



Hertfordshire Gardens Trust
ANNUAL REPORT
2021 -2022

Hertfordshire Gardens Trust

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Sue Wilson

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Penny Figgis
Sonja Fillingham
Sue Flood

Kate Harwood
Anne Mitcheson
Sally Pool
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The Trust's Supporters

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Strutt and Parker
Hertfordshire Archives and Local
Studies (HALS)

www.hertsgardenstrust.org.uk

Registered Charity No. 1010093

For more information e.mail: membership@hertsgardenstrust.org.uk

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Cover photo: wood anemones in Hooks Bushes Wood, Bramfield, May 2022.

Chair's report

Sue Flood

Once again our activities were curtailed because of the Covid epidemic. Even so a wonderful visit was arranged in July to Turn End Garden in Buckinghamshire (the 2021 Autumn Newsletter contained a full write up) and a full series of winter lectures were held via Zoom. After some initial teething troubles we now feel that we are getting to grips with this technology and will continue to use it, especially during the winter months.

The spring course, also held via Zoom, has now resulted in a glorious new publication from the Trust: *Horticultural Ladies*. If you do not already own a copy it is well worth a read – see later how to obtain one. The highlight of the year, however, has to be the Gedye lecture held at Knebworth Barns in September. Tom Stuart-Smith told us about his work at Chatsworth, Derbyshire, the Hepworth Gallery, Wakefield and the new garden recently opened by the Royal Horticultural Society at Bridgewater near Manchester. Fully illustrated by wonderful slides, nearly 100 members and friends gathered to hear Tom and enjoy a piece of the 30th anniversary cake.

It was very evident from this gathering that everyone had missed meeting together and we hope that the full series of events planned for this coming year will allow this to happen more often. Details of our plans can be found later in this report.

As always we could do more if we had more volunteers to help. Would any of you like to plan a garden visit? Also our Trust secretary has expressed her wish to stand down after many years of service and we will need a replacement. This is not an onerous role – the executive committee meets three times a year, at other times keeping in touch by e.mail. In addition the AGM is held at a lovely county garden. Your Trust needs YOU. If anyone is interested do please contact me to discuss this further.

The Hertfordshire Gardens Trust exists to research and conserve the county's historic parks, gardens and landscape. Along the way we aim to organise a programme of courses, walks, talks, garden visits and other members' events to enjoy our beautiful county and learn why it is so special. Please help us to continue to do this. Now more than ever we need your help to ensure the Trust can carry on for the next 30 years.



HERTFORDSHIRE GARDENS TRUST AGM 2022

This year's AGM will be held on Thursday July 14th 2022 in the gardens of Alswick Hall, Hare Street Road, Buntingford, Hertfordshire, SG9 0AA, by kind permission of Mike and Annie Johnson www.alswickhall.com.



A settlement at Alswick was recorded in Domesday Book. Part of the buildings surviving today date from the early 17th century and were much restored in the 20th century. There are four acres of gardens for you to explore including ponds, orchards, wild areas and a woodland walk. We can be inside if the weather is inclement. Please bring your chairs, drinking glasses and picnics. A glass of wine will be provided.



Please assemble in the barn courtyard from 5pm by turning left at the sign. There is a large parking area here and toilets are available.

The wine will be served in the gardens. The AGM will be held at 6pm, then you are free to wander and explore.

HERTFORDSHIRE GARDENS TRUST AGM 2022

AGENDA

- 1. Welcome*
- 2. Apologies for absence*
- 3. To approve the Minutes of the AGM of 8 July 2021 (minutes below)*
- 4. Matters arising from the Minutes*
- 5. The Chair's report*
- 6. The Hon. Treasurer's report and approval of the Annual Accounts for 2021/22*
- 7. Election of members of the Executive Committee*
- 8. Any other business*

Treasurer's Report from Sue Wilson

Once again the Covid pandemic has curtailed our activities over this last year. We were able to arrange only one summer visit to Turn End Gardens in Haddenham, Buckinghamshire in July. The purchase of a Zoom licence allowed us to hold our entire winter lecture series on line for the first time, but group walks were out of the question. However our spring course entitled Horticultural Ladies has resulted in the publication of a book of the same title with its related publication and postage costs. See elsewhere in this report for information as to how you can obtain a copy of this fully illustrated book.

