



Hertfordshire Gardens Trust
Spring Newsletter 2021
30th Anniversary Edition

Highlights - The HGT Timeline

1991 - 2000

1991 HGT is launched with an Inaugural Meeting at County Hall on 8 May : Chairman, Joan Stuart-Smith; President, Lady Verulam. The Trust is run from County Hall by Ann Mallinson, whose post of Business Advisor is funded by Hertfordshire County Council. 100 members join.

1992 A group of volunteer researchers, led by Lindi Lee, are trained by county archivist Sue Flood. Restoration projects begin at Wall Hall, Temple Dinsley, Amwell Pond, Putteridge Bury and All Saints Pastoral Centre, London Colney. After work by HGT, Temple Dinsley (Princess Helena College) is granted Grade II status by English Heritage – our first success.

1993 Wall Hall is the second garden restoration project to be celebrated. Membership increases to 300.

1994 The Ermine Street Project, directed by Richard Bisgrove, University of Reading, is launched, and the restoration of gardens at Putteridge Bury and All Saints Pastoral Centre celebrated. Work begins on a garden for people with disabilities at the Woodside Centre, Welwyn Garden City.

1995 HGT commissions surveys for the restoration of the Deanery Garden, St Albans, and into important garden earthworks discovered by Patience Bagenal in Grotto Wood, Roxford. Dr Tom Williamson appears on the HGT scene with a Haileybury Christmas Lecture: 'one of the most enjoyable and interesting...ever given'.

1996 John Phibbs is commissioned to research a Jekyll garden at Haresfoot, Berkhamsted. HGT publishes *Hertfordshire Gardens on Ermine Street*, identifying 109 sites in parishes bordering the A10, and deposits research materials in the Hertfordshire Archives.

The first School Grounds Competition gets under way, and HGT teams up with Robert Harkness & Co and Strutt & Parker to run a Hertfordshire Country Garden competition.

1997 Christopher Melluish takes over as Chairman. HGT becomes actively involved with the Garden History Society, a statutory consultee, to protect Goldings, Digswell House, Bayfordbury and Moor Park from damaging development. The West Herts research project is launched, under the direction of Dr Tom Williamson and Lindi Lee, while HGT volunteers help restore the Jekyll gardens at Haresfoot.

1998 Anne Rowe takes over as Research Group Co-ordinator. HGT's volunteers keep busy with research and restoration work.

1999 A ten-week course, Hertfordshire's Garden Heritage, is led by Anne Rowe at Much Hadham Village Hall. Awards 2000 for schools is launched, with a video filmed in Hertfordshire schools during 1998, and the BBC's Gardeners' Question Time experts form a panel for HGT's own fundraising GQT at County Hall.

2000 Over 100 teachers attend the prize-giving ceremony for Awards 2000. HGT launches two publications, Patience Bagenal's booklet *Hertfordbury Park and its links with the*

Bayfordbury Estate, and The Parks and Gardens of West Hertfordshire by Tom Williamson, the outcome of research by 30 volunteers into 43 sites. With HGT's help, Wall Hall is added to the English Heritage Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest. Anne MacDonald designs a sensory garden for people with learning difficulties at Crosby Close, St Albans.

2001 - 2010

2001 As a result of Patience Bagenal's work, Grotto Wood is scheduled as an Ancient Monument. HGT funds planting plan proposals for Ashwell Village Garden, and In Service Training (INSET) days for primary school teachers are piloted at Benington Lordship.

2002 INSET days continue, proving very popular, and the schools video is updated. HGT joins the management group for Panshanger.

2003 The focus on young people continues, as more INSET days are held, and HGT runs a training day on garden making at Benington Lordship for senior staff from Herts Children's Homes.

2004 Training begins for seven conservation volunteers, with landscape historian Anthea Taigel. The final INSET day is held at Benington Lordship, and the Children's Homes staff and children present ideas for their gardens, supported by the HGT Schools Team.

2005 Illustrated and bound research reports on 23 sites are presented to HALS at the conclusion of the Mid-Herts Project, and research begins on sites in East Herts. The Conservation Team starts work, based at Ashridge with six case officers co-ordinated by Kate Harwood. HGT contributes to an assessment of Bushey Rose Garden for repair and restoration with a Heritage Lottery Fund grant. *A History of Knebworth's Parks* booklet is published.

2006 The Conservation Team is awarded a grant from English Heritage to help fund Conservation Gazetteers (Local Lists) for each of 10 local authorities, the Local List for St Albans is completed, and Kate Harwood runs a conservation seminar about golf in historic parks at Brocket Hall. A new programme for schools is launched with Bella Stuart-Smith as Schools Link Officer, and HGT hosts a study day for Gardens Trust education reps to share ideas and expertise. The Research Group completes a survey of garden earthworks at Standon Lordship, and maps surviving garden features at Panshanger.

2007 The Wheelbarrow Workshops for schools are launched: 40 workshops are delivered to up to 1000 children in 30 primary schools by May 2008. The Research Group surveys important garden earthworks in Benington Park and the group's book *Hertfordshire Garden History: A miscellany*, published by Hertfordshire University Press, proves a best-seller.

2008 HGT acquires a website, and the School Grounds Awards Scheme is launched to help primary schools with gardening projects. A total of 74 Wheelbarrow Workshops have been delivered, to 53 schools.

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Inside front and back covers: HGT Timeline compiled by Anne Rowe

Front cover: *The Panshanger Oak at present.*

Back cover: *The Panshanger Oak, Engraving by Thomas Medland, 1814.*

<https://www.british-towns.net/album/collection/general/location-images/panshanger-oak>

From the President

A thirtieth anniversary concentrates the mind, it is an achievement in itself to have grown into an old and established charity. Who would have thought that from such humble and tentative beginnings, the HGT has grown and flourished. As we gathered for that first meeting no one could have imagined the successes which were to follow. The thirty-year history of the HGT is inspiring. Through research, understanding has been gained and discoveries made, and through skilful lobbying conservation has been made possible. Just think how many children have been introduced to the joys of growing plants through the Wheelbarrow Workshops. There is much more besides and the HGT timeline makes for a splendid read.

In addition, the members have enjoyed each other's company, excellent lectures and fun educational outings.

Bravo, to all who have made these wondrous things happen.

Bione Venlam .



Lady Verulam plants the final tree to celebrate the restoration of the rond-point at Tring Park

Thirty Years of the Hertfordshire Gardens Trust

Susan Flood, Chair



The Hertfordshire Gardens Trust (HGT) was officially inaugurated at County Hall, Hertford on 8 May 1991. With sound advice from Mrs Gilly Drummond of the Hampshire Gardens Trust, the HGT joined 19 others across the country aiming ‘to preserve the remnants of historic landscape in urban areas and to promote designed landscape on the urban fringe’. With an initial grant from

Hertfordshire County Council the Trust set about advising and supporting the restoration of historic designed gardens in the county. Temple Dinsley (The Princess Helena College), Putteridge Bury and Hadham Hall were notable early projects all aided by ‘tact, persuasion and good research’.

In those early years, the Trust received further support from the County Council in the form of office space at County Hall and a paid employee (Ann Mallinson) to help with administration, advocacy and fund raising. A precedent for such support had already been set by the County Council with regard to the Hertfordshire Buildings Preservation Trust, founded in 1963. The HGT was officially given charitable status in March 1992 and the objects of the Trust were formally to be:

- to promote the education of the public in the arts, crafts, sciences and all other matters connected with designed landscapes;
- to promote the appropriate action for any or all of the following: the restoration, enhancement, preservation, conservation, protection and understanding of designed landscapes that may exist or have existed within and around the county boundary of Hertfordshire.

From the very beginning, HGT set out to promote education in gardens and related topics. Research into the history of sites of special interest was fundamental to their preservation and conservation. The outstanding collections of maps and estate records held at the County Record Office at County Hall would be needed to facilitate and encourage this. The first training session for volunteer researchers was held at the Record Office in 1992 and meetings and training sessions have taken place there regularly ever since.

As a young archivist at the Record Office, I was always an enthusiastic promoter of the Record Office collections, but it was the knowledge and determination of Anne Rowe (herself a County Council employee in the early days), Tom Williamson and all members of the HGT Research Group, both past and present, who showed that there was so much more to learn about the landscape of Hertfordshire than ‘the remnants of historic landscape in urban areas’.

