Chairman’s Message

In April, Peter Andreae stepped down as our Chairman after six years, and many more years’ involvement with the Charity. I’d like to thank Peter for his commitment and support over the years. I’m delighted that, although he will no longer be a Trustee, he has agreed to continue to work on the Heritage Lottery Fund bid for the Petersfield Physic Garden. This is an important project for us and Peter’s knowledge and experience will be invaluable in achieving a successful application.

You will know, from the discussions at our last AGM, that the Trustees made the decision to change the governance status of the HGT to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). In accordance with this new legal status the Executive Committee has been replaced with the new Founder Trustee Group.

On Peter Andreae’s retirement I was appointed Acting Chairman on a non-Executive basis until such time as a new Chair can be appointed. It is a privilege to have been asked to support the Trust in this way and at this time in the development of the organisation.

The future

I’m delighted to be supported in this role by three Vice-Chairs, with a huge amount of experience and knowledge in the field: Rachel Bebb, herself a past Chair of the Trust; Jill Walmsley, who is already Chair of the Trust’s Event Team; and Rosie Yeomans, Senior Lecturer in Horticulture and Garden Design at Sparsholt College. The four of us, in discussion with the Trustees, believe that there is both an opportunity and a need to look at the future direction of the Charity. We must build on the success of the past, but also be mindful of the best ways we can continue to contribute to the conservation and enhancement of historic parks, gardens and green spaces across Hampshire. We are meeting in May to begin this process so that the Gardens Trust can continue its journey into the future.

I’d like to thank you for your support and hope you, like us, are excited by the opportunities that lie ahead.

Best Wishes.
Simon Hayes, (Acting Chairman)
Welcome to new members

This year, we are very pleased to welcome the following new members:
Mr Patrick & Mrs Susan Summers — Winchester  
Mrs Lucy Collis — Easton  
Mrs A Taylor — Stockbridge  
Mr Andrew Bentley — Chawton  
Mr Andrew & Mrs Nicky Barr — West Meon  
Ms Sarah Barrett — Alresford  
Ms Jan Field — Alresford

Membership Standing Orders — Advance Notification to Members

At the AGM in October the Trust became a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). A requirement for the new organisation is to have a new bank account. This means that you will have to complete a new standing order for your bank to redirect your membership payment to the Trust’s new account. This is an advance notification that our Administrator will be sending out a new form for you to sign and return during the next few months. The Trust will provide a stamp addressed envelope for this.

Tributes

Julia Hebden

Older members of the Trust will remember Julia, who sadly died on Christmas Day last year. Julia was Secretary to the Trust from August 1993 to April 2000. She was made a life member of the Trust for her contribution to the organisation. A note of sympathy was sent to her husband Chris, on behalf of the Trust.

Maldwin Drummond

Many of you probably already know that Maldwin Drummond, Gilly’s husband, died on the 17th February. Many members have already sent their sympathy to Gilly.

His funeral took place on 16th March at Fawley All Saints Church. Simon Hayes represented the Trust.

Hampshire Gardens Trust and the National body, The Gardens Trust

Meetings

The Gardens Trust (the umbrella organisation of all the County Gardens Trusts and what was formerly The Garden History Society), has organised three area meetings for Counties to come together to share their experience. The meetings concentrate on research, conservation and education work. Janice Bennetts and Janet Hurrell attended the meeting for our area held in Swindon, which brought together representatives from Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Devonshire and Warwickshire. Janice gave a very full illustrated presentation of how our research and conservation teams work, and in particular, highlighted the Trust’s website through which the Hampshire Register of Historic Parks and Gardens can be accessed. If you have never looked at this part of our website, you might find it quite illuminating! To view, either open up the Trust website and click on Hampshire Register on the right hand site or go straight in on: http://research.hgt.org.uk. I don’t think many other Counties have such a research tool as this. And as far as I know, no other Gardens Trust carries out, on behalf of the County, the maintenance of the Heritage Environment Records for their historic parks and gardens.

