



CAMBRIDGESHIRE GARDENS TRUST

NEWSLETTER No. 6 April 1999

PRESIDENT

THE LORD FAIRHAVEN

PATRONS

Lady Crossman
Lord and Lady De Ramsey
Lady Nourse
Mrs D Astor
Mrs M Proby
Dr J Parker

COUNCIL OF MANAGEMENT

Mr J. Drake	Chairman	Lady Nourse
Mr M. Wilkinson	Secretary	Mrs A. Osborne
Mr T. Hayward	Treasurer	Mr A. Peters
Mrs D. Astor		Mrs E. Stapleton
Mrs S. Easom		Mrs J. Trevor
Mrs A. Gould		

Chairman's Letter

It is always a pleasure to report to members when the work of the Trust goes from strength to strength. Since our last newsletter we have embarked on two series of lectures. Repeating the success of the previous year's lectures at the Botanic Gardens where several head gardeners spoke of their role in maintaining historic gardens, we took the plunge with Jane Brown's persuasion and arranged three lectures in the Infirmary's Hall which is situated in the precincts of Peterborough Cathedral. I would like to thank here the Dean and Chapter for their permission for us to use this early gothic building. You may recall that in our second newsletter Jane wrote about the importance of the precincts and the range of gardens that had been and were still within the shadow of the Cathedral. So three lectures were arranged each followed by a walk to see the medieval gardens, the cathedral itself and the Victorian gardens. These are reported like the Cambridge lectures in this newsletter for those who were unable to attend. I now feel that we have established a good footing in the north of the county and already interest has been shown in the Trust to establish a garden to the north of the Infirmary, so our northern members will be able to concentrate on establishing a project.

Some of the material which we have been amassing has been photographed and is forming a slide collection, and three lectures have been given already showing the range of gardens that occur in the west of the county. So if your local gardening club wants an entertaining evening please contact the office and arrange a date for us to come and give a talk.

Some of you may have heard a group of our lecturers on the local BBC radio programme discussing humps and bumps in the

landscape. It is interesting that now many more organisations want to find out more about what we are involved in. Our display panels of some Cambridgeshire gardens will soon be on display at Waresley Garden Centre and the Trust will be attending a large plant sale at Buckden Towers in May.

We have now been able to commence obtaining quotations for the cost of printing a Booklet about the range of Gardens in West Cambridgeshire. This is due to a very generous grant from the Stanley Smith (UK) Horticultural Trust. This will be our first publication and will be in the form of a gazetteer.

If you have recently joined the Trust and would like to help us with publicity, manning displays, researching gardens in the county, advising schools on improving their playgrounds please do not hesitate to contact us at the office. We are enclosing a copy of the newsletter which the Association of Gardens Trusts has recently produced for your information.

Please note that our list of events which is also included with this newsletter includes some revisions to the list originally produced, it also gives more information about the events which have been organised for your enjoyment. It would help us if you could let us know which events you would like to attend in advance so that we can inform our hosts about numbers for tea etc.

One final word, by the time you will have received this newsletter we hope to have concluded our discussions with the County Council concerning the lease for the Walled Kitchen Garden at Ramsey Abbey School. I hope to be able to report fully about this project in the next newsletter.

John Drake.

WHY WERE GARDENS CREATED?

LECTURE BY CHRISTOPHER TAYLOR

Beginning the Spring series of lectures with the statement 'The people who paid for gardens were a most important factor in their creation, arranging plants in time and space to give pleasure'. Giving Munstead Wood, Gertrude Jekyll's own garden as an excellent example Christopher Taylor went on to develop his topic – 'Why were gardens created'

The first slide showed part of his own garden, a cottage garden view received by his audience with murmurs of appreciation, which he said had been mainly created by his wife Stephanie. The scene had now been set to support his opening remark.

Christopher Taylor told us that, some 700 years before Miss Jekyll, Queen Eleanor of Castille, the 1st wife of King Edward 1, on their progression through his Kingdom, took her own Spanish gardeners to create 'Gardens for Pleasure' at such places as Leeds Castle in Kent and Conway Castle in North Wales. Then between 1692 and 1715 Colonel James Grahame employed a French gardener, Guillaume Beaumont, to create the park and gardens at Levens Hall (Lake District) perhaps best known for the topiary garden within a parterre which has 9 miles of box hedging. In 1720-30 the water parterre at Studley Royal (Yorkshire) was created. This topic was further illustrated, and brought up to the present century, through the Lawrence Johnston garden at Hidcote in north Gloucestershire, where garden rooms feature strongly; Harold Nicholson's Sissinghurst (Kent) and Sir Frederick Gibberd's garden at Harlow, (Essex)

'Plantsmen's gardens' followed, with examples such as Caerhays, J.C. Williams's house in Cornwall "where plants from overseas collections were just crammed in"; the Rothchild's house Exbury in Hampshire – a plantsman's garden with a design element; the secret exotic garden at Abbotsbury; and Great Dixter in Sussex by Lutyens described as 'a design overwhelmed by plants'. This theme evolved into 'Gardens for making money' with examples such as Alan Bloom's garden in Bressingham, Norfolk, and the Hillier Arboretum at Romsey in Hampshire, and soon to 'Garden Centres' with special garden layouts.