In a county such as Hertfordshire, located on the northern boundary of London, and continually under pressure from development their work is just as relevant today. Recent successes such as the preservation of the Broadwater at Panshanger and the discovery of Henry VIII’s ponds at

Hunsdon show that the expertise of the Research Group continues to bear fruit. Their detailed Research Reports compiled for each individual site can be consulted at the County Record Office, now known as Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies (HALS).

The work HGT has accomplished with schools is detailed elsewhere in this newsletter. From the very beginning the Trust has organised walks and visits for the benefit of its members, often accompanied by picnics or lunch. We are all looking forward to experiencing once again the convivial social interaction denied to us since March 2020. In recent years garden visits have been ably organised by a small group led by Sonja Fillingham, a member of the Trust since its inception.

It was inevitable as time went on that HGT would begin to publish the results of its research work, and details of our HGT publications can also be found below. It was an honour and a privilege for me to work with Tom Williamson on editing our volume *Humphry Repton in Hertfordshire*, published in 2018 to mark the bicentenary of Repton's death.

The initial support from Hertfordshire County Council was invaluable in setting the Trust on a sure footing – the number of members tripled in two years and has remained constant ever since. However, by the 21st century county councils were evaluating their finances and it was inevitable that their financial support could not continue. However, the Trust was already financially secure, and generous donations in recent years and the financial contributions of its members means that the Trust's work can continue indefinitely.

Constant vigilance with regard to planning applications (detailed elsewhere in this Newsletter) is needed now more than ever. The new planning regulations proposed by the government in 2020 may mean there will be continued threats to Hertfordshire's historic buildings and landscape. HGT's continued links with The Gardens Trust, Historic England and concerned local pressure groups is to be welcomed and maintained.

Almost eighteen months of lockdowns due to the continuing Covid pandemic has led many people to re-evaluate their surroundings. Television programmes and magazine articles have drawn attention to the mindful effects of gardening and green spaces and the healing qualities of fresh air and exercise. The Trust should be aware of this and begin to commit itself to appropriate community projects – the restoration of the Jellicoe Water Gardens in Hemel Hempstead and the volunteer projects flourishing there because of this is a wonderful example.

I am so grateful to Trust members for helping me along the way, as I began my term as Chair of HGT in this most difficult year. Thirty years is a fabulous milestone in the life of any organisation, and we intend to celebrate in style by holding the Gedye Lecture at Knebworth House on 22 September 2021. Keep the date free in your diaries. There is every reason to believe that the next 30 years (and beyond) will be just as productive for the Hertfordshire Gardens Trust.

Thirty Years of Research and Discoveries

Anne Rowe

'The Miss Marple of Garden History' *

In 1993 two pages of a journal written in the mid-18th century fell out of an old book. The journal entry, describing a visit 'to Mr Brasse's at Rockford to see the Grotto, etc.', was brought to the attention of Patience Bagenal, one of the HGT's volunteer researchers, and was to lead to our first major discovery. Patience lived near a house called Roxford, south of Hertingfordbury, and she soon realised that the nearby Grotto Wood, where she had skated on a frozen pond decades before, was the site of the remarkable garden and grotto described in the journal. Her research uncovered further information from the 18th century and the Hertfordshire Gardens Trust commissioned archaeologist Christopher Currie to survey the humps and bumps in Grotto Wood, revealing the layout of the garden. Like much of the surrounding land, the wood was owned by a gravel company and was due to be felled and turned into a gravel pit. Thanks to Dr Currie's authoritative description of the garden earthworks and to some relentless lobbying by Patience, Grotto Wood was granted Scheduled Monument status in 2002. Patience died in 2014 but the garden earthworks in Grotto Wood are part of her legacy that lives on.

During those early years the Research Group was led by Lindi Lea, who kept us motivated with regular invitations to her home for a delicious Group lunch. Our first project focused on the parishes bordering Ermine Street, better known today as the A10, guided and written up by Dr Richard Bisgrove of Reading University. Among the many sites researched was Hamels near Braughing where parchmarks crossing the golf course in the drought of 1995 were found to reveal elaborate gardens portrayed on an engraving from 1722.

In 1997 Ann Mallinson and Lindi invited Dr Tom Williamson of the University of East Anglia, who proved to be an inspired choice, to direct our next project – examining the area west of the M1. Thirty volunteers and a fruitful collaboration with the Berkhamsted & District Local History Society resulted in research on 43 sites. A final celebration lunch at Lindi's in March 2000 marked the end of the project, which resulted in our book *The Parks and Gardens of West Hertfordshire* written by Tom. Co-ordination of the Research volunteers passed from Lindi's capable hands into mine for the next project which focused on Mid-Herts. As I am a reluctant socialite and even more reluctant cook, legendary lunches became a thing of the past but the Group nevertheless soldiered on. Over the next four years we compiled 23 fully illustrated reports detailing the histories of individual historic parks and/or gardens. Bound in distinctive covers, commissioned by Ann Mallinson, the site reports were presented to County Archivist Sue Flood at HALS in March 2005 during a celebratory reception attended by researchers, chairman Christopher Melliush and Tom Williamson. Those reports were the start of an ever-growing collection, currently covering 60 sites, in the Garden History section of the Local Studies Library at County Hall. The celebration gathering to mark the end of the next – East Herts – project in 2009 was held at Woolmer Green

* see 'The HGT Timeline' entry for 2009 on inside back cover

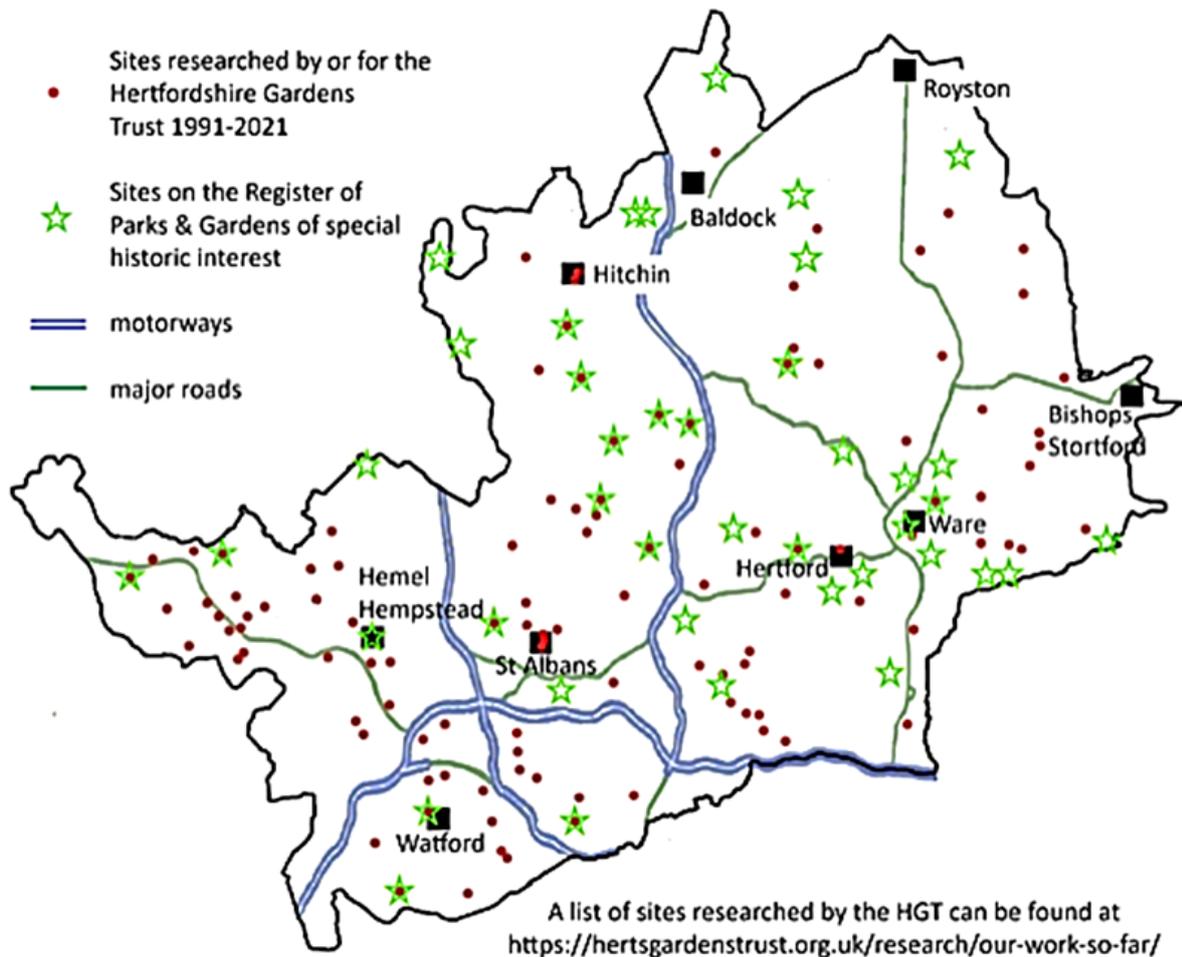
Village Hall. Led by the now Professor Tom Williamson, we enjoyed a day of talks and discussion with a buffet lunch comprising food contributed by the members of the Research Group themselves. This was so successful that we have held ‘Seminar & Soup’ events for researchers at Woolmer Green ever since. Delicious lunches once more became a feature of Research Group proceedings, so much so that most people refer to them as ‘Soup & Seminar’ meetings.

