



CAMBRIDGESHIRE GARDENS TRUST

NEWSLETTER No. 5 October 1998

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Chairman's Letter

Earlier this year Humphrey Repton's Red Book for Gaynes Hall, Huntingdon came up for sale in London. The last Red Book came up for sale ten years ago and changed hands at £10,000. In 1998 this particular Red Book was sold for £28,500. Such is the interest by collectors who are prepared to pay such high amounts for historical garden designer's proposals.

Hopefully this particular item will not leave the country and be available to the present owner of Gaynes Hall and students for future research.

With this in mind our AGM at the Gilmour Building Cunitic Garden, Bateman Street, Cambridge at 6.30 pm on Thursday 12th November 1998, George Carter will give an illustrated lecture on 'Humphrey Repton in East Anglia'.

I hope that the management report prepared by the team involved at the Walled Kitchen Garden at Ramsey Abbey School will be printed by our Annual General Meeting for distribution. Having surveyed the site and checked the history the Trust has consulted with the County Council and have asked for permission to control the growth in the garden of the rampant brambles whilst documents are being drawn up for a long term pepper-corn lease. Members will be informed as soon as these matters have been completed. At the Plough Day at Ramsey many local residents expressed interest in our display of the garden and were eager to help when the project needed their support.

At the Gransden Show a display was mounted by our research team illustrating seventeen historic gardens within a four mile radius of the show ground. After extensive research it was

decided to illustrate these gardens with a wide selection of material sources – early OS maps, sale catalogues, aerial photographs, newspaper articles to name but a few. Our recently obtained display boards looked very professional and attracted considerable interest during the long day. Local residents suggested new sites to be investigated and also undertook to find more information on sites we had included for the display.

This display will be on show to those who attend the AGM. The purchase of the Display Boards was made possible by two very generous donations to the Trust for which we are extremely grateful.

From November subscriptions are due from members. Although this last year we have sought to be fair to members with regard to their membership the management committee feel that subscriptions should be from now on due every November.

The events planned for the following year include visits to parks and gardens in the county not normally open to the public. The spring series of lectures will concentrate on management of historic gardens in the county with specific attention to security, public access, conforming to recent legislation. These lectures will give Head Gardeners an opportunity to enlighten members concerning the range of administration duties a gardener is required to cover, beside attending to the lawns and plants under their control.

The Association of Gardens Trusts has asked each County Trust to enquire if any member was linked to Email. If you are and would not object to being this county's Email link, please let me know.

John Drake

Conference at Kew Gardens

In April I attended a two day conference held in the Jodrell Lecture Theatre in the beautiful surroundings of Kew Gardens. This conference was organised jointly by the Garden History Society and the Twentieth Century Society on 'Landscape and Garden 1930 - 2000'. This was very well attended, most intensive and interesting weekend with 18 speakers, including Sir Peter Shepherd, Hal Moggeridge, Jane Brown and Brent Elliott, each describing different ideas that occurred during this period. Briefly, (it would take two days to describe fully!) these ideas ranged from the 1920's Modernism with flat roofs, steel, glass and concrete, to the Arts and Craft Movements of the 1930's with the new growth of suburban gardens, crazy paving and rock gardens. Many public parks were created, some incorporating lidos with tea pavilions and rose gardens. After the war came the growth of new towns with traffic free landscaped areas and tower blocks on stilts 'to allow the landscape to flow through the building'. The National Garden Scheme as started, and garden centres sprang up offering many new brightly coloured varieties of plants. In the 1970's and 80's country parks incorporating pieces of sculpture, and over 100 parks were restored with the aid of the Heritage Lottery Fund. To bring us up to date, the Garden of Cosmic Speculation created by Charles Jencks using massive curved grassed earthworks and serpentine canals symbolising the universe in the landscape was described. Whether this becomes the fashion in the next century we will have to wait and see.