The twin themes of 'Academic and Scientific Research' – Cambridge University Botanic Garden were followed by 'Educational Gardens' the latter illustrated by the 1854 gardens at the Crystal Palace, South London which featured dinosaurs and fake geology. It was also interesting to note that Christopher suggested that Victorian public parks were as much educational as leisure gardens – the park in Lincoln was one such example.

'Expressions of religious faith' and 'Political allegiance' gardens followed, it seems that from the eighteenth century onwards gardens were often based on deeply held beliefs about various aspects of life. Apparently, Whig politicians favoured gardens reflecting early ideals – Stowe in Buckinghamshire, whereas the Tories enjoyed Baroque pleasure gardens.

At Rousham, Oxfordshire a seven acre garden full of philosophical concepts represented 'Taste', whereas at Overstone in Northants, described as "the ugliest house in England with a park just flung down" a banker's home represented 'No Taste'. 'Taste' subtly becomes 'Fashion'. In the 19th century Indian culture started to feature in the gardens at Sezincote in Gloucestershire and Italianate gardens were created at Osborne House, Isle of Wight and soon after Japanese gardens began to appear.

'Status Gardens' was illustrated by, amongst others, Sir Philip

Sassoon's house and garden at Port Lympne in Kent, "a flamboyant imposition of one man's pride and wealth".

In all Christopher outlined at least twenty different reasons for creating gardens, as we wandered back and forth, through parks and gardens, over eight centuries of changing landscapes and garden creation, each category being fully argued and supported by copious illustrations, as he presented his views on 'Why gardens are created'.

Brian Dickinson

THE GARDEN AT WIMPOLE HALL

LECTURE BY PHILIP WHAITES.

The second talk in our Winter series was given by Philip Whaites the head-gardener at Wimpole Hall, a National Trust property. Philip had thought to stay two years or so when he 'moved south' in 1981 but 19 years later his dedication and enthusiasm for enhancing the 60 acres of gardens surrounding the magnificent house, remain undiminished.

It was fascinating to be taken through the stages of restoration. At Philip's arrival the grounds at Wimpole were singularly featureless. Wartime occupation, Dutch Elm disease and destructive hurricanes had contributed to the demise. The first of Philip's undertakings was the creation of the Dutch gardens, based on a design taken from one of the ceilings in the house. A dank, slug-ridden area is now enhanced by twin planting of Anemone blanda and hardy fuchsias to provide a sequence of flowers from spring to autumn.

The flourishing rose-garden leading from the west side of the house is over the site of the enormous mid-Victorian conservatory. Minton floor-tiles are still unearthed occasionally and passed to the house for repairs to the similarly tiled entrance hall. Throughout the grounds any new project invariably leads to spades unearthing something of archaeological interest. Work is temporarily halted while the head-gardener and archaeologist confer over the new finds – usually old paths, wall, drainage-systems and suchlike. Fortunately, Wimpole is one of the best documented estates with excellent maps and records of the changes demanded by successive owners wanting the latest fashion in garden lay-out.

Not all evidence of earlier designs is uncovered below ground. An aerial photograph taken when a light fall of snow was on the north lawns showed the clear outlines of a Victorian parterre. Visitors to Wimpole had often asked for more flowers – this was the perfect opportunity. Philip proposed that the parterre be re-created. This would require a lot more man-power than just the two full-time gardeners, so volunteers were called for and a willing team soon appeared. The largest parterre in the county is now a spectacular sight, particularly when viewed from the house or when returning from the walk to the lakes.

As on any large estate there have always been walled gardens at Wimpole to provide the owners with exotic fruits and vegetables. The extant 2-acre walled garden dating from the late 18th century had long lain barren. With Philip's enthusiasm and vision, as well as his fund raising abilities, a renewal programme is well underway. During the summer of 1998 the gardeners proudly supplied Wimpole's restaurant with a wide choice of fresh vegetables. Cut flowers for the house are planned for the near future.

With the walled garden producing again, what about the glasshouses? Well, once more the gardeners' spades uncovered some exciting archaeology. This time it was the foundations of the elaborate hothouses designed by Sir John Soane in the 1790s. The original drawings were found in the Soane Museum in London, and the decision has been taken to rebuild. So, perhaps for the millennium, this historically important garden in Cambridgeshire will incorporate another fine building. A working vineyard will surely be a great attraction. The audience was left wondering how the Wimpole gardens were maintained with one assistant gardener and one student. Philip did not disclose his secret but no one doubted that it could only be done by someone with considerable talent.

Jill Cremer.