Visiting the sites of historic parks and gardens has been an important element of our research. Some of these visits have provided training opportunities for Group members. At King’s Walden Bury we surveyed earthworks of the farming landscape preserved within the 17th-century parkland. We surveyed extensive garden earthworks dating from the 16th century at Standon Lordship. At Panshanger we recorded surviving features of the 19th- early 20th century gardens. At Benington Park we surveyed the magnificent terraced gardens dating from the early 17th century. We researched the enigmatic 16th- 17th century gardens at Stanstead Bury, and at Gobions Wood, over the course of several visits, we surveyed the earthwork remains of the famous gardens created c.1720 by Charles Bridgeman.



'A Perspective View of the Bowling Green at Gubbins In Hertfordshire'

Many other important discoveries have been made by HGT researchers over the past thirty years, either in a variety of archives or on the ground. Highlights include the remains of an 18th-century ornamental canal in the former gardens of Blakesware by Sue Staniforth; aerial photos revealing evidence of the gardens designed by Charles Bridgeman at Sacombe Bury in 1715 plus the earthwork remains of his amphitheatre there, by Jenny Milledge; new documentary evidence of the work of Capability Brown at Cole Green by Helen Leiper; huge earthwork dams and water channels hidden in woodland in the former Popes Park at Hatfield which match the water garden portrayed on an 18th- century map at Hatfield House; a large, dirty and miscatalogued plan in the Bodleian Library which I identified as Charles Bridgeman’s plan for Gobions; two banks of a very big, late 16th century, square pond created in Lord Burghley’s Theobalds Park, spotted on an aerial photograph; a spectacular Bridgeman *rond-point* hidden in undergrowth on the Chiltern escarpment in Tring Park; Humphry Repton’s red book for Wood Hill in the Sir John Soane Museum,



found by Monica Jordan; a series of dams, spotted on a LiDAR image, which correlate with royal accounts from c.1530 when ponds were created for Henry VIII's palace at Hunsdon (the research for which resulted in the dams becoming a Scheduled Monument in 2018); and new documentary evidence that Repton was on-site in Panshanger Park in 1800, supervising the creation of the Broadwater lake.

These discoveries, along with a great deal of detailed research into dozens of other historic gardens and parks, have all added enormously to our knowledge of Hertfordshire's heritage and have helped to protect some of the most important sites from destruction (be it unwitting or deliberate) or unsympathetic development. All the volunteers contributing to this impressive body of work have, like Patience, left a legacy for future generations to enjoy and learn from.



Enjoying the restored view at Tring Park ...



... in style.

The Research Group and Me

Tom Williamson

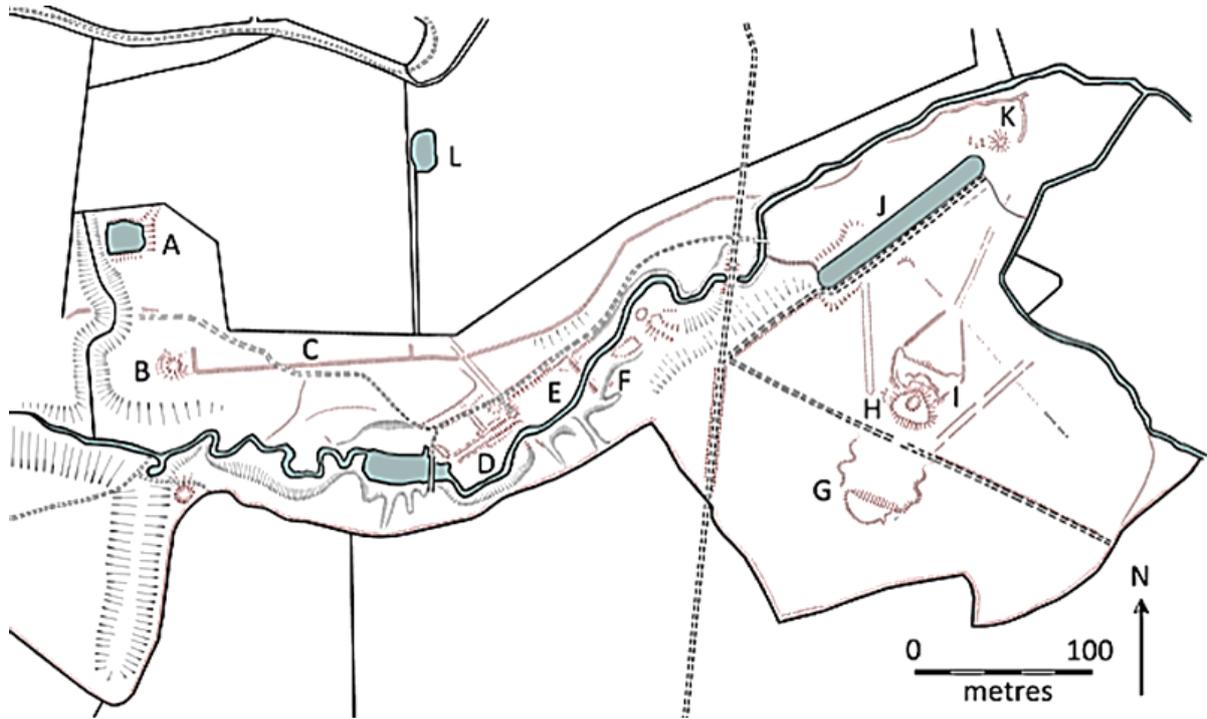
It seems a very long time since 1996, when Ann Mallinson and Lindi Lea came to visit me at the University of East Anglia to invite me to become involved in the work of the Hertfordshire Gardens Trust research group. I was delighted to receive the invitation. Although an archaeologist and landscape historian by training, I had over the previous few years become increasingly involved in the study of parks and gardens and had recently completed a survey of landscape parks in Norfolk. I was keen to have a different county with which to compare the results, so the timing was perfect. But in addition, I had been brought up in Hertfordshire – in Watford or, as my mother always insisted, Bushey. The suburbs, and pockets of countryside, around our family home were littered with country houses – either extant if usually converted to new uses, or demolished – and with their grounds intact and decaying, or surviving only as fragments. As a child, they had been amongst my favourite playgrounds.

It was therefore particularly fitting that the first HGT research project that I became involved in was the survey of parks and gardens in west Hertfordshire. I worked for a time with Lindi, but soon Anne Rowe took over (we had in fact first met several years earlier, when I was external examiner for her Master of Studies at Cambridge University, and had immediately recognised her as a kindred spirit). My job was to provide advice and to turn all the wonderful reports compiled by members of the group into a book, *The Parks and Gardens of West Hertfordshire*, which was published by the Trust in 2000. Already I was impressed by the quality of the research carried out both by members still active, like Lottie Clarke and Diana Kingham, and by those who have sadly gone, such as Roger Beament and Alan Fletcher. The work of the latter on Tring Park was the start of the Trust's long, and successful, involvement with one of the county's most important designed landscapes.

Since the publication of *West Hertfordshire* – over a period of 21 years – the extent of my involvement in the work of the research group has fluctuated. For long periods I contributed little, other than attend some meetings and provide talks and advice as requested. Although I wrote chapters for the two marvellous *Hertfordshire Garden Histories* produced by the group in 2007 and 2012, for example – edited by Rowe, and Deborah Spring, respectively – I played no part in their production. But such periods would be interspersed with more activity, especially in the field. I have particularly happy memories of surveying with volunteers the park at King's Walden Bury, and of recording the earthworks of early geometric gardens at Standon Lordship and Benington. The latter remains vivid in my mind because we were accompanied in our work by my old PhD supervisor, the great landscape historian and garden archaeologist Chris Taylor.