The representative from Warwickshire told the rather depressing story of Warwick Castle and the Glamping and Yurt ‘park’ in part of the parkland. Other Counties find members fulfilling more than one role, as they have few active volunteers. We in Hampshire are very fortunate!

Martin Newman of Heritage England (HE) talked to us about the HE website and what it provides, stressing the improvements that are being made to facilitate editing the description of a site, adding new facts as they become available or amending mistakes made in the original description.

Visits & Talks

The Gardens Trust also arranges talks and visits (open to all County Gardens Trusts members) and publishes a learned Journal for those who pay a separate membership fee. Also open to anyone, is the annual AGM and Conference which this year will be at Plymouth University 31st August — 3rd September. This year’s conference titled ‘Blest Elysium’ – Sustainable?’, will include visits to:
Saltram; Devonport Park, a Victorian Public Park; Ford Park Cemetery; Endsleigh; and a boat tour of Plymouth Sound to Mount Edgecumbe (an 18th century garden grafted onto an earlier one). The visits and talks will concentrate on the challenges faced by professionals, custodians and managers to make them sustainable and relevant in the 21st century. For more details — http://thegardenstrust.org/event/gardens-trust-annual-conference-2017/

Janet Hurrell
Representative of HGT to the Gardens Trust

### Meeting with Hampshire’s Conservation Officers

The Conservation Officers’ Liaison Group of Hampshire invited representative(s) of HGT to attend a meeting set up in conjunction with Heritage England, which was held 3rd March, 2017, in Selborne.

The theme of this meeting was ‘Historic Landscapes’ and Sally Miller and I were invited to give short talks on the activities of both Research Group and the Conservation Team, to show how HGT can assist Conservation Officers. Presentation of how much research we carry out and how it is all presented on the Trust’s website for all to use never fails to impress, as does the explanation of how the Conservation Team picks up on this research to provide Planners and Conservation Officers with easily digestible information.

Following our presentations we had interesting exchanges with several Conservation Officers on specific sites in their areas. Further, Sally Miller was asked to provide Heritage England with a case for the upgrade of Bramshill Park from Grade II* to Grade 1, in recognition of its importance as the setting for the Grade 1 listed house. Both Bramshill and Minley Manor featured in our conversations with a Conservation Officer of Hart District Council.

We have presented HGT to a similar meeting in the past but Conservation Officers move on and our existence is forgotten. With the reduction in experienced staff in various areas of Local Government now is an ideal time to renew the link and hopefully maintain it for the future.

Janet Hurrell

### Conservation and Development Team News

#### New members

The good news is that we have been able to attract three new, very welcome, members to the Team.

#### Planning responses on Historic Garden Sites

It has been a busy few months for the C & D Team with several planning applications for development in or near important historic parks in Hampshire, to which the Trust needs to respond.

**Minley Manor** in Hart District was from the 1930s MOD property. It has been sold and is to be developed as a hotel, conference centre and wedding venue, together with a Chinese cultural centre in its woodland. The Trust has submitted objections to significant parts of the proposed design.

![Minley Manor 2007](image)

**Bramshill** also in Hart was until recently, the Police Staff College. It has now been bought by a developer for housing within the unique landscape park, together with as yet undecided use of the Jacobean Manor House. The developer is sensitive to the heritage site and will be retaining ownership of the Jacobean house and immediate gardens. However, the Trust has objected to certain aspects of the housing development in the main park area. The latest development proposal, which could affect an important historic site, is **Hackwood** in Basingstoke & Deane. Rumoured to be on the market for over £65m making it possibly the most expensive property in England, this Grade I listed building and Grade 1 listed ancient woodland are not in themselves the subject of any
inappropriate development but it has been drawn to our notice that Moto, the motorway service provider, has noted its wish to build a hotel and service station at junction 6 of the M3. This is close enough to the Hackwood Estate to be a concern not only to the Trust but also to CPRE (see further page 12).

Apart from the major sites, as named above, the Team responds on behalf of the Trust to many other planning applications which affect sites of local historic interest.

