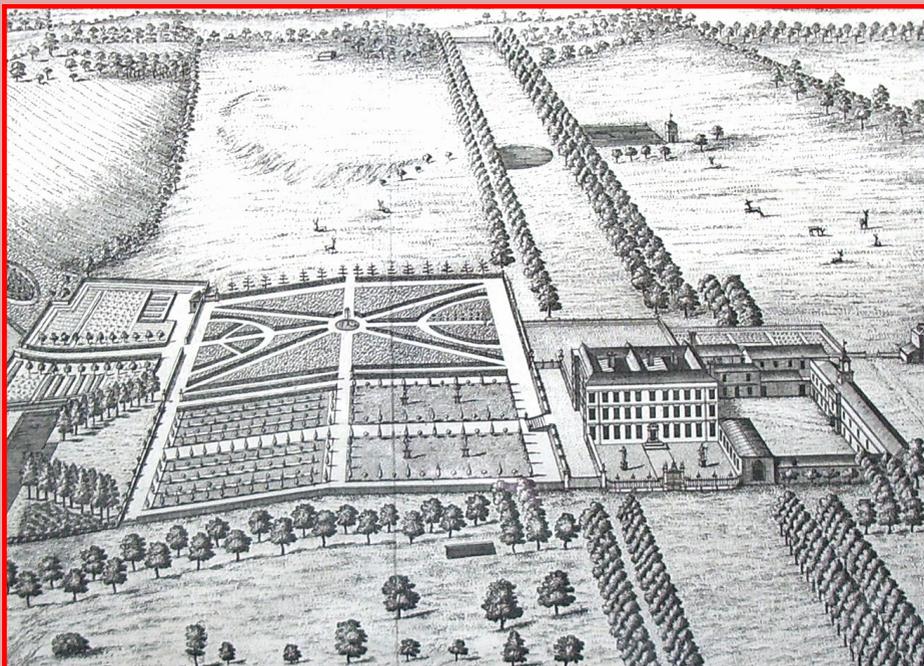


# HERTFORDSHIRE GARDENS TRUST



SPRING NEWSLETTER 2014  
AND  
ANNUAL REPORT



## *From the President:*

*“This year has been one of smooth transition as one Chairman retires and another steps into his shoes. Christopher Melluish has been an exemplary Chairman and although it was sad to see him relinquish the post it is exciting to witness Bella Stuart-Smith hit the deck running. Her schools team have made a break through by successfully organising a training session for teachers, this means their valuable work will reach more children than ever before.*

*There is plenty of activity within the thriving HGT : the section leaders within the Trust have been as active as ever; a full range of events and outings is planned throughout 2014; and looking ahead, HGT is planning its celebration for the Capability Brown tercentenary in 2016.”*

*Bione Venlam .*

## Chairman's Report—Bella Stuart-Smith



Judging by my inbox and by reading all our reports, the Trust is very busy. There is still time to book the Propagation Day on 2<sup>nd</sup> April (contact Annie Saner: Tel. 01442 843428 or email [johnsaner@btinternet.com](mailto:johnsaner@btinternet.com)) and that is the first of many exciting events and outings planned. I really hope to go on all of them and I know they will entertain and stimulate in equal measure.

What strikes me most about the Trust's work is its direct impact on so many people: it isn't all about private country estates. This month two large Heritage Lottery Fund bids are being submitted for Cassiobury Park, and the Hemel Water Gardens. If successful, these historic landscapes will be enjoyed by a whole new generation. The conservation of the Forest Garden at Tring Park is being officially launched and is the subject of a Study Day on May 29<sup>th</sup> (page 17). At Panshanger Park, with its stunning Repton views, work is also in progress (page 20). We have had crucial input to all of these. Schools work too is having its impact on future generations and by training teachers we hope to reach even more children.

I look forward to seeing you at the AGM when there will be more to report and we will officially welcome our new members and Patron. Do let me know if you would like to be more involved with the work of the Trust: as a member of the Executive Committee or as an active member of the Research, Schools or Conservation groups. We will publish the annual accounts on the Trust's website ([www.hertgardenstrust.org.uk](http://www.hertgardenstrust.org.uk)) two weeks before the event, so you can read them before they are approved, or contact the Hon. Secretary if you would prefer a paper copy in advance.

Finally, thank you to everyone who has supported the Trust in so many ways this year, and I hope you find it as interesting and rewarding as I do.