Audrey Osbourne

Visit to Tetworth Hall, Nr.Sandy by the kind courtesy of Lady Crossman Wednesday 13th May at 6.30 pm

Lady Crossman met us outside the hall, a Queen Anne house fronted by Cytisus, Cistus, and two large Abutilon vitifolium with mauve flowers (A vitifolium 'Veronica Tennant') The greensand ridge walk passes to the front of the hall which is situated at the boundary of the greensand area overlying some limestone, clays and shales. The garden and ponds are fed by spring water. Free draining acid greensand enables Rhododendrons and other plants requiring lime free conditions to be grown.

As Lady Crossman led us through her garden, we admired a Cornus florida f. rubra, then Primulas, Lysichitons and a Snakebark Maple in a dell, and a Paulonia's foxglove-like flowers.

Along very natural pathways were various Rhododendrons and we glimpsed the orange-scarlet flowers of an Embotrium. We enjoyed the red flowers of a very healthy Camellia showing no leaf chlorosis. Then a real gem - the large white flowers of Rhododendron 'Loder's White'.

Passing near a glade of vibrant flowering Exbury Azalea hybrids, scent was hanging on the air. There were the urn

shaped flowers of an Enkianthus (Ericaceae) and the peeling bark of Acer griseum, then we passed through a planting of fragrant Rhododendron luteum.

Some smaller plants we enjoyed were a thriving patch of Cornus canadensis enjoying lime free woodland soil, and Disporum (D smithii?) and Uvularia by the margins of the upper pond.

We had not been visiting Surrey or Western Scotland but a part of Cambridgeshire where spectacular Rhododendrons are thriving. Thank you Lady Crossman for sharing your garden with members of the Trust.

Alan Martin

Visit to Wychfield 30th April

The Master and Fellows of Trinity Hall had kindly allowed their Gardens Consultant, Andrew Peters, to show members of the Trust the garden of Wychfield, a Victorian house to which various buildings had been added over the years to accommodate students. A large part of the garden had been completed, but development was still taking place around the newer buildings. The garden is bordered on the north side by Huntingdon Road and on the south by Storey's Way.

From the Huntingdon Road entrance we arrived in the 'green room', formerly a stable block, an oasis of green plants. We paused here in a sheltered spot to view the plans which showed the development over a number of years. We then approached the sunken garden, which was particularly attractive, with a mixed planting scheme bordered by a yew hedge and a line of Prunus maackii along one side. We then moved along to the woodland walk, with a variety of mature trees, the new buildings constructed so as to retain the trees. The line of trees in neighbouring Fitzwilliam College formed an added attraction to this part of the garden. Across the grass on the opposite side we saw a circular bed of varying designs which had been cleverly planted with shrubs roses and underplanted with thousands of Anemone blanda, a beautiful sight for the early spring. The wild corner beneath the flowering cherries was much appreciated and made a good contrast to the more formal plantings nearby.

Andrew then took us to the working area of the garden, to see vast amounts of compost made to be used in the gardens and we admired all the bedding plants used, both in the gardens of Wychfield and at the College, which are all grown by the garden staff.

On the Storey's Way edge of the site, the area used for greenhouses and for sports practice has been camouflaged by a beech hedge. We wandered back through the gardens, with Andrew Peters who answered questions with his usual enthusiasm and completed a memorable evening, which was only marred by a keen north wind.

Betty Peters

BUFF WOOD

In spite of torrential rain during the afternoon and a clap of thunder just before we set off, the rain held off for us to be guided around Buff Wood, Hatley by Norman Villis on the evening of 10th June. As a result of a previous wet month everything in the wood was lush and green and there was a fairly dense leaf cover overhead.

Mr. Villis explained that Buff Wood was one the ancient woodlands of Cambridgeshire (along with those at Madingley, Hayley and Eversden) situated on bolder calcareous clay. Although the boundaries of the wood had expanded and contracted over the centuries depending on the farming activity round about, it had survived principally because of the intractable nature of the soil which made it difficult to farm. In its present shape it provides a shelter belt for the east side of Hatley Park.