THE GARDEN AT MADINGLEY HALL

BY RICHARD GANT

Christopher Taylor remarked to me after Richard's lecture that he had spent the previous afternoon in London trying to convince English Heritage to give careful consideration to the maintenance of gardens, and this is exactly what Richard the head gardener spoke to us about. Relating the role of a head gardener to dealing not only with the philosophy of an historic garden where no admission charges were levied, but also working within the remit of Health and Safety at Work, risk assessments of all garden tasks and proposed new EEC regulations regarding disposal of waste.

Those who did not attend the lecture may well think it was worth missing. Certainly not! Richard's enthusiasm was certainly not daunted by what to many would have been seen as the end of the road as far as gardening went. He explained the development of the Hall in relation to the changes that were being carried out to the grounds and gardens. All brilliantly explained with the help of the overhead ceiling projector!

Besides the division of responsibility of different University departments there existed the old story of lack of communication between departments. With all this new fangled technology surely everyone concerned could have been informed that an avenue of leylandii was to be felled the following day. We live in hope. Then there was the problem relating to the installation of a new security system across a part of the garden which had previously been dug up for a water main then dug up again for another new service main and so on. I hope that some suitable solution to the entrance gates will soon be found.

But whilst it may be easy to ridicule forward planning and communications one must acknowledge the high standard of horticulture that is evident whenever one visits Madingley Hall. The maintenance of the large meadow which now supports many orchids is a joy to behold. Also, the incredible maintenance of the hazel alley, one of the very few remaining in the country – I certainly know of no other in the county.

We were pleased to welcome to this lecture the rest of Richard's gardening team. Rather like Cambridge's success in the Boat Race this year it's forward planning and teamwork which produces the good end results. Mind you, there's a great deal of enthusiasm accumulated on the way.

John Drake

THE GARDEN AT ANGLESEY ABBEY

BY RICHARD AYRES

Richard Ayres the head gardener at Anglesey Abbey followed in the footsteps of his father and so there was no one better qualified to talk about this 20th century garden in the county. In fact Richard's father bought a new lawnmower for the garden the year his son was born and some 60 years or so further on it is still in very good working order. So, you might note, is his son!

Richard explained the work that takes place in the garden throughout the year and showed slides of work that has to be done when the public are not there. We were treated to scenes of statues being repositioned by tractors across large ply sheeting over the lawns, replacing the soil in the Dahlia garden, planting the new bulbs in regimental order, and then later lifting dahlia tubers leaving everything tidy for the following day's visitors.

The layout of the garden slowly was added to, it never was conceived as a whole design from the start. No well known designer was involved except Major Daniels who advised on the planting in the great half circle herbaceous borders. The garden contains one of the most extensive collections of sculpture in the country, some obtained from abroad. These have to be protected in the winter months with green plastic covers which look like sentry boxes dotted around the garden. It is interesting to note the influence of this garden on other gardens with have occurred later this century – the Gibberd garden at Harlow, and Lord Archer's garden at Grantchester.

But Anglesey is not a garden that stands still, a new winter walk was opened last autumn by Miss Betty Boothroyd, the Speaker of the House of Commons. It consists of a serpentine walk, ¼ mile long between plants chosen for their scent, flowers or bark during the winter. This leads one through trees to the Flour Mill then along the stream behind the herbaceous border hedges through some contorted limes and back to the entrance which has been planted with several (giant) wellingtonias. The idea being that in future years no-one will need to find out where the tea room is.

The other reason why the winter walk is long overdue is to permit visitors to admire the extensive collection of snowdrops which Richard has been nurturing. Some years ago he sent a specimen of a snowdrop to Graham Stewart Thomas, the then National Trust's Garden Advisor, who replied that it was a rare snowdrop called *Galanthus lagodechianus* which came from the Caucasus. What Richard had omitted to tell him was that he had thirty thousand of them! Once again it was the enthusiasm of the gardener for his garden which was so evident, it seems now that it is obligatory that all head gardeners should be able to promote their garden.

John Drake

DEVELOPING CAMBRIDGE COLLEGE GARDENS

BY ANDREW PETERS

Andrew has already shown members of the Trust the college gardens he is responsible for – The Master's Garden and Wychfield for Trinity Hall. Today he analysed the changing uses that college gardens were now put to. No longer did college gardens produce the fruit and vegetables for the dons and students of the college, they now served as a foil to show off the fine architecture of the buildings. The rather untidy mess of growing vegetables in courtyards has been replaced by superbly managed extensive grass lawns.

One of Andrew's recent projects has been at the new Fitzwilliam College where the Victorian house to the south of the central hall block needed to be integrated into the overall college garden. The Grove as the house is known was surrounded by shrubberies and Jill Cremer had recorded the grounds with its walled garden several years before. What from the outset seemed a rather straightforward scheme was soon providing Andrew with several problems, all of which were expertly resolved. The glory of the scheme is the wide border for drought loving plants which also serves as privacy for the students who live on the ground floor of the new building.

Again and again in his talk Andrew referred to the amount of time and effort given to obtaining the highest quality of design, choice of materials and plants, working happily with the college authorities, their garden staff and garden contractors. In fact a considerable amount of Andrew's own personality obviously goes into the project which is so obvious when you see the end result.