### **Not an HGT Member yet?**

Full details of the benefits of membership, together with a membership application form, may be downloaded from the Trust's website [www.hertgardenstrust.org.uk](http://www.hertgardenstrust.org.uk) or contact the membership secretary:

*Penny Figgis, The Limes, Essenden, Hatfield, AL9 6HS.*

[p.d.figgis@talktalk.net](mailto:p.d.figgis@talktalk.net) or tel: 01707 261400

## AGM—2014

### AGM at Lower Woodside, Hatfield, Herts AL9 6DJ

This year's AGM is due to take place on **Tuesday, 8th July** at 'Lower Woodside' at the kind invitation of Richard and Susie Walduck.

The gardens at Lower Woodside are at their best in the spring, but the 10 acres of varied grounds offer plenty for visitors to explore. The wide variety of trees include a specimen Wollemi Pine, the so-called 'fossil tree' discovered in Australia in 1994. There is a wildfowl pond, a flock of 12 resident peacocks, and extensive lawns which are ideal for picnicking. The grounds will be open from 6.00pm with a glass of wine served from 7.00pm.

The meeting will start at 7.30pm after which Kate Harwood will talk about her role with the Association of Garden Trusts and bring us up to date with plans for a possible merger with the Garden History Society.

#### *Agenda*

- 1. Apologies for absence and Chairman's welcome*
- 2. Minutes of last AGM held on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2013 and matters arising*
- 3. Report and accounts for year 1/4/13 – 31/03/14*
- 4. Proposal and adoption of Officers*
- 5. AOB*

Members are invited to stay for picnics—please bring your own tables and chairs. If it is very wet the meeting will be held around the indoor swimming pool. Parking will be well signed.

### *A Reminder from the Hon. Membership Secretary*

For those who pay their Hertfordshire Gardens Trust annual subscription by cheque, the due date for renewal is 1st April, 2014. Subscriptions are £30 for joint membership and £20 for an individual, payable to 'Hertfordshire Gardens Trust'.

Subscriptions for members who joined since January 2014 are next due on the 1st April 2015. If you wish to start paying by standing order please ask the Hon. Sec. to send you a form:

[p.d.figgis@talktalk.net](mailto:p.d.figgis@talktalk.net) or tel: 01707 261400

## Annual Research Report - Anne Rowe

The year got off to a good start when seventeen members of the Research Group met at Woolmer Green Village Hall on 17 January to hear Jenny Milledge pass on some very useful guidance on undertaking research and site surveys which she had gleaned from a study day with the Association of Gardens Trusts. Researchers also got together in the Lionel Munby Room at Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies (HALS) on four different afternoons during the year to discuss progress with their individual research projects. We have been delighted to welcome newly-retired County Archivist Sue Flood to these sessions and she has been kindly sharing with us her unparalleled knowledge of the resources in the Hertfordshire Archives.

### Research completed and in progress

Bound reports on **Northaw Place** (by Anne Shellim) and **Astwick Manor** (by Harold and Margaret Smith) were deposited in the Local Studies Library at HALS, together with a report on **Little Court**, Buntingford (Diana Kingham). John Sloan completed his research on **Bush Hall** near Hatfield and his report will shortly be deposited at HALS. Monica Jordan has written up her research on the early history (1753-1820) of **Wood Hill** near Essendon incorporating illustrations from the Red Book by Humphry Repton. She is now researching the history of Wood Hill post 1820. Lottie Clarke has completed her research on **Stagenhoe** near St Paul's Walden and has handed over a large file of maps and illustrations together with the text of her report which will, in time, be converted to the standard HGT format. Progress has also been made by researchers working on **Northaw House** and **The Hook** near Northaw, on **Brookmans Park** and the nearby **Skimpans** estate, on **Warren Wood** near Essendon and **Lower Woodside** near Hatfield, on **Gadebridge Park** at Hemel Hempstead, on **Hunsdon House** and on **Porters Park** near Shenley.



*A range of derelict glasshouses in the walled garden at Stagenhoe, photographed during a site visit in 2005.*

### New research projects

John Sloan has now embarked on researching **High Canons** near Shenley and

Harold and Margaret Smith have started work on **St Michael's Manor House** in St Albans. I was delighted to welcome two new members to the Research Group towards the end of 2013: Tina Rowland has volunteered to research the history of **Presdales** at Ware and Sue Friend is working on **Dalton's Folly** in St Albans.

### **Gobions Wood**

Work continued this year to survey and record the important garden earthworks in Gobions Wood at Brookmans Park. On two days in October and December a small - and increasingly skilled - group of volunteers supervised by Professor Tom Williamson concentrated on recording the area of the lattice-work summerhouse and on the surviving traces of garden paths at the eastern end of the wood. An interim plan of the earthworks has been sent to the Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust (HMWT), who now own the site, to help avoid accidental damage to any

historically sensitive areas during their woodland conservation operations. The HMWT spent a lot of money and effort in 2013 making the wood more accessible and safe for the public to use as part of their South Hertfordshire Woodlands Project but they are mindful of the historic value of the site, as well as its importance for wildlife.