Until recently the wood had been managed by the University Botanic Garden. It has now been re-acquired by the Hatley Park estate and is maintained by the Cambridgeshire Wildlife Trust.

The University continued the tradition of coppicing, dividing the woodland up into blocks which were cut on a 20 year cycle. This took place in the winter months when the largest trees were selectively taken out first leaving smaller holes to develop. We saw clumps of five or more trunks growing off a single stump, producing excellent straight growths. Traditionally these were used for building or used round the farm, and we learnt that of the indigenous trees, only pine would not regenerate when coppiced.

Surprisingly the life of a tree is extended by the process, whilst an Ash normally survives for 150/200 years, this can be increased to up to 1000 years by coppicing. However, it was thought that the majority of the larger Ash and Oaks in the wood were probably not more than 80 years old, but there was debate about this because of the large girth of some of the trunks. There are also some magnificent stands of Elm, some over 80 feet high, which are particularly important, not only because they have survived the depredation of the beetle, but also because of the tremendous variety of clones in a small area. Other significant trees were particularly impressive specimens of Carpinus and Betula.

Beneath the trees was extensive shrub cover, mostly having flowered by that time of year, but still very lush. We discovered that ivy growth up the trees was indicative of secondary woodland, and saw an example of honeysuckle winding around the stem of a Hazel sapling which in time could be fashioned into an elegant spiral walking stick.

The University used to cut the rides annually to encourage the flora. This practice has now lapsed but we still saw extensive spreads of the Butterfly Orchid (*Platanthea chloranta*) and of much interest a single example of Orchid (*Dactyloriza fuchsii*). Its flower was white, although it is normally seen as a more subtle pale mauve. Large clumps of Hellebores were also seen, which thrive on areas enriched by phosphates, it is thought that

these were residues in areas of the wood which were once cultivated.

We were most grateful for the Hatley Estate's permission to explore this private wood and are hoping that a further visit can be arranged, probably in the spring, when the woodland floor would be carpeted with bluebells and primulas and before the overhead leaf cover had fully developed. By the time we left the light was fading in the woodland, but we stepped out into a still, bright evening to enjoy refreshments kindly provided by Daphne Astor in the village hall.

Mark Wilkinson

Visit to Castle House, Leighton Bromswold by the kind courtesy of Mr. and Mrs. Graham Huff and Island Hall, Godmanchester by kind courtesy of Mr. and The Hon. Mrs Vane Percy

On the 4th July we met at Castle House. The gate house was built in 1616 by Sir Gervase Clifton and still retains the original large pillars though later adapted for as a residence. There is doubt as to whether a large house, surrounded by extensive grounds and a moat, was built at about the same time as the gate house. The area was examined to investigate the possibility, and it became clear that the present nearby cricket pitch with its existing raised parameters could have been the site of previous grounds and gardens.

Nearby is the Parish Church, possibly dating from Saxon times and certainly from the 13th century but notable for its restoration in the early 17th century with funds raised by the poet George Herbert. Outside we saw fine lead rainwater heads with the Herbert crest dated 1634 and the early English interior has the unique feature of twin pulpits.

In the afternoon we were entertained by Mr. and the Hon. Mrs. Vane Percy at their 18th century home Island Hall, Godmanchester. The grounds adjoin the river Great Ouse and were originally used in Roman times to make a bywater for the nearby garrison. Later three large mills were constructed by the river, resulting in the formation of an island, which is part of the garden and joined to it by a replica 18th century Chinese bridge. Across the river lies Port Holme meadow, the largest area of original meadowland in the country and hay is still bought annually by local residents.

In the spring lecture series Mr. Vane Percy explained in detail the difficulties he was facing in visually connecting the island to the main garden.

His problems became evident as we walked towards his successfully resorted Chinese Bridge. Slowly different sight lines revealed the old Huntingdon Elm Avenue and the single storey house, the walk to the old tennis court and the views out

towards Port Holme meadow. On retracing our steps over the bridge the turn of angles which we had been led through made us aware how sympathetic Mr. Vane Percy's solution was going to be and how lucky the garden was to have an owner prepared to take such infinite pains to create a solution which maintained the romantic Elysian atmosphere of the site.