Lucky is the college that is able to have Andrew on hand, as was the case at Trinity Hall who were lucky to grab Andrew to work on their students hall next door to Fitzwilliam.

John Drake

STRUCTURES IN CAMBRIDGESHIRE GARDENS

BY MANSEL SPRATLING

On Wednesday 24th February Dr Mansel Spratling gave the last of this spring's series of lectures. He began by showing us a photograph of a row of garden buildings, garages actually where the roofs had been removed. The contents of each garage were visible, but no bicycle or car was to be seen. Each garage had been used to store completely different things! So are garden structures really what they appear to be?

Several themes ran through his lecture – the importance of proportion of structures, foreign influences, the frailty of mankind and the relation of the height of columns to their spaces. His slides showed sunburst gates, Japanese fishing pavilions, Indian Gothic lodges, man made follies, railings and ruins, seating niches and he traced ideas of garden buildings from paintings held in collections outside of the county.

In fact nothing was missed by his keen observation. We moved from tall gate pillars at Staughton Manor, to wall seats at Wothorpe Towers, to the folly at Wimpole Hall to the remains of Mr Reynolds the Rock King's front garden in Cambridge, to the gate piers of a fine house in Whittlesea now in a suburban front garden, to list but a few. But it was the detective work that had been carried out that was so interesting – the picture from Ickworth which had recently come up for sale which depicted the structure which now protects the Egyptian porphyry bowl at Anglesey Abbey.

This proved a most individual and entertaining morning which made all those present wake up and realise how important these various man made features are in the creation of a garden.

Audrey Osborne

BOOK REVIEW:

PARKS AND GARDENS OF BRITAIN, A LANDSCAPE HISTORY FROM THE AIR. Christopher Taylor.

Edinburgh University Press, 1998, ISBN 1 85331 2487

(hardback) 1 85331 207 X in paperback, 224pp, B/W illus throughout.

We all have a friend or acquaintance who is puzzled by the idea of garden history, or even sceptical about it: the remedy would seem to lie in showing them, or giving them, Christopher Taylor's new book. Here, in eighty succinct examples, from the shadowy presence of Lidgate Villa in the fields south-east of Newmarket to the 'democratisation of gardening' at Milton Keynes, from Eleanor of Castile's pleasance at Conway Castle to Robert Morham's sweep of the Princes Street gardens in Edinburgh, is a clear analysis of each site, its place in history and – most emphatically – in the landscape. Each analysis takes less than a page, and is accompanied by an aerial photograph (all these coming from the Cambridge University Committee for Aerial Photography's collection) and an essential bibliography. It is this compactness of the treatment of each site that makes for speedy accessibility, ideal for informing a visit, or for letting your fingers do the walking over the photograph.

Less obvious – but a powerful undercurrent through the book – are Christopher Taylor's introductory essays to each historical period, delivered with his characteristic clarity and bubbling with refreshing provocation (as we in CGT have come to expect and enjoy). While conscious of the inadequacies of the overview (as equally the use of purely written or illustrative material) in that it is not selective and can be confusing, he argues that looking down on a garden has held a fascination since medieval times, and that the overview has greatest value in revealing changes in the landscape, invariably telling a wide tale.

To alter my metaphor, he sweeps his brush broadly through the political, cultural, agricultural and economic forces that have left their marks on the land, suggesting how the 13th century deer park at Bradgate in Leicestershire has become an abandoned 17th formal garden, how Studley Royal in Yorkshire moves from monastic legacy to World Heritage Site, via the private passions of an 18th Century swindler. The big picture is well constructed, a wonderful panorama of the fascination of garden and landscape history.

My only niggles are with the publishers: the aerial photographs have been chosen from differing periods, some are archives in themselves, but many have not been printed with the clarity that modern processes allow, and putting Blenheim Palace on the cover (it is not in the book) is a misleading cliché. Also the book needs a list of sites.

But, it is a masterly summation of the meanings of the marks that have been made upon the face of our small island, the reality being far more intriguing than any sci-fi fantasy. It is also a timely book: with the merger of English Heritage and the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments in England (of which Christopher Taylor was formerly Head of Archaeological Survey) on 1st April 1999, perhaps we may assume that this kind of archaeological analysis is the future of garden history?

Jane Brown

JOHN CLARE'S GARDEN, HELPSTON

I had found out that John Clare lived in a thatched cottage in the village of Helpstone. You can find it easily by proceeding south at the village crossroads where a fine stone memorial has been erected to his memory. Like many people I have read several of his poems which depict country topics and his love of nature. His cottage stands at the back edge of the pavement and in the summer months it is almost covered by plants in hanging baskets.

I was pleasantly surprised to find in the Peterborough Library references to his own garden at Helpston in two books – ‘Autobiographical Fragments’ and ‘The Journal’.

