Jellicoe Water Gardens at Hemel Hempstead in July 2018.

Geoffrey Jellicoe (1900-1996) trained as an architect, and became increasingly interested in the importance of the associated landscape to create a rewarding working environment for his building designs. In 1947 Jellicoe had been invited to submit a landscape design for the proposed New Town of Hemel Hempstead. His proposal was not taken up, but 10 years later he was approached again, to design a water garden for the banks of the River Gade, linking the newly built Marlowes shopping centre with its associated car park.

By 1957 Jellicoe's interests included contemporary art, notably the work of Paul Klee which influenced his design for the water gardens, and Karl Jung's studies on the subconscious. At Hemel Hempstead he wanted his design to engage the subconscious mind through the use of the senses – not just through the eye but through the sounds and movement of running water, bringing energy and life to the landscape.



Jellicoe's design is based upon the shape of a serpent, carrying a howdah on its back. The river Gade, channelled into a gently shelving straightened canal, forms the body of the serpent, with an extended lake as its head, a fountain representing the eye, and the tail curling around a circular mound to give the illusion of greater length. The brick and concrete construction of the canal is softened by elegantly arching foot-bridges and stepped weirs to create gentle sounds and movement in the water. A curving lovers' walk, planted with waterside shrubs, continues the allegory of the scaly back of the serpent. The howdah takes the form of an

'elegantly arching foot-bridges' - Kate Harwood

elegant rectangular flower garden, flanked by pleached limes, and arching supports for yew topiary spanning the walkways. Two bridges across the river link the garden with the entrance to the town's shopping centre.

The water gardens were opened in 1962 and proved popular with the town's residents. By 2000 inadequate maintenance had led to a gradual deterioration of both the planting and the hard landscape and in 2010 Dacorum District Council suggested the water gardens as the site for their new Civic Centre. Kate Harwood inspired a protest movement in support of the Water Gardens, 'Save our Serpent': Historic England listed the gardens as a grade II site of special historic interest, a 'Friends' group was established, the council agreed to submit a bid for Lottery funding, and the 'Serpent' was saved by a £2.4 million grant. The restored water gardens were officially re-opened in 2017.

The Pulhams in Hertfordshire

Kate Banister and Tina Rowland, both members of HGT's lively research group, shared the rostrum for this talk on the work of James Pulham and Sons of Broxbourne. For just over 100 years four generations of the Pulham family, each headed by a 'James', developed their Broxbourne manufactory of ceramic garden ornaments and artificial rockwork into a nationally important business, with clients including Kew Gardens, RHS Wisley and Buckingham Palace. Pulham's archives were lost during the Second World War and the company closed, making research into their history a process of detective work. Fortunately their landscaping has proved extremely durable and a significant proportion of their ferneries, grottos, water gardens and rockeries have stood the test of time. Even when an entire 'cliff' of substantial blocks of Pulham's artificial rock, known as 'pulhamite', has been buried under builder's rubble (as at Danesbury near Welwyn) it has been recovered in remarkably good order.

Kate developed the history of the company, illustrating her talk with examples drawn from Hertfordshire (and just a little of Bedfordshire). Tina then took up the story with her research on two important family houses in east Hertfordshire, Presdales and High Leigh. During the 19th century both families had called in a generation of 'James Pulham and Sons' to improve their estate. The owners of Presdales decorated their flower garden with a fountain and a series of vases or 'tazzae', visible in photographs of house sales. Tina called on Kate's wide experience of Pulham's work for advice: could the Presdales garden ornaments be ascribed to Pulham? Today Presdales is a

girls' school and sixth form college. The new school building had been constructed over the site of the flower garden; but, by a happy coincidence, Kate had spent a part of her teaching career at Presdales; she had access to the school archives, and discovered a contemporary photograph of workmen dismantling the fountain prior to the start of the new buildings. A few of Pulham's original sales catalogues survive. By searching through these, Tina concluded that the fountain could have been constructed from a Pulham basin and pedestal, topped with a separate Pulham winged figure. Such is the joy of research!

