

# Hampshire Gardens Trust

Newsletter  
Autumn 2020

Issue No. 9

for the conservation of designed  
landscapes, parks and gardens

*In this issue:*

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Hampshire Gardens Trust

[www.hgt.org.uk](http://www.hgt.org.uk)

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If you are able to  
distribute membership  
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family members or  
social groups you  
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contact the office.

Your continued  
support is very much  
appreciated.

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Members of



# Chairman's Message

Welcome to the Hampshire Gardens Trust Autumn newsletter. It has been an extraordinary year for us all, and whilst many are beginning to see green shoots in terms of slowly getting back to some degree of a more normal routine, it is clear that the pathway to the Brave New World is definitely not going to be a smooth one. Amidst the anxiety that the Covid restrictions have brought, those of us who are passionate about gardens have found *more* opportunities to tend our gardens, and with it there is perhaps some solace – the process of cultivating the soil and encouraging plants to grow, certainly seems to have a therapeutic benefit and has been a welcome distraction from the constant stream of *not* good news.

Although we have all had to forego many opportunities to visit other people's gardens, I would like to congratulate the Events team who were able to arrange a day out in August visiting two great Hampshire gardens: Bramdean House and Weir House (see page 9). We look forward to welcoming many of you back to one of the HGT visits already scheduled for 2021.

I don't know about you, but during Lockdown, I become much more aware of the extraordinary privilege that comes with having access to a garden and green space – after a tricky day working at home in front of my computer, there is nothing quite like an hour or two working in the garden to help restore a sense of perspective. Access to a garden or green space is a privilege that is often denied to those who live in cities and urban areas, and the Coronavirus crisis has been a timely reminder that everyone needs access to green space – and it has also highlighted the benefit that human beings derive from being involved with the process of simply

growing plants. Giving people the opportunity and responsibility to nurture plants definitely helps restore our sense of well-being, and is particularly beneficial to those with fewer financial or family resources. Being able to grow flowers or vegetables can restore a sense of pride and achievement which may be less easy to derive from a job, or perhaps a lack of employment opportunities. Sue Stuart-Smith's excellent new book *The Well Gardened Mind* is reviewed later in this newsletter – and will, no doubt become a set text in the years to come as we grapple with 21<sup>st</sup> century challenges associated with the responsibility of managing a densely populated planet.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those already involved with the Hampshire Gardens Trust for the crucial support you provide to help the HGT nurture and protect the great gardens and landscapes of Hampshire. Our Conservation & Development team, ably led by Mike Ricketts, has been keeping a close eye on the constant flow of new planning applications that threaten to erode or destroy the green space that many take for granted. There is little doubt that HM Government's recent relaxation in planning legislation will increase the demands on the C&D team's time as they battle to restrict inappropriate new development. We thank them for their diligence and wish them luck in their quest to keep developers and planners on their toes.

The HGT Research Team, led by Sally Miller, undertakes vital work to identify and keep accurate records of Hampshire's great gardens and landscapes, and to catalogue these wonderful places – highlighting the significance of their original historical context. The Research Team is often able to provide crucial research to guide and

inform others at some unknown point in the future, and the results of their diligence is noted with a prominent acknowledgment in Sue Stuart-Smith's book in relation to Sarisbury Court (see article on page 18) – many congratulations on this excellent achievement.

We are currently keeping a close eye on several new areas of concern – not least the threat of a 'new approach' taken by the National Trust who are the current guardians of four great Hampshire gardens: Hinton Ampner, Uppark, Mottisfont and The Wyne. In addition to this self-inflicted challenge caused by the National Trust's own management strategy, Winchester currently has two important sites which need watching – both of which *could* be greatly enhanced with some imaginative and bold planning decisions in favour of creating new, inspirational green spaces for the benefit of all: keep an eye on Bushfields, the Highfield House Cattle Market sites.

Finally, I would like to thank Russell Gordon-Smith for his work on the HGT's new Winchester Walking Trail leaflet – he has designed a very useful leaflet drawing residents' and visitors' attention to a number of the city's most interesting gardens – some of which would not have come into existence without the drive and initiative of past and present HGT members.

If you are not already a member – please do join us, we would welcome your support, and do please send a donation if you can, this has been a tricky year and our fundraising activities have been curtailed.

Ted Wake

Ted Wake  
Chairman



# Conservation & Development Team Update

Other than our first meeting of the New Year on 15 January, like everyone else (I guess) due to 'Deconfinement' as the French call it, our activities have been limited to remote working. That is not to say that we have been 'completely idle' and the following is a summary of matters on the go.

## Planning Application Consultations

These are handled by the various members of the Team allocated to each local planning district, in liaison with the Trust's Research Group and with the conservation officers, especially Margie Hoffnung from The Gardens Trust, as the national consultee.

- North Stoneham Estate, Eastleigh – a proposed retirement village and its effect upon a high grade Brownian landscape, including a number of related buildings, such as a coach house and a walled kitchen garden.
- The Vyne, Sherborne St. John – proposed replacement of the spillway and pedestrian bridge, including improvements to the flood wall. Formal response by The Gardens Trust (GT).
- Marchwood Priory Hospital – concerns about the condition of the walled kitchen garden (now in separate ownership) in liaison with New Forest DC.
- Minley Manor, Hart – a second pre-application following last year's submission for a proposed high quality hotel and ancillary functions. The proposals have implications for the immediate historic gardens surrounding the house. Discussions are ongoing with Hart DC. Input also from G T.
- M3 MOTO Motorway Service Station, Basingstoke – A second response sent to this proposal on land adjacent to Junction 6 and concern for the impact upon the Grade I landscape of Hackwood Park by Bridgeman. Liaison with and a formal response for objection from GT.
- Havant Thicket – proposed reservoir by Portsmouth Water on woodland to the north of Leigh Park/Staunton Country Park.
- Staunton Country Park - a proposed modern sculpture close to the old stable block on the northside of the pleasure grounds, part of the HLF scheme by HCC. (We still have representation on the HCC's Project Board which is implementing the HLF scheme).
- Royal Victoria Country Park, Netley – proposed refurbishment and extension to the Empire Building for a new Park Centre.