An account of the earthworks at Benington – a huge terraced garden of seventeenth-century date – was published in an article in the journal *Landscape History* in 2011. The HGT survey of the much larger, more complex and more important site of Gobions near Brookmans Park has not yet appeared in print, although an account of its history, based largely on Anne Rowe's chance

discovery of Bridgeman's original design for the site, has been published. The earthworks, preserved in woodland managed by the Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust, are amazing, but (as those involved will remember) not easy to survey, covering as they do a vast area of often overgrown ground!! Numerous repeat visits had to be made but the effort was well worth it. A full account will appear soon but, for those who have been wondering what became of all their hard work, the final plan is reproduced below.



Plan of Earthworks at Gobions

The run-up to the bicentenary of Humphry Repton's death in 2018 both initiated a period of particularly regular involvement with the research group and produced – to my mind – its finest work. Things began with the important conference, organised by Kate Harwood and Toby Parker, at Haileybury College in 2015; but activity intensified over the next few years as group members undertook a programme of intensive research on Repton's gardens and landscapes in Hertfordshire. The work of Kate Banister, Liz Carlin, Diana Kingham, Alison Moller, Toby Parker, Sally Pearson, Alison Robinson, Anne Shellim, John Sloan, Monica Stenning, David Willis, and others cast a mass of new light on the subject. A decision was taken to produce a volume which not only presented the results of this research but also reproduced the key documentary sources on which it was based, and in particular the full text and all the watercolours from seven Red Books which Repton prepared for Hertfordshire clients. The volume was edited by myself and Sue Flood and was published by the University of Hertfordshire Press in 2018. It is a book of which I am inordinately proud, in part because of the quality of the research it contains but also because it looks so beautiful. If you do not have a copy, you should have! Working on this project transformed my own understanding of Repton in innumerable ways, something for which I will always be grateful.

Indeed, in many ways I have benefitted from working with the research group more than they have benefitted from any contact with me. Members – including Deborah Spring, Jenny Millege, Elizabeth Waugh and Julia Merrick – greatly assisted in the recent study of orchards in eastern England, based at UEA, thus helping to conserve an important part of the county’s heritage closely related to its gardens. I have worked, and continue to work, closely with Anne Rowe on a range of projects (not all to do with gardens); I am currently involved in editing William Wilshire’s early nineteenth-century farm and garden accounts and notebooks with another old Hertfordshire friend, Bridget Howlett; while Tosh Moller’s research (published in the journal *Landscapes*) has changed my views on how we date trees. Lots of people have taken me to interesting sites – a wonderful day with John Sloan at High Canons springs to mind. I have even gained a research student from the group, Mick Thompson, whose thesis will revolutionise our understanding of Repton’s work (in addition to having a title, ‘Repton and the Architects’, strangely reminiscent of a 1970s punk-rock band). I could list more names but space is limited. The individuals concerned will know who they are.

Perhaps the best thing about the Hertfordshire Gardens Trust is the way in which its research contributes directly to its conservation activities, thanks to the work, in particular, of Anne Rowe and Kate Harwood. The individual site reports, lodged with the relevant planning authorities, serve as powerful markers of what is worthy of preservation in a county threatened, more than most, by large-scale development. Long may both aspects of the Trust’s work continue to flourish. And long may you allow me to be involved in it.



Tom leads a survey in Gobions wood

Learning about Historic Parks and Landscapes

Liz Carlin

Hertfordshire Gardens Trust is an educational charity, and one of its four objectives is educating for the future through garden history courses, study days and encouraging school gardening projects.

In October 2010, I attended a course called *the History of Hertfordshire Parks and Gardens* at Woolmer Green Village Hall. It was my first introduction to the Hertfordshire Gardens Trust, and it was delivered by four extremely knowledgeable women: Kate Harwood who co-ordinated the course, Jenny Milledge, Anne Rowe and Kate Banister. It was right up my street and I signed up as a member and researcher at the last meeting. I was hooked.

Right from the early days (1992), members were offered training in research techniques and in conservation (2004) and stand-alone lectures with wine and cheese were offered. For those with a more general interest in garden history, courses for the general membership began in 1999, with Anne Rowe running the 10-week course on *Hertfordshire's Garden Heritage* at Much Hadham, repeated in 2000 in Datchworth.

Kate Harwood and Anne Rowe were the main inspiration behind the development of courses that attracted researchers and the general membership alike. Always fully subscribed, they were helpful in underpinning the work of researchers, interesting the members generally in the subject, and the importance of conservation of our valuable heritage.

From 2011 onwards courses became an annual event. As well as concentrating on particular periods and aspects of the parks and gardens, they incorporated appropriate site visits, often with input from local experts. In 2011 Anne and Kate provided a series of walks and talks as part of HGT's 20th anniversary celebrations and the following year Kate took us to Wrest Park, a visit that had to be repeated as demand was so high. Those attending were provided with a pack of historic illustrations and photos and such walks to gardens of specific interest became a pattern for future activity.

The annual spring courses run by Kate became a regular feature. These were 6 weeks of 2-hour weekly sessions. In 2014 *Trees and Treemongers* was the subject, in 2018 *Victorian gardens, Pteridomania, Pineta and Public Parks* and in 2019 *Arts and Crafts Gardens*. A course planned for 2020 on *Horticultural Ladies* was to be another development with students each taking responsibility for researching a 'lady' of their choice. Sadly, this was not able to run 'in real life' due to the pandemic, but a selection of talks was provided virtually.

In 2018 a programme of winter talks and summer walks was initiated. The talks were all held at Woolmer Green Village Hall and covered varying aspects of garden history e.g., Tudor Parks, Georgian Gardens, and Band Stands and were presented either by our own experts or those from other areas. A series of talks given by Head Gardeners planned for 2020/21 was put on hold, and we are hoping it is just postponed. Each summer from 2018, three or four guided walks were arranged, run by members e.g., to Wimpole Hall by Alison Moller, to High Leigh at Hoddesdon by Tina Rowland, the Inns of Court by Deborah Spring, and around London High walk in the City of London with Kate Harwood. All the walks and talks were well attended and are only brought to a temporary halt by the pandemic. In fact, the 2020/21 talks have proceeded by Zoom.

Study Days have become an addition to the educational strand of the work of the Trust. These are valuable not just for the subject matter and information but also for meeting people from outside the immediate region, sharing experience and networking. These have always been popular and full, with people from across the county attending. A Repton day at Haileybury was, excellent, with the proceedings of the day being published and the Jellicoe Study day at Lockers Park led to the restoration of the Water Garden at Hemel Hempstead, Jellicoe's valuable work of art.

The 2016 Capability Men at Woodhall (Heathmount School) was particularly stimulating with Kate, Jenny Milledge and Ralph Abel Smith bussing people out into the landscape after illuminating presentations and lunch.

The Trust also has striven to educate and help local authorities, owners and managers of sites in their care through talks and presentations. The wider public has been offered the fruits of the research through publications beginning with *Hertfordshire Gardens on Ermine Street* in 1996. The Hertfordshire University Press has published several books arising from HGT research: two collections of garden history from the research group, a magnificently illustrated book to celebrate the Repton centenary, to which many members contributed research on Hertfordshire sites on which he worked, and also works of scholarship by Anne Rowe and Tom Williamson.

The reports based on individual research into sites of interest throughout Hertfordshire are lodged in the Local Studies Library at HALS and available to all to read. The wider public was offered beautifully illustrated leaflets on self-guided walks at sites worked on by, or in the style of, Capability Brown and an informative exhibition was held in the Maynard Gallery at Campus West in Welwyn Garden City, all to celebrate his 300th anniversary.

We hope that there will be scope to continue with this work and build on the achievements of the last thirty years as we face an uncertain future. When we can, we will, and in the meantime keep reading, learning, researching - and zooming.

The Schools Project

Bella Stuart-Smith



Early days at HGT were characterised by setting up essential aspects of work – research was key, growing members and communicating with them a close second but education in its broadest sense and work with schools in particular wasn't far behind. The influence of Gilly Drummond from Hampshire Gardens Trust was never far away. They had done pioneering work with schools, so it is not surprising to find that Hertfordshire followed suit.

