

HERTFORDSHIRE GARDENS TRUST



SPRING NEWSLETTER 2020 AND ANNUAL REPORT

From the President:

That lovely July evening of our 2019 AGM sticks in the mind as Roger led us through the meeting with his customary skill and grace. His death is a great loss to the HGT as he proved to be an excellent chairman. Bella has nobly stepped in as a temporary measure and for that the membership is truly grateful. However, what is needed now is a new chairman so that Bella is released in order to concentrate on her many other projects.

The activities of the HGT continue apace. What is particularly noticeable is the flagging up of the many historic sites in Hertfordshire under threat from proposed development. The work that the trust does to draw attention to these threats is admirable.

You will see from this newsletter that the HGT is thriving and this is due to the dedication and hard work of a handful of impressive people.

There are plenty of activities for the membership to enjoy and we can all look forward to the year ahead.

Dione Vanlam.

Front Cover: *The 'Mermaid Fountain' in the garden of the former mansion of the High Leigh Estate, Hoddesdon is possibly made of 'Pulhamite'. Photo by Tina Rowland.*

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Vice Chair's Report

Bella Stuart-Smith

Many members will know that our Chairman Roger Gedye very sadly died before Christmas. He is greatly missed by the Committee, as he will be by all our members as a thoughtful and enthusiastic supporter and chair of HGT. To mark Roger's contribution, we have decided to set up a fund in his name which will be used to further the work of the Trust, and you will also find details on the opposite page of how to contribute to this if you wish.

We are immensely lucky that all areas of the Trust are in really capable hands and are thriving. The output of the research team is impressive under Anne Rowe's leadership. We have a programme of interesting talks and walks, the work of Liz Carlin and her team. Our work in conservation has a real impact protecting our threatened historic landscapes thanks to Kate Harwood's energy and immense knowledge of the field. The newsletter is full of interesting articles and speaks more fully about all of this, thanks to Deborah Spring and Tosh Moller.

There are a trio of interesting garden visits to look forward to, coordinated by Sonja Fellingham. We also have a Gardener's Question Time coming up in June for those more interested in practical gardening, organised by Sally Pool, in Christopher Melluish's garden.

HGT is in a fortunate position with sound accounts which will be available on the website before the AGM. We do now need a Chair though. I held the position for four years and was elected as Vice Chair at the AGM in July to support Roger. My other commitments have grown steadily, and it really is time to step down, so I will not be standing at the AGM. Please consider this role. There is a brief description of what it entails with the notice of the AGM at page 26, and a formal proposal form is enclosed. If you have any questions at all about what is involved, please do email chair@hertsgardenstrust.org.uk

If you think you have a little time on your hands and would like to join the Committee, we would like to hear from you too. John Craggs has been looking after the website and has been membership secretary for a number of years and would also like to step down. I hope we can report positively at the AGM about these roles. The AGM will be held this year at Benington Lordship on 9th July (page 26). I look forward to seeing you there, and at our other events as the summer unfolds.

Roger Gedye



Roger Gedye, who died on 26th November 2019, will be much missed, not least by Hertfordshire Gardens Trust for whom he was an energetic and engaged chairman. Many HGT members attended the funeral in the Harwood Crematorium, the service at St Helen's church, or the reception later and were just a few of the many who came, from all walks of life.

HGT was only one of many interests in Roger's life. He and his wife Mo moved to a cottage in Hertfordshire on retirement and created a wonderful garden kept up to exemplary standards, which he loved: although he did comment on making 'a rod for my own back' at one point. He was joint Ringing Master at the church of St Helens in Wheathampstead, enjoyed walking and organising walks for various groups, as well as having his family of much loved children and grandchildren.

Born on 10th January 1940, he graduated from Liverpool University before joining Wellington College where he was a housemaster and taught Chemistry for 37 years. He played rugby for Brackwell Rugby Club and enjoyed karate, rock-climbing (including a trip to the Himalayas when he was 60), and walking in the Derbyshire peaks and dales. Whilst at Wellington he started karate, swimming and lifesaving clubs at the school.

A voracious reader, Roger was very well informed and could talk knowledgeably on a wide range of subjects. He never stopped learning, obtaining a first class degree in Philosophy from the Open University, and attending as many courses and talks as he could to learn more about garden history once he had joined HGT. He had just completed a talk he was due to give on the HGT course this spring. He became the newsletter editor in 2012, redesigning it and encouraging a wider range of contributors. He carried on with this role after he became Vice-Chairman in 2014 and Chairman in 2017.

The Gedye Fund

In response to requests from members, HGT will be setting up a bursary in Roger's name as a lasting memorial to a much appreciated member who did so much to support and progress the Trust. The Committee will decide how best to use the fund to support research and understanding of our historic parks and gardens.

If you would like to contribute to the fund in Roger's memory please send your contribution to our bank:

Lloyds

Account name: Hertfordshire Gardens Trust

Sort code: 30 99 21

Account number: 00650914

Or send a cheque payable to Hertfordshire Gardens Trust and with 'Gedye Fund' written on the back to: HGT Treasurer, The White House, Dane End, Ware SG12 0LP.

The Committee has pledged to match fund donations, up to a reasonable amount.

Pulham 200

Kate Banister and Tina Rowland

Two hundred years ago William Lockwood, a builder from Woodbridge in Suffolk, took out a lease on premises in Spitalfields. There he installed the first James Pulham (born c.1790), who had served an apprenticeship with him in Suffolk, and they manufactured Portland Stone cement, a product they had developed. James's brother, Obadiah, joined him and the firm made ornamental and decorative items for buildings. As well as an able sculptor and modeller, James Pulham was something of a scientist. He enjoyed experimenting with electrical and other machinery as well as studying geology and astronomy. In 1826/7 he moved to a larger site, in Tottenham, and so began the long history of the Pulhams as landscape designers, builders of follies, ferneries, rockeries and garden ornaments.