The only grant that we have offered recently is to Wymering Manor, Portsmouth, which is featured on page 7, for assistance with the implementation of a new planting plan for the grounds.

Janet Hurrell, for the Conservation Team

The Research Group has happily welcomed some new researchers this year and, in February we held our Annual Review Day at the Fryern Hill Pavilion in Chandlers Ford (an excellent venue).

**Project for 2017**

Our main project in 2017 is to continue our review of the health of Hampshire’s Urban Parks, as reported in the last Newsletter. Havant here we come! This project involves researchers in groups of two or three visiting a group of park or green space sites, recording and photographing them to assess changes against our ‘base-line’ data, a survey carried out for Hampshire County Council in 1997. If you think you might like to find out more about the Research Group, this is an easy way to meet a few of us and join a survey on a fine day this spring. Do get in touch with me. If you are interested, in the first instance please e-mail the office at mailto:admin@hgt.org.uk.

**Research Group News**

Having waved farewell to ‘Capability’ Brown at the end of last year, we are looking at other anniversaries on the horizon. Next year is the bicentenary of the death of Humphry (correct spelling!) Repton, often considered Brown’s successor in the English landscape school of design. We have only one (possible) Repton site in Hampshire, so we are keeping our heads down. Much nearer to our hearts, this year is the bicentenary of the death of Jane Austen, and 240 years since the Rev. William Gilpin moved to Boldre in the New Forest. You all know Jane and a close reading of her novels reveals a knowledge about — and opinions on — contemporary garden fashions. But you may be less familiar with the Rev. Gilpin. Both feature in our programme of Tuesday Afternoon Talks at Hampshire Record Office this year. The programme and booking form are on pages 6 and 13.

As for the ‘day job’, we continue to update and enrich the Hampshire Register of Historic Parks and Gardens. This research work is vital in allowing our Conservation and Development Team to make informed and authoritative responses to planning applications that affect these historic sites. Recently colleagues and I have been closely involved with advising on two sites (Bramshill and Westbury) that have changed hands and are the subject of planning applications. News about those are on pages 3 and 8.

Sally Miller
Chairman Research Group
School News

Our schools team has had great success over the years in supporting teachers and pupils with garden and growing projects in Hampshire schools. The HGT trustees are now in the early stages of exploring the development of our Education Team to include support for wider outdoor community projects.

Rosie Yeomans
Vice-Chairman, Hampshire Gardens Trust

Events Team News

We have a full varied and interesting programme planned this year for members and their guests. There is still availability on our June visits, so do contact the office if you are interested. They are to Upton Wold and Sezincote, 7th June; Ashe Park and Spring Pond, 14th June; and Bentworth Lodge and the Wakes, 26th June.

Our programme for late Summer/Autumn is well underway with a morning visit planned to Kimpton House, Petersfield on 1st August; an afternoon ‘Vine to Wine’ visit to The Down House, Itchen Abbas on 4th September; and finally, a morning visit to The Buildings, Broughton on 14th September. Full details and booking form will be emailed or posted, where requested, at the end of June.

Looking forward to 2018 - members of the team have researched (with advice from the Devon Gardens Trust) a possible coach trip to Devon for 2018, but as yet have not received sufficient responses to our recent e-mail notification to ‘press the button’ on this. Briefly, the trip will be based at the Best Western Hotel in Tiverton on a bed, breakfast and dinner basis. The cost is £489 for 3 nights (31st May — 3rd June 2018) including visits to 9 gardens or £359 for 2 nights (31st May — 2nd June 2018). Please do contact Leslie Shaw on 01962 841592 (e-mail missles@hotmail.com) or Sue Giles on 02381 787159 (suegiles50@yahoo.co.uk), as soon as possible, if you would like more information or to express interest in this potential trip.

As always, we welcome any suggestions for how our programme can be improved, so do get in touch. We would be delighted to hear from any members who have found a special garden gem that they think HGT should visit in 2018.