High Leigh is definitely a Pulham site, although the provenance of the existing 'mermaid' fountain is uncertain. Owned from 1871 by Robert Barclay, this wealthy member of the banking family brought in the company to create a couple of rocky archways and a magnificent pulhamite cliff and cave to provide a gothic backdrop for a picturesque lake and rustic bridge.

Later in the year, Tina will be leading a guided walk for members and their friends around the High Leigh estate, taking in Barclay Park in Hoddesden, given by the family to the town: highly recommended!



Robert Barclay and his family, seated by their pulhamite cliff and cave, c. 1875

The History of the Garden and Grounds at Wimpole Hall

Described as the greatest country house in Cambridgeshire, with an extraordinarily rich history, Wimpole Hall was the subject of our final talk. Alison Moller has made a close study of the Hall and the complex evolution of its surrounding parkland. She told a fascinating story which stretched from Bronze Age settlements and a Roman 'mansio' (an official stopping place on a Roman road), to the Kipling connection of the mid-20th century and the Hall's final restoration as one of the jewels in the crown of the National Trust.

The first house on the current site, which still stands at the core of the contemporary building, was constructed during the 1650s by Sir Thomas Chicheley. An ardent Royalist, his political prominence declined until the Restoration, when an excellent marriage temporarily restored both his own fortune and that of the Wimpole estate. High living at court and the considerable expense associated with his building plans led to the sale of Wimpole to Sir John Cutler in 1693. Through his daughter, it came into the possession of the 2nd Earl of Radnor.

The rise and fall of political and financial fortunes was to continue throughout the 18th



Sunken hedge, the work of William Emes, running through the parkland north of Wimpole Hall



Plan of the Wimpole Estate showing the contributions of its landscape designers

century, leading to changes of ownership and to continual investment in the Hall and its grounds. Two politically contrasting families, the Tory Earls of Oxford and the Whig Earls of Hardwicke, owned Wimpole from 1711 until 1873. The list of architects and landscape designers employed at Wimpole during the 18th and 19th centuries is stellar. Of the latter: Charles Bridgeman, Robert Greening, Lancelot 'Capability' Brown and his protégé William Emes, were followed by Humphry Repton - a who's who of garden design whose achievements Alison described with relish.

Short Course on 'Arts and Crafts Gardens', 2019

This HGT Short Course, advertised in the Autumn Newsletter is now fully booked. Members who would like to add their names to a waiting list should email Kate Harwood at

hertstalks@gmail.com

Discovering the Real Repton

The Garden Museum, 5 November 2018—Toby Parker

'Discovering the Real Repton' was a symposium jointly organised between the Gardens Trust and the Garden Museum, where the event was held. It was designed to showcase the research into Humphry Repton's work that the gardens trusts have undertaken during the bicentenary of his death. Presentations covered Repton's work in eight counties, as well as other aspects of his work and his influences.

The morning session was chaired by Professor Stephen Daniels, who started the event off with a bang. In his introduction Daniels gave a short but fascinating account of the identification of a garden at the Palace of Westminster, designed by Repton for Charles Abbot as Speaker of the House of Commons. A view of the garden exists in *Peacock's Polite Repository*, and after a lecture in Kent, a member of the audience informed Stephen Daniels they thought they had proof of Repton's involvement. This discovery was a wonderful example of the importance of sharing research, and it set the tone for the remainder of the day.

Chris Sumner's presentation, 'Repton in London', was a brisk walk through the sites associated with him. Steffie Shields spoke next on the discovery of the Red Book for Normanton, Rutland (1797), a property of the Heathcote family. As well as revealing a new addition to Repton's designs, amongst the drawings of the Normanton Red Book were pictorial records of an earlier formal garden, providing valuable additional information on the historical development of the site. The third talk of the day was Sarah Fitzgerald on another new site. The presentation on Sans Souci, Kent, visited by Repton in 1812, showed how important research can develop out of the smallest of references.

My presentation, on the East India's Company's patronage of Humphry Repton at Haileybury, looked at the issues that Repton had working for an institution rather than a single patron. I also posed questions about where research on the site should go next, after Repton's bicentenary. Then the fantastic Patrick Eyres delivered a stimulating presentation on Repton's relationships with his patrons in Yorkshire, highlighting Repton's contradictory opinions on wealth gained from the land and commerce. The morning session ended with Judy Tarling's exploration of Repton and the owners of Heathfield House. We were given an insight into Repton's wider interests in the polite arts, and at the end of the session glees based on the Red Book for Heathfield were performed by members of the Haileybury Chamber Choir.