Four generations of Pulhams were involved over the hundred years of the firm, and in each generation the eldest son was called James. Detailed research into their history and work is difficult, as official records were destroyed when the firm closed and almost none of their work was signed. One of their earliest known works (probably by Obadiah, c.1825) is a splendid bull with gilt horns and hooves. Made as an inn sign, it survives in rather a sorry state in Hammersmith. It is likely that a connection with Thomas Smith, the County Surveyor of Hertfordshire, led to James and Obadiah building a folly at Smith's house in Hertford, Hertford County Hospital (1832/3) and the Norman ruin at Benington Lordship, built of flint with stone dressings and mouldings (1835/7).

In the mid 1840s, the second James bought land near Broxbourne station. He built a house for himself, and a manufactory with brick kilns, workshop and a grinding machine to produce the cement-based artificial stone (buff colour) and clay-based artificial stone (rich red colour) which



they used for the building and restoration of churches (West Hyde 1843/4, Clophill (1849) and Ware Cemetery Chapel (1854)) and for ornamental architectural objects. The proximity of the railway, essential for the transport of materials, together with a growing fashion for ferns and rock gardens, led to a great increase in their business.

Surviving kiln in Broxbourne



Grotto and cave at High Leigh

A promotional booklet dated to 1876/7 lists 167 properties where they had worked during the previous 30 years. Only six were in Hertfordshire. They built water gardens large and small, rock gardens, ferneries, cliffs and waterfalls as well as fountains and garden sculpture all over the country. Natural rocks were used for the rock gardens where possible, but if none were available, they built their own by

covering waste material and bricks with their cement mixture, which they called Pulhamite. The surface was then tooled, figured and brushed to resemble natural formations. Durability was guaranteed and many experts were taken in by their geological accuracy.

The firm became Pulham & Sons in 1865, when the third James joined his father and the business moved into its most prolific stage. Examples of their work can be seen at Sandringham, Buckingham Palace, Wisley, Waddesdon and Audley End, as well as Battersea Park, Folkestone and Ramsgate, where they worked for the local authorities. They received the Royal Warrant in 1895, and this was renewed in 1910. By the end of the century they also advertised themselves as designers of gardens in Japanese, Italian and Dutch styles.

Fashions in horticulture inevitably changed, and the effects of the First World War on large estates and the men needed for their upkeep led to the closure of the firm around 1940. Following a revival of interest in its work some 20 years ago many more sites have been discovered and rescued from dereliction. Foremost among these is surely Dewstow in Monmouthshire. Here 2.7 hectares of rock gardens, pools and grottoes were discovered in 2000, having been buried under tons of spoil and rubble left from the building of the M4 Motorway in the 1960s. Nearer to home the Danesbury Fernery, near Welwyn, is being brought

back to life by enthusiastic volunteers. Described in 1870 as the best of ferneries it is a rare survival. Finally, at High Leigh, Hoddesdon, one of the most extensive Pulham sites in the county, there are hopes that some sort of restoration may take place in the future. There are, no doubt, more sites to be discovered.



Volunteers working at Danesbury Fernery

Gardens Trust Conference and AGM 2019

Alison Moller

After arriving at The Queen's College in Oxford on Friday afternoon, 6th September, delegates went to visit the Oxford Botanic Garden. They entered through the Danby Gate, before meeting with one of the guides who gave a talk on the history and work of the garden, and could then explore it at their own pace. My time at the Conference was not a typical delegate's experience: I was helping with the organisation and running of it, and I spent this first visit being the 'dragon' at the gate to ensure the general public did not enter that way.



Danby Gate, Oxford Botanic Garden

However, I had explored the garden previously while completing the Health and Safety report. The oldest Botanic Garden in Britain, it will celebrate its 400th anniversary in 2021. During all that time it has been focused on education, and although there are some stunning herbaceous borders, hot houses and floral displays, the most interesting area to me was the section displaying medicinal plants and explaining their uses.



Herbaceous border, Oxford Botanic Garden

Saturday morning brought the enjoyable but stressful task of getting 80 people in two groups (some disabled and in a taxi) round the busy Oxford streets to Christ Church and St. John's gardens. Toby Parker, well known to HGT members, gave us a lively overview before we set off for a fascinating tour of College Gardens. St John's gardens have been open to the public and townspeople from at least the 17th century. Toby explained how the attractive ladies who promenaded there became known as 'toasts.'



The 'Cheshire Cat Tree', Deanery Garden



John James with his cloned sapling

At Christ Church we had a wonderful double act from the historian Sarah Couch and the Head Gardener John James.



There was an *Open Gardens* that day but we were given special access to the Deanery Garden to view the *Cheshire Cat Tree*. This garden is the setting for some of the most famous scenes in *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, which was written for the Dean's daughter Alice Liddell by Charles Lutwidge Dodgson, under the pseudonym Lewis Carroll, while he lived and worked at Christ Church. The tree is a very aged Horse Chestnut and would have been felled had it not been for its literary associations. John James is growing a cloned sapling nearby.

The afternoon session in the lecture theatre was taken up with the New Research Symposium (NRS), an initiative chaired by Dr Patrick Eyres who also selects the speakers. The lectures are always on very varied subjects and as the name suggests they are an opportunity to hear the very latest research results. The NRS provides a forum for researchers whose work has not yet been published and the subjects cover any aspect of Garden History. This year the subjects were very varied: an Irish property as seen through photographs and wood engravings; the

literary coterie led by Marchioness de Grey at Wrest Park; Ruskin's landscape at Brantwood and how the back stories of four 16th century women impacted on their home landscapes at Hever Castle, Grey's Court, Wanstead and Essex House. The session was followed by the AGM of the Gardens Trust. The evening Gala Dinner was enlivened by a talk by Robin Lane-Fox, known to most as the FT's gardening correspondent, whose forthright approach to other scholars' work had a mixed reception from the audience.