The highlight of the HGT year had to be the lecture by Tom Stuart-Smith at Knebworth Barns in September. Nearly 100 members and friends gathered to hear Tom talk about his work as an internationally renowned landscape architect. As a result the Gedye Fund is much depleted and it now stands at £867. However already in 2022 the Trust has received further donations towards this fund. Our members and friends have been so generous throughout these recently difficult times that our membership has in fact slightly increased. A copy of the accounts for the financial year ending on 31 March 2022 will be available to the membership on the HGT web site before the AGM.

I hope to meet HGT members at the AGM and introduce myself more formally. I have worked in the charity sector since 2009. My day job is as Trust Accountant to The Sir Jules Thorn Charitable Trust, a grant giving charity which funds medical research <https://www.julesthorntrust.org.uk>. I also volunteer for a couple of other organisations: Advocate, the Bar charity, which provides pro bono barristers for deserving cases, and the Institute of Chartered Accountants (ICAEW) where I have been assisting their annual schools and colleges Business BASE Challenge. The students are set a challenge in a business context which goes on all day, and at various times are given additional information, plus a curved ball, and we assess them on how they process that information and perform personally.

MINUTES OF THE 30th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE HERTFORDSHIRE GARDENS TRUST ON THE 8th JULY 2021 at STANSTEAD BURY

PRESENT

*The President
Chair
Secretary
Outings
Website manager/Membership
Trustee
Newsletter
Education
Events*

*The Countess of Verulam
Mrs Sue Flood
Mrs Penny Figgis
Mrs Sonja Fillingham
Mr John Craggs
Mrs Anne Mitcheson
Mrs Deborah Spring
The Hon. Lady Stuart-Smith
Mrs Liz Carlin*

The Chairman welcomed 32 members of the Garden Trust and friends to the 30th AGM and thanked Mr and Mrs Trower for their hospitality.

Mr Trower then spoke about the history of the house. He had been very pleased with the report on the history researched and produced by Anne Rowe and Tom Williamson and Kate Harwood had been very supportive about the planning issues affecting his property. Mrs Trower followed with a description of the history of the garden.

1. APOLOGIES were received from Kate Harwood, Anne Rowe and Sally Pool.
2. MINUTES OF THE 2020 AGM were approved and signed by the Chairman.
3. MATTERS ARISING. The Chairman noted that the Bridgeman study day had not taken place because of COVID-19.

4. THE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT. Mr and Mrs Trower were thanked for allowing HGT to hold its AGM at Stanstead Bury and also for their introduction to the history of the house and garden. During 2020/2021 COVID-19 has obliged the committee and the researchers to hold meetings by Zoom. This has proved quite successful and 4 research reports have been printed and will be taken to HALS, when it is possible, to join the other 60 also already held there.

Over 500 planning applications have been received during the year by Kate Harwood for her comments. There are still many concerns in the county including Welwyn Garden City and the west of Harlow developments which seem to grow.

The September Heritage Open Days were cancelled last year. But watch the web site as events are planned for this year – Kate will lead at Amersfort if possible. A very successful lecture series was held by Zoom early this year – 'Horticultural Ladies'. To make this more widely available it has been suggested that a booklet be made of the talks.

Thanks to all involved in the production of the 30th Anniversary Booklet and the Autumn Newsletter. Two more Walks Leaflets have been produced – Gadebridge and the Jellicoe Water Gardens, Hemel Hempstead and Letchworth Garden City. These are on our web site and can be downloaded. More are in the pipe line and when we have these ready we will print them for distribution.