In the garden, as well as a croquet lawn, there is a beautifully designed parterre, bordered by darker and lighter box hedges, and also old and new topiary. It also contains several fine specimen trees, estimated at about 160 years old, the most notable being a Corsican pine, which the owner hopes to use as a focus for an avenue of original Huntingdon elms. These are taller and narrower than other elms and would not be subject to disease.

Our thanks to Mr. and Mrs Huff and Mr. and The Hon. Mrs. Vane Percy.

Isobel Popplewell/John Drake

Walk along The Backs 30th July 1998

Cambridge had a cloudburst which obligingly ceased just as we met at the 'backside' of Queens' and by the time we had walked and talked for ten minutes, the sun came out slanting through from low in the west – onto what must be one of the great views of the world, King's College Chapel and the Gibbs' Building framed in lawns and trees. We met magnificent trees, London planes, a surviving elm at Queens', a pretty Zelkova, young Oaks being nursed into maturity, the majestic avenues of King's and Trinity, and many rarities. We heard of amazing people in whose footsteps we trod – Erasmus, the Countess of Clare and Lancelot 'Capability' Brown who almost persuaded the Colleges to combine their riverside acres into one designed park of groves, hillocks and islets over which the Gibbs' Building reigned as a Palladian mansion floating in seas of grass. We looked down the vista of bridges, imagined the Cam as a busy medieval waterway, glimpsed the colour-coded borders of the Fellows' Garden at Clare and slipped into the side gate of Trinity to walk between Tennyson's 'In Memoriam' Limes, and over the bridge, to finish looking back at the Wren Library. We wondered if skating could be revived on the flooded sunken lawns, kept billiard-table flat and smooth? Our thanks to Stuart Pearce, who is a Blue Badge guide, Andrew Peters our leader, supported by Tony Arnold from Newnham and George Thorpe from Trinity. It was a wonderful insight into a great historic landscape.

Jane Brown

The Gardens of Cambridge, £5.95 by Richard Bird and Dona Haycraft is currently on sale from Covent Garden Press, 52 Covent Garden, Cambridge CB1 2HR, or from the library. Cambridge Gardens by Ronald Gray, Pevensey Press 1984, or Mavis Batey's Oxford and Cambridge Gardens.

KINGSTON WOOD MANOR GARDEN

Kingston Wood lies 210 feet above sea level on boulder clay, one and a half miles to the south-west of the village of Kingston with an access via a private drive off Ermine Street. Kingston, as the name implies, was a Vill of the Saxon crown, and the Domesday Book recalls a royal domesne of 1 hide and 3 virgates remaining in King William's hands in 1086. The wood is one of Cambridgeshire's largest ancient woodlands. By 1355 the wood increased to 100 acres and the outline of the wood in 1720 was much as it is today.

The present house dates from the late 15th or early 16th century and has its own chapel. The papal indulgence was granted to Constantine Mortimer in 1317 to permit celebration of mass in his chapel because access to the parish church was difficult. From the Mortimers the manor passed by marriage to the Chamberlains in the mid 15th cent. Sir Robert Chamberlain was executed in 1491, and his son Ralph probably built the house which exists today. The Kingston Wood Estate was considerably engrossed in the 16th cent. Fitzralph Chamberlain acquired the manor of Kingston St. George in 1569. The Chamberlain's land were enclosed by the early 17th c.

In 1625 the Chamberlains conveyed their lands in Kingston to the apothecary John Crane. The Manor passed through various hands to Edward, Lord Hartley (later the 2nd Earl of Oxford) in 1717 and so became part of the Wimpole Hall Estate. Philip Yorke, Earl of Hardwicke purchased Kingston Wood Estate with Wimpole in 1739 and by the mid 19th cent. Lord Hardwicke held more than half the parish acreage. In 1964 Sir Alexander Reid Bt. brought Kingston Wood and proceeded to restore the house and enlarge the holding to more than 1000 acres. The present gardens are entirely the creation of Sir Alexander and Lady Reid.