Palladian Church, Nuneham Courtenay



Canal and Pavilion at Shotover

On Sunday, buses set off for Nuneham Courtenay. This was one of Lancelot Brown's last commissions, executed for the 2nd Earl Harcourt. The mansion is so perfectly sited on the river terrace above the Thames that very little earth moving was required and in fact the main attraction for the Gardens Trust was the William Mason Flower Garden created in the Picturesque style. Also of note is the Palladian church designed by the 2nd Earl and the new village created to house the tenants he ejected in order to redesign the landscape. Again, I didn't see much of the garden on this visit as I was rounding up a delegate who had got lost. The fit delegates then walked the old driveway down to the Harcourt Arboretum.

After lunch at a community pub the groups departed for Shotover where, just as I was about to relax thinking nothing else could go wrong, the visit was rather curtailed by the electric entrance gates jamming! This was solved by the

farmer coming with bolt cutters and opening a nearby farm gate which the coaches only just squeezed through. Once inside, the visit to this private house was wonderful and together with the gardens, which contain a beautiful canal with the house at one end and a William Townsend Gothic pavilion at the other, this was my personal favourite.

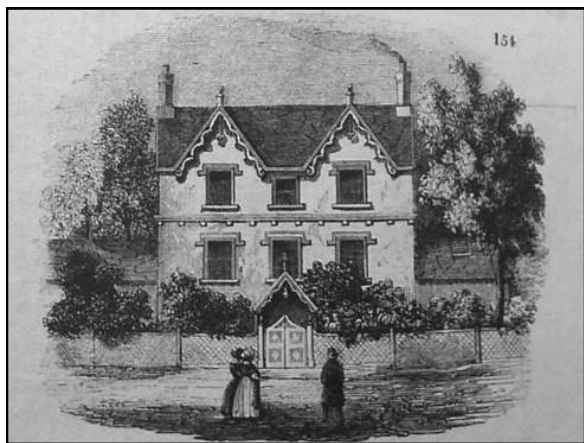
The main attraction of the Annual Conference for many people is that you are given the opportunity to be taken to properties that are not usually accessible and receive a beautifully produced brochure with informative articles on each visit prepared by a local expert. The next Annual Gardens Trust Conference (4-6 September, 2020) will be held in North Yorkshire, at the newly refurbished Scotch Corner Hotel and will feature visits to private sites such as The Temple, Aske Hall, Constable Burton, Bolton Castle and Bolton Hall – all in Richmond and the surrounding area.



Cheshunt Grange

Kate Banister and Alison Robinson

Both Alison and I had particular reasons for agreeing to write a piece on Cheshunt Cottage. As an artist Alison had been asked, some 20 years ago, by the matron of what was then a nursing home, to paint a picture of the front and back of the house. I had driven past the cottage each day on my way to work in Ware. We had little idea of the former remarkable gardens laid out by one William Harrison from 1800 to 1840. The house survives, after various alterations, as a care-home, but the only remnant of the garden is the lake at the back, closely surrounded since the 1960s by new houses, suburban gardens and a few specimen trees.

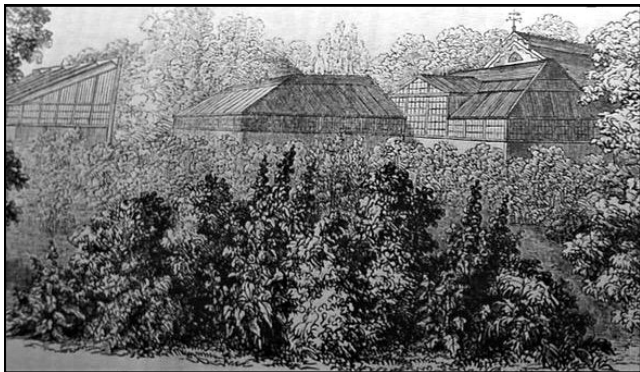


'Cheshunt Cottage, Residence of Wm Harrison, Esq.'
from RHS Lindley Collections

The starting point of our research was an article by John Claudius Loudon on select 'Suburban Residences' in the *Gardener's Magazine* of 1839. The first of Loudon's pictures shows a modest country cottage quite unlike the grander houses built in the area by minor gentry and city business men looking for a country retreat near to the city of London. Harrison apparently designed and laid out

the seven acres of garden himself, supplying working drawings and detailed descriptions of the hot water apparatus for heating the various hot houses, as well as the design of the glass houses. Using the available archives in HALS, and greatly helped by the staff of Lowewood Museum and the skills of other HGT researchers, we discovered more about the owner of the house. William Harrison was born in 1765 (we don't know his birthplace or anything about his parents); he studied law at Cambridge and was later called to the Bar and became an eminent Queen's Counsel and Solicitor General of the Duchy of Cornwall. Could this latter post be the reason why the house was described in the sales catalogue of 1869 as a 'favoured retreat of George IV'? A typical gentleman of this period, Harrison's interests were many and varied: his house contained a library, a museum of shells and maps, a ship room housing models of ships which he placed on the lake in the summer, and an extensive ethnographic collection.