We have published an article about the Trust in the July issue of Hertfordshire Life.

John Craggs is resigning as membership secretary and the Chairman thanked him for all the work that he had put in over many years. He will be replaced by Sue Davidson.

HGT will be trying to keep members informed of events by sending out a monthly e-bulletin.

Members were asked to make a note of the 22nd of September for an evening lecture by Tom Stuart-Smith at Knebworth House. More information will be sent out to members nearer the date.

She reminded members to send their photographs of gardens in Hertfordshire for a proposed HGT calendar competition.

Finally the Chairman asked members if they knew of someone who might be interested in taking on the post as Treasurer.

5. THE HON. TREASURER'S REPORT. In her absence the Chairman read a statement from Sally Pool. Funds have remained stable due to the loyalty of members and a legacy of £1000, and the bank balances are up over £5000 year on year. There have been no fund raising events but expenses were fewer than usual. These included higher costs of printing and postage of the 30th Anniversary history and newsletter.

The fund in memory of ROGER GEDYE now stands at £3750.

Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by CHRISTOPHER MELLUSH and agreed by the membership. The Chairman signed the accounts and expressed her thanks to Sally and Jonathon Pool. Sally would like to resign as treasurer and the Chairman asked the membership if they knew of anybody who would be willing to take this on.

6. ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Following the resignation of John Craggs, Sue Davidson was proposed as Membership Secretary by Sue Flood and seconded by John Craggs.

The existing Committee were re-elected proposed by Mo Gedye and seconded by Annie Saner.

7. AOB. There was no other business and the Chairman closed the meeting at 6:30 pm.



Research Report

Dr Anne Rowe

Due to continuing Covid restrictions and concerns, all meetings of HGT research volunteers in 2021 were conducted online via Zoom. On 22 January Kate Harwood gave 15 of us a very informative presentation on gasworks and electricity generators in country house landscapes – prompted by Sue Friend’s discovery of a gasometer on the 1899 OS map during her research on Shephalbury, Stevenage. On 19 March we explored how to use the websites of the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography and the History of Parliament and on 20 May we explored the use of Ordnance Survey Drawings on the British Library website and LiDAR images on <https://houseprices.io/lab/lidar/map> and Kate Harwood told us about Jocelyn Brown.

In place of our normal Seminar & Soup get-together, 24 researchers gathered online on 27 April for an entertaining and thought-provoking Zoom presentation on ‘Time in the Garden: re-thinking chronologies of landscape design’ from our Director of Research, Professor Tom Williamson. There were 11 of us on 13 July when Tina Rowland gave a useful summary of a recent online talk presented by The Gardens Trust (TGT) entitled ‘Enriching the List’. We were encouraged to add information and photographs to the Historic England website regarding registered parks and gardens, or listed buildings, in order to enhance the site entries currently on the website.

At the meeting on 21 September we looked at accessing LiDAR images of Hertfordshire on the excellent website of the National Library of Scotland (NLS) and this was followed by a more in-depth exploration of the same website at our next meeting on 1 December. Not only is it possible to see most editions of the Ordnance Survey maps for the whole country online via the NLS website, but also some very large-scale late 19th-century maps of many towns including Hertford, Bishop’s Stortford, Hemel Hempstead, Berkhamsted, St Albans and Watford (more are being added). Other useful features on the website make it possible to seamlessly join neighbouring maps sheets together and to view side by side both a map and either a satellite or a LiDAR image of an area.