- Whitehill and Bordon Site – proposed large scale development for up to 1300 additional homes, totalling 3,500 overall as part of the town's transformation as a 'Green, Healthy and connected town'.

## Local Plan Consultations

- Regulation 18 Local plan Consultation Fareham (Jan/Mar) – purpose of Local Plan (once adopted) to establish how the Borough will develop up to 2036.
- Southampton City Vision – finding sites for 20,000 new homes by 2040 (consult Mar/May).
- Draft New Forest Revised Habitat Mitigation Scheme – SPD.
- Fareham Borough Council Infrastructure Levy – draft consultation scheme (Jun/Jul)

We also get a number of informal enquiries. For example:-

- Advice was given on a proposed management plan for Warbrook House grounds in Eversley and research information from the Research Group (Report 2013 by Valerie Joynt) was passed to the property's agent.
- A report from the New Economic Foundation (NEF) on behalf of the CPRE, 'Introducing a South Hampshire Green Belt – exploring the socio-economic and environmental value.
- A paper by the Local Plan Advisory Group on a new initiative for the former aerodrome site at Bushfield, Winchester, with its surrounding downland and SSSI.

**Michael Ricketts**  
**Chairman Conservation &  
Development Team**

# Conservation & Development Team Projects

## Projects

With most of last year's projects being completed, the Team is now involved with the following to date:-

- Winchester Gardens Walking Trail: One project ongoing from last year. Following the earlier submission of the updated, draft brochure by Russell Gordon-Smith, the Trustees requested that Hyde Abbey Garden be included in the trail.
- Alresford Memorial Garden: This area to the north of New Alresford is a particular initiative of the Team itself. It came to our notice that the area was used in the past as a 'local swimming pool'. But in recent years the landscape has deteriorated and there is an opportunity to rescue what could be an attractive public space, which is on the local footpath network. In consultation with the Town Council, a site survey has been commissioned (at a cost of £400) and Russell kindly offered to design a sketch scheme for approval by the Team. Any preferred options will be subject to local public consultation.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all the members of the Team for their unstinting efforts and enthusiasm and valuable contributions, each in their own way - and also to Valerie Joynt for her help and input into proposals in the northern part of the county.

**Michael Ricketts**  
**Chairman Conservation &  
Development Team**

## Home Nursery Green, Winchester

A further small grant of £200 has been made towards this previously grant aided scheme, for additional structural planting to assist the local neighbours and volunteers.

Cllr Liz Hutchison, WCC member for St Paul Ward, who was instrumental in this scheme says 'planting took place on Sunday 5 July, we were helped by two families who live close by. Subsequently we have been to the gardens a number of times and it is a pleasure to see them being enjoyed by local residents, families in particular. We are still hoping it will be possible to establish a Friends' Group; Many people have contributed and we have local volunteers helping with the watering; we just need a co-ordinator'



*New planting scheme at Home Nursery Green*

# Research Team Update

In our last newsletter (Winter/Spring 2020) there is a photograph of a research group event and there we are, up close and personal, elbow to elbow! That was in February and it's rather sobering to realise that it now seems Covid was already here. However, I am very pleased to report that we are all still standing. Needless to say most research group activity ceased abruptly in March when Hampshire Record office and all other archives and libraries closed. During the lockdown Janice continued the task she had already embarked on of auditing all the sites on our research website, District by District. This is such an important project: it is letting us, for example, identify sites that need to be investigated and if necessary removed from the Inventory if no trace of any historic features remains. The Inventory was first compiled in the 1990s and nearly thirty years has seen many sites completely built over.

Lockdown also generated a higher than usual number of enquiries from members of the public who finally had time to investigate the history of their homes. Although enquiries along the lines of "my great grand-father was a gardener at (insert estate name) do you have any information about him please?" rather confused us with Ancestry.com!

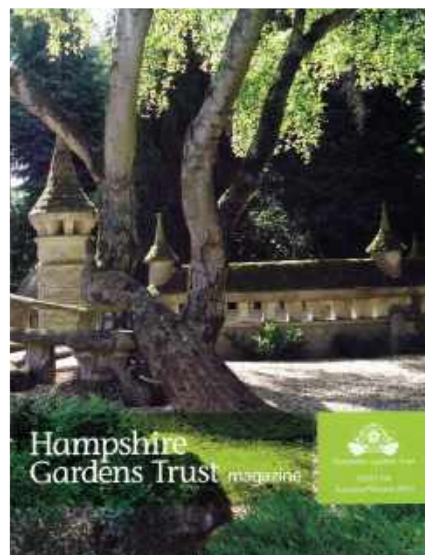
The Record Office has recently reopened with pre-booked visits, so we are planning to get back to our research, as there are one or two interesting projects on the horizon for next year.

Meanwhile we have organised two events for the group in September: a garden visit and an open-air sociable bring-your-own lunch. We are looking forward to getting together again.

**Sally Miller,**  
**Chair, Research Group, Trustee**

## COMING IN THE WINTER

'A revived HGT Magazine, last published in 2013. It will carry articles that follow up some of the themes we explored last October in our Study Day (how long ago that feels now!) on sustainable landscapes and the need - more recognised than ever since the lockdown - for well designed public green spaces in the new housing developments planned throughout Hampshire.'



Cover image of the last HGT magazine

## ARE YOU INTERESTED IN JOINING OUR RESEARCH GROUP?

If you are interested in the history of our parks and gardens the research group would love to hear from you'.