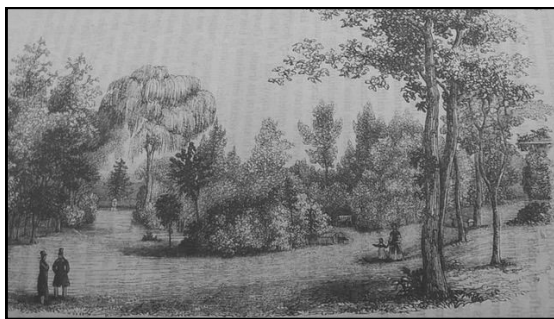
The cottage supplied Harrison's town house in Lincoln's Inn Fields with fresh produce. Besides an orchard and fruit garden, the grounds included a farmyard (poultry, geese, turkeys, rabbits, cow house, piggeries, duck house, dog kennels), sheds for straw, timber and pits for manure, a brew house, a bake house, a mill house, a dairy, and a coach house and stabling, as well as accommodation for the coachman and the resident gardener. All these amenities were individually marked out on Loudon's detailed plan.



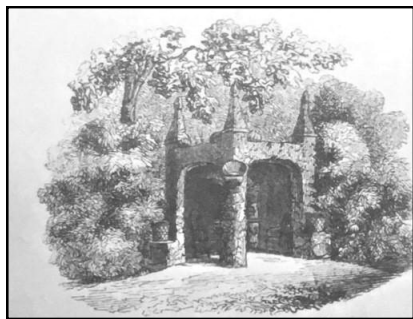
'View of the hothouses' - from RHS Lindley Collections

An obituary for Harrison commented on the beautiful garden, with its 'noble range of stoves and conservatories'.

In the glass houses, whose design was adapted from Paxton's ridge and furrow principle, were grown orchids, ferns, vines, camellias, pineapples, bananas and geraniums. Fresh flowers were regularly taken to London along with the produce. There was an aviary with canaries, whose singing 'enlivened' the winter scenery. At various points in the garden were placed different buildings, mostly containing seats and designed to give views across the garden. They were built of masonry, rock work and wood and in different styles.



'View from the Drawing Room Window'



'Seat of grotesque, rustic masonry'

Images from RHS Lindley Collections

Loudon complimented Harrison on the variety achieved in the arrangement of the pleasure ground in what was a comparatively limited space. He listed many of the trees and shrubs, which included one of almost every kind that was found in British nurseries, and described how the way they were planted added to the variety of the view.

The pond was of irregular shape with one rocky and nearly perpendicular side, and the planting around it included striking foliage and a few evergreens to give cheerfulness in winter. The walks were laid out in different directions, allowing at least one to be sheltered from the wind in winter. To make the site seem larger, no boundary or fence was visible.

Roses and dahlias, in turf-edged beds, were planted in masses to provide colour, whereas blooms which repaid closer examination, being viewed for instance by ladies after rain, were in beds edged by gravel paths. Harrison used many of the new plant introductions including magnolias, rhododendrons and American conifers.



Cheshunt Cottage in 2018 - watercolour by Alison Robinson

William Harrison died in 1841 and it would seem that his son inherited the property, but later history is sketchy. Sale Particulars exist for 1869 and 1924 (by which time it was renamed The Grange) but by 1938, while the garden remained intact, huge glass houses had been built on adjoining land – it was the time of the great nursery boom in Cheshunt. Maps of 1968 show the house divided and new houses built on the gardens. A surviving *Wellingtonia* was cut down in the early 2000s.

Annual Research Report

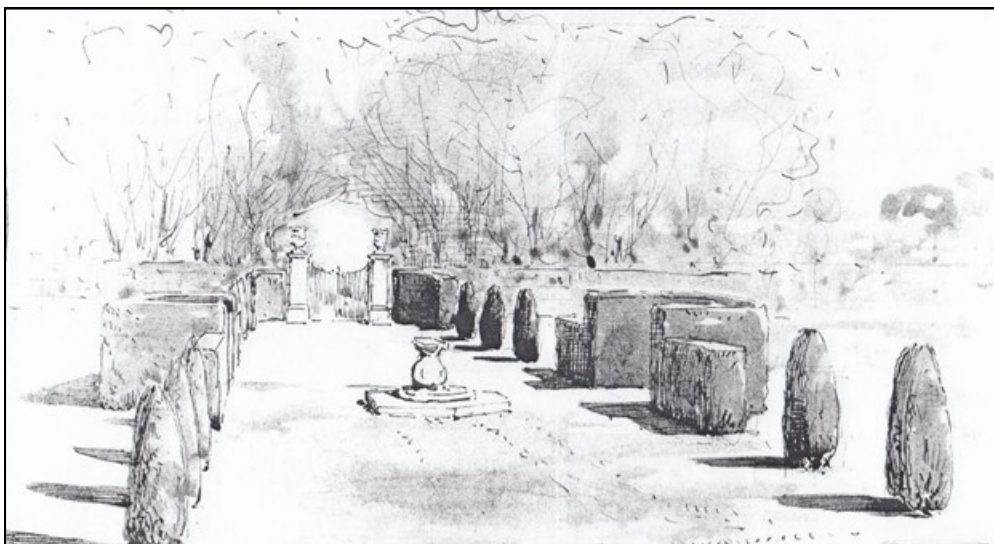
Anne Rowe

Research into the history of Hertfordshire's parks, gardens and orchards has made steady progress this year and our stalwart group of volunteers met at Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies (HALS) at County Hall in January, March, June and September to discuss progress with their respective projects, as listed below:

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| <i>Sarah Bott</i> | Benington for the Orchards East project |
| <i>Liz Carlin</i> | The Node at Codicot and also Orchards in the Ayots |
| <i>Sue Friend</i> | Shephall Bury |
| <i>Bridget Howlett</i> | Gardens and orchards in Hitchin |
| <i>Deborah Kinloch</i> | Gadebridge, Hemel Hempstead |
| <i>Esme Marshall</i> | Welcombe, Harpenden |
| <i>Julia Merrick</i> | Orchards East project research |
| <i>Jenny Milledge</i> | Orchards East project research and Porters, Shenley |
| <i>Alison & Tosh Moller</i> | Bygrave manor |
| <i>Alison Robinson</i> | Cheshunt Cottage |
| <i>Tina Rowland</i> | Ware Rectory manor house |
| <i>John Sloan</i> | Chesfield Lodge near Stevenage |
| <i>Alison Townsend</i> | Organ Hall/Newberries, Radlett |
| <i>Elizabeth Waugh</i> | Great Hyde Hall, Sawbridgeworth |
| <i>David Willis</i> | Holwell Court near Essendon |

We are, as ever, grateful to former County Archivist Sue Flood for attending many of our meetings and sharing her unparalleled knowledge of the archives.