The Manor is one of three moated sites in the Parish. The moat at the Manor is hexagonal, 220 feet in diameter and the ditch is about 40 feet wide and was 4 to 6 feet deep in 1968. The 1902 OS map shows the area within the moat is divided into two separate enclosures to the north and the west of the house; a circular carriage drive, accessed from the SE bridge is shown and this remains today. To the SW of the moat is an outer enclosure which may represent a garden contemporary with the house. On Cory's 1720 map this is identified as an 'Orchard'. Four marshy ponds to the SE of the moat were probably medieval fish ponds.

Sir Alexander and Lady Reid designed the present garden between 1964 and 1992. The moated garden has four bridges, one early 18th cent and three which have been constructed to designs by Heather Hughes, an architect friend of the Reids. Within the moat is a formal box-edged herb garden around an old well, nearby a circular rose garden within a yew hedge with a central fountain. On the lawn are several topiary chess pieces in yew. To the north of the house is a tiled terrace and at either side of the causeway to the house is a bog garden planted with primula, hostas, rheums and other moisture loving plants.

Outside the moated enclosure are various shrubberies and to the south a herbaceous border backed by a yew hedge, planted with silver and grey foliage shrubs and perennials. The old pond is lined with yolk stone and contains a fountain and at its eastern extremity an oriental folly. Beyond this, screened by hedges, is a swimming pool, tennis court and orchards. The NW area outside the moat is a wild flower garden with many early flowering bulbs followed by orchids, ox-eyed daisies, poppies and other wild flowers.

The Reids brought back from China strong sentiments about the need for harmony and calm, which mixed with experiences of Japanese garden design have settled in a charming and exhilarating landscape which presents the Manor House in a wide variety of frames and backdrops.

Huon Mallaieu writing in the Sunday Telegraph August 1992 notes 'Twenty five years ago the gardens were pastures and orchards, although they appear to be much longer established. Water is the major theme with the moat, ponds, two small lakes, bog gardens and a fountain. The house is approached by a line of limes and is the most perfectly presented house and estate I have seen'.

After 900 years recorded existence as an estate Kingston Wood was broken up by sale in 1992-93.

Peter Reynolds.

The Crossing House Shepreth

In 1959 Doug and Margaret Fuller moved to the Crossing House at Shepreth. The previous one-armed crossing keeper on the Cambridge to Kings Cross Railway line had kept pigs on the triangular site amongst timber sheds which were reached by a path made from railway sleepers. Somewhere in this muddle was a brick privy.

The Fuller's first task was to clear the sheds and establish the boundary planting. The sleeper path went across what is now the lawn. When the garden was being laid out, the shape of a curved stone seat inspired the layout for the whole garden. The old metal trunks and car batteries buried by the previous owner were all removed.

Some climbers camouflaged the telegraph pole and concrete posts, and because of the flatness of the site, height could only be changed by fast growing verbascums. So the Fullers decided to provide raised planting edges to the paths, which enabled them to grow a wide range of alpines which normally would not have survived on chalk. Orange boxes were collected, cut up and used to edge other paths. To fill the garden initially 'bread and butter' plants were used, but through a stroke of luck Doug and Margaret helped John and Faith Raven in their garden at Dowcra's Manor nearby. John Raven lectured Margaret about the plants he grew and soon gardening tips transformed the original plantings at the Crossing House. Margaret's collection

of plants grew and she learnt what would grow amongst dying leaves of bulbs.