Please contact the Administrator | [admin@hgt.org.uk](mailto:admin@hgt.org.uk)

# Education Team Update

## Grayshott Church of England Primary School

As reported in the last newsletter we are working with Grayshott Primary School to help them raise funds for the renovation of their overgrown Wildlife Garden and the replanting of the Peace Garden.

The active Parent Teachers Team has already been successful in raising funds for a new playground so they are well placed when given the tools to access funding once a design for the site is in place.

Richard Connell landscape architect at New Enclosures has offered his services to help HGT achieve this.

Richard and I met at the site along with Head Teacher, Sharon Pritchard, and Nina Mosses Chair of the Parent Teachers Assoc.

It was fantastic to see Richard get inspired by the site and hear his initial ideas. Creating a natural area which the school children and the local community will be able to access safely in order to learn.

We have appointed a company to complete a topographical survey of the site which HGT will fund. Richard will then produce a design and implementation plan. This work will then be used by the school's fundraising team to raise the monies for the project. It is hoped that parents, the local scout group

and other members of the community will be involved in the implementation.

We are hopeful that the work can be completed in time for the Grayshott Gardens Festival schedule in the Summer of 2021.



*Richard Connell carrying out the site survey*

## Eastleigh Young Carers visit to Gilbert White's House

We had planned to take a group of Young Carers for an activity day at Gilbert White's House as part of the tercentenary celebrations.

Unfortunately due to lockdown and the Covid-19 restrictions this has not been possible.

We hope to be able to rearrange this trip with the Eastleigh YC group next year. In the meantime we are investigating providing a selection of activity packs for the young people with help from Fiona Oakley, Learning Programmes Manager, at the Gilbert White Field Studies Centre.

**Jill Walmsley**  
**HGT Trustee - Education**

# Events Team Update



Weirs Barn



Durmast House



The Manor House



Old Camps



Waltham Place Farm

## SPRING/SUMMER EVENTS 2021

### Thursday 22nd April

*Morning self-drive*

**Weirs Barn, Hartley Wintney  
Hook, RG27 8HS**

Members £12 Guests £15

### Wednesday 12th May

*All day self-drive*

*not including lunch*

**Bisterne Manor & Durmast House  
Nr Ringwood**

Members £30 Guests £35

### Thursday 3rd June

*Morning self-drive*

**The Manor House, Upton Grey,  
Hampshire, RG25 2RD**

Members £10 Guests £12

### Wednesday 16th June

*Morning self-drive*

**Old Camps,**

**Thatcham, RG19 8LG**

Members £15 Guests £18

### Thursday 8th July

*Full day including a light lunch*

**Waltham Place Farm,**

**White Waltham**

**Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 3JH**

Members £25 Guests £30

BOOKING WILL BE  
OPEN FROM  
1ST FEBRUARY 2021

As we all know, due to the pandemic we had to cancel our Spring/Summer Events programme. Most of the visits were fully booked and as they seemed very popular we thought we would just book them up for 2021. The only change is that we have switched the coach trip to High Beeches & Leonardslee where bookings seemed low, to a full day trip to Durmast House and Bisterne Manor.

Booking will be available from the beginning of February, so plenty of time!

All being well, our AGM will take place on Saturday 5th December at the Littleton Memorial Hall. More information to follow.

**Teresa Yeates  
Events Chair**

**\*SAVE THE DATE\***

**AGM**

**SATURDAY  
5TH DECEMBER**

**LITTLETON  
MEMORIAL HALL  
WINCHESTER**



# Events Team—2020 Garden Visits

## Members Visit - Bramdean House and Weir House - 13<sup>TH</sup> August 2020

After all the constraints imposed on us by the pandemic, thirty members took the opportunity to have a day out near Alresford.

On a slightly cooler day, luckily, then at the height of the heatwave, Bramdean House was our morning visit. Maggie, the Head Gardener, gave a short introduction to the garden and its management after which we were able to wander at will through the grounds. The famous mirror image herbaceous borders (pictured on our cover page) were a talking point as was the colourful wildflower strip in the walled garden. As well as having a large collection of unusual plants including some very tall 'Giraffe' sunflowers, the wilder areas of the garden give it a romantic feel. The sustainability of the planting and care at Bramdean is an area being focussed on by the whole team.

Following a break for lunch, most people taking a picnic, we regrouped at Weir House, Abbotstone. With the threat of thundery showers, and some large clouds nearby, umbrellas were in hand!

This is a spectacular riverside garden with an attractive Arts and Crafts style house, so the rain did not dampen our enthusiasm.

The owner, Janette, welcomed us and gave us details of how the plot had been developed over the years. The gardeners, as well as picking beans for us to take home, were happy to answer all our questions. There was the opportunity to have a cup of tea which was much appreciated.

The boardwalk planting was especially impressive at this time of year and the contemporary garden in the pool area sparked a lot of interest. The vegetable area was productive and colourful and had lots of ideas we could take home to use.

The consensus was that it had been a good day out and a welcome chance to meet up with old friends.

**Gillian Taylor**  
**Events Team**

Bramdean House



Weir House



# News from the Friends Group

**“The Sunken Garden at Townhill Park is one of the greatest historic restorations in the entire county.” \***

The 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Swaythling bought the Townhill Park Estate, Southampton, in 1897 as a residence for his son, Louis, who was soon to be married. The new house, designed by Leonard Rome Guthrie, was built between 1909 and 1912, when the gardens were also set out. The second plan for the gardens was designed by Guthrie and Gertrude Jekyll, with Gertrude deciding on the planting for the herbaceous borders, the Sunk Garden and the Herb Garden. Her influence can be seen in the design, which afforded a beautiful view from every angle. Louis also proposed that a Woodland Garden should be established in Marlhill Copse, which formed part of the estate.