After lunch came a talk on Humphry Repton's recommendations for Montreal, Kent for the Amherst family. Hugh Vaux's research revealed how the family slowly adopted elements of Repton's 1812 scheme over a long period of time. There followed two talks on the continental influences of Repton on Herman Furst von Puckler-Muskau and his Welsh designs. A further presentation provided a case study illustrating how the owner of Herriard used the Red Book (1793) to create a large kitchen garden without the services of Repton. All the afternoon talks illustrated the richness and diversity of research that had taken place during the year.

Kate Harwood gave a personal and very powerful presentation on the problems of ignorance, and how research is vital in educating landowners about what they possess. This was followed by a presentation on the Gardens Trust's education project at Warley Woods. Both presentations effectively demonstrated how it is possible to educate people about landscape and gardens, but it also reminded me of the long way we have to go in this area. At the end of the proceedings Tom Williamson, the chair for the afternoon session, gave an assessment of what had been learned about Repton during his bicentenary year. By the time it came for us to conclude the symposium I was both exhausted and exhilarated. What I took away from the day was that while we had learned a great deal this year about the life and work of Humphry Repton, there is still much more work for us to do.

From the Membership Secretary—John Craggs

We are pleased to say that our membership numbers have now reached 328. If you have friends or relatives who might be interested in receiving information about the HGT, please let us have their name and address and we will send them a membership brochure.

To reduce our administrative costs, we would make a plea to those who pay their annual subscription by cheque to start paying by Standing Order. We would be most grateful if you would fill out the Standing Order form enclosed with this Newsletter and forward it to your bank. Subscriptions are £30 for joint membership and £20 for an individual.

The due date for subscriptions is 1 April 2019. If paying by cheque (payable to Hertfordshire Gardens Trust), please send your cheque to the Membership Secretary, Mead House, Bromley Lane, Wellpond Green, Ware, SG11 1NW. Subscriptions for members who joined after December 2018 are next due on the 1st April 2020. Please notify post or email address changes to membership@hertsgardenstrust.org.uk

Welcome to New Members 2018/2019

Mr and Mrs Sam Cuthbert
Mr Laurence Elvin
Mr Richard Gawthorne
Mr and Mrs William Hill
Mrs Ann Hobson
Mrs Debbie Judson
Mrs Andrea Kirby

Mr and Mrs Michna-Nowak
Mr J W Millers
Miss Debbie Searle
Mr and Mrs H J U Ward
Mr and Mrs W Wastell
Dr G Hannington

Rules for Gardeners - A researcher's call for help

HGT Researcher, Kate Banister (klassickate@btopenworld.com), writes:

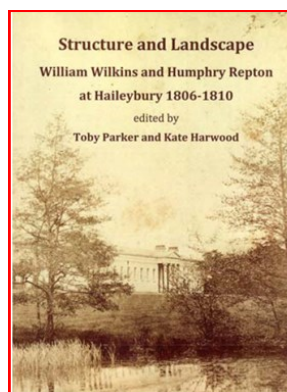
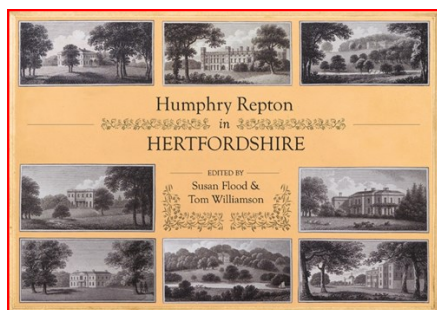
'I am interested in gathering any information about Rules for Gardeners which were often displayed in vegetable/walled gardens and/or bothies of large estates or gardens. Mostly dating from the C19 and early C20. I have two lists for starters, one from Herts and one from Devon! *3d fine for a dirty shirt* or the like. If your readers have any suggestions or examples they could send me, I should be most grateful to receive them.'