Eric Robinson and David Powell have edited a book ‘John Clare – By Himself’ and have brought aspects of his gardening to light.

I thought it would be of interest to pick out the references in ‘The Journal’ to his garden and attitude to plants. I have not changed his spelling.

20th day of October 1824 – Worked in the garden at making a shed for my Auriculas, the Michaelmass daisy is in full flower both the lilac-blue and the white thick set with its little clustering stars of flowers – the Horse chestnut tree is losing large hand shaped leaves that litter in yellow heaps found the trunk – the walnut is completely bare and the leaves are tanned brown and shrivelled up as if scorched – the elms are as green and fresh as the oak

28th October 1824 – Read Bacons Essay (Of Gardens) on the idea of a complete garden divided into every month of the year in which the flowers bloom

30th October 1824 -The chrisanthymus are just opening their beautiful double flowers. I have six sorts this year the claret colored the buff the bright yellow the paper white the purple and the rose color lost one the jocolate or coffe color – promised more from Milton.

2nd November 1824 – Set some box edging round a border which I have made for my collection of ferns

17th November 1824 The Chrisanthums are in full flower, went out to hunt the harts tongue species of fern but found none

27th November 1824 – Received a parcel of ferns and flowers from Henderson – the common Polipody growing about the thorp park wall the hats tongue growing in a well at Caistor the Lady fern growing at whittlesea Meer and tall white Lychnis with seven new sorts of Chrysanthemums – the Paper white and bright lemon 3 sorts of lilac and 2 others – I like these flowers when they come in the melancholy of autumn

5th January 1825 – Jiliflowers Polanthes Marogolds and the yellow yarrow in flower and the double scarlet Anamomie nearly out – crocuses peeping out above ground swelling with flower

10th day Of January 1825 – The winter aconite just peeping out with its yellow flowers

11th January 1825 – Began to fetch maiden earth from molehills for my flower beds

23rd January 1825 – Took a walk to hilly wood brought home another plant of the white maidenhair fern that grows on a sallow stoven in a sort of spring

31st January 1825 – Went to Somons Wood for a sucker of the barberry bush to set in my garden – a yellow crocus and a bunch Of single snowdrops in full flower

2nd February 1825 – Funeral of John Cue of Ufford, once head gardener for Lord Manners of Ufford Hall

4th March 1825 – Went to Ailsworth heath to fetch ling or commoc heath and furze bushes to set in my garden – found a curious sort of Iris of flag growing in a pond in the wood and fancy it not a common one – brought a bit home top set

7th March 1825 – Wrote to Mrs W Wright of Clapham requesting her to give me a bulb of the ‘Tyger Lily’ and a sucker of the ‘White Province Rose’

14th April 1825 – The snail head fritillary in flower also the light blue, Pink and White Hyacinths – Bluebell or Harebell in flower – the Primrose Violet and bedlam Cowslips fading out of flower

It is interesting to note how mild the winter was in 1825.

Audrey Osborne.

JOHN BUONAROTTI PAPWORTH

I thought that it might be of interest to members to write about designers who worked in Cambridgeshire and are not ones that spring immediately to mind when discussing gardens in the county. So this is the first in a series of articles which I will embark on from time to time.

John Buonarotti Papworth is buried in the churchyard of Little Paxton, which lies to the north of St Neots. The church itself takes some finding as the original village has now been almost completely engulfed by bungalow overspill from St Neots and the park around Little Paxton is now completely lost. The church was locked on the day Audrey Osborne, Jill Cremer and myself tried to locate the park. I recall remarking about the problems of bedrooms on the ground floor overlooking the front gardens of several properties, especially when the gardens were now concreted over for car parking.

To the north of the church is Mr Papworth’s chest tomb, striking in its gaunt simplicity. His dates, 1775 – 1847, made me think of Repton. I had not read about this Mr Papworth before and as his name included Michelangelo’s surname, it was time to research further. From 1790 until his death John Papworth was a prolific architect, employed in the alteration and decoration of country houses – Claremont in Surrey, and Fonthill in Wiltshire amongst many others. In Cambridgeshire he carried out extensive alterations for Lady Olivia Sparrow at Brampton Park in 1825 (the house was destroyed by fire in 1907) and for the local schools at Brampton and Grafton.

In 1816 his Architectural Hints was republished as Rural Residences which included a Series of Designs for Cottages, Small Villas and other ornamental buildings. This publication was followed by a Series of Designs for Garden Buildings which appeared between 1819 – 1820 and then reprinted under the title of Hints on Ornamental Gardening in 1823. This was illustrated by James Green. (These books can be seen in the rare books room at the University Library, Cambridge.) Papworth describes various garden structures and advises on planting, the book includes – Temples, Aviary, Picturesque Dairy, Ice House, Laundry, Poultry house, Venetian Tent, Fountain, Path and Summerhouse to name but a few.