On Louis's death Stuart inherited the title and the formal gardens and the Woodland Garden flourished during the 1920's and 1930's under the care of his Head Gardener, Fred Rose. Stuart and Fred Rose became renowned for hybridising rhododendrons, many of which were named after Stuart's family, the Montagus. Some of these rhododendrons can still be seen growing in Marlhill Copse. In its heyday the Woodland Garden, which covered fourteen acres, rivalled that of Exbury Gardens.

At the outbreak of World War II Fred Rose sent for safe-keeping many seeds of the hybridised rhododendrons to a Norwegian American living in Seattle called Halfdan Lem, who later became a founder member of the American Rhododendron Society. Halfdan Lem had visited Fred Rose at Townhill in the early 1930's and was inspired to begin hybridising rhododendrons himself.

In 1948 Lord Stuart Swaythling sold the Townhill Park Estate and moved to Surrey. The gardens still flourished until the Merchant Navy cadets left in 1981. Then the gardens fell into decline and by 1989 they were totally neglected and many of the pillars (150 in total) forming the pergola around the Sunk Garden had collapsed and broken.



The pergola in 1990



The Sunk Garden in 1993

In the early 1990's Hampshire County Council paid for the repairs to the pergola pillars and oak beams, as the start of the restoration. When the Gregg School occupied Townhill Park House and Gardens in 1994, the gardens were unrecognisable as a Jekyll creation and desperately in need of informed care and attention. The Hampshire Gardens Trust stepped in to help, and Rachel Bebb led the project by establishing a Friends of the Gardens group of volunteers to carry out the hard work of turning chaos into cosmos. Rachel was “hands on” and inspired others to join. Peter Andreae, at the time a Hampshire County Councillor, was instrumental in promoting the repair of the pergola, and Gilly Drummond used her influence and undoubted powers of persuasion to encourage support for the undertaking.

A Friends group was formed in 1997, with Rachel as chair. Initially around twenty-five volunteers, along with three employees of the Gregg School, set to work restoring some of the main structures of the gardens,

# News from the Friends Group

such as walls and paths and beginning to remove heavily overgrown shrubs, reducing the height of the yew hedging and digging the turves from the hidden flower beds. The brick paths in the Sunk Garden were re-laid in herringbone pattern with the restored pond as its central feature. In the Herb Garden the tall yew hedges which used to divide the area into "rooms" had all disappeared, but had to be replaced with box hedging, as the deer had eaten the young yew plants. The herbaceous borders had disappeared under grass, so they had to be dug out again and edging placed between the soil and the lawn.



The herbaceous borders in 1997



The Herb Garden in 1996

The Friends raised money through the sale of cakes on Open Days, through membership money and donations. The Hampshire Gardens Trust also gave generous gifts to help with structural repairs. Slowly, metre by metre, the volunteers made progress, and with Gertrude Jekyll's plans, made available to us and interpreted by Jane Balfour, the gardens began to take shape. Rosaleen Wilkinson led the re-instatement of Jekyll's

plans, as she has a Diploma in Horticulture. Janet and David Harley took over re-planting the Sunk Garden, while Rosaleen replanted the herbaceous borders and the Herb Garden. Rod Clay, who used to work as a nurseryman in Marlhill Copse during the 1960's has been an enormous help, both in his knowledge of plants and in his familiarity with the history of Townhill since the 1950's. Gradually the number of volunteers diminished, until, by the year 2000, only six hands-on die-hard volunteers remained.

By 2010 most of the restoration of the formal gardens was complete, but the deer were eating lots of the plants, which cost the Friends five hundred pounds in the first year. A change of plan was necessary and the range of plants had to be limited to those which, it was thought, the deer would not eat. The deer disagreed and continued to eat some of the plants. We have come to the conclusion that in cold weather the deer will eat almost all plants in order just to survive. Adaptation has been a necessity in the restoration at Townhill.



Who, me?



Thanks for the food!

# News from the Friends Group

The Gregg School has been supportive of the Friends throughout the long restoration and is now employing gardeners on a part-time basis and is training apprentices to supplement the workforce in the gardens. Unfortunately after twenty-three years the faithful have grown older and less capable of regular exacting physical labour, so the help of young trainees comes as a blessing.

The restoration of the Gertrude Jekyll gardens at Townhill Park has been a great success and the following quotation, as is also the title of this article, is taken from Timothy Mowl and Jane Whitaker's book "The Historic Gardens of England – Hampshire":

*\* "... the informed volunteers at Townhill, especially Rosaleen Wilkinson and Janet and David Harley, have re-planted using Jekyll's plans, but adapting them when they saw fit to do so. The restoration is nothing short of a triumph and should be better known."*

These pictures were taken in 2011 immediately after the restoration of the formal gardens.



The Herb Garden and Summer House



The Pergola and Sunk Garden

All photographs courtesy of Peter and Rosaleen Wilkinson. In 2004 Rosaleen wrote and published a book on Townhill entitled: "**Townhill Park – The Life and Times of a Gertrude Jekyll Garden**"

This book priced £10 is available from the author at: [rosaleenwilkinson@talktalk.net](mailto:rosaleenwilkinson@talktalk.net)

**Peter Wilkinson**  
Trustee



The Herbaceous Borders



Part of the Restored Pergola

## New Member of Our Research Team

I joined Hampshire Garden Trust last year having just signed up to do the MA in Landscape and Garden History at the Institute of Historical Research in London (the course that used to be run at Birkbeck College). Since then I have

been on some HGT garden visits but, more importantly, have had the opportunity to share garden history ideas with members of the trust, particularly Janice Bennetts who has mentored me through my first tentative steps at archive research and the intricacies of the Hampshire Record Office. The demands of the MA have limited how much research I can do, although a Garden Research Report on



Picture is with Hettie Bettie the Cockapoo with the bluebells at Manor Farm escaping briefly from lockdown.