Humphry Repton Bicentenary Publications - Deborah Spring

Two new Hertfordshire publications about Humphry Repton were published for the bicentenary.

Humphrey Repton in Hertfordshire, edited by Susan Flood and Tom Williamson. Hertfordshire Publications. ISBN 978-1-909291-98-0. £25.00. Available in bookshops or online from Hertfordshire University Press, <https://www.herts.ac.uk/uhipress/books-content/humphry-repton-in-hertfordshire>.

Structure and Landscape: William Wilkins and Humphry Repton at Haileybury 1806-1810, edited by Toby Parker and Kate Harwood. Hertfordshire Gardens Trust. ISBN 978-1-5272-2091-1. To order please send your name, address and a cheque for £14.00 (to include p&p) made payable to Hertfordshire Gardens Trust to: HGT, 78 Broadstone Road, Harpenden, Herts AL5 1RE.



HGT's *Humphry Repton in Hertfordshire*, edited by Susan Flood and Tom Williamson, is 'Well researched and richly illustrated...[it] foregrounds the documentation of Repton's commissions, in texts, correspondence, estate accounts and sale catalogues, as well as a repertoire of visual sources, Repton's drawings and prints, also contemporary views and maps, and subsequent ones too, like Tithe maps, Ordnance Survey plans and photographs, which reveal the extent to which Repton's work was realised on the ground', writes Stephen Daniels in *Landscape History*.

Reviewing the book in *The Local Historian*, garden historian Michael Symes compliments the HGT's 'markedly enterprising and innovative' research and publication record, and the high quality of this beautifully illustrated volume (which at £25, he declares to be unbelievably good value).

'The book sheds light both on Repton and on historical Hertfordshire topography', he writes, 'looking at the lie of the land and what was made of a large tract of it. We are provided with insights into the type of client Repton was working for ... and how he adjusted his approach to suit both the client and the size and situation of the estate.' The book, he concludes, is 'an object lesson in the presentation of local history, with its

combination of considerable investigation and research by local experts and authors who are knowledgeable in garden history more widely.'

Elsewhere, the same reviewer notes how the two new HGT books complement each other, with little overlap. The proceedings of a study day held at Haileybury in 2015, *Structure and Landscape: William Wilkins and Humphry Repton at Haileybury 1806-1810*, edited by Toby Parker and Kate Harwood, is 'a thoroughly rewarding examination of the estate at its inception and a model for others to follow'. The six contributors 'illustrate both the formation and the character of this unique institution: thus we get an introduction to the East India Company in Hertfordshire; Haileybury, a Repton landscape in context; the East India College and the "language of reform"; Repton's plans for the site; Repton and the flower garden; Thomas Barr's flower garden for the first Principal....and the College's radical campus with its American connections and predecessors'. The book, he writes, is effective in focusing attention on what messages the joint designs – by Wilkins, the architect, and Repton and landscape designer – were intended to convey, how much we can 'read' houses and gardens, and the wider context of the East India Company itself, 'which was responsible for exporting many plants from those parts over a long time-span.

Film: A County at War, Life on the Home Front in Hertfordshire

Deborah Spring

To mark the centenary of the Armistice in November 2018, archive material showing the impact of the war on the people, towns and countryside of Hertfordshire was compiled into a film, interlaced with original photographs, recordings and songs of the period. Written and directed by Howard Guard, a former High Sheriff, this highly evocative film reveals many details of life in the county throughout the war years.

Ashridge and other great parks were heavily used by encampments of thousands of troops on their way to the Front. Kitchener reviewed 5000 troops at Gorhambury, and there were soldiers and horses on every heath and common: the county was one of the main staging and training areas for regiments outside London. Women of the Land Army worked to produce fodder for the horses, while many other girls and women worked in munitions factories. A no-man's land built by volunteers in the park at Hatfield was the setting in 1916 for the first demonstration, in conditions of the greatest secrecy, of the tank. Elsewhere in the park was a logging camp. Lord Aldenham ploughed up his park to grow vegetables, and the St Albans Abbey orchard was also turned over to vegetable production.

The county's own regiment suffered heavy casualties and the film ends sombrely with the sadness of individual stories of bravery and loss.