Now does this look like a bowling green to you?!

**Gobions Wood:** *'a small group of volunteers ...'*

### **Patience Bagenal and Roger Beament.**

The Research Group lost two of its most able and highly valued members at the beginning of the year. **Patience Bagenal** died on 25 January and **Roger Beament** died on 1 February. Both were particularly active in the early years of the HGT and produced some excellent research. Patience was responsible for one of the Trust's earliest significant discoveries - the lost gardens in Grotto Wood at Roxford (published in *Hertfordshire Garden History: A Miscellany* in 2007). Thanks to her efforts, the garden earthworks are now protected as a Scheduled Ancient Monument. Patience also worked on Hertingfordbury Park and Bayfordbury, publishing a booklet in 2000 at her own expense which she then sold on behalf of the HGT. For this, and much else besides, Patience was presented with the HGT vase. Her last publication, 'The children of Leaside', includes details of the charming gardens of her home near Hertingfordbury. Roger compiled several excellent and meticulously researched reports for various HGT research projects, most notably on Berkhamsted Place and on Lamer near Wheathampstead, and he also contributed to the work of the Conservation Team. Both Patience and Roger were stalwarts of the Trust. They will be very sadly missed – but the legacy of their work will live on.

## What is significant about 'Significance'?

*This article is based on an essay circulated to County Garden Trusts by Verena McCaig, Historic Landscape Project Officer at the AGT. I reproduce it here, slightly modified by Kate Harwood for the Hertfordshire landscape, to focus attention on the excellent work carried out by the HGT research and conservation teams.*

**Editor.**

It's getting increasingly difficult to avoid discussions on conserving our historic parks and gardens without finding ourselves faced with the question 'But what is *significant* about it?' Much thought has gone into sites on the national *Register*, of which we have nearly 50. But it is even more important to look at our locally important sites – well over 200 - as they need our protection even more.

Cadw (the Welsh Government's historic environment service) and English Heritage (EH) have both produced guidance on why it's important to understand the significance of a landscape. They argue, perfectly reasonably, that it is difficult to know what it is that we are trying to conserve if we don't know what it is about a site that is important. Once we know what it is that makes a site special, then we can begin to find ways to conserve this, or manage changes to ensure that they have as little impact as possible on these special qualities. When we research a landscape and visit in order to record what is extant, that is the perfect opportunity to work out what is significant about a site, and what features remain that embody that significance.

This approach to understanding a site has now been enshrined in planning policy too. The requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), which now underpins all planning decisions in England and Wales, must be taken into account in all planning decisions. Whilst significance is touched on all the way through the NPPF, it starts off laying out core principles, including that planning should "conserve heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance, so that they can be enjoyed for their contribution to the quality of life of this and future generations". So, if we want to conserve our historic designed landscapes, and explain to others what it is about them that needs to be conserved, we need to be able to articulate their specialness!

Cadw and EH offer us some principles to help with managing change to historic landscapes: *Conservation Principles*. We can usefully describe a landscape in terms

of where its importance lies, what *values* we can give it. So, think about a designed landscape you know well and see if it displays any of the following:

**Evidential value:** the potential to yield new evidence about past human activity; how it matters for future research – the humps and bumps of garden archaeology are a good example of this. The work of Anne Rowe and the HGT Research Group at Gobions, Benington Park, Standon Lordship, Popes and other sites has clarified the existing evidence as well as making new discoveries, as at Gobions, which really take us into new territory.

**Historical value:** the ways in which a site is connected to past events and people; how it tells our national story – this could be with an artist, designer, writer etc, or be a place that evokes or illustrates past events, such as High Leigh at Hoddesdon, Briggens, Bayfordbury, Aldenham House, and Munden House, all of which highlight the role plant collectors played in our Hertfordshire gardens. Sites with historical value include Hanstead House (Bricket Wood), Felden Lodge (Hemel Hempstead) and Shenstone Court (Berkhamsted) where recent research by Kate Harwood has revealed that gardens in the Arts and Crafts style were created.

**Aesthetic value:** the way a place can give us sensory and intellectual stimulation and how people respond emotionally – it doesn't necessarily have to be beautiful in the traditional sense! Its appeal might be designed or fortuitous. This could be the wonderful forest garden at Tring Park or the rides and vistas at Ashridge or, on a smaller scale, the Rose Garden in Bushey.

**Communal value:** the meanings we give to a place through our collective experience or memory of it; how it brings people together – currently the meaning of landscape in commemoration of World War I and war memorials. A good example



***Panshanger Park: Repton's vision (1799) - and the site of the former house today.***

is the restoration of the Canon Glossop Memorial Garden by local residents in St Albans. Another aspect would be the value as a historical resource and valuable public open space as at Panshanger or Digswell.