1996 saw the beginning of a school grounds competition followed the subsequent year with an expansion into special schools. This gave those involved the confidence to produce a video which showcased what could be done in Hertfordshire school grounds and led to the launch of an altogether bigger Award Scheme to mark the millennium in 2000. Over 100 staff from participating schools attended the Awards prize giving. Entries covered both secondary and primary schools, which was a real achievement as engaging with secondary schools given curriculum constraints is always challenging. Sponsorship had secured some wonderful prizes including sending staff and pupils off to The Eden Project in Cornwall, which was probably the irresistible bait.

2001 saw a slight change of direction to focus on the training of staff to deliver gardening in schools. Continuing Professional Development days for primary school staff were trialled at Benington Lordship, with workshops led by Dr Sue Johnston from the RHS and they proved very successful. By 2003 these had branched out to include staff in care homes. None of this would have been possible without the support of Hertfordshire County Council and in particular John Proctor from the Children, Schools and Families Department.

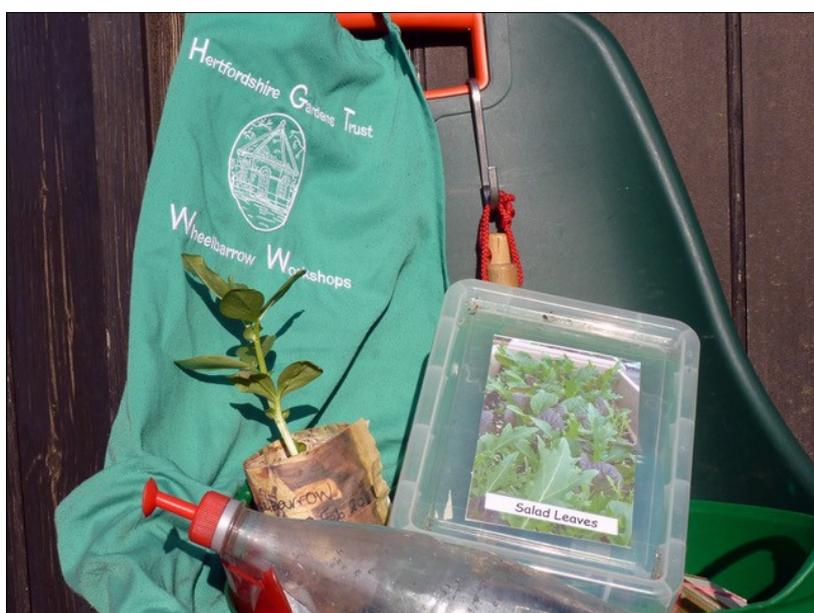
Funding by local government was never going to last and by 2004, with budgets squeezed at every level, it was time for a rethink. The first initiative was a questionnaire sent to all those staff who had attended training days to find out whether they had gone on to introduce gardens in schools and whether they were using gardening to deliver the curriculum. The results were illuminating. Very few had followed up, usually citing lack of knowledge on the part of the teachers, key staff leaving, with very few from the cohort who had attended the training achieving any school gardening. It required committed players – head, staff, governors or parents to drive gardening in schools forward. Often it took a combination of all of these to actually get things done.

What now? It was imperative to impart knowledge and build confidence about gardening and basic plant knowledge in schools, so information sheets originally written by Wiltshire Gardens Trust were adapted and made available to all primary schools. By 2007 Wheelbarrow Workshops were launched. This was a classroom workshop introducing children (and staff) to Key Stage 2 Science plant knowledge and failsafe growing techniques with minimum expense and using in the main recycled material. Every child learnt how to make a pot out of newspaper and grew a bean. They chitted potatoes in season and sprouted seeds, sowed and transplanted tomatoes, grew rocket and cut and come-again salads. It caught the imagination of both the staff and pupils.

It would never have got off the ground without experienced educational support which came from Virginia Corbett. She thoughtfully planned content and got those of us who were not already trained teachers controlling classrooms of 30-plus noisy and enthusiastic primary school children working with water and compost! The programme was all delivered by a team of wonderful volunteer Mrs Wheelbarrows who enthusiastically inspired countless primary school children and staff to engage in what was for many their first experience of growing edible plants successfully and learning some plant science incidentally.

In the first year Wheelbarrow Workshops delivered 40 workshops and reached over 1000 children. The numbers grew and by necessity so did the number of volunteers. The workshops had to fit the growing year. This was fine-tuned to run from February half-term to May for optimum growing and harvesting within the school year. Timetabling was complicated as it had to match volunteers to the schools who requested workshops in a location that didn't require the volunteers to travel long distances across the county at rush hour.

In 2011 the Wheelbarrow Workshops had a stand at the Hertfordshire County Show for two days which was a once-only experiment. We parked a wheelbarrow in the middle of the showground as our advertising and waited for the rush to arrive at the stall. It was a bit like being a theatre producer enticing punters to a fringe show. Once you got one family you tend to get more. We



Wheelbarrow Workshop Scheme

were either twiddling our thumbs or totally overwhelmed with children scrabbling around in compost and having a riot. We certainly had no time to count the number of visitors we had.

From 2008 until they had run their course in 2015, the Mrs Wheelbarrow team visited 174 different primary schools across the county. They delivered 510 workshops and reached a staggering 15,300 children which was really rather a remarkable achievement. It wouldn't have been possible without their enthusiasm, energy and determination to make it really fun for the children and adults alike. Along the way we also experienced some of the very best of our county schools and those up against it in some of our most socially challenging areas. As is often the way with volunteering we got every bit as much out of it as we put into it.

Parallel to this was the relaunch of the School Grounds Award in 2008. The initial Award had 44 entries and awards were granted to 16 schools. Rather than a few large grants for major projects we felt smaller amounts of money for larger numbers of schools was a greater incentive to encourage a toe in the water for school gardens. They were popular and kept going until 2015.

This coincided with a real push by the RHS into school gardening. They now have wonderful online curriculum-based resources, and a benchmark scheme for schools to work for. We trialed a CPD day to share the Wheelbarrow Workshop resources with teachers. We didn't feel this was quite the right approach so instead we have tried to amalgamate the Awards Scheme with the Wheelbarrow Workshops to produce a hybrid, the Wheelbarrow Award. The grant comes with expertise to plan and help site a school garden and then workshops with children once the site is built. The take up is modest at present as the scheme is not actively marketed beyond the website.

Over 30 years an immense amount has been achieved in the drive to encourage school gardening and use the grounds for teaching. HGT should be justifiably proud of their innovative approach and success. It could well be time for a new direction again. That requires a new volunteer co-ordinator to drive it forward. Could that person be you?



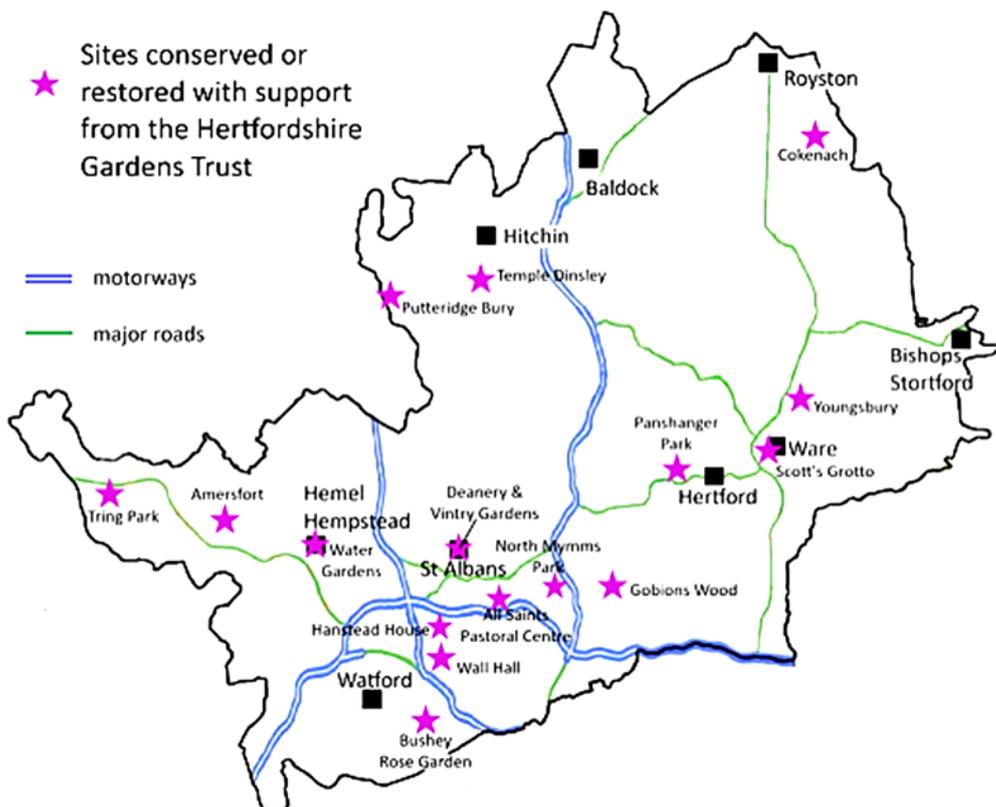
Putting theory into practice

Conservation and Planning in Hertfordshire Gardens Trust

Kate Harwood

There are over 200 historic parks and gardens in Hertfordshire, ranging from the Tudor period to the mid-20th century, and from earthworks to complete designs. They are all at risk from neglect, ignorance, apathy or greed. They are a finite resource which cannot be replaced, and HGT does all it can to help protect them. Some 46 are recognised as of national importance by Historic England and are on their *Register of Parks and Gardens of Historic Interest*. The others are designated ‘of local importance’ but can be added to the *Register* if they fulfil the criteria.