The film can be viewed online via St Albans Museum, at:

<https://www.stalbansmuseums.org.uk/whats-on/county-war-life-home-front-hertfordshire>

Dates for your Diary — Events and Outings in 2019

Reservation and payment for places on the three garden visits should be made to Mrs Sonja Fillingham, using the flyer which accompanies the Newsletter

Garden Visit to Essex and Suffolk

Wednesday, 29th May

£53

**Departure from Stanborough Green,
Welwyn Garden City at 9.00am**

Coffee and cake will be served on arrival at **Green Island Gardens, Ardleigh**. Set in 20 acres of mature woodland, this magnificent garden is a plantsman's paradise. Professionally designed by its owner, Fiona Edmund, the land is laid out as a series of structured gardens displaying a huge range of unusual trees, shrubs, perennials and bulbs. After lunch taken at Green Island Gardens we drive to **Polstead Mill Gardens at Polstead in Suffolk**. Here the garden has been developed since 2002.



Green Island Garden

It has formal and informal areas, with a wild- flower meadow and a large, productive kitchen garden. The River Box flows through the garden with a mill pond developed as a water garden. Tea and cake will be served before we leave for home.

Garden Visit to Northamptonshire

Wednesday 12th June

£57.50

**Departure from Stanborough Green,
Welwyn Garden City 9.00am**

Our first visit is to the **Old Rectory at Quinton**. This is a beautiful contemporary garden of 3 acres designed by multi-award winning designer, Anoushka Feiler. Throughout the garden there are associations with its 18th century ecclesiastical origins: parterres, topiary and long walks, contrasting with 21st century features: modern materials, new planting methods and abstract installations.



Old Rectory garden at Quinton

Sadly, the Old Rectory cannot provide refreshment, but have suggested that members may like to bring their own flasks of coffee and sit in the garden. A two-course lunch will be taken at the Boat Inn, Stoke Bruern. Our afternoon visit is to the **Menagerie Garden at Horton**. The Grade II* listed mid-18th century house, built as a folly for the 2nd Earl Halifax, was rescued from dereliction in 1972 by Gervase Jackson-Stops. Jackson-Stops and successive generations of owners have created a remarkable Rococo Revival garden around the house, complete with thatched arbours, a shell grotto featuring Orpheus-in-the-Underworld, and elegant planting within its formal layout. We shall be offered tea and cake before we leave.

Garden Visit to Pashley Manor, Ticehurst, East Sussex
Wednesday, 26th June

£50

**Departure from Stanborough Green,
Welwyn Garden City 9.00am**

Sonja Fillingham writes: I am taking a gamble this year that the M25 will run smoothly, as we are visiting Pashley Manor near Ticehurst. I think Pashley Manor is one of the most beautiful gardens in England. We will

leave Stanborough Green at 9.00am and hope to arrive at approximately 11.30am for coffee and a tray-bake.

I have not organised lunch as we shall be free to wander the gardens, where the roses will be at their best. Lunch will be at your own expense and if the weather is favourable can be taken on the terrace or otherwise

in the excellent Garden Room café. Because the garden is large (11 acres) I have organised just the visit to Pashley Manor, where there is a plant sale area, a gift shop and an exhibition of sculpture around the garden. I hope to be back at Stanborough Green by 6.30pm.



HGT Guided Walks

A series of three walks for members and their guests. The cost of each walk is £5.

Members are responsible for their own transport and refreshments.

Reservation and payment for places on the three walks should be made to Mrs Liz Carlin, using the flyer which accompanies the Newsletter. Each applicant will receive detailed information on the location, timing and precise meeting point for each walk, together with advice on suitable clothing and footwear and contact details for the Walk leader.

A Guided Walk through the former High Leigh Estate, including Barclay Park

Monday 3rd June

2 pm – 3.30 pm

Walk to be led by Tina Rowland - Meet at High Leigh Conference Centre, Hoddesden

This walk will explore the former High Leigh Estate and Barclay Park in Hoddesdon to see evidence of the work done by the firm of James Pulham and Son of Broxbourne. Tina Rowland has recently researched this site and she will show us surviving features, including a grotto and cave, all believed to be by the Pulhams. High Leigh has been described as 'probably one of the best, if not the best Pulham site in Hertfordshire, in terms of accessibility, variety and extent of remains.'