So how can we make sure that our research gets to the bottom of what is significant about the landscape? When you have completed your research and really understand its historic development and current survival, ask yourself what it is that makes this landscape special. You could follow the list of values (not all of them might be relevant) and write some short bullet points - include this with your research report as it will really help your CGT to work out what needs protecting and what can be changed without having a hugely negative effect on the specialness of the place. This crucial step can make all the difference to your CGT when responding to planning applications or talking to owners – and your efforts might just provide the important nuggets of information that prevent a vulnerable landscape from losing what makes it special.

You can find more detailed information on the ‘Significance’ section of the CGT ‘Web Forum’ – a section of the AGT website that you can register to use by going to [www.gardenstrusts.org.uk/hlp.html](http://www.gardenstrusts.org.uk/hlp.html)

*The idea of ‘Significance’ did not strike me as an important element in my research until I became involved in the Tring Park project which is described by Anne Rowe in the following article. As a member of the research group of the HGT, I have enjoyed the challenge of searching for details that will tell the story of the garden. This story would not be complete without delving into the history of the associated house and the lives of the people who occupied the property.*

*Anne’s account of our experience at Tring demonstrates how research can be put into practice. One of the most rewarding elements of the Tring project has been the opportunity to influence the way the park will be maintained in the future. Visitors will be able to experience the restored features of an early eighteenth century forest garden and the iconic Lime Avenue marching across the open grassland of the park. By revealing the historical and aesthetic value of Tring Park it will enable visitors to understand that, although appearing ‘natural’, the landscape has ‘designed’ elements. This should contribute to their enjoyment of the park as a significant historic site as well as a beautiful landscape of ecological value.*

*Jenny Milledge*

## The most spectacular *rond-point* in England? The restoration of part of Charles Bridgeman's design for Tring Park, Hertfordshire—Anne Rowe

In March 2011 I received an email from the Woodland Trust inviting the Hertfordshire Gardens Trust to write a restoration plan for Tring Park. This plan was a requirement for the bid they were making to the Heritage Lottery Fund, in partnership with Tring Museum, to gain funding for a project to increase awareness of what both the museum and Tring Park had to offer for the inhabitants of Tring and the surrounding villages – and for visitors to the area. Tring Park had become physically divorced from the town in the 1970s when the A41 Tring bypass was constructed. Although a pedestrian bridge had been provided over the road, the footpath linking the town to the bridge was so inconspicuous that many people were unaware of it and the park began to fade from local memory. A major commercial threat to the park took shape in 1989 with a proposal for a leisure complex and golf course but fortunately the ecological value of the site – as one of the largest surviving areas of unimproved chalk grassland in Hertfordshire – had been recognised by the ecologists at the County Council and much of the park was designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest; the development plans were rejected. As a result Dacorum Borough Council purchased the area of the park lying south of the A41 and responsibility for its future management was subsequently placed in the hands of the Woodland Trust.

Tring Park was known to the garden history world as a Charles Bridgeman site largely because of a bird's-eye view of the gardens by Thomas Badeslade published in *Vitruvius Britannicus* in 1739. But there is also a lovely plan by Joseph Colbeck showing the town of Tring, the mansion and its gardens and park at around the time that the Bridgeman landscape was being laid out. This plan is in the possession of the Rothschild family who became the owners of Tring Park and its mansion in 1872. It shows the layout of the 'forest garden' designed by Bridgeman on the steep slope of the Chiltern escarpment – a series of straight paths radiating from a central obelisk – which still survives today. But little work had been done to record what, if anything, survived of the Bridgeman gardens in the parkland beneath the escarpment.

Compiling a detailed report on the history of the park and its ecological value, together with proposals for its restoration and management as part of the HLF bid was a major undertaking for the Hertfordshire Gardens Trust, requiring the pooled talents of a small – but perfectly formed – team. Jenny Milledge would research and write the history of the early eighteenth-century designed landscape, Kate

Harwood would concentrate on the later history and I would write about the landscape itself – the origins of the park and its ecological importance. We set to work and in July 2011 our report and restoration proposals were ready. They received a very favourable response from the Woodland Trust and also from the large number of local and regional bodies and groups with an interest in the bid to the HLF. Our list of restoration proposals was discussed and whittled down to what was affordable and feasible within the terms of the project bid. The bid was submitted and in October 2012 it was announced that it had been successful – the ‘Experience Tring’ project was no longer just a proposal – it was happening!