Progress with research

Our HGT volunteers have continued to work on their individual research projects this year, despite ongoing restrictions on travel and access to archives. For example, Bridget Howlett’s discoveries in the wonderful archive of William Wilshere of The Hermitage in Hitchin include references to two gardeners Daniel MacIntosh and, most notably, James Bowie who obtained seeds from Nevis; also Hertford nurseryman Robert Murray who supplied *Rhododendron ponticum*. Tina Rowland has visited Hinxworth Place to seek evidence of earlier gardens. Drafts of two fine site reports have been completed: Liz Carlin’s on The Node near Codicote and Sue Friend’s on Shephalbury. Covid lock-downs have facilitated the completion of some reports that have been awaiting my attention for many years, namely two sites in Much Hadham researched

by the late Sue Staniforth: The Lordship and the Bishop's Palace. These will shortly be deposited in the Local Studies Library of Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies at County Hall. Deborah Kinloch's work on Gadebridge Park in Hemel Hempstead led her to compile a walk as part of the 30th anniversary celebrations of the Hertfordshire Gardens Trust. The resulting leaflet describing the walk can be found on the HGT website – Gadebridge Park & Jellicoe Water Gardens. During the year we were joined by a new volunteer who is planning to compile a report on Marden Hill, Tewin.

Sharing our research

During our September meeting a discussion started on how we could make our site reports more widely accessible, and this has led to a whole new project on Sharing our Research. Digital copies of our reports are currently shared with the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record so that our research does feed into the planning system, but the public can only access our site reports via hard copies held in the Local Studies Library at HALS – they are not available online. Our discussion in September, led by Tina, was informed by an online talk presented by TGT on 'Sharing your parks and gardens research'. The talk, by Sarah Poppy of Historic England, was about a database called OASIS, used by archaeologists and local authority Historic Environment Records officers, and which perhaps offers the best security for preserving our work digitally into the future. Another national database is Parks & Gardens – <https://www.parksandgardens.org/> which is used by the public. TGT recommends adding our research information to both of these databases – they are complementary and have different audiences – but this will entail a lot of work for our volunteers. Workshops to train volunteers to use OASIS will be organised by TGT in 2022. A small sub-group of HGT researchers has been set up to explore the options for, and practicalities of, making our work available online.

New light on Goldings near Hertford

An exciting new discovery at The National Archives at Kew by Alison Cassidy (a former archivist at HALS) has added another Charles Bridgeman landscape to our Hertfordshire list. Alison kindly shared her photographs of letters written by, and about, Bridgeman from the 1730s that record him drawing a design plan for Goldings near Hertford and requesting quantities of sticks to enable him to lay out the design on the ground. An exploration of the public footpaths on the Goldings estate led by Alison in June with Bridgeman expert Sue Haynes, Sue Flood and myself led to the discovery of what appeared to be a Bridgeman rond point surviving at the south-west corner of today's gardens.

Lamer Park stable block

An urgent application for listing of the former stable block in Lamer Park was made in the spring on behalf of the HGT, with support from Kate and a local architect and conservation officer. This was prompted by a planning application that threatened to cause serious damage to the delightful 18th-century stable and coach house building. This was

a key feature in the landscape designed by Nathaniel Richmond in the early 1780s – and admired by Humphry Repton who was consulted in 1790. A significant discovery made while compiling the application was that an undated plan of the building at HALS had been drawn, and charged for, by none other than Repton himself. The intricate footprint of the building that Repton recorded in 1790 survives intact to this day. Officials from Historic England made an urgent visit following the sudden, wilful destruction of the historic cupola by the owner of the building, but they concluded there was insufficient survival of original features to merit listing. This decision is being appealed. Nevertheless, the planning application was withdrawn when it became evident that the local planning authority was unlikely to approve it.

Lower Mimram Valley Initiative

HGT was approached in July with a request for help from David Rixson of Tewin, acting for Tewin Parish Council in a project to protect and conserve the landscape of the Lower Mimram Valley. A history of the landscape in the valley between Digswell and Panshanger was compiled with additional input from Kate Harwood concerning the designed landscapes.

Gobions Wood

At the end of the year we were contacted by the Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust with very bad news about Gobions Wood, the site of a famous early 18th-century garden designed by Charles Bridgeman. The wood has been seriously affected by ash dieback – a disease that is likely to kill off all the ash in Gobions Wood over the next few years. In order to maintain public access and safety, the HMWT has no option but to fell the affected trees, starting this winter (authorisation permitting) with 80 of the most dangerous trees. We shall be working closely with the HMWT to try to minimise the damage to the fragile garden earthworks during the forthcoming tree work.