I know some of our members keep chickens in their gardens and for them I have noted Papworth’s proposals for Poultry Houses:- “It may be placed in some secluded walks which are here made to pass near the margin of water and strong wire fences would confine the poultry except such water fowl as might be permitted to embellishment it restraining them from wandering, by a light surrounding fence. It must be amply screened from the cold prevailing winds as so judiciously sheltered by trees that at all times of the hottest day some parts may be in shade and if possible a rill of water should be conveyed through the enclosures”.

His recommendations for garden paths still I think hold good today :-

“Paths should not be seen to cross the lawn before the windows

of the apartments; they should not be seen to divide the portions of the lawns or shrubberies into equal parts, they should not be quickly sinuous without sufficient cause and in all cases connected curves should be unlike each other in extent and compass. Finally, Walks should always have an outlet and occasionally diverge into ramifications so that visitors shall not be obliged to return by the path they went or join society when they would choose to be private”.

Papworth's skill as a designer led him down avenues producing ideas for manufactured items. In 1816 he designed the glass throne for the Shah of Persia, an elaborate sherbert service for the Pasha of Egypt and a gothic lantern for Eaton Hall, Cheshire. He was also extensively employed as a landscape gardener and town planner – for William Bullock (former owner of the Egyptian Hall Piccadilly) he made a design for the estate layout on the Ohio River opposite Cincinnati upon which it was proposed to build a Town called 'Hygeia'.

Although he prepared designs for a palace to be built at Cannstatt for Wilhelm I, King of Wurttemberg – illustrated at the Royal Academy in 1823 and 1827 – these were not built but his proposals for laying out the park at Cannstatt in the English fashion was partly carried out. His versatility was finally recognised by his contemporaries, when in 1815 he produced a design for a 'Tropheum' to commemorate the battle of Waterloo. His friends hailed him as a second Michelangelo and he was induced to add 'Buonarrotti' to his name. His drawing was rejected by the Royal Academy. He was one of the twelve architects who in 1834 signed a resolution which led to the foundation of the Institute of British Architects. He retired in 1846 leaving London to reside at Little Paxton near St. Neots in a house he designed many years earlier for his Aunt Mary Papworth. He died on 16th June 1847.

John Drake

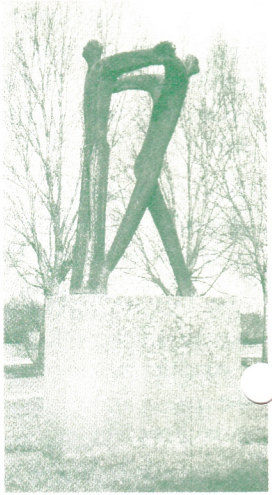
CAN YOU HELP US?

This stone object stands in an old orchard in Cambridgeshire. Can you help us by identifying what it might be and what it is trying to tell us? We would be grateful if you would contact our office. Thank you.



CAMBRIDGESHIRE GARDEN QUIZ NO 2

COMPILED BY AUDREY OSBORNE

- Up until the 1960s you could arrive at this house and garden by boat from a Roman canal. What is the name of the House and the name of the canal?
- Orton Longueville Hall had a great collection of conifers in the garden, including a fine avenue of Wellingtonias, many now reach over 60 ft in height today. What was remarkable about the cultivation of the Wellingtonias?
- This sculpture is one of 15 created by internationally renowned sculptors and is sited in a public park in Cambridgeshire. What is the name of the park? 
- A Repton 'Red Book' was recently sold at Sotheby's in April 1998 for £28,500. What Cambridgeshire property was the subject of this 'Red Book'?
- The owner of Fletton Tower, Peterborough, a novelist, had one of his books, a best seller, made into a successful film. What was the novelist's name and can you remember the title of the book?
- Which writer spent his childhood regularly visiting Harston House, Harston and had a secret garden there?
- Which Elizabethan Manor House and garden was the home of Julius Caesar from Padua who became physician to Queens Mary and Elizabeth I?
- For some 200 years this fine house was the home of the Bishops of Peterborough. Within the garden they created a fine collection of trees, and in the large walled kitchen garden a cordon apple tree grew 15 yards long. What is the name of the house?
- Hemingford Abbots Hall was designed by the same architect who was responsible for the Palm House at Kew Gardens. What was his name?
- Humphrey Waterfield developed pleasure grounds and ornamental gardens in the 1950s on the site of a 19th century garden with earlier features including an eel pond and mound. Which garden is this?
- Which scalloped shaped park created in 1879 was the first piece of town planning in this city and contained a band stand, an aviary and serpentine perimeter paths?
- Captain Vipan, a keen botanist, of Stibbington Hall had two plants named after him. One he discovered whilst travelling in Burma, and the other he hybridised at Stibbington Hall. What were these two plants?
- Which garden has an island in the river reached by crossing a Chinese bridge?
- In 1724 Sarah Osborn (nee Byng) wrote to her brother who was related to the Montagues through marriage, describing a property as "the finest house and garden in the country". Which particular house and garden was she referring to?
- Which property had a miniature model railway over a mile

long winding its way around the garden in 1912, and whose owner later started the Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch Railway?