Of major concern for the future of the park was the intensity of grazing. Up until the later decades of the last century, the park had been grazed by sheep and cattle – and by an assortment of zebras, emus and kangaroos at the beginning of the twentieth century. The combined efforts of these herbivores had maintained the floristic diversity of the grassland in the park and kept invading scrub at bay – the slopes of the Chiltern escarpment and its foothills in Tring Park were open pasture, rich in wild flowers and butterflies. But grazing intensities had fallen by the 1980s, scrub started to invade, especially on the steep slopes of the escarpment, and in places the scrub was developing into woodland. This was damaging not only for those species of plants and insects dependent on the increasingly rare chalk grassland habitat but also for the historic designed landscape. A herd of cows was reinstated in the park and strenuous efforts were made by local volunteers to keep the scrub at bay and maintain the ecological diversity of the escarpment but the magnificent views that Bridgeman had planned from the King Charles Ride – a high level terrace carved out of the chalk escarpment – had all but disappeared behind a wall of trees by the time we started our investigations in 2011.



*‘Concerted efforts at clearance of scrub and trees’*

To our delight we discovered that the two circles of trees – *rond-points* – shown on the Colbeck plan at each end of a section of the King Charles Ride had been planted on circular earthwork platforms. These platforms had been carved out of the slope on their south sides and then built out above the slope on their north sides but by 2011 they had become submerged in scrub and trees and were virtually invisible. Restoration of these key features of the Bridgeman design became our priority. The reality of the HLF budget and the amount of tree clearance

required meant that we had to settle for the restoration of just one of the *rond-points* – the one that marks a change in direction of the King Charles Ride. Concerted efforts at clearance of scrub and trees beneath selected view points along the ride started in the winter of 2012/13 using contractors with chain saws. The effect was immediate – the relationship of the ride with the mansion in the distance below, and with the surrounding landscape, was re-established.

Within the parkland below the escarpment we have discovered further evidence for Bridgeman’s splendid canal and associated terracing – and for his network of tree-lined rides which appear to be marked by low earthwork ridges. Bridgeman had a great talent for exploiting the natural topography to enhance his landscape designs. On the tops of two of the low hills within the park he laid out plantations of trees in geometric shapes – a circle of trees on one, a square plantation on another. These too seem to have been shaped or outlined with minor earthworks. A careful survey of these subtle reminders of the past will be made in the next year or two.

Towards the end of October 2013 work started to clear the trees on the slope beneath the *rond-point* and the *rond-point* itself was cleared of brambles, scrub and small trees. The two largest trees on the platform were left standing – it is a Woodland Trust site after all! When we visited the site on 7 November to advise on the positioning of the new circle of trees, we were astonished at the transformation: the views to Tring and the landscapes beyond were quite stunning. This was surely one of the most spectacular *rond-points* to be created in England!



*‘The views to Tring and the landscapes beyond were quite stunning...’*

The new circle of trees will be planted during the coming winter, the *rond-point* will be enhanced with a new circular path and an information panel will be erected on the approach to explain the historical significance of the restoration. The original intention of the feature needs no explanation – it is there laid out in the landscape for anyone to see.

***HGT is organising a study day on Thursday 29 May 2014 at the school which now occupies Tring mansion to examine the history of the house and its landscape, including a visit to the park to see the restored rond-point.***

## Events and Outings 2014

**Garden Visit to Cambridgeshire: Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2014      £45**

**(Departure from Stanborough Green, Welwyn Garden City at 9.15 a.m.)**

***The Windmill, Impington:*** Around a historic smock mill which the owners have restored, this romantic garden is filled with bulbs, perennial beds, pergolas, and secret winding paths. Also included are bog gardens, a grass bed, herb bank and water features.

*Coffee will be served on arrival at The Windmill, and after the visit we move on for a light lunch and a glass of wine at a nearby hostelry, before continuing to our second visit.*



*The Windmill, Impington*



*Madingley Hall*

***Madingley Hall, Madingley.*** This fine Elizabethan mansion is now owned by Cambridge University. The eight acres of gardens feature sweeping lawns, mature trees and topiary, while the outstanding walled garden includes a wide range of hardy plants, alpines and herbs, a nut walk, a rose pergola and statuary.

*We shall take tea in the Hall before returning home.*

***Reservations for places on the garden visits should be made to Mrs Sonja Fillingham using the 'flyer' that accompanies this Newsletter.***

## Events and Outings 2014

**Garden Visit to Suffolk:**

**Tuesday, 1st July, 2014**

**£47**

**[Departure from Stanborough Green, Welwyn Garden City at 9.15am]**

**Ousden House:** After morning coffee and biscuits and a short introductory talk we will be shown around the gardens of this attractive Georgian house by the owners. The remarkable eight-acre garden includes herbaceous borders, a rose garden, water gardens, a long crinkle-crankle yew hedge, a lake and ornamental woodland.