Lithograph of Shephalbury in J. E. Cussans, History of Hertfordshire, 1878 (© HALS)

Conservation & Planning Report

Kate Harwood

The number of planning applications this year has increased over last year and we are concerned that a large number of applications are being put forward to local authorities where the Local Plans have not been agreed by the Planning Inspectorate. This raises the possibility that outline planning permission for hundreds of houses will be granted on appeal, even if refused by the councils, due to lack of Local Plan policies.

Recent matters are:

- The proposed solar farm at Aldenham has been refused permission, but there has been an application for an outdoor stage at the Home Farm within the Registered Park, where glamping is already established. The Home Farm itself has received permission to redevelop some of the area for mixed use.
- Areas of Napsbury Registered Park have been cleared of various trees without planning permission, which is required as the area is covered by Tree Preservation orders. The Enforcement Officer for St Albans DC has been in contact about this. We have also been working with the London Colney Parish Council on an application to safeguard the historic orchard at Napsbury which features in some Louis Wain paintings.
- Changes to ground levels at Briggens and what looks like the planting of trees have been reported to the East Herts Council officers by Historic England after we were alerted to unauthorised activity on the site.
- We have also been working with Welwyn Garden Civic Society and others over the overdevelopment of high-rise blocks of flats in WGC and the alarming deterioration (and partial demolition) of the listed Shredded Wheat buildings.
- We have assisted Anne Rowe in the preparation of the Heritage report for the Lower Mimram Valley Project, headed by David Rixson on behalf of Tewin parish Council. We are also acting as liaison with the Friends of Panshanger Park over this project.
- The Forestry Commission now consult The Gardens Trust on felling applications which fall within Registered Parks. We have commented on Ashridge and Gobions where felling for either thinning purposes or because of disease has been requested. At Ashridge, Mick Thompson has provided valuable advice and information and at Gobions, Anne Rowe has assisted the HMWT team on the ground to protect the historic earthworks.
- Several planning authorities are now consulting HGT on listed building applications for walled gardens and ancillary structures. However, demolition of the unlisted 18th century stables at Lamer was started without applying for planning permission. The Local History Society and SAHAAS, together with HGT and others alerted both the council and Historic England. Demolition was halted but HE declined to list the structure, which, given the evidence supplied, is inexplicable. We are keeping an eye on the planning logs for any application for further demolition.

Local Plans

Plans include releasing Green Belt to build 73,000 houses. We are involved in the Local Plans of several Local Authorities going forward and also a SW Herts Joint Strategic Plan (including Dacorum, St Albans, Hertsmere, Three Rivers and Watford Councils). Hertsmere is re-visiting their draft plan after consultation produced strong objections to some of their larger housing allocations, including from the neighbouring council, St Albans. St Albans is still without a Local Plan having started the process again after the inspector did not find their plan acceptable, this has meant that large applications (300 houses) are being submitted in areas that may not have qualified to allocation in an agreed plan. Dacorum is still consulting on various aspects of their plan. One of these is the South Hemel Opportunity Area and we are part of the group being consulted as we are concerned about the Locally Listed Dickinson Gardens in the area. Three Rivers held their Regulation 19 Consultation in 2021. North Herts is considering the Inspector's Final Report but the Plan has not yet been formally adopted by the NHDC. Watford is in the process of the Examination in Public before the Inspector. Broxbourne Local Plan was adopted by the Council in June 2020. East Herts Local Plan was adopted by the Council in October 2018. Stevenage Borough Plan was adopted by the council in May 2019. We have concerns about the placing of the 7,600 new houses, the area round Rooks Nest called Forster Country and development to the west of the A1(M).

