



Hampshire Gardens Trust



News Sheet - Christmas 2019

Chairman's Christmas Message

Many thanks to all those who kindly signed up to attend the AGM on 7 December – we have a nearly 'full house' and are most grateful to you, and to all HGT members who have kindly supported our events and visits held throughout 2019.

If you know a garden enthusiast who might enjoy signing up for membership of the HGT, why not gift their first year's subscription? It is only £25 and would make an excellent and highly original gift.

In the meantime, the Trustees would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support for our charity and look forward to seeing you at another HGT event very soon.

Ted Wake

80th Birthday Celebration for our President, Gilly Drummond, September 2019

As many of you will know, Gilly Drummond was the driving force behind the formation of Hampshire Gardens Trust some 36 years ago following a meeting with Hampshire County Council and other interested parties. She became its first Chairman and in 2010, on the death of the Duchess of Wellington, took over as President. The current Trustees were therefore delighted to invite many luminaries from the Trust's past to join them, and a few long-standing active Trust members, to a celebration of Gilly's 80th birthday, fittingly held at Jermyns House. A toast was proposed by Ted Wake, our current Chairman, followed by the ceremonial cutting of a magnificent chocolate cake.



*Ted Wake presenting Gilly with the new Herriard book
(see next page)*

Without you, Gilly, it is unlikely that there would be a Hampshire Gardens Trust and possibly none of the 34 other County Gardens Trusts which followed suit. So, thank you for what you have done for England's historic parks, gardens and public green spaces.

Janet Hurrell

**Book Launch at Hampshire Record Office:
*Humphry Repton at Herriard Park: Improving the Premises***

A Book Launch for this new publication by Hampshire Gardens Trust was held on Friday, 11th October at Hampshire Record Office. It was the culmination of much hard work and digging into the extensive Jervoise family archives held at the Record Office, by four members of our Research Group: Sally Miller, Sheila Carey-Thomas, Dee Clift and Eleanor Waterhouse.



The authors: Sheila, Dee, Sally & Eleanor

The book details the work of the famous landscape gardener Humphry Repton, for his client George Purefoy Jervoise at Herriard Park between 1793 and 1800. Gillian Mawrey, in the November newsletter of the *Historic Gardens Review*, praised the beautifully produced volume and described it as ‘a model of what a dedicated group of researchers can add to the sum of information about a wider topic’. It was edited by Sue Gordon and designed by Steve Cluett.

It is a lavishly illustrated publication that would make an ideal Christmas gift! It shows how Repton corresponded with his client, as well as his expert draughtsmanship in the exquisite plan of the kitchen garden, which he later referred to as *Garden and Shrubberies*. It is also full of fascinating information about plants and seeds purchased during that period: fruit trees and bushes, vegetable seeds, shrubs and bulbs, as well as the materials and the cost of building a walled hexagonal garden. This is a book to read and browse through after the excesses of the Christmas lunch! ** *Janice Bennetts*

**** Book available from the HGT office at £12 (incl post and package) – copies will be available at the AGM**

**Study Day, 23rd October, Chawton House
*Towards a Sustainable Landscape – Looking to the Future***

Summarised from a Report by Georgina Craufurd, full report on HGT website

The Research Group’s study day addressed the future of the landscape and how we can live more harmoniously with the natural environment. The line-up of three well-known speakers, Kim Wilkie, Nigel Dunnnett and Isabel Allen, proved a considerable attraction and it was good to note that the subject had attracted young garden designers and many non-HGT members.

The first speaker was **Kim Wilkie**, who introduced himself as a landscape consultant and a farmer. He argued that the character of our landscape is the result of millennia of careful farming and management of the land. Farming ‘well’ means treating the soil as a living organism, full of microbial life, which is what he practises on his own farm, rather than an inert substratum to be saturated with chemical fertilisers and pesticides.

He went on to describe new resilient cities, including one in the Omani desert that works with re-use of ‘grey’ water filtered through hillside terraces of vegetables and date palms. A visionary scheme of his is a design for the surroundings of the Natural History Museum, London Museum, (though, alas, the future of

the garden designs is now uncertain). A success story on the other hand is the Thames Landscape Strategy for the view over the Thames from Richmond Hill, which has returned to 18th-century land use and restored the flood plain to its original function.