*A light lunch with a glass of wine will be taken in the formal courtyard.*



*Denston Hall: the white garden.*



*Ousden House*

**Denston Hall:** The garden, which enhances the nine-bayed early 18thC house, was designed by Mark Rumary and Xa Tollemache. Spread over twenty acres this country-house garden includes an orangery, a stone flagged terrace, with rose and white and gold gardens. There is also a large walled kitchen garden which includes ponds, an orchard and a nut-walk.

*Afternoon tea and cake will be taken on the terrace before we depart.*

***Reservations for places on the garden visits should be made to Mrs Sonja Fillingham using the 'flyer' that accompanies this Newsletter.***

## Events and Outings 2014

### A Study Day to mark the restoration of the Forest Garden at Tring Park: to be held at Tring Park Mansion

Thursday, May 29th, 2014

£30 per person

*Tring Park contains many features of considerable ecological, landscape and historic importance and is included within the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The park is also listed Grade II in the English Heritage Register of Parks and Gardens of special historic interest in England. This is in recognition of the extensive survival of ornamental parkland features laid out in the early eighteenth century by Charles Bridgeman. Bridgeman designed a fabulous formal parkland landscape which linked Tring Mansion with the Forest Garden which extended up onto the Chiltern escarpment and was embellished with ornamental buildings and structures designed by the architect James Gibbs. Grant aid from the Heritage Lottery Fund is enabling the Woodland Trust, which now manages the site, to restore parts of Bridgeman's dramatic Forest Garden.*

**By kind permission of the Headmaster: Tring Park School for the Performing Arts  
Tring, Hertfordshire, HP23 5LX**

**10.00 Registration**

**10.30 The early gardens of Henry Guy and William Gore and Charles Bridgeman: Tom Williamson**

**11.15 Tea**

**11.30 The Rothschild gardens and park: Francesca Greenoak**

**12.15 Tour of the mansion: Mike Hutchinson**

**13.15 Sandwich Lunch (provided)**

**14.15 Coach to King Charles Ride and guided walk through park back to mansion with Anne Rowe (Herts Gardens Trust) and Karen Trickey (Woodland Trust) to view**

**restoration work. This walk is quite strenuous and a guided tour of the private Rothschild gardens around the mansion with Francesca Greenoak is offered as a less tiring alternative.**

**16.30 Tea at mansion and end of study day**

***[Please use the separate 'flyer' to apply for places on this Study Day]***



## Events and Outings 2014

### Trees and Treemongers: parks & gardens

#### of the late 17<sup>th</sup> & early 18<sup>th</sup>C.

Tracing the use of trees in the designed landscape from Francis Bacon at Gorhambury through to the great Forest Gardens and Parks of the early 18<sup>th</sup>C in Hertfordshire. We have several excellent sites in Herts which are not usually (or at all) open to the public and we will be visiting two of them in addition to Hartwell House. [ *An optional guided visit to Stowe is also proposed on a date to be discussed in class.* ]

#### Programme

**Tuesday, June 10th** (Kate Harwood)

**From Bacon to Evelyn in the first part of the 17<sup>th</sup>C.**

**The Arte-Natural**

**Tuesday, June 17th**

**Guided walk round the early 18<sup>th</sup>C grounds at Hartwell House near Aylesbury. The tour will be led by a member of Buckinghamshire GT who knows the site well.**

**Tuesday, June 24** (Jenny Milledge)

**Treemongers of the Later 17<sup>th</sup>C.**

**The Forest Garden of the early 18<sup>th</sup>C.**

**Tuesday, 8 July** (Jenny Milledge)

**Guided Walk round a Herts landscape. TBC**

**Tuesday July 15** (Anne Rowe)

**Late 17<sup>th</sup> and early 18<sup>th</sup>C gardens in Hertfordshire:**

**Trees in Hertfordshire's Parks in the later 17<sup>th</sup> and early 18<sup>th</sup>C.**

**Tuesday, July 22** (Jenny Milledge)

**Guided Walk round a Herts landscape. TBC**

**Talks will take place at Woolmer Green Village Hall 10.00-12.00.**

**Inclusive cost of the Talks and Walks for this short course: £36**

**All visits will be made by car, car sharing-arrangements will be discussed in class.**

***Please use the separate 'flyer' accompanying the Newsletter to reserve your place on this course.***

## Events and Outings 2014

### A Private Tour of Chiswick House and the Gardens Thursday, 11th September, 2014      £14 per person

From 22nd March to 13th July the V and A are celebrating the life of William Kent, the most prominent architect and designer of the early 18th century, with a special exhibition of his work. Kent's success owed a great deal to his association with Lord Burlington. The two men met during a continental tour and returned to England to collaborate on the creation of their landscape masterpiece, Chiswick House and Garden.