Southwick Park (formerly HMS Dryad) has been fascinating and thrown up new information on the history of this complex site and the challenges of assessing the remaining Victorian gardens and plants under military occupation! Further study is looking at the history of gardening for wildlife in the garden and a dissertation on Russell Page using the archive of the Garden Museum in London - when I can get there. The course has now been deferred to summer of 2021.

## Kevin Barton

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## Harold Peto's Travel Diaries 1880s-1890s

Devotees of the gardens designed by Harold Peto, be it Hinton Admiral, Heale House, West Dean, or his own home Iford Manor, will be pleased to know that, finally, just before Lockdown, the transcription & publication of the 12 surviving diaries by Robin Whalley was completed and I am honoured to have been involved during the early part of the project.

Robin Whalley writes 'the Diaries offer a very personal view of his experiences abroad during 1880s and

'90s....an evocative reflection of the experience of late C19th traveller while at the same time illuminating what was to become his essential and characteristic style of gardening which matured & blossomed following his decision to leave London & his architectural partnership with Ernest George in 1892' His diaries cover not only much of Europe but Greece, Turkey and Egypt, his first experience of the tropics in Ceylon, China & finally the wonders of Japanese gardens. Thus following his travels around the world, Peto purchased his beloved Iford Manor in 1899 where he could realise so many of the ideas and influences he had absorbed. SO just the 'read' for the New Normal!

All 12 diaries, published as individual booklets, may be purchased for the incredibly reasonable price of £8 the set including postage and packing by sending a cheque to Cwareli Press, Cwm Oergwm, Llanfrynach, BRECON, Powys LD3 7LQ.

## Jane Balfour

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## Champion Pear

Noted from the current edition of the RHS magazine, 'The Garden': 'An espalier pear tree at Houghton Lodge Gardens in Hampshire has been awarded 'Champion Tree' status. Around 200 years old and at 16.33 m across, their 'Pyrus communis Beurré Die!', is officially the widest in the UK'.

Houghton Lodge is a Grade II\* listed house delightfully situated on the River Test. Built in the 1790s and probably intended as a



fishing lodge, the architect is more than likely John Plaw, a disciple of John Nash for the Barnard family. Considered as England's finest surviving example of a Cottage Orné,

Houghton Lodge is surrounded by 5 acres of formal and informal gardens, idyllically set above the tranquil waters of the river.

# NEWS IN BRIEF

## Hutton Library Update

At the moment the Hartley is open only for collection of books pre-ordered online. The latest information is available at the Hartley Library Homepage. <https://library.soton.ac.uk/returntocampus#>.

As at 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2020 the situation is, you cannot currently enter any of our libraries to browse or study, this will happen in a later phase when we are confident that it is safe to reopen.

We will continue to share details of new and enhanced services via our website and social media channels ([Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)) or please contact us at [libenqs@soton.ac.uk](mailto:libenqs@soton.ac.uk) if you have any questions.

From Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July we will be operating a click & collect service, allowing you to reserve books available in the Hartley Library and collect them from the Hartley foyer. You can place requests from Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July using the Place Hold option in [WebCat](#): log in to WebCat, change the dropdown 'library' box to Hartley and search for the book you need. If there is a list of results, select the record for the appropriate book and click Place Hold (on the left of the screen).

We will let you know by email when your book(s) are ready, and you can collect them (contact free) at the Hartley Library between 11:00-15:00 Monday-Friday. Please note that you may have to queue, and we ask you to respect social distancing. You must receive the confirmation email before you come to collect your books. Please bring your University ID card and a bag to carry your books.

Initially click & collect will cover stock available at Hartley (excluding Archives) but we are working to expand the service to include our other libraries.

From Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> July our Click & Collect service will be available at the Winchester School of Art Library.

If you have a problem I suggest you contact Jenny Ruthven directly by email : [J.C.Ruthven@soton.ac.uk](mailto:J.C.Ruthven@soton.ac.uk)

**Valerie Joynt**

**Hon. Librarian**

**[valerie.joynt@joynt.co.uk](mailto:valerie.joynt@joynt.co.uk)**

## Aldershot Military Museum: The Resilience Garden

The Resilience Garden project, due to start Autumn 2020, will engage local men recovering from mental health illnesses, to design, create and maintain a community garden at Aldershot Military Museum.

The aim is to involve 60 men over a year, from both the Armed Forces and civilian communities. The project will bring these participants together to support their own mental health recovery, developing personal and social resilience through a supported, collaborative activity. This will be an alternative intervention aside from local support services. Participants will be invited to drop-in sessions and facilitated courses during the creation of the garden. These activities will be designed to enable them to develop trust and confidence in others, as well as learn new skills and coping mechanisms.

Once the garden is complete, the aim is for participants to become peer mentors and volunteers, encouraging their wider networks to join them in utilising the garden for mental health support. The garden will become a place of continued shared learning, and development, as well as improving community integration through common ground.

The Resilience Garden project has been generously funded by the MOD Covenant Fund and Hampshire Gardens Trust, and will be supported by local services, including the North East Hants Recovery College and Blooming Marvellous Community Garden Project.

**Deborah Neubauer**

**Head of Community - Hampshire Cultural Trust**



Aldershot Military Museum

# BOOK REVIEWS

## **Book Review | Humphry Repton & the Russell Family Author | Keir Davidson The Bedford Estates, 2018**

Humphry Repton has always been a controversial figure, admired and ridiculed in equal measure. He was first and foremost a painter seeking to balance his compositions with pleasing harmonious lines, ideals set firmly in the eighteenth century. When confronted with the Lake District he wrote,

*'It gave me a humiliating idea of the vanity of my profession. The vast lakes and their mountainous accompaniments of Nature had the effect of making me feel how little were the humble attempts of my art, which has so often been extolled and I felt regret that Nature and Art were at such an immeasurable distance. In the awful grandeur of the scenery there was more of the sublime than beautiful and that sublimity was mixt with terror.'*

Using the Duke of Bedford's commissions for improvements to the Woburn Abbey Estate and later commissions for his lands in Devon, Keir Davidson shows us both Repton's immense talents and strengths as well as his limitations.