The Ravens gave choice plants. Rarer plants came the Fuller's way via the Raven's friends who visited the garden and gave generously. By the mid 1960's Lord De Ramsey, Valerie Finnis, Anna Griffiths (author of Collins Guide to Alpines who lived in Paradise House, Newnham), Tony Venison (Gardening Consultant to Country Life), Albert Pike (head gardener at Tresco Abbey and Hever Castle who had retired to Histon) Dr. Youngman (Keen amateur fruit grower who lived in Adams Road Cambridge) John Brown (Keen alpine enthusiast from the Plantation, north of Ely) Dick Chapman and Ben Ducan (keen gardeners at Barrington who gardened the cemetery next to the Chapel with drifts of geraniums) all came bearing boxes, carrier bags and clay pots filled with treasures for the garden.

Margaret wanted to grow plants specially for the winter seasons and therefore concentrated on snowdrops, daphnes, iris and hellebores under shrubs with interesting bark. Doug, a keen auricula fancier, shows off his collection to perfection in one of his three glass houses, the other two contain tender bulbs and fine pelargoniums. John Marlar is in charge of topiary, keeping the yews, box, privet and conifers in check. In 1974 as a joke Margaret put a notice by the garden gate inviting car drivers and their passengers to look round the garden while waiting for the trains. 1000 people came in the first year! The word spread and recently the Fuller's and John Marlar received an award for opening their garden for 21 years from the National Gardens Scheme. Not just one day a year, as is often the case, but every day – some 7,500 days. This should be in the Guinness Book of Records.

In 1989 the Fullers and John Marlar brought their home and garden. Interestingly in the British Rail sale particulars their garden was not even mentioned. Margaret is now concentrating on filling the garden with her favourites – Hammamelis, Hepaticas, Hellebores, and Iris histrioides 'major'. She is proud of her cut-leaved walnut, variegated-leaved oak and Betula 'Jermyns'.

So within 40 years a Cambridgeshire garden has become internationally known, photographed, televised, written about and visited by thousands of keen gardeners. The scale and variety of the planting is inspired and does not overwhelm the space. Margaret's dictums: "Remove a plant if it gets too big" and "If a plant doesn't grow healthily, remove it" should be implanted on every gardener's memory.

For the garden plant conservator there is much to be seen at the Crossing House – Rosa 'Refulgance' became unobtainable for several years until Margaret's plant was used for cuttings. One could go on. I found few sources in the local libraries when preparing this article until I spoke to Margaret. Two piles of books were placed on a table in front of me together with a scrapbook of newspaper cuttings. For further reading you might consult:

Deborah Kellaway

The Virago Book of Women
Gardeners 1996

Heather Angela	View from a Window 1988
Trevor Garrod	East Anglia by Raid 1984
Shell	Guide to Gardens of England and Wales 1989
Bill Pertwee	The Station now Standing 1997
Rosemary Verey	Secret Gardens 1994
Lipscomb and David	John Raven and his Friends 1981
Dawn Macleod	Down to Earth Women 1982

to mention but a few. Newspaper articles (many) should also be consulted if only for their titles:

'Off the Rails'	Homes and Gardens
'Railway Cuttings'	Daily Mail
'Trackside Retreat'	Practical Gardening
Fuller's Earth'	Amateur Gardening
'On the Branch Line'	World of Interiors

and many others. If you have never visited this garden. **GO**

John Drake

CAMBRIDGESHIRE GARDENS QUIZ

Compiled by Audrey Osbourne

1. A diarist visited Hinchingsbrooke House to look at the garden and saw an ora in the grounds. Who was he and what is an ora?
2. What is the connection between the village of Glatton and 'Down the Garden Path'?
3. What connects Northborough Manor and the 'Handbook of Hardy Border Plants'?
4. Who was Lord of the Manor at Fenstanton?
5. Which village garden was created in a day?
6. Where was this statue originally sited and in which garden is it now?