Jill Walmsley (walmsley.jill@gmail.com)

Bramdean House 21st February

Our visit began with an introduction from the owner of Bramdean House. This is the childhood home of Victoria Wakefield whose parents moved to the house in 1944.

Mrs Wakefield took over the property in 1972 and has continued to develop this lovely garden. We talked about the snowdrops and were shown a vase full of many varieties of this intriguing flower. We also learned more about the current trial of Nerine bowdenii, a plant which it was felt should be more widely used due to its attractive flowers and lack of fussiness.

Photos: author
The gardens at Bramdean have impressive winter structure and at this time of year the snowdrops, drifts of naturalised *Crocus tommasinianus* and Winter aconites take centre stage. The famed mirror herbaceous borders appeared as a flat brown canvas under their carpet of leaf mulch. It is interesting to see them like this knowing that in just a few months they will burst into colourful life.

The borders in the walled kitchen garden have curving stepping stones laid within them. This is a useful device allowing access for the maintenance of large borders.

The garden is formal in places, with a large well stocked kitchen garden surrounded by attractive walls of original stone. The orchard and meadow area at the top of the garden is bordered with a traditional laid hedge. The garden at Bramdean is a most pleasant place to spend time during the early season.

Jill Walmsley
Chairman Events Team

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**Garden History Tuesday Talks at Hampshire Record Office — on the 16th May at 2 — 3 pm**

Elizabeth Proudman will give a talk on *Jane Austen and the Landscape Garden*

Elizabeth Proudman was Chairman of the Jane Austen Society, and for many years has been a member of the Hampshire Gardens Trust and the Garden History Society. She lectures widely on Jane Austen and gardens, and it is interesting how the two subjects can intertwine.

**20th June at 2 — 3 pm**

David Stone will give a talk on *Graham Stewart-Thomas and his legacy at Mottisfont*

David Stone was appointed Head Gardener at Mottisfont Abbey in January 1978, when the now famous garden of “Old Fashioned” shrub roses, created by Graham Stuart-Thomas, was in its infancy. David worked closely with Graham, overseeing the collection’s expansion and the creation of a further Rose Garden, until his mentor’s eventual retirement in 1990. On David’s retirement in June 2014, he was elected an Associate of Honour of the RHS, an award restricted to 100 holders at any one time. Talks may be booked individually — a booking form is on page 13

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**The Association of Friends Groups**

The Association of Friends continues to meet twice a year for representatives to exchange views and concerns over their respective gardens. We are sad to note that Lin Hay who represented the Crescent Garden, Alverstoke, for several years, died in 2016. Also, that Peter Wilkinson, who has been with us on behalf of Townhill Garden, Southampton since the formation of the Association, was not able to join the meeting in March this year, due to ill-health. We hope to see him again, soon.

**Meetings**

It was the turn of the Dean Garnier Garden, Winchester, to host the first of the twice-yearly meetings, which was in the ‘garden studio’ of the Quaker Meeting house, actually located in the garden. The sun shone and the atmosphere quickly was established to sit back and listen to Martin Tod, Chairman of the Friends of Dean Garnier, talk about his distant relation — the 19th century gardening Dean Garnier. It was an informative and entertaining talk, and we all learned a lot about this remarkable man. Apart from his gardening skills displayed in his Rectory home in Bishopstoke, where he created a renowned arboretum reputedly visited and praised by Prince Albert, he also fought for a proper sewage system in Winchester — the first of which was created in the aptly named Garnier Road. I think an article about the gardening Dean is called for!