Neighbourhood Plans

We continue to be involved in preparation of Neighbourhood Plans and commenting on them at Regulation 14 stage. We have been heartened to see that more recent plans do take on board our historic parks and gardens and we have made comments suggesting industrial landscape heritage and other matters be included where appropriate.

Central Herts Green Corridor Group

We have recently been apprised of a forthcoming planning application by Tarmac for 2,600 houses at Birchall Garden Suburb. The Group has produced several document on the Green Corridor along the Salisbury Line and also argued for proper assessment of the BGS site including the old waste tip (See What Lies Beneath report form WGC Society on the Green Corridor Group website <https://centralhertsgreencorridor.org/>).

The Local Plan Inspector reduced the number of houses initially proposed but this application ignores his findings. As WHBC has not agreed to abide by the Inspector's findings, even after 5 years, it would seem that this proposal, even if refused by WHBC, could be allowed on appeal. The group recently had an online meeting with the National Trust who are trumpeting the Batheaston Meadows Green Corridor which they propose for a finger of land at Bath. I have reported the gist of the conversation to the national Gardens Trust Conservation Committee as I am concerned that more work needs to be done.

Harlow North – Gilston Garden Village

We have continued working with various local groups on the Harlow North and have lodged strong objections to some of the plans for Village 7 and the Eastern Stort crossing which will have a harmful effect on several of our historic parks, as well as destroying a large part of the Green Belt there, including Gibberd's green belt round Harlow, and joining up Hunsdon, Gilston, Pie Corner and other smaller settlements.

Panshanger

The planning application for the west car park has not yet been determined although Park Run is allowed to operate from there on Saturday mornings. We are concerned at the degradation of the land from the runners passing over the same area without any remediation in between or alteration of route. The Friends of Panshanger Park has been running a series of bite-size talks on Panshanger which have proved very popular. An exhibition on Panshanger organised by the FPP will be held at the Hertford Museum from May 23rd throughout the summer.

HGT Garden History Course

The 2020 course was postponed due to the pandemic but restrictions in 2021 meant that the usual venue of the Woolmer Green Village Hall was not available. Several of the course members had offered to give short presentation on a Horticultural Lady of their choice (only stipulation, 'Anyone but Jekyll') after we had decided to try an experiment with multiple speakers from within the group. With a bit of practice these were all successfully delivered by Zoom. This was very well received and a book mooted. This book of essays has now been produced and is on sale for £10. The able assistance of Alison Moller in giving the course and Tosh Moller in producing the book have been invaluable and many thanks are due to them. The course for 2022 is to be Mid-Century Modern: gardens from 1950s-1970s.

HGT Garden History Course - Horticultural Ladies

The 2020 course was postponed due to the pandemic but restrictions in 2021 meant that the usual venue of the Woolmer Green Village Hall was not available. Several of the course members had offered to give short presentations on a Horticultural Lady of their choice (only stipulation, 'Anyone but Jekyll') after we had decided to try an experiment with multiple speakers from within the group. With a bit of practice these were all successfully delivered by Zoom. This was very well received and a book mooted. This book entitled Horticultural Ladies has now been published and is on sale. The able assistance of Alison Moller in giving the course and Tosh Moller in producing the book have been invaluable and many thanks are due to them.



The book contains many of the essays presented during the course. Women are notoriously underrepresented in Garden History, as in other areas of life, except perhaps Jekyll who has a whole library written about her! We therefore had talks on designers, plantswomen, plant hunters, scientists, queens, shell-house builders, fabric designers, writers of fiction and writers of 'how-to books' as well as those intrepid women who travelled to the East, to India and Japan to look at and bring home garden ideas.

This lovely illustrated book is available for £10 (including p&p) from Kate at hertstalks@gmail.com. Payment for the book is by BACS and details will be sent out on application to Kate.

Membership update

Sue Davidson

Membership of the Trust has increased over the last six months with 7 new members (2 joint and 3 single members) and a loss of 3 members (2 deceased and 1 moved away). Membership currently stands at 318 members and we would like to welcome all those who joined the Trust in the past 6 months.