Photo: Audrey Osbourne

7. Which garden rescued the rose 'Refulgence' from extinction?
8. Where is there a private oriental water garden in Cambridge?
9. Which famous garden designer did a scheme for a garden in Chesterton Road, Cambridge?
10. A Chelsea rock garden came to Cambridgeshire by train in 1948. To which garden was it going?
11. Which Ely garden still has a plant which came from Oxford in 1674, and what is the plant?
12. Whose nursery started near the church in Oakington?
13. What marks the position of the Anglo-Dutch and French fleets at the Battle of La Hogue in the grounds of Chippenham Park?
14. What is the connection between Buckingham Palace and Ramsey Abbey School walled garden?
15. Who shaped her topiary into characters from her Green Knowe books?
16. Who submitted plans for the grounds at Waresley Park, showing before and after scenes?
17. What links Hatley Park and the village of Wendy?
18. Which politician takes great care of his garden and koi carp at Gt. Stukeley?
19. Which recently restored gardens of a 1660 Commonwealth house overlooks the River Nene in Peterborough?
20. Who spent her childhood at Bluntisham vicarage enjoying its fine garden and later wrote the 'Nine Taylors'?

(Answers on back page)

'Buried Treasure at Brampton'

On one of our enjoyable trips around the county looking for gardens of historic interest, we stopped outside 'Pepys House' in Brampton. A discreet plaque on the gate-post reads:

IN 1644 ROBERT PEPYS OWNED THIS HOUSE AND, FROM IT, HIS NEPHEW SAMUEL FOR A WHILE ATTENDED HUNTINGDON GRAMMAR SCHOOL. IT PASSED TO SAMUEL'S FATHER (1661-1680) HERE THE GREAT CLERK OF THE ACTS, DIARIST AND LATER SECRETARY FOR THE AFFAIRS OF ADMIRALTY VISITED AND STAYED. TO BE VIEWED BY APPOINTMENT ONLY.

Devotees will recall the Diarist's entry for 10-11 October 1667 and his inimitable account of trying to recover his gold buried in the garden at Brampton. The story begins a few months earlier with the scare of invasion by the Dutch, whose fleet had been sighted in the Thames estuary.

Diary entry:

13th June 1667 I presently resolved of my father's and wife's going into the country; and at two hours' warning they did go by coach this day – with about 1300 l in gold and in their night-bag; pray God give them good passage and good care to hide it when they come home, but my heart is full of fear.

I did about noon resolve to send Mr. Gibson away after my wife with another 1000 pieces. My business the most of the afternoon is listening to everybody that comes into the office, what news, which is variously related, some better, some worse, but nothing certain.

14th June I have this morning good news from Gibson, three letters, from several stages, that he was safe last night as far as Royston at between 9 and 10 at night.

15th June At night comes (unexpectedly so soon) Mr. Gibson, who left my wife well and all got down well with them, but not with himself, who (which I was afraid of and cannot blame him, but must myself be wiser against another time) had one of his bags broke through his breeches.

And some pieces dropped out, not many (he thinks but two, for he light and took them up, and went back and could find no more) but I am not able to tell how many, which troubles me; but the joy of having the greatest part safe there makes me bear with it, so as not to afflict myself for it.

19th June I got home; and I and my wife to talk; who did give me so bad an account of her and my father's method of burying of our gold, that made me mad – and she herself is not pleased with it, she believing that my sister knows of it. My father and she did it on Sunday when they were gone to church, in open daylight in the midst of the garden, where for aught they knew, many eyes might see them; which put me into such trouble, that I was almost mad about it'.

By October things were calmer in London and the Diarist writes:

6th October Met Sir W. Coventry and discoursed with him and many others to end my matters, in order to my going into the country tomorrow for five or six days, which I have not been for now above three years.

And so, to the entry for:

10 – 11th October My father and I and wife and Willett abroad by coach round the Towne of Brampton to observe any other place as good as ours, and find one; and so back with great pleasure and thence went all of us, my sister and brother and W.