When HGT was founded, there was no Conservation and Planning capacity within the Trust and the Garden History Society (GHS) provided any expertise needed to comment on planning applications, but only those affecting Registered Gardens. By 2004 it was recognised that HGT needed a trained Conservation and Planning capacity and a course, run by Anthea Taigel, GHS Conservation Officer, was set up. Eight volunteers from the Research Group were trained, and formed a group, led by Kate Harwood, which met regularly at Ashridge. One of the first things attempted was trawling the councils’ websites for planning applications for all historic gardens, not just those on the Register and commenting upon them. Viewing the plans once sites were identified, formerly meant travelling to the council offices, from Rickmansworth to Letchworth, until the plans were finally put online.



HGT was funded by English Heritage to produce the pilot for Local Heritage Lists, which was rolled out from 2008. These lists have now become one of the ways in which local heritage sites can be formally identified. The aim is to support the development of Local Plans and as part of the wider range of designation, so that their significance can be taken into account in planning applications affecting the site or its setting.

Detailed investigations started with HGT research reports, augmented by site visits to assess current condition. The first Hertfordshire Local Authority to adopt local listing was Dacorum, with the other eight local authorities following. Some of the LPAs have now adopted these site listings into their Local Plans which gives them some protection under the local policies. HGT is routinely consulted on any sites on these lists.

By 2010 most of the conservation group had moved on, leaving just one member who currently does the Conservation and Planning. Initiatives have included:

- setting up or supporting Friends Groups for particular sites;
- campaigning to restore the Jellicoe Water Gardens at Hemel Hempstead which the council proposed to use as the new site for their council offices;
- engaging in the Local Plan Process which ensures that the sites within an area are as protected as they can be within Local Plan policies;
- engaging in the Neighbourhood Plan process to advise NP groups on heritage issues and to ensure local parks and gardens and their settings are included in the NP;
- engaging with local groups and members of the public to help with advice over planning issues. This has grown considerably over the past few years;
- raising general awareness of our parks and gardens by organising Study Days for the public and running Heritage Open Days in our parks and gardens;
- training the research group and others in garden history, taking different aspects every year over a 6-week course of talks and visits;
- giving talks and walks to various groups such as U3A, WI, horticultural groups, on aspects of garden history or local gardens of interest to them.
- Central Herts Green Corridor Group which works to try to retain the settings of historic sites on the southern edge of Welwyn Garden City, Essendon and northern edge of Hatfield, in danger of losing their settings under development proposals.

The Conservation and Planning Officer works closely with The Gardens Trust, the statutory consultee for Registered Parks and Gardens, commenting on their behalf on all matters pertaining to planning in Hertfordshire, and sits on their national planning committee.



Historic England work closely with HGT in commenting upon planning issues, adding sites to the Register or the Monuments Schedule (for earthworks) and in adding sites to the Heritage at Risk (HAR) register. Hertfordshire has recently had three sites put on the HAR: Briggens, Panshanger and Roxford Grotto Wood. We advise Local Authorities on planning issues regarding historic parks and gardens, the county council on where waste, mineral extraction or roads affect our historic parks and gardens and also comment on national planning white papers.

Hertfordshire is under great development pressure with 83,000 new houses to be built, together with new schools and other infrastructure. Gilston Garden Village in the east of the county accounts for 10,000 of these but other areas, such as Buntingford, north of Stevenage and east of Luton, also have large concentrations projected. HGT is involved in discussions with owners, planners, Historic England and The Georgian Group to protect as much as is possible. Many of these proposals will eat into the Green Belt, bringing communities closer together and destroying local character. We have also been involved in consultations on the new transport strategy for Hertfordshire which threatens some of our historic parks. Urban areas are also affected with housing pressure on the de Soissons designs of Welwyn Garden City.

Other ongoing work includes working with Historic England, the Friends Group and Hertfordshire County Council to restore the heritage aspects of Panshanger Park, which are disappearing due to neglect and inappropriate management.

These challenges will increase with pressure from central government for more housing and transport links. Hertfordshire has largely avoided HS2 disruption but there are threats looming from airport expansion at Luton and Stansted, upgrading of the road system and possible upgrading of railways in the future.

The Gardens Trust

Research, Conserve, Campaign

Alison Moller



In 2015 The Gardens Trust (GT) became the umbrella organization linking the 36 County Gardens Trusts (CGTs). It was formed through a merger of the Association of Gardens Trusts - the original umbrella group for CGTs - and the Garden History Society. This move was not universally popular and led to some heated debates at the Annual Conference in Newcastle that year.

The aim of the newly formed Gardens Trust was to bring together the expertise of a professional staff with volunteers in the counties. It took as its strap line '*Research, Conserve, Campaign*'. Each CGT has a rep who is the voting member for that CGT at all GT AGMs etc. In addition, there may be another member who acts as the central point for communications in each CGT. Kate Harwood fulfils these roles for HGT.

Research The Historic Landscape Project officers organize research training days to train CGT volunteers. Results of research are presented at the New Research Symposium every year at the Annual Conference and published in the peer - reviewed journal *Garden History*.

The main bulk of the research is still done by volunteers in the individual CGTs. For many years in HGT we have been fortunate in having the input of Tom Williamson, Professor of Landscape History at the University of East Anglia, and Dr Anne Rowe, leader of the research group, to direct and encourage this important aspect of the CGT's role.

Conserve The GT is a statutory consultee for any planning application affecting landscapes on the Historic England Register. These are recorded each week on to the Conservation Casework Log, together with the related responses. <https://thegardenstrust.org/conservation/hlp-hub/cgt-guidance/conservation-casework-log/>

However, although the GT's voice may add weight to any objections, it is the CGT's Conservation and Planning Officer's local knowledge, backed by research carried out by CGT members, that give ammunition to the GT. Our own Kate Harwood peruses all planning applications – listed or not – to ensure sites which have not made it onto the list have as much protection as possible, and is our representative on the GT. For CGTs who do not have such an experienced and diligent Planning Officer, help from the GT has been most welcome – as illustrated by the greatly increased number of conservation case responses nationally. In 2016, 257 written planning responses were submitted by the GT and CGTs, increasing to 466 in 2019. There were 128 no-comment responses submitted in 2016, rising to 604 in 2019.

The Historic Landscape Project's officers provide one-to-one support and training days to support the CGTs in conservation and planning issues. Capacity-building officers have trained over 500 volunteers, on topics ranging from responding to planning applications, to heritage values, to using social media.

As neither the GT nor the CGTs have any statutory 'teeth' to enforce the objections, their combined role in educating a wide section of the public to know what treasures there are in their area and why it is imperative to protect them, is a vital part of their work. Again, we are lucky in the HGT to have had a structured programme of Garden History courses and lectures for many years. Members and their friends have this year appreciated a series of virtual Winter Lectures on Zoom during the period of lockdown. Lectures and courses are organized by a small team, headed by Kate Harwood whose initiative it was, and who also does much of the teaching.

The GT recognized that very few CGTs have been offering such courses and in 2017 Dr David Marsh, co-Chair of the Education and Events Committee, set up an initiative under the brand name Grapevine, which has put on one-day introductory courses to garden history across the country. It has also encouraged longer *Introduction to Garden History* courses, which have so far successfully been held in London and in Essex. It is hoped other CGTs will follow suit, so that a growing pool of educated and concerned voices will be able to back up objections to unsympathetic planning applications.