The talk was followed by the usual exchange of tips and information on shared problems and planting suggestions. Colin Mattingly highlighted a particular problem, referring to the difficulty of finding a replacement for one of the volunteers who used to religiously open and lock the gates at the Petersfield Physic Garden each day. While active volunteer gardeners can be found, attracting others to take more responsibility is a problem. The meeting in the autumn is to be held at the Porter’s Garden, Portsmouth Dockyard.
Friends of Dean Garnier Garden were invited to visit Hyde Abbey Garden on a gloriously sunny morning in early April, where they heard from Barbara Hall how, in 2003, the garden came to be created on what was hitherto a Winchester City Council car park. This was followed by a guided tour of the few remains of the Old Abbey, led by David Spurling of Hyde 900, which included searching for old stones from the Abbey ruins, now sitting in parts of walls in the area. It is hoped for a reciprocal visit to Dean Garnier Garden, later in the year. (For further information on Hyde Abbey Garden: view http://research.hgt.org.uk/item/hyde-abbey-garden/)

In 2013, the Wymering Manor Trust was gifted one of Portsmouth’s oldest residential buildings by Portsmouth City Council, but without a dowry, but with a huge backlog of major structural repairs, especially to the timber frame, dendro—dated to 1582. The repairs are costed at £2/3 million. The Portsmouth Youth Hostel which occupied the manor from 1960 moved out in 2006, because several major rooms were no longer usable. With the help of English Heritage and the Architectural Heritage Fund, Simon Goddard, of the Goddard Partnership, prepared an Options Appraisal about the restoration, grounds and future uses of the Grade II* manor. The Trust’s aim is to restore the manor and grounds for the local community to use and enjoy.

Wymering Manor once stood in extensive grounds and a lodge house still exists. When it was built, it was surrounded by countryside and grain fields near the main south coast road. The surrounding area was built over in the twentieth century so that the manor is now hidden amongst the modern homes of the suburb of Wymering, at the heart of the Old Wymering Conservation Area. Photographs show it in its original setting, close to the flint walled churchyard of St. Peter and Paul (c.1180) across Old Wymering Lane. The lane still has an old hedgerow and sections of flint wall to the north of the manor. The manor’s grounds were severely reduced by land sales from the 1940s onwards, when it was closely surrounded by development. Houses nearby date from the design of an early 20th century garden city. However, enough land survives around the manor for the trust to recreate a historic garden appropriate to its history. Pauline Powell, (Portsmouth’s Tree Warden) and Nadya Pearson, who are both involved in the Porter’s Garden in
Portsmouth dockyard, have designed a traditional garden for the manor with a yew hedge, roses and lavender appropriate to the manor’s history. Planting will be achieved over a five—year period, starting first with areas which will not be vulnerable to building work, such as the eastern frontage now exposed by a tall wire fence. The Wymering Manor Trust is very grateful for the recent Hampshire Gardens Trust grant towards the first phase of the work, which will also include a fruit and vegetable garden for local people to grow their own food.

Celia Clark

Andrew Bentley
Garden Manager, Chawton House

Working with Chawton Primary School
Adela Copse

I have been working in collaboration with Chawton Primary School since last summer on a project to plant trees in Adela Copse, one of our woodland areas. Some years ago the copse was heavily planted with conifer trees, which were then felled and extracted for the timber. This had left a largely open area with a few mature broadleaf trees such as Beech and Ash, which was becoming choked by scrub. Last summer, I noted that the Woodland Trust were donating ‘tree packs’ to schools and asked Chawton Primary if they would apply for one and help restock Adela Copse. After discussions, we opted for the largest ‘foraging pack’: 420 trees/shrubs as whips with canes and guards that had species, such as Rowan, Elder, Hazel, Blackthorn and Wild Rose, which provide food sources for wildlife. The pack arrived in the autumn and I cared for them until the spring, starting the planting marathon on 20th March. Kirsty Blandford, one of the teachers, led the project and with parent helpers spent the week with different groups of children visiting the copse and planting. On the first session, I taught them about the different species and how to do the planting itself. Despite some miserable weather, the project was finished by the Friday with the local vicar visiting the school for a tree blessing ceremony. I hope that many of you will visit Chawton House in 2017, to see for yourselves. Group garden visits can also be arranged. For more details, contact: andrew.bentley.chawtonhouselibrary.org