Hewer to dinner to Hinchbrooke, where we had a good plain country dinner, but most kindly used; and here dined the Minister of Brampton and his wife, who is reported a very good but poor man. So thence, my wife and people (by) the highway, and I walked over the park with Mr. Sheply and through the grove, which is might pretty as is imaginable; and so over their drawbridge to Nun's Bridge and so to my father's, and there sat and drank and talked a little and then parted; and he being gone, and what company there was, my father and I with a dark lantern, it being now night, into the garden with my wife and there went about our great work to dig up my gold. But Lord, what a tosse I was for some time in, that they could not justly tell where it was, that I begun heartily to sweat and be angry that they should not agree better upon the place, and at last to fear that it was gone; but by and by, poking with a spit, we found it, and then begun with a spudd to lift up the ground; but good god, to see how sillily they did it, not half a foot under ground and in the sight of the world from a hundred places if anybody by accident were near-hand, and within sight of a neighbour's window and hearing also, being close by; my father says that he saw them all gone to church before he begun the work when he laid the money, but that doth not excuse it to me; but I was out of my wits almost, and the more from that upon lifting up the earth with the spudd, I did discern that I scattered the pieces of gold round about the ground among the grass and loose earth; and taking up the iron head-pieces wherein they were put, I perceive the earth was got among the gold and wet, so that the bags were all rotten, all the notes, that I could not tell what in the world to say to it, not knowing how to judge what was wanting or what had been lost by Gibson in his coming down; which, all put together, did make me mad; and at last was forced to take up the head-pieces, dirt and all, and as many of the scattered pieces I could with the dirt discern by the candlelight, and carry them up to my brother's chamber and there lock them up till I had eat a little supper, and then all people going to bed, W. Hewer and I did alone, with several pales of water and basins, at last wash the dirt off of the pieces and parted the pieces and the dirt, and then begun to tell; and by a note which I had of the value of the whole (in my pocket) do find that there is short about 100 pieces, which did make me mad; and considering that the neighbour's house was so near, that we could not suppose we could speak one to another in the garden at the place where the gold lay (especially by my father being deaf) but they must know what we had been doing on, I feared that they might in the night come and gather some pieces and prevent us the next morning; so W. Hewer and I out again about midnight (for it was now grown so late) and there by candlelight did make shift to gather 45 pieces more – and so in and to cleanse them and by this time it was past 2 in the morning; and so to bed.

Jill Cremer

Answers

1. The diarist Samuel Pepys was invited to come and comment on the new gardens at Hinchingsbrooke. An ora is a border.
2. The garden writer Beverley Nicholls owned 'Allways' a thatched cottage in Glatton with extensive gardens before the 2nd world war.
3. Roy Genders wrote many gardening books when living at Northborough Manor. These were circulated via Garden Book Clubs and are invaluable for those establishing 1950's plantings.
4. Capability Brown was buried in Fenstanton church.
5. Arrington Village Garden was constructed and planted in a day.
Using Anneka Rice methods local businesses donated plants, railings, play equipment etc. Can be visited.
6. Cambridge Assize Court, Castle Hill was demolished in 1953 and the four statues which adorned the facade were removed to Bassingbourn Village College. They can be seen from the adjacent public footpath.
7. The Crossing House, Shepreth.
8. 21 Stott Gardens, off Woodhead Drive, Milton Road, Cambridge
9. Gertrude Jekyll
10. The Manor House Tydd St. Giles. The stationmaster of Wisbech phoned the owner and told them "their garden was on the station platform – would they like to collect it?"
11. The Bishops Palace. Plane Tree.
12. Alan Bloom's nursery later moved to Diss in Norfolk where there was a better source of water.
13. 2 lines of lime trees.
14. Buckingham Palace was designed by Edward Bloor, he was asked by the owners of Ramsey Abbey House to carry out alterations to the House and the grounds. He designed the gateway to the walled kitchen garden which is the Trust's logo.
15. Lucy Boston at The Manor, Hemingford Grey.



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16. Humphrey Repton
17. J M Barrie author of Peter Pan stayed at Hatley Park.
18. John Major writing in The Times.
19. Thorpe Hall
20. Dorothy L Sayers

If you scored well in our quiz, we need your help in the Garden Research team. Please contact Mrs Audrey Osbourne 01223 292336

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