16. Where is there an extensive water garden, containing many moats, ponds, mounts and a holy well of St Pandionia. The house which still stands in this garden was owned by the sister of Oliver Cromwell in the 1600s?
17. Ben Jonson visited this house and garden with William Camden avoiding the plague of London in 1603. The property was the home of the Coton family. Jonson described it as one of his favourite country houses. The house was restored by Cockerell in 1800 and the grounds were laid out by Lapidge. What house is this?
18. This particular maze is unique in that it can be precisely dated and the maker can be identified. It has been speculated that it was cut to commemorate the restoration of Charles II in 1660. Where is this maze?
19. This remarkable house, now ruinous, was built in the early 1600s by Thomas Cecil. It is surrounded by extensive earlier earthworks possibly gardens. It served as a Dower House for Burghley. What is the name of the house?
20. Which house and garden, with once extensive parkland, was an officer's mess for the USAF base during World War II and was used by Clarke Gable and James Stewart when stationed in the area?

For answers please turn to the back page.

VISIT TO BOTTISHAM PARK 20.03.99

A mixed group of old and new members gathered at Bottisham Hall on this fine spring day for a 'guided tour' by the owners Mr and Mrs Jenyns. The present Hall, which replaced an earlier Elizabethan Manor House, was built by the Rev. Jenyns in 1797 and the family have lived there ever since, so that our tour was enriched by commentary on the planting of Mr Jenyns grandparents and parents as well as more recent plantings – a true garden history! We were treated to informative tours of not only the garden walks and walled gardens, but also the moated site, the earthworks of the deserted medieval village and the lambing sheds.

We set out along the 'circular' walk leading from the house, which skirts parts of the walled gardens, and winds through areas of spring flowers and grassland with daffodils, primroses and violets all looking their best. The area also has snowdrops, hellebores and Solomon's Seal at other times of the year and as many as 16 types of orchid. The walk was created by Mr Jenyns grandfather and mother and has thrived and multiplied ever since. Parts of the walk are lined by yew and box avenues and hedges, possibly marking out the avenues created in the mid and late eighteenth century as marked on the early maps of the park held in the Record Office.

Within the extensive areas of the walled gardens fruit trees have been maintained including greengages, apples and figs lining the walls; whilst the overall layout and appearance have been partially maintained to give a wonderful impression of the walled gardens at their height of productivity. As with nearly all walled gardens the sheer amount of labour necessitated prevents full use being made of the whole area, but only partial conversion to grazing, with maintenance of the fruit trees against the walls and the internal hedging, pathways and some vegetable planting has proved a very successful compromise. We were able to

distinguish an area of wall where hothouses had existed by their flues and blocked up doors. A mini-orchard of ancient well-pruned trees of shoulder height gave a Lilliput feeling to one area.

The moated site of the original manor house was too well wooded to allow easy penetration, although we could see some very ancient plane trees within the area of the old gardens. The size of these rivalled that of the plane tree at Ely, which is thought to date from the 17th century, and these must also almost be Elizabethan. An even older tree awaited us towards the site of the deserted medieval village, a huge old field maple, completely hollow but still sprouting from its lower branches, which has been looked at by the famous 'woodland' man Oliver Rackham. Many of the parkland trees survive from the smaller park which surrounded the Elizabethan house whilst others were planted to complement the 'newer' hall around 1800, including a fine lime avenue.

We crossed the park where the present Mr Jenyns is carrying out a programme of continuous replanting of parkland trees as necessary; and arrived at the earthworks of the Angerhale village. Jeanette Fage (one of our newer members), enlightened us as to the way in which these earthworks were created and survive, Mr and Mrs Jenyns also discussed the problems which fluctuating water tables has brought to the moated site and the parkland trees in general. Mrs Jenyns has tried to reintroduce ducks to the streams and moats and suitable planting but the water levels are proving a problem.

Before finally looking at the old mill, we were treated to an extensive tour of the lambing sheds and were able to see lambs being born and newly borns feeding. They say that one should never compete with animals on screen, and I wonder how many of the CGT members came away with the lambs rather than the garden history uppermost in their minds. With its superb gardens, the archaeological earthworks and the lambs, Bottisham Hall will be a hard act to follow.

Twigs Way.

THE PETERBOROUGH LECTURES

The first lecture was given by John Dejardin, The Cathedral Precinct Project Landscape Architect. John explained the layout of the medieval and Victorian development of the buildings and spaces with particular reference to John Harvey's plan of the gardens which showed the fish pond along the town drain, the concentric moat and raised walk garden to the south west of the precinct and two cruciform gardens one to the north of the Dean's house and the other to the north of the Infirmary's Hall. To the east of the cathedral was the extensive Vinery running from Tout Hill (the remains of the Norman castle) to the Infirmary's Hall.

He explained the development of the Bishops Palace with an addition to the east by Lutyens and the extent of the large garden which almost completely surrounds the Palace. There is a strong possibility that Repton was asked to advise on the garden and the island flower beds near the Palace are similar to a scheme he worked on in Northamptonshire.