Volunteers at Chawton

Volunteers are sought for work in the garden to help maintain and enhance important areas such as the Rose garden and the two Edwardian Arts and Crafts terraces. The volunteer sessions will be on Mondays from 10am to 3pm. Volunteers may help for all or part of these hours and could be weekly, fortnightly or monthly. All tools and materials will be provided, as well as tea/coffee/biscuits to keep people going! It would be lovely to develop a small group of garden volunteers to help in beautiful surroundings and in a relaxed atmosphere. If interested, please contact: andrew.bentley.chawtonhouselibrary.org

Westbury House & Park

Westbury House was a care home, which is now closed, and the whole estate is on the market divided into lots. Our antennae twitched at the news, as Westbury is the site of an important example of early 18th century garden design.

The History

The owner of Westbury Park from 1722 was Admiral Philip Cavendish (Commander-in-Chief at Portsmouth, 1739-43). An inventory, made on his death in 1743, lists ‘The Avenue and Pleasure Garden which were laid out by Mr Bridgeman including the Yards’; and a survey plan was made.¹

Charles Bridgeman (d. 1738) is associated with two sites in Hampshire, the other being Hackwood Park (near Basingstoke). The precise date for each site is unknown, but it seems likely that both were laid out c. 1720-1730.² Indeed, it is likely that the owners of the two estates were acquainted.
The Bridgeman Plan

The plan shows all the characteristics of Bridgeman’s style which bridged the gap between the very formal garden layout, still fashionable at the beginning of the 18th century, and the ‘natural’ English landscape park which emerged towards mid-century. In the 1720s and 1730s Bridgeman designed for wealthy clients throughout the Home Counties, including Stowe (Buckinghamshire), Blenheim and Rousham (Oxfordshire) and Claremont (Surrey) where some features of his design, notably the grass amphitheatre, have been restored by the National Trust. Westbury also had a grass amphitheatre, on the rising ground south-west of the house. But Bridgeman was working on the cusp of change and many of his gardens had been swept away by the mid-18th century. Only tantalising fragments remain at Westbury: the ‘ghost’ of (possibly) the first ha-ha constructed in Hampshire and the remains of two long narrow formal canals (Fig. 1).

The approach to the house crossed a long narrow canal (fed by a carrier from the river Meon). To the east is a large rectangular area of kitchen gardens and orchards. There is another canal along the northern edge of the kitchen gardens and the two canals are linked through an irregular shaped pond. Between the kitchen gardens, the pond and the entrance drive are the ‘Yards’ referred to in the inventory description (coach house, stables and other outbuildings).

The Canals

The canals are so characteristic of Bridgeman’s work and almost certainly part of his design for the entrance to the park, straightening carriers of the Meon and introducing an element of formality to the rural landscape. The east canal survives in part and still has water in it. The Bridgeman plan shows a curved wall at the eastern head of this canal: that wall, previously unremarked, was identified during a site visit in February this year (Fig. 2). The west canal can still be traced as a deep dry ditch, its water supply cut off at some date by metal shuttering.

The Walled Garden

It seems probable that the kitchen gardens are contemporary with or pre-date Bridgeman’s work and the site has survived, the originally open gardens progressively walled round from 1815 onwards.
By the time of the 1st edition OS 25” map (1869—84) the gardens were completely walled with a glasshouse against the south-facing wall, probably the ‘large Vinery recently erected’ mentioned in 1865 sales particulars. An aerial photograph of the site, dated 1959, shows the house, coach house, pond and walled garden (Fig. 3). The walled garden is in very good condition and the span of the Vinery can be seen against the north wall.

By the time of the 1st edition OS 25” map (1869—84) the gardens were completely walled with a glasshouse against the south-facing wall, probably the ‘large Vinery recently erected’ mentioned in 1865 sales particulars. An aerial photograph of the site, dated 1959, shows the house, coach house, pond and walled garden (Fig. 3). The walled garden is in very good condition and the span of the Vinery can be seen against the north wall.