At the March meeting Tina kindly demonstrated how to negotiate the new HALS online catalogue and in September, as well as discussing our recent research, we also spent time exploring how to navigate the very useful maps section on the website of the National Library for Scotland. As a result of a discussion at the June meeting about the difficulties of reading old documents, two 2-hour palaeography sessions were arranged for the autumn with Dr Heather Falvey. Heather had provided similar sessions in 2008 and generously offered to charge the same fee a decade later. Research Group volunteers were offered free places and nine attended together with seven other HGT members and volunteers working in the archives at HALS who were charged a modest fee to contribute towards the cost of hiring a room at Woolmer Green Village Hall and the tutor's fee and expenses.



Proposals for yew hedges in the gardens at Gorhambury by the 4th Countess of Verulam, 1920's. By kind permission of Lord Grimston.

Completed site reports on **Brickendonbury** by Sue Friend, **Bygrave manor** by Alison and Tosh Moller, **Gorhambury** by Mick Thompson and Ann Mallinson, **High Canons** (Shenley) by John Sloan, **High Leigh** (Hoddesdon) by Tina Rowland, **Hunsdonbury** by Elizabeth Waugh, **Northaw House** by Liz Carlin, and **Wyddial Hall** by Alison and Tosh Moller were deposited in the Local Studies Library at HALS on 13th June, together with a replacement copy of the **Dalton House** (St Albans) report which had gone missing.

Another two reports were deposited at HALS in December: **Cheshunt Cottage/The Old Grange** by Alison Robinson and Kate Banister on the notable gardens created at Cheshunt in the early 19th century, and **Tring Park** where Charles Bridgeman laid out a superb landscape in the early 18th century. The latter report originated in 2011 as a historical survey and restoration plan compiled by Anne Rowe, Kate Harwood and Jenny Milledge for the Woodland Trust as part of a parkland restoration project financed by the Heritage Lottery Fund; it was updated and converted into an HGT site report in July 2019.

A PDF copy of each report was emailed to the Archaeology Unit at County Hall so that our research can be added to the Historic Environment Record (HER). Hard copies were printed for site owners, as well as HALS, a copy of the Cheshunt Cottage report was given to Lowewood Museum and the Tring Park report was sent to the Chilterns Conservation Board and to the Woodland Trust who manage Tring Park.

There have been some significant spin-offs from the work of some researchers. Tina Rowland and Kate Banister have worked hard to raise awareness and enthusiasm for the magnificent Pulhamite gardens at High Leigh in Hoddesdon and for the adjoining Barclay Park, formerly part of the same estate, by giving talks, leading walks and maintaining a positive relationship with the managers of the conference centre. Sue Friend was asked to give a presentation for the public and staff of the Tun Abdul Razak Research Centre at Brickendonbury about the results of her research into the history of the grounds there.

During her research at HALS on a Hitchin property called The Hermitage, Bridget Howlett investigated the farm and garden memoranda books of William Wilshire who was the owner in the early 19th century. Wilshire recorded work undertaken in his gardens but also had a tree nursery, selling trees and shrubs as well as planting them on his estates. His farming and horticultural activities have proved to be of such interest that Bridget is transcribing the books in their entirety for a future Hertfordshire Record Society publication.

The annual **Seminar & Soup** event took place on 9th April at Woolmer Green Village Hall and was attended by 27 HGT members. The theme of the Seminar was maps and we enjoyed excellent presentations by Sue Flood, who described the range of maps available in the Hertfordshire Archives and how to find them, and Professor Tom Williamson who talked about the problems and possibilities of using maps in landscape research. The morning was rounded off with everyone working in groups to interpret the symbols shown on early OS maps to describe a series of Hertfordshire gardens and parks existing in the late 19th century. Sarah Bott, Liz Carlin and Alison Robinson very kindly provided some delicious soups and everyone else contributed the remaining food and drink for another excellent lunch.

My book on **Tudor & Early Stuart Parks in Hertfordshire** arrived from the printer in March and was officially launched at the Hertfordshire Association for Local History AGM on 18th May. An article promoting the book appeared in the May edition of *Hertfordshire Life* and, thanks entirely to Liz Carlin, a review appeared in the *Times Literary Supplement*. The book could not have been published without the generous financial support of the Hertfordshire Gardens Trust, HGT Vice President Richard Walduck and the Marc Fitch Fund, to all of whom I am immensely grateful. A copy of the book has been lodged in the HGT library, care of our Hon. Librarian, Helen Leiper.

Annual Conservation and Planning Report, 2019-2020

Kate Harwood

Again, this year has been much occupied with Local Plans and their Examination in Public. 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 continued to work with the Central Herts Green Corridor Group and other groups and individuals around the county to try to mitigate the harm these developments would cause to our historic parks and gardens. We also work with individuals and groups on a number of sites, including Goldings, Balls Park, and Marden House and with Luton Culture on Stockwood Park.

The outline plans for Gilston Garden Village (Harlow North) have been produced and we have objected to them. We have visited the sites with both Historic England and The Georgian Group and all of us are very much concerned about the effect these proposals will have on the important parks and listed buildings in the area. The Georgian Group has also visited Bocket Hall with us to evaluate the effect of the proposed development on Symondshyde on the Registered park and listed buildings.

