



Hampshire Gardens Trust
Research Group Study Day

Water in Motion

“How changing taste and technology have influenced the design of garden water features”

Welcome

10.00 – Tea/Coffee

Programme

10.30 – 11.30

The Beginnings of Ornamental Water in England (1500 -1730)

Speaker Wendy Bishop

The origins of ornamental water features in England lie a long way back, in the fishponds introduced by the Romans, and adopted by monastic & royal estates. These appeared in Tudor landscapes, but not in the gardens, where almost the sole water feature was often a fountain. This changed towards the end of the 16C, as water gardens became popular. After the Civil War, these water gardens were largely replaced by geometric ‘canals’ & ponds. An exciting development of the early 18C was the appearance of ornamental lakes.

11.45 - 12.45

A Crystal Fountain, an Emperor Jet and more

Speaker Sally Miller

The tranquil lakes of the English landscape garden had been the dominant style of water since Capability Brown’s day. But around the middle of the 19C new technology married confident Victorian taste in impressive & ornate water features. Re-discovered hydraulic theories combined with new technologies in cast iron, glass & artificial stone enabled wealthy landowners to install even grander fountains, often commissioned from Paxton, master of the new technologies. Designs for wealthy clients were copied and mass produced for the growing middle classes & for public parks. This talk will trace how water features developed into the early 20C, when taste shifted towards Italian romanticism & inspired the water designs of Harold Peto.

2.00 – 3.00

The Design, Construction & Practicalities of Water Features & Major Land Forms in the Present Day

Speaker Robert Orford

Robert Orford is the director of a private company that has worked at historic locations with some of the most prestigious landscape architects in the country. Whether it be dancing water outside a shopping centre, wetland habitat or moving gallons of water as part of an irrigation system, the company designs, builds and renovates. This talk will cover the following elements: soil types, water storage, pumping & natural water flows, above ground retaining banks, erosion protection, bank edging and legislation in modern times.