Today the walled garden is in a degraded state. The central portion of the Vinery survives, though ruinous, and the adjacent spans of glass are now marked by the footings only (Fig. 4). What has survived is a magnificent avenue of espaliered apple, which really should be protected (Fig. 5). Earlier this year, a resident on the estate applied to Heritage England to have the walled garden listed and the Trust supplied supporting material for that application. Unfortunately, the application was rejected but, as the site could still be the object of a planning application to build houses inside the walls, we will continue to keep a keen eye on its fate.

The importance of this walled garden lies in its close association with an historic Bridgeman landscape, and that it has been worked as kitchen gardens for nearly 300 years.

Condition today

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The importance of this walled garden lies in its close association with an historic Bridgeman landscape, and that it has been worked as kitchen gardens for nearly 300 years.

Sally Miller
Chair, HGT Research Group

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1 Hampshire Archives and Local Studies, Hampshire Record Office
2 Willis, Peter, Charles Bridgeman and the English Landscape Garden, London, 1977
3 See article on Bridgeman in HGT Magazine, issue 6, 2013, pp. 20-23.
The Wilderness at Palace House
Gardens, Beaulieu

"Miss Bennet, there seemed to be a prettyish kind of a little wilderness on one side of your lawn. I should be glad to take a turn in it, if you will favour me with your company."
"Go, my dear," cried her mother, "and shew her ladyship about the different walks..." 1

The term "a prettyish kind of a little wilderness" may seem a contradiction in terms for present—day readers but Jane Austen's audience would be familiar with a garden feature which had been popular and widespread since the seventeenth century and indeed, by the time of the publication of *Pride and Prejudice* in 1813, was becoming outdated. Our unfamiliarity with the term as used in the 18th century probably stems from the sweeping away of much garden formality during the Landscape Movement mid-century, to be replaced by rolling landscapes and the more informal shrubberies.

The 18th Century Wilderness

A Wilderness was a designed grove or wood, cut through by grass or gravel paths, an attractive area in which to wander — "wild" nature controlled for man's enjoyment and solace.

Philip Miller in his *Gardener's Dictionary* of 1735 described it thus:

"The usual Method of contriving Wildernesses is, to divide the whole Compass of Ground, either into Squares, Angles, Circles or other Figures, making the Walks correspondent to them, planting the Sides of the Walks with Hedges of Lime, Elm, Hornbeam &c and the Quarters within are planted with various Kinds of Trees promiscuously without Order... the Walks are commonly made to intersect each other in Angles...and the more these Walks are turned, the greater Pleasure they will afford. These should now and then lead into an open circular Piece of Grass; in the Center of which may be placed either an Obelisk, Statue, or Fountain" 2.

History of Palace House Gardens

Many visitors to the National Motor Museum at Beaulieu may be unaware of the long and chequered history of the gardens surrounding Palace House. After the Dissolution of Beaulieu Abbey in 1538, Henry VIII sold the site of the late monastery to Thomas Wriothesley, 1st Earl of Southampton, who converted the Inner Gatehouse to a modest manor house and occasional residence which became known shortly afterwards as Palace House. The Wriothesley family was the greatest landowner of the age in Hampshire, controlling its extensive estates from their newly constructed mansion at Titchfield. After 170 years of absentee landlordship, Beaulieu came into the possession of John, 2nd Duke of Montagu (1690—1749) who, although he didn't live at Beaulieu, visited several times a year and was the first to take a real interest in and to invest in the estate. Significantly, the earliest plans in the Estate archive date from this period.

As well as extending Palace House at Beaulieu and enclosing it with a moat, John also created a formal garden around his remodelled house. Documents show that a Wilderness was added to the west and north around 1718, consisting of a series of frequently crossing straight turfed walks and surrounded by an elm hedge, with seats set among the trees and shrubs 3. Philip Sone, the land steward, reported that spare oak and beech mast were available after the Wilderness

Registered charity 1165985
planting. A few of the oaks still remain, but many were lost in the hurricane of 1987.