We are actively seeking to recruit new members, with details available via the website [Becoming a Member - Herts Gardens Trust](#) or by e-mail: membership@hertsgardenstrust.org.uk.

Circulation and publication on the website of the Trust's E-Bulletin has encouraged a number of non-members to join events, many of which are bookable on-line via Eventbrite or via the event Organiser – hopefully they have enjoyed the events and will be encouraged to join the Trust. If you have friends or relatives who might be interested in joining the Trust, the website has details of the benefits of being a member and how to join. Alternatively, they can contact me at membership@hertsgardenstrust.org.uk.

For those members who pay their subscription by cheque the due date for renewal is 1st April, with subscriptions held at £30 for joint members and £20 for individual membership. Cheques should be sent to me at 12 Hillside Cottages, Wareside, Herts SG12 7RA; however, we are encouraging members to pay by Standing Order to keep costs down (details and a form are available on the website or from me).

HGT will never share members' data without their permission with any third party, unless required by law. If you have given us your e-mail address we will use this to keep you up-to-date on events and news on a more regular basis via the e-bulletin. Please notify me at membership@hertsgardenstrust.org.uk of any changes to your address or e-mail.





Schools Report

Bella Stuart-Smith



Once again during 2021 the Covid epidemic led to children being absent from their schools. Teachers still have many pressing issues to concern them, so it is not surprising that there have been no enquiries about school gardens. Our work is on hold for the moment, but the committee are discussing ways in which we may be able to move forward once circumstances allow.



Upcoming events

The following events have been arranged for 2022/3:

Please address all general enquiries about events to lcarlin@btinternet.com.

HGT Mid Century Modern Gardens and Landscapes Course

The course has been organised by Kate Harwood and Alison Moller.

Each one-hour lecture will take place on Thursday mornings at 10am. At the time of writing, two more lectures remain in June, details of which are below:

Week 4: 16th June with Kate Harwood – The Garden Designers – Private gardens by Geoffrey Jellicoe, Brenda Colvin and Sylvia Crowe.

Week 5: 30th June with Kate Harwood – The Plantsmen and Women – The amateur gardeners who were gifted plants people and developed gardens in the mid-century, some of which have been added to the Historic England Register. The Spencer family, Beth Chatto, Joyce Robinson, Margery Fish, Christopher Lloyd and others.

The course is available to book on Eventbrite. For further information and how to book please write to lcarlin@btinternet.com.



Pleasure Gardens, Festival of Britain, 1951 (Photo, Kate Harwood)

SUMMER WALKS

The Events team has also arranged several walks for summer 2022. We have decided not to advertise these walks on Eventbrite as numbers who can attend are small and we want to be quickly able to deal with a waiting list if places become available. The walk leaders have agreed to manage the walks.

Thursday 23rd June 2022 - a tour of the garden at Gorhambury led by Gill Hewis, Head Gardener. *The visit to Lady Verulam's garden at Maynes Farm on the estate will follow the refreshments, which will be provided.*

Please note: this walk is currently fully booked, but you can ask to be added to the waiting list. The list will be closed on 16th June 2022, after which you will be notified if space is available.

The cost will be £15 for members and £18 for non-members and emails should be addressed to hertstalks@gmail.com for payments details.

Wednesday 20th July 2022
- a walk around Forty Hall/
Elsyng Palace with Martin
Dearne and organised for
HGT by Alison Moller. The
cost for this walk is £5 and
£8 for non-members and
for payment details emails
should be addressed to
molleralison@yahoo.co.uk.



Forty Hall, Enfield.
The estate includes the site of
Henry VIII's Elsyng Palace.
(Photo: Geoffrey Gillam)

Wednesday 14th September 2022 - a tour of the gardens at Wrest Park,
Bedfordshire led by Gill Hannington, a researcher at Wrest Park and new
member of the Events team, who will describe the 350 year history of the site
and the restorations carried
out by English Heritage.