Comments as to the harm the proposed Briggens quarry (actually on land at Olive's Farm opposite Stanstead Bury) will cause do not appear to have been heeded and investigations have started already. We have visited the site together with a local ecologist, to try to gather evidence for a report. Briggens itself is also of concern, as it had been on the heritage At Risk Register for over a year, and with the departure of the golf club and the subsequent closing of the site, the park and house are deteriorating at an alarming rate. Again we have visited with Historic England and The Georgian Group.

Further consultation on various transport strategies have come forward; mostly wish lists that we all take to our cycles but little in the way of detail to enable informed comment. Although the Oxford-Cambridge Arc for the most part skirts Hertfordshire to the north of Royston, Luton airport will be part of the plan. This could well have implications for the countryside and our parks around the area as one of the key components of the strategy is more housing, as well as links south from the Arc towards London.

Inexplicably the planning appeal at Rowney Priory was allowed and the visual intrusions are permitted to stay.

The Neighbourhood Plan at Much Hadham has been amended in light of adverse comments over allocations for housing in Moor Place parkland, which have now been removed from the draft plan. We have commented on drafts of other Neighbourhood Plans.

Good news is that Youngsbury walled kitchen garden walls, gardener's cottage and the earliest national example known of a concrete framed greenhouse have all been listed at Grade II, following work done by Dr Felus and an application submitted by us.

We have continued working with Friends groups at Panshanger and Hemel Water Gardens and have given talks and walks on their behalf. Last year Amersfort at Potten End was open for Heritage Open Days (HOD) for the first time, where I gave walks and talks in the afternoon. These were oversubscribed and are scheduled again for this year. At Panshanger Anne Rowe and I ran a similar day of walks and talks which will also be repeated this year. Ashridge already offer HOD events and we are hoping more sites will follow their example, currently Haileybury and Hemel Water Gardens look to be possible.

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 – nearly 300 planning applications and assessments, in some cases where a large number of units are involved – as well as phone calls to developers and planners.

Work on the proposals for changes to car parking at the National Trust Ashridge site are ongoing with further meetings scheduled. Gobions Wood has also caused concern with plans for woodland management. Anne Rowe has taken the lead on this and a site visit in January with Historic England is scheduled. We have commented, mostly objections, on several proposals for building houses around the edges. Northaw has also caused some concern with plans in for overdevelopment of Northaw House, at the Hook, and insensitive householder plans, all of which would affect our historic parklands.

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

Annual Schools Report, 2019-2020

Bella Stuart-Smith



We awarded one grant to Leavesden Green School which was being increased in size to a two-form entry. I visited in the summer when the site was very much a building site. They were keen to make a start on gardening as there had been none before this. I met the very enthusiastic teacher who had the support of her Head, and thanks to our grant for just over £800 they now have three raised beds made from durable and treated wooden sleepers.

They have also bought child-sized forks and spades, plus small trowels and forks and litter pickers to ensure the children are learning about the importance of caring for their environment. The school has supplied a shed for the area so they can store all the new equipment safely. They have retained some of the grant for the spring to add fencing and more equipment.



Events and outings - 2020



First Garden Visit to Essex

Thursday 21st May

£52.00

The Iron Bridge at Marks Hall

Departing Stanborough Green, Welwyn Garden City at 9.00am.

We first head to Marks Hall, near Coggeshall, where we will have coffee and biscuits on arrival, followed by a guided tour of its beautiful, formal lakeside gardens and a stunning arboretum containing trees from every temperate area in the world. Buggies are available for those who require them. We will enjoy a two-course lunch with coffee at the end of our tour. Wine is available.

We then travel to Horkesley Hall, where the owners will show us round their magnificent eight-acre mature garden, and its romantic setting of parkland and a stream which feeds two lakes. We will have tea and home-made cake before calling in at the next-door church of St Peter and St Paul, which has a most unusual history, then heading home.



Garden Visit to Grimsthorpe Castle, Lincolnshire

Wednesday 3rd June

£48.00

Grimsthorpe Castle

Departing Stanborough Green, Welwyn Garden City at 9.00am.

We will arrive at Grimsthorpe Castle in time for coffee and biscuits. The day will be flexible, with lunch when it suits us (pay individually). There are lovely gardens to explore: a rose garden, a topiary garden, and a double herbaceous border overlooking the park. Originally the southern edge of the great Lincolnshire forest, and crossed by fine avenues of trees, the park was landscaped in the 18th century by 'Capability' Brown.

Grimsthorpe Castle has been in the same family for 300 years. The main front gives the castle its grandeur and dramatic scale. It is the final masterpiece of Sir John Vanbrugh, the architect of Blenheim Palace and Castle Howard. A tour of the castle, included, is to be thoroughly recommended. A tour of the estate by coach (approximately one hour) is also included. Before we leave, a cream tea will set us up for our journey.



Braxted Park

Second Garden Visit to Essex
Tuesday 16th June
£50.00



Fudlers Hall

Departing Stanborough Green, Welwyn Garden City, at 9.00am.

Our second Essex visit of the year takes us to Braxted Park and Fudlers Hall. Coffee and cake will be served on arrival at Braxted Park Estate, Witham. This Grade II* park of 'exceptional significance' has two beautifully designed and planted walled gardens. One is comprised of 'rooms', the other is a fan-shaped herb and cutting garden. The large glasshouse range and wall-trained fruit trees show the origins of a Victorian kitchen garden.

After lunch in the walled garden pavilion we drive to Fudlers Hall, Mashbury. This is an award-winning, romantic, 2-acre, knockout rose garden surrounding a 17th century farmhouse. There are lovely views, herbaceous borders, and roses all the way!