Rejecting his early education in Holland, his six year apprenticeship in the textile trade and indeed his father's investment in setting him up in his own business, Repton used his small inheritance to move with his wife to Old Sustead Hall in Norfolk. Here he lived a life of leisure improving the farm and practising his watercolours. His neighbour and landlord at Felbrigg Hall brought him into contact with Joseph Banks and other learned men allowing him to gain a wealth of practical knowledge and the rolling hills of Felbrigg Hall became his ideal of an English landscape.

Lack of income and a growing family forced him to move to Romford in Essex where he set himself up as a 'Professor of the Art of Landscape Gardening'. He made a promising start and developed his Red Book as a way of illustrating his ideas for clients with flaps or 'slides' showing the before and after. The red book for Woburn Abbey commissioned in 1805 is one of the largest and most beautiful of the 112 plus books Repton created and many of his plans and drawings are reproduced here. The red book for Woburn was also reproduced for the twenty-first century and a chapter is included written by

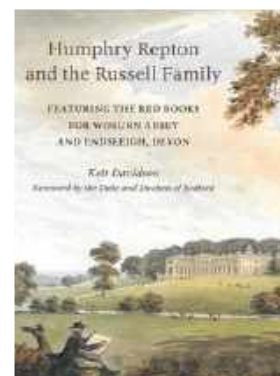
Alison Strachan, the bindery director on the project detailing the scale of the operation.

Publicly ridiculed by Richard Payne Knight and Uvedale Price over his meaning of the term 'picturesque', the last word must go to the Duke of Bedford who rose to Repton's defence in a letter to one of his sons,

*'Repton was a coxcomb but he had infinitely more genius than one half of his critics and detractors'*

Davidson's book makes a welcome contribution to acknowledging Repton's real talent as both artist and designer and that he holds an important place in the development of landscape design.

**Sheila Carey-Thomas  
HGT Research Team Member**



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## **Book Review | The Hidden Horticulturalists: The untold story of the men who shaped Britain's gardens**

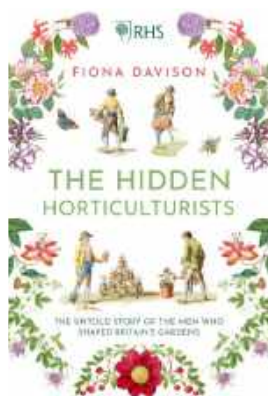
**Author | Fiona Davison  
Atlantic Books, 2019**

Did you know that the great Joseph Paxton lied about his age to get into the new RHS garden at Chiswick in 1823? That Scots make better gardeners (at least in the 1820s) because they 'are better educated in their youth and more accustomed to frugality and labour' according to J.C. Loudon – himself a Scot. Or that your turnip seeds from an early nurseryman might be a scam and be mixed with Indian rape seed? If you enjoy these sorts of glimpses into the world of nineteenth-century gardening, then *The Hidden Horticulturalists* by Fiona Davison is an interesting and thought-provoking read.

The starting point for this book is a collection of handwritten introductory notes - held at the RHS Lindley Library - made by 105 students at the new RHS garden at Chiswick from 1823-1829. All young men with some gardening experience and a well-known horticultural sponsor, this was a form of early advanced

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apprenticeship, preparing the head gardeners for the future. Some became nurserymen, others plant hunters and many became head gardeners here or running botanical gardens throughout the British Empire, although none reached quite the heights of Sir Joseph Paxton. As such the sub-title is misleading; this is actually only a small representation of the horticulturalists of the day, many of whom disappeared without trace, despite the considerable head start provided by a Chiswick apprenticeship. That said, the author has taken this small starting point to research their lives and achievements and thereby, through telling some of their stories, provides a window into the often highly cut-throat and competitive world of nineteenth-century horticulture. Different chapters cover the horticultural elite and the tough life of the jobbing gardener, plant collectors and plant propagators, the development of nurseries, the challenges and pitfalls of being a head gardener and the risks of crime in the garden. In the background are the society power figures, such as Joseph Sabine, Sir Joseph Banks, Thomas Knight (President of the RHS) and William Hooker, whose ruthless quests for new plants and horticultural excellence are often at the expense of the young gardener's health and well-being.



Davison writes in an easy style that enables the reader to relate to these young gardeners and their trials and tribulations. The more knowledgeable garden historian, however, may find this a frustrating book. As soon as the reader really starts to get to grips with one character and the element of horticulture being discussed, it is time to move onto another. That said the book provides a very accessible overview of the role of the professional gardener in this period and their many, often poorly recognised, achievements and contributions to gardening. It is an enjoyable read, full of little vignettes of gardening history at the height of the empire and all that has brought to our gardens today. Fundamentally, it is a book about people with a passion for gardening; and we can all relate to that.

**Kevin Barton**  
HGT Research Team Member

## Book Review | *The Art of the Islamic Garden*

Author | Emma Clark

Crowood Press PB edition 2010

*The Art of the Islamic Garden* was first published in 2004. It is written by Emma Clark, an authority on Islamic gardens who was part of the team that created an Islamic-inspired garden for the Chelsea Flower Show of 2001. The idea for that garden came from HRH The Prince of Wales and following the show, in which it won a Gold Medal, the garden was transferred to the Prince's own garden at Highgrove where it can be seen today. The ideas behind this creation, called the Carpet Garden, are fully explained in the final chapter of this book. The greater part of this book is an excellent explanation by the author of the design, planting and ethos of the traditional Islamic garden. It is not a glossy coffee-table tome - but the text provides a highly readable guide to the principles of Islam and the Qur'an written by an author who is herself a convert to Islam and who understands the Western-European ignorance of much of the symbolism in Islamic Art.