The cost will be £5 for
members and £8 for non-
members and for payment
details, emails should be
addressed to [ghannington@
hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ghannington@hotmail.co.uk).

Wrest Park is an English
Heritage property
therefore anyone joining
the walk will also need to
purchase a ticket to enter
the gardens (consult the
Wrest Park website for
admission prices). Those
who are members of English

Heritage please bring your membership card with you. There is a visitor centre
café at Wrest for the purchase of refreshments.

The gardens at Wrest Park are of exceptional historic interest and are a grade 1
registered historic park and garden in which features representing many
periods of garden history survive. The earliest feature of the garden, the
Long Water, dates from 1680 and this is surrounded by an early 18th century
Georgian formal woodland garden. Later in the 18th century these gardens
were modified by Capability Brown and picturesque features were introduced.
In the 19th century the gardens were expanded and a large kitchen garden
built. During the 20th century the gardens were neglected and some features
were lost but after acquiring the site in 2007 English Heritage has embarked on
an extensive restoration programme which is not yet complete, but has resulted
in the beautiful gardens that can be seen today.

Winter Talks:

The team have arranged the following talks for the winter season 2022/23 and will be offering a mixture of zoom and live talks.

The following 2 talks will be on Zoom

7th November Louise Ellis 2022 – *Head Gardener at Audley End.*

5th December Jill Raggett 2022 – *on the Cottered Japanese Garden.*



*Japanese Garden - Cottered Hertfordshire
(Tim Felce (Airwolfhound))*

The talks in 2023 will be held at Woolmer Green Village Hall

9th January 2023 Andrew Turvey, *the Head gardener at Hatfield House.*

6th February 2023 Gill Hannington *on an aspect of the History of Wrest Park to follow on from the September 2022 walk that she will be leading.*

6th March 2023 Stephen Smith *will talk to us about his research into octagonal walled gardens including reference to Luton Hoo.*

We do hope you will be able to join us for some of these events and look forward to sharing them with you. Please make a note of the dates now.

Please address all general enquiries about events to lcarlin@btinternet.com

STOP PRESS

Discussions are now taking place regarding an organized visit to the Japanese garden at Cottered some time in September. Full information will be sent out to everyone once we have finalised the details.

THE GARDENS TRUST



Loyal Johnson

The Bicycle Boys: An Unforgettable Garden Tour

An on-line exhibition based on the diaries of Loyal Johnson, an American student, who, in 1928, visited more than eighty gardens in the UK with his friend Sam Brewster. They travelled, mostly by bicycle, and kept detailed records of their journey (almost 1,500 miles). The HGT is one of 14 County Garden Trusts who have collaborated with the RHS Lindley Library (who now own the diaries) to retrace Loyal's and Sam's travels. In Hertfordshire they visited Aldenham House, Hatfield House and Temple Dinsley, which will feature in the exhibition. Loyal recorded their incredible journey in his journal and took photographs along the way which are now on display for the first time.

*Use the following address to access the on-line exhibition:
<https://www.rhs.org.uk/digital-collections/the-bicycle-boys>*

The Bicycle Boys exhibition would not be possible without the detailed research undertaken by County Gardens Trusts who kindly dedicated their time and expertise to explore the history, people and untold stories behind some of the most Unforgettable Gardens in Britain. With your help we are not only sharing history with a wider audience but also highlighting the issues gardens and designed landscapes face which often threaten their survival. So a huge thank you to all those CGTs who took the time to contribute and in doing so have helped share our wider mission to protect gardens for everyone to enjoy.

Over the summer The Gardens Trust will be sharing Loyal and Sam's journey across our social media accounts so please do follow @TheGardensTrust and @RHSLibraries on Twitter and Instagram. You can also search for the hashtags #UnforgettableGardens and #BicycleBoys to see what community cycling groups across the country are doing to celebrate our exhibition!