Kim Wilkie was followed by **Nigel Dunnett**, author of *Naturalistic Planting Design* (2019). He argued for enhancing Nature; you do not have to use local species, as long as they are drought tolerant. In his new design for the Barbican in London, he used a green palette, with grasses, Euphorbias, Sisyrinchiums etc.; while at Trentham gardens in Staffordshire, he ‘greened’ the woodland by first crown-lifting the trees, then using a 200-mm depth of weed-free green waste/compost as a planting layer, in order not to disturb the tree-roots.

He also cited the example of The Soul of Norrebro, an integrated urban design and climate adaptation project for Hans Tavsens Park & Korsgade in Copenhagen by SLA Architects, as an outstanding example of sustainable planting design.

The third speaker, in the afternoon, was **Isabel Allen**, former editor of the *Architects Journal*, and at one time Design Director in the HAB Partnership. The aim of the HAB partnership was mainly to design low-cost, high-density well-designed, sustainable housing for the mass market. All their projects prioritised shared landscaped and play spaces, with an emphasis on food-growing and habitats for wildlife.

HAB’s first project in Swindon, was a testbed for HAB’s strategy which was then adapted and developed for different types of projects, tenure and price brackets, notably at Cumnor Hill, Oxford, and the mixed tenure 50-home development at Kings Worthy, near Winchester. However, Isobel noted that there are commercial challenges and pitfalls in the HAB approach, particularly in a market designed to sell and place a value on individual homes, rather than communal facilities and space.

News from Library

Valerie Joynt, our Librarian, writes that there has been a blend of old and new titles added to our library collection in 2019. We have had a mix of second-hand books which fill in missing spaces in our collection as well as recent publications such as E Herbert’s, *Flora’s Empire: British Gardens in India* and Richard Bisgrove’s *Gardening Across the Pond: Anglo-American Exchanges from the Settlers in Virginia to Prairie Gardening*. We have a truly impressive collection, named The Hutton Collection, which is available to all HGT members and housed in the Hartley Library of Southampton University. You just need to turn up at the Library and apply for a University Library card.
<http://www.hgt.org.uk/about/hutton-library/>

The Gardens Trust – Berkshire Visit



The Group at Peninsula Barracks

As you will know The Gardens Trust represents all 35 County Gardens Trusts in England. Earlier in the year, Berkshire Gardens Trust let us know that they were arranging a visit of their members to Winchester Cathedral and asked if we could perhaps give them a guided tour of any gardens within the centre of Winchester. A few members of the Research Group, headed by Sally Miller, met the Berkshire Gardens Trust visitors and took them on a circular tour starting in Dean Garnier Garden in the Cathedral Close and taking in Abbey Gardens, Serle’s House and Peninsula Barracks.

Visits late Summer/Autumn 2019

Late Summer and Autumn visits were to:

our Chairman's garden, **The Holt, Upham**, which has an iconic Kim Wilkie-designed grass terraced amphitheatre; grass 'snail mount' with cleverly concealed upward winding path; and a classic view from the top of the mount of a *patte d'oie* – all 16th and 17th century garden features that reflect the period when the house was built in 1682;

Bury Court, near Farnham, that has an oast house and walled garden, originally designed by Piet Oudolf with grasses and perennials, and a further garden of over 20 'squares' designed by Christopher Bradley-Hole, and again planted with grasses. It was noted that the gardens were looking a bit neglected and that the property is up for sale;

Arundells, Salisbury, the former home of former Prime Minister, Edward Heath, which still reflects his public life and personal interests. Its peaceful garden of lawns and mature trees created in 1985 forms a tranquil frontage to the confluence of the Avon and the Nadder rivers; and finally,

Exbury, where we were joined by Lionel and Nicholas de Rothschild, and head gardener, Tom, creating a great opportunity to enquire about plants and planting. Although the Exbury Gardens are best known for Azaleas and Rhododendrons, it was the collection of Nerines, displayed in the Five arrow Gallery, that gave a truly 'wow' factor.



The Holt



Bury Court



Arundells



Exbury

Photos: Jo Bolt & Teresa Yeates

Note: Lionel de Rothschild is the speaker following the AGM and lunch on 7 December.

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