The Wilderness seemed to require a fair degree of maintenance to judge by the payments for labour. There were problems stopping moles from spoiling the grass walks, and the upper part of the Wilderness at one time stood a foot deep in water until a ditch was dug which channelled the water into the Mill Pond.

A more distant view towards the wilderness  
*Photos: author*

Some time between 1721 and 1738 a water feature was added along the northern boundary of the garden, consisting of a cascade linked with a formal canal, raised walks and a mount. The Long Walk following the edge of the Mill Pond was created to join the Wilderness with these features and can still be walked today. As time went on, wildernesses became more informal and relaxed: rows of hedges were turning into shrubberies containing flowering shrubs and plants to provide colour and fragrance at different times of year, and linear walks were transformed into winding paths. At Beaulieu a reference to a 'serpentine' in 1747 may refer to the Wilderness, or indeed to the conversion of the cascade further to the north. Unfortunately, we may never know.

John died in 1749, and changing fashions together with absent owners resulted in the decline of the Wilderness at Beaulieu. An estate map of 1802 shows the western half clear of trees, and by 1868 only a scattering of trees remain anywhere. Despite major changes to the gardens in the late 19th and 20th centuries, the area occupied by the former Wilderness is today readily discernible and is still known as 'The Wilderness Garden'. Here, visitors can stroll along the reinstated Mill Pond Walk and enjoy the views over the water, while admiring the fine collection of rhododendrons and specimen trees which have been planted in this area over the years.

Dee Clift  
Research Group

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1. Austen Jane, *Pride and Prejudice* Ch.LVI, 1813  
3. Tomkins, Susan, Beaulieu Archivist - personal contact  
4. Buccleuch Living Heritage Trust, correspondence with Crispin Powell, archivist for the Duke of Buccleuch  
5. 1802 Earl of Beaulieu’s map, Beaulieu Archives  
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The Council to Protect Rural England  
CPRE

The Council to Protect Rural England (CPRE), as many of you will know, is mainly concerned with the effects of unwanted development in the countryside resulting in its despoliation or sometimes complete loss. However, sometimes this links clearly into the concerns of HGT over development in or near historic parks and gardens in Hampshire. Some of you may remember that a few years ago, the Trust and CPRE Hampshire drew up an accord to share concerns on planning applications affecting either of their interests. Unfortunately, this accord has up till now not worked particularly successfully. However, it has recently been brought to our notice that both groups are worried by the possible application for a new hotel and service station at J6 of the M3 motorway. This intrusion into the area close to Hackwood Park, a Grade II* listed house and Grade I listed woodland is of concern to both parties. We are, therefore, hoping to co-ordinate our responses when the situation becomes clearer. And we look forward to a closer co-operation with the CPRE Hampshire in the future.
## Garden History Tuesday Talks 2017

at The cinema, Hampshire Record Office,
Sussex Street, Winchester SO23 8TH
(Close to the station and park and ride buses)

**Time 2 — 3pm**

### Booking Form

Tickets are available separately or for the whole series

**Tickets £8 in advance, £10 on the door**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates/ Time</th>
<th>Talks/Speakers</th>
<th>No. of tickets</th>
<th>Total Cost</th>
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| 16th May    | *Jane Austen and the Landscape Garden*
              | Speaker: Elizabeth Proudman | | |
| 20th June   | *Graham Stewart-Thomas and his legacy at Mottisfont*
              | Speaker: David Stone | | |
| 19th September | *Remarks on Forest Scenery*, the Revd Gilpin, the Picturesque and the New Forest*
                             | Speaker: Sally Miller | | |
| 17th October | *The History of the British Rock Garden*
                           | Speaker: Janice Bennetts | | |
| TOTAL       | | | |

**Name(s) ....................................................................................................................

**Email: ................................................Tel No.................................

Please make cheques payable to: **Hampshire Gardens Trust** and send with the Booking form to:

Sheila Carey-Thomas
1 Thedden Grange
Wivelrod Road,
Alton, GU34 4AU

**NB** These are non-ticket events, acknowledgement of your booking will be made by email unless a SAE is enclosed.