In 2010 the garden benefited from a £12.1 million restoration and will be the focus of a guided afternoon tour for HGT members by Kate Harwood. There will be a morning tour of the House and members may make their own arrangements for lunch at the Café.



#### Programme

10.45am Arrive at the House.

11.00am Tour of the House

Lunch (The Café is available, but no central booking will be made)

1.30pm Tour of the Gardens led by Kate Harwood.

Members to make their own way to and from Chiswick House—either by car or by public transport. All enquiries, including members who would like the offer of a lift, to:

Annie Saner, Bury Orchard, Hudnall Common, Little Gaddesdon, Herts, HP4 1QL

Tel. 01442 843428

email. [johnsaner@btinternet.com](mailto:johnsaner@btinternet.com)

*Maps, sat. nav .references and details of meeting points will be sent to each person when applying for a place on the visit.*

*Please use the accompanying 'flyer' when applying for places.*

## Annual Schools Report—Bella Stuart-Smith

“Thank you for everything . We all really enjoyed it”. “Fantastic – thank you. We all had such a fab time”. “Great activity links with science”. “ Pupils loved making their own pots and are looking forward to caring for their crop”. “Good to see how activities can be done on a budget”.

These are some of the positive comments Mrs Wheelbarrows receive on their evaluations sheets. In Spring/Summer 2013 they managed to visit 41 different primary schools and to deliver 60 workshops, of which 8 were to schools new to the scheme. With new schools already making enquiries for 2014 this will definitely increase the number of schools we have visited, which stands at 165 across the county since 2008. It is a huge achievement for a volunteer led initiative, and a massive commitment from all those who have given time and energy to help children learn about growing. We really need more help if it is to continue so please come and join our Wheelbarrow team; it goes without saying that we would love some volunteer Mr Wheelbarrows as well!

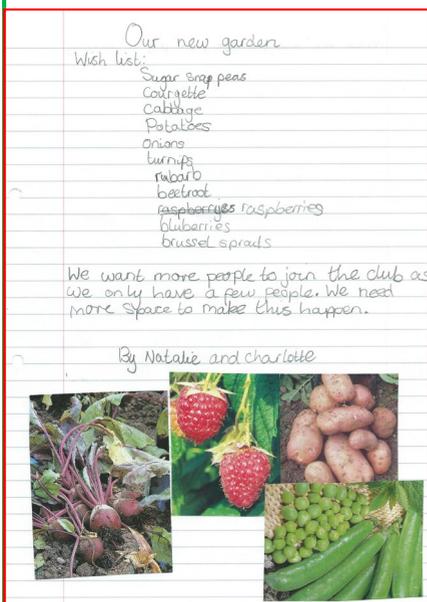
New this year has been a training half-day for primary school staff, held at Woodfield School in Leverstock Green: 18 attended, joined by 2 new Mrs Wheelbarrows. The school generously lent us their community room, complete with giant screen which displayed a PowerPoint presentation, a new departure for this ‘untechy’ Mrs Wheelbarrow - luckily Trudie Taylor was there to sort out any glitches! Virginia Corbett led the practical session which all undertook with great enthusiasm and much the same noise level as children. After coffee, and a much commented on spread of delicious biscuits, we talked about making a school garden, organising the classroom and kit and how to make it a success. Participants went away with a costed design for a raised timber bed, a substantial hand-out and lots of ideas. A great way to reach and support a large number of staff: could we now develop this as an online ideas forum? Trudie and Virginia made the day very professional and it would not have been possible without their thoughtful planning and enthusiasm.



*Harvey Road school pupils making sketches of their proposed garden plan ...*

The 2013 Award scheme ran with a little more money in the pot this year. Roger Cooke dealt with the applications and the late comers with great skill and efficiency. There were fewer but better quality applications and all the judges enjoyed visiting the winning schools to see what they were planning to do with their award. It is so good to have their expert input.

The winning applications included projects to make a nature trail in Stevenage and raised beds in Harpenden, and to replace raised beds in Great Hornead. In Croxley Green they wanted to increase the size of the garden to include more pupils in the club and extend the growing season with a greenhouse, while pupils wanted to improve the playground and have somewhere to grow plants in St Albans. In Bishops Stortford they desperately needed a tap and in Letchworth new raised beds were needed, so judge Gini Trower arranged to make them for a fraction of the price they had been quoted. Christopher Melluish, a fellow judge, managed to get press coverage at every school he attended: the pulling power of a past Chairman! Do have a look at some of the ideas of the winning schools and their designs on the HGT website.