Gardeners' Question Time
chaired by Christopher Melliush

Thursday 11th June, 7pm

Price - £12 which includes a glass of wine

The Barn, Thundridge Hill House, Cold Christmas Lane, Ware SG12 0UF

by kind permission of Susie and Christopher Melliush

An expert panel consisting of Bella Stuart-Smith, Andrew Turvey (Head Gardener of Hatfield House), Aubrey Barker (retired nurseryman) and a plant expert from Rochford's nursery will address our horticultural headaches and planting conundrums. Audience members are invited to send questions in advance or submit them on arrival. There will be a bring-and-buy plant sale too. The gardens will be open from 6pm, and everyone is welcome to bring a picnic and enjoy the gardens either before or after the event.

Please apply to Sally Pool, The White House, Dane End, Ware, SG12 0LP to reserve a place by sending a cheque made payable to Hertfordshire Gardens Trust. Acknowledgements will be sent by email. Please include your email address, or if you do not have one include a stamped addressed envelope. Further information: treasurer@hertsgardenstrust.org.uk

Guided Walks

The cost of each walk is £5. Members are responsible for their own transport and refreshments. Please book using the enclosed flyer. Each applicant will receive detailed information on location, timing and precise meeting point for each walk, together with advice on suitable clothing and footwear and contact details of the walk leader.



A Guided Walk around Forty Hall, Enfield

Thursday 21st May 11.00 – 13.00

Meet at the main car park

Walk to be led by Dr Martin Dearne

Elsyng Palace

Forty Hall, built for Sir Nicholas Rainton in 1629-36, was one of the earliest suburban residences built as townsfolk escaped London for the pure air of Hertfordshire. It contains stunning 18th century plasterwork and is Listed at Grade I. The grounds, on the Register at Grade II, are now a public park for Enfield. The Enfield Cedars, of which remnants survive, are said to be from seeds of cedars introduced to Chelsea Physic Garden in 1683 from Leiden. The 18th century pleasure grounds and park are still discernible. The archaeology in the lower park is that of Elsyng Palace, a medieval hall belonging to Sir Thomas Lovell and later acquired by Henry VIII. Part of the palace grounds are in Myddleton House, the estate of Percy Bowles, and water gardens have been uncovered along the brook which divides the two sites. Dr Martin Dearne has been involved in the archaeological digs and is knowledgeable about both the Tudor palace and the later house.



A Guided Walk around the Inns of Court, London

Monday 8th June 11.45 – 2.30

Meet at Farringdon Station, bring a packed lunch

Walk to be led by Deborah Spring

Rock rose at the garden entrance

Using a 16th century map of the area we will explore the origins of the gardens of the Inns of Court: Gray's Inn, Lincoln's Inn, Middle Temple and Inner Temple. These secluded and spacious gardens, hidden from view behind walls and buildings, are open to the public for a few hours in the middle of the day. At Gray's Inn, where we will stop for a picnic lunch, we will see the gardens originally laid out by Francis Bacon in the 1580s. Emerging from Lincoln's Inn behind the Royal Courts of Justice, we cross the Strand to discover the riverside gardens of Middle Temple and Inner Temple, once home to the Knights Templar. While our walk focuses on the gardens, it may be possible to see inside the chapel at Lincoln's Inn, where John Donne preached, and the Temple Church with its Crusader memorials – for both, opening times vary.

A Guided Walk around Stockwood Park, Luton

Monday 15th June 11.00 – 13.00

Walk to be led by Kate Harwood

Luton Council - very forward-thinking for its time (1986) - commissioned Ian Hamilton Finlay to produce one of the most modern and thought-provoking gardens for Stockwood Park. Finlay is best known for his own garden, Little Sparta, in Scotland, but designed gardens across Europe. He drew on the classical arcadian landscape which would once have surrounded the mansion and plays with ideas of double-meanings, both in the landscape - are those building columns or tree trunks? - and in the inscriptions carved in different styles which hint at new ways to look at the surroundings.



Aphrodite, Stockwood Park



A Guided Walk around Cedars Park, Cheshunt: Theobalds

Tuesday 30th June 11.00 – 13.00

Meet at main car park

Walk to be led by Dr Martin Dearne

Quirky brickwork alterations

Theobalds Palace, built by Sir William Cecil between 1564 and 1585, was frequently visited by Elizabeth I. The extensive and innovatory gardens were modelled on French examples and were one of the imperatives for overseas visitors. In 1607 Theobalds became a Royal Palace when James I exchanged it with Cecil's son Robert for the nearby Royal Manor of Hatfield. James died at Theobalds in 1625 and Charles I owned the palace until his execution in 1649. At this time Theobalds was listed amongst other royal properties for disposal by the Commonwealth, and by 1650 was partly or largely demolished. Robert Cecil extended the park and put in an artificial river for the herons and deer, which later became the New River. James I extended the park until it had a walled circumference of 9 miles. The part which Robert Cecil developed is now expected, under the Broxbourne Local Plan, to become a commercial or industrial park. Dr Martin Dearne will take us round the site of Lord Burghley's Theobalds, now Cedars Park, where archaeological investigation has uncovered many of the features in the original descriptions.



Seat in Sherrardspark Wood

A Walk around Sherrardspark Wood and

Digswell Park, Welwyn Garden City

Monday 13th July 11 – 13.00

Meet at Rectory Lane car park

Walk to be led by Liz Carlin

The historic rides in Sherrardspark Wood were designed by Capability Brown, who also planted Temple Wood. Digswell Place, formerly the Rectory, is connected to Digswell House and Park by the historic Monks Walk lined with mature beech. Digswell Park which surrounds the house lies mainly in the valley, scooped out by Brown and containing Brownian/Reptonian clumps of trees. This runs west to east on the south of the house and down to the lake, influenced by Repton, which is now separated from the park by a main road. St John's Church, the core of which dates from 1200, stands beside the 18th century house and the grounds are now used as an urban open space and cricket and bowls club. Digswell Lake Society will allow access to the lake, which is not generally open to the public.