An important part of the work of The Gardens Trust is to support County Gardens Trusts. One recent example of this is the initiative to host joint GT/CGT lectures on Zoom using Eventbrite. The GT's expertise in this technology is very helpful for the CGTs who want to set up online courses.

The GT organizes its own series of Winter Lectures, which this year have been online and proved very popular. Longer educational trips have also been offered by the GT along with an Annual Conference which stretches over two days and nights and is held in a different county each year. This has been organized by Virginia Hinze, the other co-Chair of the Education and Events Committee. The help of local CGTs in identifying suitable sites with interesting gardens – often listed - has proved invaluable. These gardens are rarely open to the public and only accessible because of the personal contact the CGTs have with their owners. The illustrations show four of the sites to be visited in the forthcoming September Conference in Yorkshire – Covid permitting!



Bolton Castle



Bolton Hall



Temple at Aske Hall



Constable Burton

Campaign The GT has been actively working to protect Public Parks – whose value to all has been highlighted in the pandemic – and was one of the founding organisations of the Parks Charter. Their campaign ‘*Compiling the Record*’ resulted in, among others, Harlow Town Park being registered in 2020.

HGT has a history of pioneering successful campaigns in its own right. The restoration and preservation of Hemel Water Garden was the result of a collaboration with the Garden History Society and the ongoing campaign to save the Broadwater and as much of Panshanger as possible is a partnership between HGT and Historic England.

HGT led the way in securing Lottery Funding for, and producing, the Capability Brown walks leaflets as part of the CB300 celebrations in 2016. Other CGTs soon followed this lead. This, the first GT Lottery- funded celebration, then paved the way for the Repton campaign. This campaign, ‘*Sharing Repton: Historic Landscapes for all*’, built on the work done by many volunteers for the bicentenary of Repton’s death in 2018. Linden Groves of the GT project managed both these initiatives and *Sharing Repton*’s five activities across the country were attended by 1,654 people, with more than another 1.5 million getting involved through media. Currently the project is ‘*Unforgettable Gardens*’, which has brought many previously little-known gardens to the fore. <https://thegardenstrust.org/campaigns/unforgettable-gardens-saving-our-garden-heritage/>

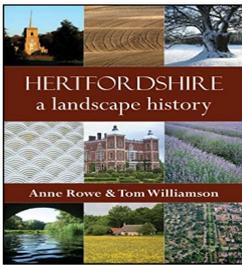
In Hertfordshire Gardens Trust we are much more fortunate than most County Gardens Trusts in that we have the formidable duo of Dr Anne Rowe who is very active in encouraging her Research Team and Kate Harwood, HGT’s representative on the GT, who is tireless in her scrutiny of planning applications and in campaigning to preserve Hertfordshire’s historic landscapes. One good thing has emerged from the horror of the pandemic – many more people have come to value our open spaces and historic landscapes and gardens. Let us hope this appreciation will manifest itself in more people volunteering within their CGT to offer their skills to help with furthering the admirable triple aims of the GT: *Research, Conserve, Campaign*.

The Gardens Trust relies on members and donors to support its work so please consider joining. There is a special rate for those who are also members of County Gardens Trusts - £25 rather than £35. www.thegardenstrust.org/support-us/

HGT Publications

University of Hertfordshire Press

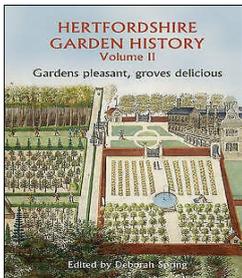
University of Hertfordshire Press warmly congratulates Hertfordshire Gardens Trust on its 30th anniversary. We are proud to have worked with the trust and its members in producing high quality research into the county's parks, gardens and landscape history. Here is a selection of our currently available Hertfordshire Publications list, published in association with Hertfordshire Association for Local History (HALH). To order, please visit www.uhpress.co.uk



Hertfordshire: A landscape history Anne Rowe and Tom Williamson

ISBN 978-1-909291-00-3; June 2013; Paperback £18.99

An authoritative study based on fieldwork, documentary investigations and a wealth of research in landscape history and archaeology, both in Hertfordshire and more widely.



Hertfordshire Garden History - Volume 2 Edited by Deborah Spring

ISBN 978-1-907396-61-6; August 2012; Paperback £16.99

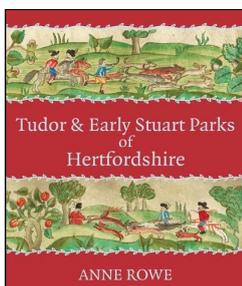
This second volume is subtitled 'Gardens pleasant, groves delicious' and considers how Hertfordshire's historic parks and gardens have been influenced by the social and economic history of their time.



Medieval Parks of Hertfordshire Anne Rowe

ISBN 978-1-912260-10-2; March 2019; Paperback £19.99

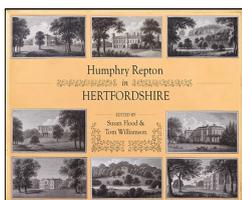
With a holistic approach to landscape history, the geographical locations of the parks have been determined and in most cases mapped using field- and place-name evidence, old maps and detailed fieldwork.



Tudor and Early Stuart Parks of Hertfordshire Anne Rowe

ISBN 978-1-912260-11-9; March 2019; Paperback £18.99

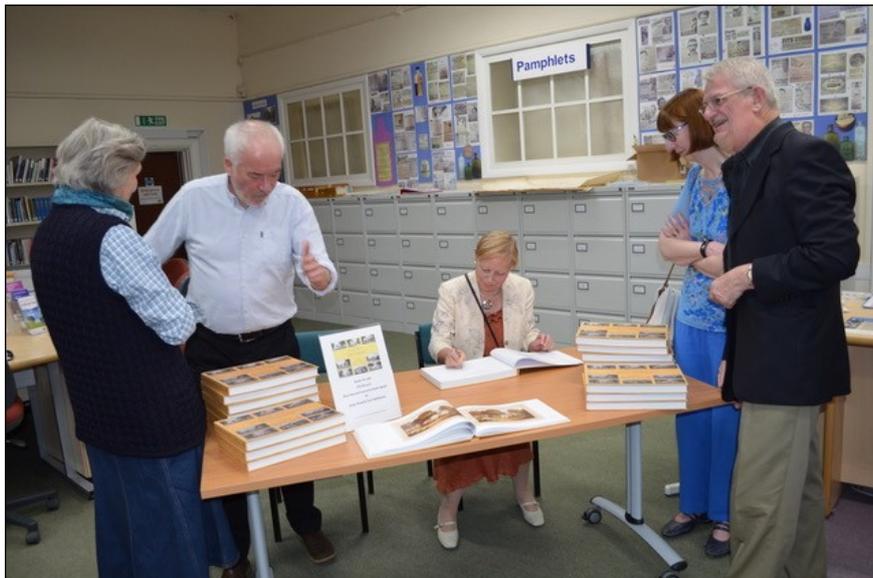
The author turns her attention to the deer parks that existed in Hertfordshire in the sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries. By drawing on the earliest county maps, State papers and estate records, a detailed picture emerges.



Humphry Repton in Hertfordshire Edited by Susan Flood and Tom Williamson

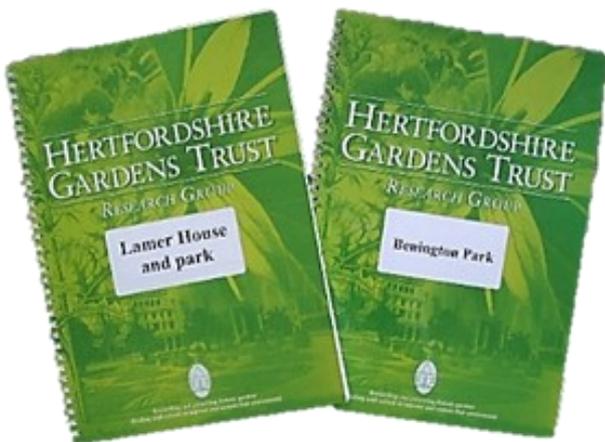
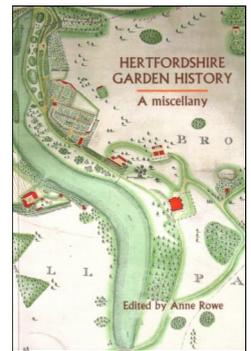
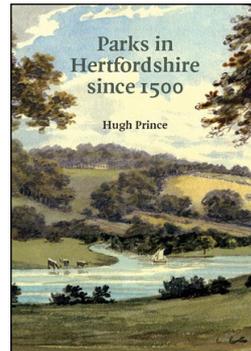
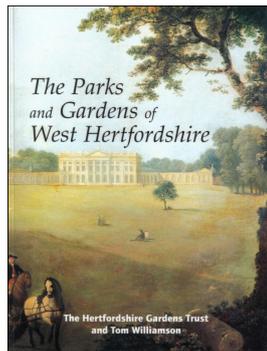
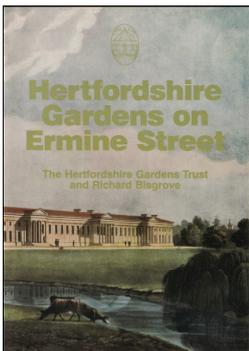
ISBN 978-1-909291-98-0; March 2018; Hardback £25

This book describes eighteen commissions, assessing in each case the extent to which Repton's ideas were actually implemented and how much survives.