### **Hertfordshire Gardens Trust School Awards 2013**

*Total granted £4570*

*Broom Barns Community Primary, Stevenage £800*

*Harvey Road School, Croxley Green £800*

*Hornead Primary School, £700*

*Hurst Drive, Waltham Cross £500*

*Killigrew Primary £270*

*St Nicholas, Harpenden £500*

*St Thomas More, Letchworth £600*

*Windhill School, Bishops Stortford £400*

*... the finished plan.*

***Finally, thank you to all the volunteers and supporters who contribute so much to our schools programme. Hertfordshire primary education is so lucky to have your contributions.***

## Annual Conservation Report – Kate Harwood

Much work has gone on behind the scenes during the past year with pre-application consultations and advice and support. Sites include Shendish Manor (King's Langley), High Leigh (Hoddesdon), Felden Lodge, Homewood (Knebworth), Danesbury Fernery, Cassiobury, Torrington House and Batchwood (both St Albans). Informal advice has been either given or the query passed on to the Research Co-ordinator for a number of other sites.

At Panshanger a number of organisations, including HGT have come together to form the *Friends of Panshanger Park* to press for the opening of the Country Park there, promised in 1982. Further details of proposals from FPP can be found on their website (<http://friendsofpanshangerpark.co.uk/>) and we are pressing for restoration of the core Victorian gardens consonant with opening to the public. HGT continue to have much involvement as I sit on both the Orangery Working Party and the Liaison Group; the research group has recently undertaken a survey of the Dairy Garden prior to preparation of plans for restoration. As a founder member of FPP I have been involved in giving talks and mounting displays on the importance of Panshanger landscape, and we are hoping to mount an exhibition at Hertford Museum.

Haileybury was known as a minor Repton landscape but much recent research by the school archivist has uncovered a more complex and interesting history with links to William Beckford, William Gilpin and other leading figures of the time. Anne Rowe and I have looked at the Master's Garden, for which Regency planting bills survive, and we are arranging for Tom Williamson to visit later this year. We hope that our 2015 Study Day will be held in the Spring at Haileybury on this fascinating landscape- arrangements are in train.

Tring Park has progressed very well with restoration under way. Anne Rowe has led this with help from Jenny Milledge and myself, and our 2014 Study Day will be held at Tring Park Mansion to look at both the 18<sup>th</sup> century and the Rothschild gardens.

Links have been made between Felden Lodge, where we held our 2013 Study Day and Castle Village in Potten End, which was the second garden laid out by Lady Alice Cooper. We are hopeful that this discovery will help inform any restoration of the Japanese Garden at Felden and we are still exploring ways of achieving this.

Work continues at Hemel Water Gardens, and plans are being finalised for submission to HLF, at the end of February 2014. The Friends is up and running and I am helping to organise some events to show them other Jellicoe landscapes and

HLF public gardens. If Stage II funding is granted, it is hoped that work can begin in 2015 on the restoration itself. This whole process arose out of the Study Day in 2011 held at Lockers Park School.

Bushey Rose Garden continues to attract local support and several events were held there last year; HGT supported this garden by sponsoring the prizes for a Schools' Art Competition. Our President, Lady Verulam, the Chairman of the Friends, BRG gardener, Ami Cowley, and the Council Landscape Officer judged these entries. The prizes were awarded to the children and schools at the BRG Carol Concert in the garden by our Chairman, Bella Stuart Smith. The winning entries can be seen on the HGT website and are also displayed in the summer house in the garden, together with a small display on HGT.

Comments on several planning applications have been made, and also comments on emerging Local Plans and the Green Belt Reviews which threaten to eat up more of our countryside and threaten the setting of some of our key gardens such as High Leigh and Panshanger. Liaison with the Local Planning Authorities continues, both through the quarterly Conservation Forums and more informally with individual officers.

Both Mick Thompson and I sit on the national Joint Conservation Committee of the Garden History Society and the Association of Gardens Trusts, which is the statutory consultee on historic parks and gardens.

Finally thanks must go to Anne Rowe for her support, good sense and very useful suggestions which have helped so much, and to all the HGT members who have unfailingly answered pleas for help.

Thomas Mawson



*Bushey Rose Garden—A winning entry by pupils from Hartsbourne School depicting Thomas Mawson, designer of the garden.*

*Some of the winning entries are on the HGT website – look for 'Latest News'.*

*([www.hertsgardenstrust.org.uk](http://www.hertsgardenstrust.org.uk))*

*The display of winners is still up in the summerhouse at BRG till late spring; the garden is open, free, every day—do go and look.*

# The Hertfordshire Gardens Trust

Registered Charity No. 1010093

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*Lord Lieutenant of Hertfordshire*

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Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies (HALS)  
The Planning Property Department of Children Schools and Families  
and  
**The Environment Department**

**Cover Illustration:**

*Detail of 'Hamels' near Braughing in 1722 by T. Badeslade showing the use of trees in the park.*

*'Trees and Treemongers' - page 16*

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