Other Events



'High Leigh Estate', Hoddesdon

High Leigh Estate, Hoddesdon

A talk and guided walk - £5.00

Monday 6th July, 2 - 4 pm

Walk to be led by Tina Rowland

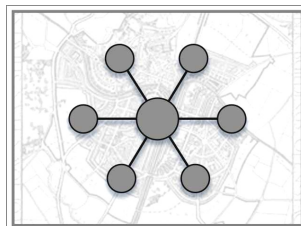
This is an opportunity to learn about the history and development of the gardens and park land of the former High Leigh estate, including what is now Barclay Park. The site has been described as "probably one of the best, if not the best Pulham site in Hertfordshire", as it contains a range of features believed to have been supplied by the Pulham company, all of which still survive.

The afternoon includes an illustrated history talk followed by a guided walk in the gardens and grounds to view the Pulham features. Tea and coffee will then be available in the Conference Centre followed by an optional walk across farmland to see the Pulham bridges in Barclay Park.

Please be aware that the guided walk involves steep steps in the gardens and walking across rough farmland to Barclay Park. Cost is £5 per person. Booking is essential. Please book using the enclosed flyer. **Enquiries: trt.oakhouse@btinternet.com**



Welwyn Garden City 100
The Gardens Trust Study Day
United Reform Church AL8 6PS
Saturday 25th July, 10.00 - 16.30
£45.00 (member rate)



The study day will look at all aspects of this pioneering city and the ideas which influenced developments in the UK and abroad. Morning session of lectures chaired by Dr Sarah Rutherford, author of 'Garden Cities' in the Shire Books series. Speakers:

Kate Harwood: The area before 1919, including the work of Brown & Repton.

Annabel Downs: Development of WGC from 1919 to the 1950s.

Claire de Carle: Review of changes from 1950s to the Millennium.

Shaun O'Reilly: The local plan and development pressures for WGC.

After a sandwich lunch there will be a walking tour led by members of HGT focusing on the centre of the town where Raymond Unwin's Garden City and de Soissons' 'City Beautiful' design concepts can be viewed, followed by tea and cake at the church.

Bookings via GT website:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/welwyn-garden-city-100-a-study-organised-by-the-gardens-trust-tickets-90591691187>



Talks/walks on Heritage Open Days

Sept 12 Panshanger - Kate Harwood

Sept 14 Amersfort (Berkhamsted) - Kate Harwood

Sept 15 & 18 Hemel Water Gardens - Kate Harwood

Heritage Open Days is England's largest festival of history and culture, bringing together over 2,000 organisations, 5,500 events and 46,000 volunteers. Established in 1994, Heritage Open Days is England's contribution to the European Heritage Days and has since grown into the country's largest community heritage festival. Every year in September, places across the country throw open their doors to celebrate their heritage, community and history. It's your chance to see hidden places and try out new experiences – all for free. Heritage Open Days 2020 will be 11-20 September.

Queries to hertstalks@gmail.com

Bookings from June:

<https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/visiting>

Hertfordshire Gardens Trust AGM 2020

This year's AGM will be held on Thursday 9th July, 2020 at Benington Lordship, Nr Stevenage, Herts, SG2 7BS, by kind invitation of Richard and Susannah Bott.

The garden will be open from 6pm when a glass of wine will be served. The meeting will start at 7.30 pm and members are invited to stay for picnics – please bring tables and chairs (umbrellas if wet). A copy of the examined accounts will be published on the HGT website.

Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Apologies for absence
3. To approve the Minutes of the AGM of 11th July 2019
4. Matters arising from the Minutes
5. The Chairman's Report
6. The Hon. Treasurer's Report and approval of the Annual Accounts for 2019/2020
7. Election of members of the Executive Committee
8. Any Other Business

Committee vacancies

Nominations are invited for the posts of i) HGT Chair and ii) HGT Membership Secretary, and the committee would also welcome interest from other potential committee members.

i) The HGT Chair represents HGT within the national framework of the Gardens Trust, and with the support of the Committee co-ordinates HGT's local activity, chairing HGT committee meetings three times a year and the annual general meeting in July.

ii) The HGT Membership Secretary receives applications for membership, maintains a database of members and ensures that annual subscriptions are up to date.

To discuss either of these roles, or to register a general interest in joining the committee, please contact chair@hertsgardenstrust.org.uk

Nominations should be submitted on the enclosed form by 18th June 2020.

From the Membership Secretary, John Craggs

The due date for subscriptions (£30 joint membership, £20 individual) is 1st April 2020. Please pay by Standing Order if possible to reduce administrative costs. A form is available from the Membership Secretary. If paying by cheque please send it to Membership Secretary, Mead House, Bromley Lane, Wellpond Green, Ware SG11 1NW. For members who joined in 2020 subscriptions are due in 2021. Please notify post or email address changes to membership@hertsgardenstrust.org.uk

Hertfordshire Gardens Trust

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Vice-Presidents

Richard Walduck OBE, DL Christopher Melliush

Vice Chairman

Bella Stuart-Smith

Honorary Treasurer

Sally Pool

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Anne Rowe

Conservation Team Co-ordinator

Kate Harwood

Schools Co-ordinator

Bella Stuart-Smith

Website Manager/Membership Secretary

John Craggs

Newsletter Team

Deborah Spring Torsten Moller

Executive Committee

| | | |
|--------------|------------------|--------------------|
| Liz Carlin | Sonja Fillingham | Sally Pool |
| John Craggs | Kate Harwood | Deborah Spring |
| Penny Figgis | Anne Mitcheson | Bella Stuart-Smith |

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*William Townsend's Gothic Pavilion, Shotover.
Photo by Alison Moller.*



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