Book launch for 'Humphry Repton in Hertfordshire' at HALS

Not all of our earlier publications are in print but are still available in libraries and may be found through the internet.



All HGT's Research Reports on historic sites are available at HALS.



Launch of Hertfordshire Garden History - A Miscellany, Bewington Lordship, 2007.

Membership of Hertfordshire Gardens Trust

John Craggs

Hertfordshire Gardens Trust welcomes new members – please see our website at www.hertsgardenstrust.org.uk and download a membership application form, or alternatively email the Membership Secretary: membership@hertsgardenstrust.org.uk

Members have the opportunity to take part in research, conservation and educational activities, and have access to the members' library. Regular newsletters keep Members up to date with the Trust's work and future events.

The Trust organises an annual series of events and outings for Members and their friends along with fundraising events which are open to everyone. These include:

- visits to gardens not usually open to the public;
- guided summer walks at historic sites;
- a series of winter talks;
- courses and study days;
- lectures with nationally recognised speakers;
- bridge days and other social events.

Our Annual General Meeting takes the form of a summer garden party, held in one of the county's spectacular gardens.

Our walks leaflets, available to download from the website, are an informative introduction to some of the county's best landscapes.

If you have friends or relatives who are garden lovers or local historians, and who might be interested in more information about the HGT, the Membership Secretary will be happy to send them a membership brochure.



*Well-spaced attendance for the 29th AGM, Benington Lordship
3rd September, 2020*

2009 The East Herts Project is completed, with research reports on 20 sites deposited at HALS, and work begins on the Welwyn-Hatfield project. Anne Rowe features as the 'Miss Marple of Garden History' on a BBC Gardeners' Question Time visit to the lost gardens of Panshanger. The Conservation Team works closely with English Heritage and the Garden History Society on the preservation and management of sites at Scotts Grotto, North Mymms, Cokenach, and Panshanger, and representing HGT on county forums. Two Pulham pots, later donated to Lowewood Museum, are identified after a talk by Kate Harwood.

2010 'Mrs Wheelbarrows' visit 86 primary schools, delivering workshops to some 3,800 children plus their teachers, and the School Awards Scheme again attracts many entries with 22 receiving awards. Kate Harwood's research informs the successful restoration of Bushey Rose Garden, and the addition of the Jellicoe Water Gardens at Hemel Hempstead to the English Heritage Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Interest. The Research Group meets at Woolmer Green Village Hall to hear talks and eat lunch: the very first Seminar and Soup.

2011 – 2020

2011 – the 20th anniversary of HGT is marked by talks, walks, and a concert. HGT's County Council grant comes to an end. Kate Harwood and Anne Rowe plot historic parks and gardens onto the County Geographic Information System, and a Garden History page is added to the HALS website. Important discoveries are made: the remains of a spectacular water garden at Popes, Hatfield; a plan of the gardens at Gubbins by Charles Bridgeman; a Repton Red Book and remains of 16th century pond created in Theobalds Park by Sir Robert Cecil. Heritage Lottery Fund bids are launched to restore the Jellicoe Water Gardens at Hemel Hempstead, and a restoration plan for Tring Park. Wheelbarrow Workshops and the School Awards continue to flourish. The HGT research group presents the Hertfordshire Association for Local History symposium on Hertfordshire, 'The Garden of England'.

2012 Articles are published in national journals on the garden earthworks at Benington Park and the Bridgeman gardens at Gobions. Gobions Wood is the focus for a talk and walks about the remains of the 18th century gardens now in the care of Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust, and a survey by the research group begins. The 'Save our Serpent' campaign for Hemel Water Gardens is launched and a Friends Group set up. *Hertfordshire Garden History 2: Gardens pleasant, groves delicious* is published. Bella Stuart-Smith hosts a Flower Demonstration and Workshop.

2013 Bella Stuart-Smith becomes Chairman of HGT. The restoration of Bridgeman's Forest Garden in Tring begins. Wheelbarrow Workshops visit another 41 schools, bringing the total since 2008 to 165 schools, and the School Awards continue. Kate Harwood sets up the Friends of Panshanger Park and organises a study day on Japanese gardens at Felden Park.

2014 At Tring Park, Lady Verulam plants the final tree in the circle on the *rond-point* to celebrate the restoration, and a Charles Bridgeman Study Day is held. Work begins on a survey of the park earthworks. The restoration of the Jellicoe Water Gardens is under way. Wheelbarrow Workshops come to an end. From its inception in 2008 the scheme has delivered 510 workshops to 174 schools, reaching around 15,000 children. RHS programmes for schools replace the scheme.

Conservation work focuses on Local Plan consultations, persuading councils to adopt lists of locally important sites.

2015 Mrs Wheelbarrow grants are awarded to schools. HGT events include a Humphry Repton study day at Haileybury, a lecture by Tony Kirkham at Ashridge, and a course on Tudor and early Stuart parks and gardens. Kate Harwood joins The Gardens Trust Board and Conservation Committee and represents TGT on the Strategic Advisory Group for Panshanger Park.

2016 HGT celebrates the tercentenary of 'Capability' Brown with a special newsletter, publication of a series of walks leaflets, a study day on the Capability Men, a lecture, an exhibition and a summer walks programme. The North Herts research project begins. An urgent campaign is launched to save Repton's Broadwater, the main feature of his landscape design at Panshanger. Following HGT intervention planning proposals for Shendish Manor are amended and include restoration of the historic gardens.

2017 Roger Gedye takes over as HGT Chairman. Following extensive restoration, the Hemel Water Gardens re-open. HGT holds study days, on 'Not in my Back Yard' at Hatfield House, and for Friends of Panshanger Park. Panshanger is placed on the Heritage at Risk Register. The Orchards East survey project is launched, helped by HGT volunteers. Conservation work focuses on Local Plan Submissions and Examinations, engaging with developers at Gilston, where 15,000 houses are planned, and other sites that threaten historic parks and gardens, as well as working with parishes and local authorities on Neighbourhood Plans.

2018 HGT commemorates the bicentenary of Humphry Repton's death with publication of *Humphry Repton in Hertfordshire*. The proceedings of the 2015 study day are also published as *Structure and Landscape: William Wilkins and Humphry Repton at Haileybury 1806-1810*.

A Minerals Plan threatens quarries near Briggens, Stanstead Bury and Youngsbury; Kate Harwood gets Briggens put on the Heritage at Risk Register. Anne Rowe's discovery of 16th century earthworks of Henry VIII's fishponds at Hunsdon leads to the grant of Scheduled Monument status. Mrs Wheelbarrow awards are granted to two schools who sought advice and funding from HGT.

2019 Anne Rowe's *Tudor and Early Stuart Parks in Hertfordshire* is published with generous financial support from HGT. Joint visits with HGT at Gobions Wood keep Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust and Historic England informed of the importance and fragility of the Bridgeman earthworks, in the light of tree and pond management works there. Buildings of the walled kitchen garden at Youngsbury are listed Grade II. HGT events include a course on Arts & Crafts gardens and Heritage Open Day talks and guided walks at Amersfort and Panshanger Park. Leavesden Green School receives a grant to create raised beds.

2020 Sue Flood takes over as HGT Chairman. The Gedye Fund is set up in memory of Roger Gedye. All planned events and outings for the year are cancelled because of the coronavirus pandemic. HGT adapts to circumstances. A small number of members turn out for a short, outdoor, socially distanced AGM at Benington Lordship in September. Routine meetings and some talks continue virtually. The committee makes plans to celebrate HGT's 30th anniversary in 2021.



www.hertsgardenstrust.org.uk

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