The High Leigh mansion and 40 acres of the grounds were sold to First Conference Estate Ltd in 1922. In the 1930s the Barclay family gave the gift of the estate's former parkland to the town of Hoddesdon as an amenity space named Barclay Park and it opened in 1937. Smaller areas of land were conveyed in 1954 giving a park area of about 18 acres.

A Guided Walk around the Gardens and Grounds at Wimpole Hall

Monday 15th July

11 am – 1pm

Walk to be led by Alison Moller - Meet at Wimpole Hall

Alison Moller will guide us through the rich landscape of Wimpole Hall, one of the largest estates in Cambridgeshire. Starting with the magnificent view from the front façade of the South Avenue, we will take in different eras of its landscape history as we explore the park. We will cross over the lakes to visit the Folly, created in 1768 and walk as far as the Belts designed by Lancelot 'Capability' Brown. Returning via the Western Avenue we may visit the Walled Garden if time permits (at an extra cost to non-National Trust members of £12.50).



High Leigh (meet at 'Reception')



Wimpole Hall (Meet at Hall front)

A Guided Walk along the City High Walk

Monday 8th July

11am -1pm

Walk to be led by Kate Harwood - Meet at 11.0am at Moorgate Tube Station, London

The original Barbican development included provision for a high walk but only part of this was built at the time. This has now been completed. We will first visit Salters Hall garden, originally laid out by David Hicks, and the very new St Alphage garden next to it, then along the High Walk, looking at the planting along it to the Barbican and the gardens there. A pit stop in the Barbican and then a look at the revamped Beech Gardens, where Nigel Dunnett won a Landscape Institute Award in 2018. We end at the Charterhouse, where there are plenty of places round Smithfield for lunch and easy access to Farringdon Tube and Thameslink station. Charterhouse has recently been opened to the public and the chapel etc. can be viewed. The newly planted forecourt can be seen, but the courtyard gardens to the rear are private. They are open for NGS on June 5 18.00-21.00.

<http://www.thecharterhouse.org/>

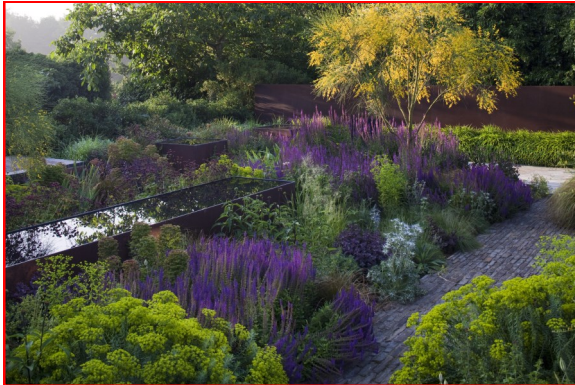


City High Walk

HERTS GARDENS TRUST - AGM - 2019

This year's AGM will be held on Thursday, July 11th, 2019 at The Barn, by kind permission of Tom and Sue Stuart-Smith.

The garden will be open from 6.00pm when a glass of wine will be served. The meeting will start at 7.00pm and members are invited to stay for picnics—please bring tables and chairs (and umbrellas, if wet). A copy of the examined accounts will be published on the HGT website from the 30th June.



*Courtyard garden, The Barn
Photograph by Andrew Lawson*

Location: The Barn, Serge Hill Lane, Bedmond, Herts WD5 0RZ

Agenda

1. *Welcome*
2. *Apologies for absence*
3. *To approve the Minutes of the AGM of 13th July 2018*
4. *Matters arising from the Minutes*
5. *The Chairman's Report*
6. *The Hon. Treasurer's Report and approval of the Annual Accounts for 2018/2019*
7. *Election of members of the Executive Committee*
8. *Any Other Business*

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The Countess of Verulam

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Christopher Melluish

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Sally Pool

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John Craggs

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Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies (HALS)





Cover photograph: Serge Hill, The Barn

Photograph by Andrew Lawson

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