This is not a gazetteer of Persian and Islamic gardens; the author restricts her work to a handful of exemplars of the main themes into which Islamic gardens can be sorted: the classic *char-bagh* or fourfold garden; the *bustan* or orchard; the *gulistan* or rose garden; and the mausoleum



garden. Examples of these can be seen in the Alhambra and the Generalife in Granada, the Mughal gardens of Kashmir, the Shalimar gardens in Lahore; the Taj Mahal; the courtyards of old Damascus and the large public gardens of Marrakech. Emma Clark seeks to explain to the reader the correct interpretation of the teaching and symbolism of the Qur'an. She wants the reader to understand the Islamic garden and then to be inspired to create one in UK conditions. I found that this book hit the right level of instruction; the illustrations were relevant but sometimes a bit fuzzy and dated where they had not been replaced since the 2004 edition. Above all, I wish I had taken this book with me on my last trip to Cordoba and Granada - I would have been so much better informed!

**Valerie Joynt**  
Hon. Librarian



# BOOK REVIEWS

## Book Review | The Well Gardened Mind

Author | Sue Stuart-Smith

William Collins, 2020, pp. 341, 16 colour plates, £20.  
ISBN 978-0-00-810071-1

I sat down to write this review just after unearthing a few first early potatoes, that fossicking you do to find out if they are ready yet. There are few better gardening moments in my view.....bear with me. In the introduction to her book Sue Stuart-Smith relates an old folk tale of the King who sets a task for the suitors to his daughter's hand: to find an object so unique and special that no one in the world had set eyes on before. They came back with novel treasures galore. But (you know how such tales go) the winner was the Gardener's son who gave the king a nut and a pair of nut-crackers – he would be the first to see something no living soul had set eyes on before. This tells you much about this book, which gently explores and unfolds all the ways in which gardening is a very important and valuable human activity not least the pleasure of revealing treasure.....like my potatoes.

Sue Stuart-Smith is a prominent psychiatrist and psychotherapist and wife of the garden designer Tom Stuart-Smith and this book is in part the story of the garden they have created together over 30 years. But as she unfolds her own experience of becoming a gardener she explores the benefits of gardening for our mental and emotional health. This is a very current concern: we all instinctively know that gardening is good for us and in this thoughtful, careful book she unpacks why that is the case. The insights are grounded in history (for example, in 1796 William Tuke founded the first asylum set in a park with gardens and greenhouses) and in numerous contemporary case studies, from the gardens created by the prisoners on Rikers Island in New York (the largest penal colony in the world) to Horatio's Garden for spinal injury patients at Salisbury hospital. There is also science: did you know that there are 'gardening cells' in your brain?? As our brains develop, neurons have to be cleared away to give space for the remaining cells to create new networks and connections. Special cells called microglia crawl about in our neural networks weeding and rooting out weak connections and damaged cells, mostly while we are asleep. Now there's something to think about!

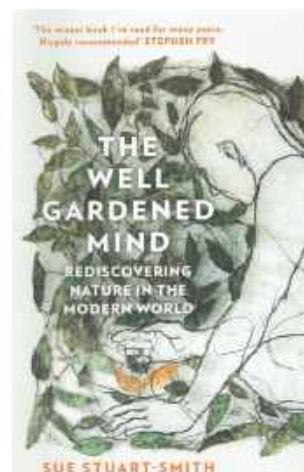
The chapter on war and gardening includes descriptions of the numerous 'trench gardens' created in the First World War and leads us back to the person who was the inspiration for this book. Sue Stuart-Smith's grandfather, Ted May, was a submariner who in 1915 in the Gallipoli campaign was taken prisoner and endured brutal privations in Turkish labour camps. Eventually he escaped with a few others and astonishingly made his way home, arriving in such an emaciated condition that he was not expected to live. Happily he was nursed back to health by his fiancée and lived a long life. In 1920 he embarked on a horticultural training course being run for ex-servicemen at Sarisbury Court, near Southampton.

When she was writing this book, Sue contacted me to find out what we knew about Sarisbury Court. All she had of Ted's time there was a letter of recommendation written when he graduated from the course, giving his horticultural skills and stating he was an 'intelligent, hardworking, trustworthy and sober man'. Ted did not become a professional gardener but always had a love of gardening that his grand-daughter remembers and he was known later in life as a breeder of orchids. Ted stands as just one exemplar of the restorative and transformative power of gardening: this book explores many more.

**Sally Miller**

**Trustee & Chair of HGT Research Team**

The story of Sarisbury Court is on pages 19 & 20.  
It first appeared in a HGT Newsletter in 2015



# SARISBURY COURT

## Sarisbury Court and the re-training of disabled ex-servicemen after the First World War

This is a summary of research done for Sue Stuart-Smith, author of 'The Well Gardened Mind' which throws new light on the history of a former estate on the east bank of the Hamble.