Much of the original layout still remains but has been changed by unsympathetic maintenance and new planting often obscuring the picturesque views of the fine buildings. It is hoped that a coordinated proposal will emerge soon which will allow visitors to experience the layout of the Benedictine Monastery and the changes which were made when it became a Cathedral.

The Cambridgeshire Gardens Trust wholeheartedly supports the work of John Dejarden and Jane Brown in achieving these aims. We all followed John to see the cloister, the west front entrance, the town cemetery, the Dean's garden and the Monks graveyard.

The second lecture was given by Audrey and John who described some twenty gardens in the west of Cambridgeshire. The gardens chosen represented a wide range to be found – small parks in villages, public parks, cemeteries, gardens associated with garden writers and champion boxers, large extensive parks, water gardens, gardens on both sides of the village high street, gardens made in one day, nurseries, gardens of wealthy farmers, and gardens lost because of uninformed development.

What was of interest was the range of gardens discussed. The great gardens of the county were hardly mentioned – Burghley, Wimpole and Elton about which much has already been written. Also the range of sources consulted was very impressive.

No one in the audience was able to spot the difference between the Kyp and Kniff view and the Beverell view of Hatley Park. We all enjoyed the quote which Audrey read from Beverley Nichols books about the winter aconite.

This talk was followed by a tour of the cathedral by one of their guides.

The final talk was given by Jenny Burt, who is the Chairman of The Association of Garden Trusts and also Chairman of the Northamptonshire Gardens Trust. Jenny spoke in some detail about nine gardens in her county emphasising the need for detailed research in order to understand the sites. She illustrated this with two sites where the gardens had been turned into golf courses – one a Repton garden the other on the outskirts of Wellingborough where a restored garden pavilion stood in the centre of the first fairway!

As we have planned a joint visit to Lyvden new beld with the Northants Garden Trust later this year we were shown a series of slides of this site with maps of the orchards the canals with the spiral ramps on the corner mounts. We all look forward to seeing this great lost garden and the building erected by one of the gentlemen associated with the Gunpowder Plot.

Jenny showed several formal gardens around fine stone country houses with walled enclosures and avenues radiating from the property to a further gateway on the horizon, and sites with the most incredible terraces. A feature that is seldom found in Cambridgeshire with its flat landscape.

Following her talk we were taken by Jane Brown to see the Bishop's Palace garden which possibly has the earliest Lutyens/Jekyll garden and then on to the Vineyard with its simple space uncluttered but with fine trees around the perimeter. Sad about the recent bungalows.

Our thanks to all the speakers who gave their services free and entertained us so brilliantly.

John Drake.

Members may be interested in the events planned this summer by the Suffolk Gardens Trust.

Saturday 8th May Visit to Magnolia House (Mark Rumery's Garden,) and Wootens of Wenhaston.

Saturday 12th June Visit to Rosemary, Rectory Hill, East Bergholt. Rose collection.

Saturday 10th July Visit Fuller's Mill, West Stow to see collection of lilies in 25 acre garden.

Saturday 4th September Topiary Workshop at Hengrave Hall,

For details of these events please contact Mrs Penny Burns tel no 01787 370953 for more information.

ANSWERS TO QUIZ NO 2.

1. Northborough Manor. Car Dyke is immediately to the east of the village.
2. The Wellingtonias at Orton Longueville were all grown from seed.
3. Thorpe Meadows, part of the Nene Park, Peterborough. The sculpture is Second Entrance by Lee Grandjean. 1988.
4. Gaynes Hall. East of Great Staughton. 'Plan & Remarks on the Improvement of Gaines Hall in Huntingdonshire, a seat of James Duberley Esq., by H Repton 1798'.
5. Leslie Hartley. 'The Go-Between'
6. Graham Greene.
7. Rippington Manor, Great Gransden.
8. Castor Hall, Castor, Peterborough.
9. Decimus Burton.
10. Abbots Ripton Hall.
11. The Park, Peterborough.
12. Orchids (1) *Vanda vipanii* (2) *Cypripedium vipanii* (*C. philippinense* – better known in gardens under the name of *C. laevigatum*, fertilised with the pollen of *C. niveum*).
13. Island Hall, Godmanchester.
14. Kimbolton Castle.
15. Great Staughton Manor House. The owner was J.E.P.Howe.
16. The Old House, Eltisley. A Benedictine nunnery existed at Eltisley in the early Middle Ages to which St Pandionia, the daughter of a Scottish King, fled from a proposed marriage. The abbess at the nunnery was a cousin of St Pandionia.
17. Conington Castle, NE of Sawtry.
18. In the village of Hilton.
19. Wothorpe Towers.
20. Alconbury House, Alconbury.

Our thanks to Audrey Osborne for once again producing the quiz. If you scored more than 14 correct answers your talents are wasted sitting at home, please join our research team by contacting Audrey whose tel. no. is Cambridge 292336.