Holly Hill was a mansion and farm of some 220 acres (c 90 ha), with a walled kitchen garden on the shores of the Hamble river, the mansion on rising ground about half a mile from the river. The grounds were landscaped in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, possibly by Joseph Paxton. Later in the century, the valley to the north-east of the mansion was laid out in series of terraced lakes (created by damming a tributary of the Hamble) landscaped with rocky outcrops of artificial rocks (made by Pulham and Co.) and cascades. The Holly Hill mansion was gutted by fire in 1880, the estate was then sold and bought by Quintin Hogg, founder of the London Polytechnic. Hogg built a Tudor-style house on the site of the previous mansion and renamed it Sarisbury Court, using it as a venue for weekend and summer schools. It seems to have been an ill-fated site: in 1884 the new house was partially destroyed by fire, the estate sold on, eventually, in 1900 coming into the ownership of Southampton brewer William Garton (famous as the producer of HP Sauce!). He restored the mansion but estate land to the east, including the terraced lakes, was sold and a new Holly Hill House was built there. That house was purchased by Fareham Borough Council in 1954 as a retirement home, since closed. Part of the landscape survives as Holly Hill Woodland Park, the rest of the land long since built over. The history of that site can be found on our research website. <http://research.hgt.org.uk/item/holly-hill-woodland-park/>

Meanwhile, in 1917, Sarisbury Court was sold to the US Government for use as a military (Red Cross) hospital and rehabilitation centre. Known as the Barrow Unit after its Senior Medical Officer, David Barrow MD, the staff all came from Lexington, Kentucky. This was intended to be the largest US Base Hospital in Europe: 3000 beds were planned. Permanent concrete and wooden buildings were erected in the

gardens and park adjacent to the house: several large wards being big enough to drive ambulances down their aisles, bringing the wounded arriving at Southampton Docks. An estate plan of c. 1900, overlaid with a later tracing shows the scale of the planned building for the hospital (Fig. 1). A grid of straight paths and covered walkways, linking rectangular blocks on the east, west and south of the house, overlay the gardens and adjacent areas of the park. Clearly, its use as an American hospital was short-lived and after the war ended it was sold back to the British government. The facilities and infrastructure left by the Americans made it an ideal site for the Ministry of Labour to set up a rehabilitation and training centre for disabled ex-servicemen keen to learn a trade. The trades taught at this centre ranged from boat building and carpentry through metal working and plumbing to a Wheelwright's Shop. Facilities for the trainees included a bowling green and tennis courts, boating, fishing and a well-equipped theatre. An aerial photograph of 1927 shows the extent of the buildings, but there were only ever some 270 students and staff, so they must have rattled round like loose peas (Fig. 2). There are few references to life at the centre, although in one case that came before the local magistrates, students threw the Hamble bridge toll gates into the river when an attempt was made to exact the 'wheeled vehicle' toll from a wounded soldier student in a wheelchair!

In addition to the trades listed above, there was a Horticultural Section, based in the large mid-19<sup>th</sup> century kitchen garden on the shores of the Hamble (Fig. 3). A section of the walled garden can be seen bottom right in Fig. 2. A description dated 1927 recreates what the trainee gardeners would have experienced. The horticultural garden was '4 ½ acres in extent, about 2 ¼ acres of which is walled and stocked with Pears, Plums, Cherries, Figs, Apples, and Bush Fruit, and in this garden are the following:

### Glass Houses

- 42 ft. Lean-to Peach House, heated & stocked;
- 39 ft. Lean-to Tomato House, heated;
- 41 ft. Lean-to Vinery, heated, with 12 Black Hambro Vines;
- 35ft 6" Palm House, heated;
- 41 ft. Lean-to Vinery, heated, with 9 mixed Vines;
- 41 ft. Peach House, heated and stocked;

# SARISBURY COURT

Outside and to the North of the walled garden there are also brick built hot and cold frames; a 40ft span Cucumber House, a 23 ft. span roof Green House, a 20ft ditto, a 30ft. span roof Carnation House. Boiler House & Sectional Boiler to heat this section, and adjoining it a range of brick built Garden Outhouses : Packing shed, Fruit Store, Potting shed, Tool Shed, Mushroom House, Open Barrow Shed, with corrugated iron roof & Boiler House.

What a place in which to learn how to cultivate the 'Vines, Peaches, Tomatoes, Melons and Cucumber under Glass', as listed in a letter of recommendation written for one graduate. It would be fascinating to discover whether any of the trainees here (who came from all over the country) went on to jobs as gardeners: no other personal records have been found so far. If any reader has information, do let me know. Interestingly, Mr W H Cole, who was the Horticultural Instructor for the Centre, was still on site and the tenant of the gardens after the Centre had closed in the early 1920s. The walled part of this garden still exists, now occupied by a private residence with pool and tennis court, but after the Centre closed the estate was sold off by the government, in lots, for development, the buildings demolished. Sarisbury Court itself was demolished in 1927 and the rubble used as foundation for the Titchfield by-pass on the A27.

## Sally Miller

**Sources: Hampshire Records Office;  
private correspondence**

Fig.1. Detail from estate plan c. 1900 showing Sarisbury Court (in red) and the drawn on plans for the new buildings. HRO 56M97/1.

Fig. 2. Aerial view of Sarisbury Court training centre, 1927. Photo by Surrey Flying Services. HRO 200A07/269

Fig.3 Detail from plans with sales brochure, 1927. The Horticultural Gardens on the Hamble, showing range of glass and other structures. HRO A07200/269.



Fig 1

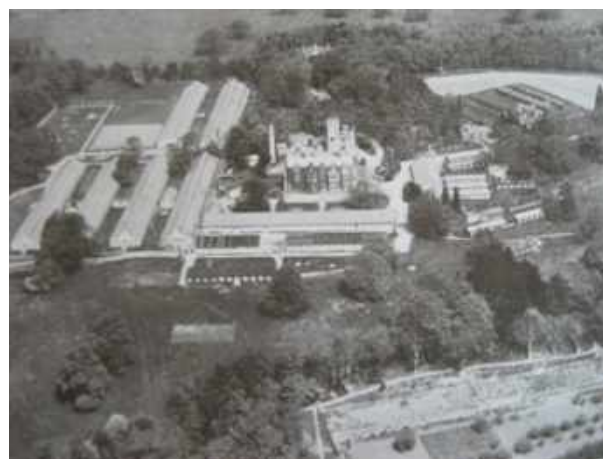


Fig 2



Fig 3