



CAMBRIDGESHIRE GARDENS TRUST

NEWSLETTER No. 53 November 2022

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LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

THIS SUMMER was dominated by the extreme heat, which reached its zenith on 18th – 19th July, when temperatures in Cambridge topped 40 degrees Celsius. Shrivelled and scorched plants, brown lawns and failed crops were the order of the day. Today our gardens and the landscape are gradually returning to normality, but the feeling is that extremes of heat could be the new normal that we, and our plants, have to adapt to. We shall see.

As it happened, we had a very successful, if roastingly hot, visit to the gardens of Newnham College on 18th July. We skipped from one shady spot to the next on a fascinating tour given by the newly appointed Head Gardener Paul Anderson, who was generous with his time and explanations. The borders were magnificent as ever and we were particularly impressed by a new initiative giving students an area of the gardens to tend themselves. A full description of Newnham's gardens appeared in the previous issue of the Newsletter.

Earlier, in June, our social evening of the year was held at The Manor, Hemingford Grey, courtesy of the owner, Diana Boston. It was a lovely, balmy evening and the gardens were at their best, with the historic roses flowering profusely in beds and over pergolas. There is so much to see in this garden – surprises and delights around every corner. Diana very kindly showed people around the

house, and we were specially privileged to be shown her mother-in-law's famous patchwork quilts.

It was with great sadness that I learned about the death of Julia Weaver during the summer. As many members will know, Julia was only the second Chairman of CGT, taking over from John Drake in November 2011 on a temporary basis, or so she thought, until John was fit enough to return to the post. As it turned out, John's untimely demise meant that Julia served a full two years before handing the baton over to David Brown.

An appreciation of Julia's great contributions can be found in the Newsletter.

In my last letter I talked about our new Small Grants Scheme, and how we had awarded grants to three schemes. We are delighted that we can now add a fourth, the Swavesey Community Orchard, for which we have donated £248.00 for tree labelling. We do want to encourage applications, so if any of you know of a likely project that might benefit from a small injection of money do please let Jane Sills, our treasurer, know.

We have been honoured and humbled to receive a legacy of £5,000 from Christopher Cornell this summer. This legacy came out of the blue, as the donor was unknown to us. He was a native of Saffron Walden but spent most of his adulthood in Cambridge. Gardens and gardening helped him overcome various disabilities and he wished to give



Weeping Oriental Plane tree in Emmanuel College garden.

Photo Liz Whittle

money to local organisations like ourselves which promote an interest in gardening and nature. We are so grateful for this unexpected gift and will dedicate it to the Small Grants fund.

Once again our indefatigable Gin Warren has come up trumps with an event at Emmanuel College to mark the visit there of the American 'Bicycle Boys', Loyal Johnson and Sam Brewster, in 1928. Full details of the 'Bicycle Boys', and an account of the event can be found in this Newsletter. Needless to say the visit was highly successful, with two tours of the gardens led by the Head Gardener, Brendon Sims. The highlight was the vast weeping Oriental Plane tree, thought to have been planted in the Fellows' Garden in the early 19C,

possibly in 1802, when another (not weeping) was planted in Jesus College from seed brought back from the battlefield of Thermopylae in Greece. A romantic thought!

Back to today, with its hints of autumn. Current seasonal activities, despite the scorching summer, include picking up great numbers of walnuts, processing quantities of tomatoes, making pesto and turning some of the bumper crop of apples into cider. Together could they qualify as a mixed diet?

The Committee is working on a varied and interesting programme of events so I look forward to seeing you all in the months to come.

Liz Whittle

UPDATING 'A POINT OF VIEW: BEING FEMALE CONFINES YOU TO THE FOOTNOTES OF BOTH GARDEN HISTORY AND PRACTICAL HORTICULTURE' FROM ISSUE 49

I HOPE LIKE ME you found the series of lectures by female speakers on *Forgotten Women Gardeners*, organised by Twigs Way for the Gardens Trust, cheering as well as informative and entertaining. In her own talks for Cambridge University Botanic Garden in November 2021 and for this series, Twigs and her GT speakers, Sophie Piebenga, Deborah Reid, Catherine Horwood and Sandra Lawrence, have usefully lengthened our Directory. Thank you so much Twigs! Independently, I've come across some more, and Professor Parker added one in his talk on the Fynbos for our AGM. One more came from the Sussex GT 'Unforgettable Gardens' talk on Highdown. I have yet to receive additions from CGT members but that may be because my email address was not readily to hand. Please do help me by sending any details available on any other women gardeners you come across to: gin-warren@ntlworld.com

As with the previous 'Point of View' article, this is not intended as a scholarly work - it is a directory which merely introduces CGT members to women who were somehow connected to gardening, mainly in the UK. As sources (in contrast to academic references), I've used notes from the lectures, an assortment of books and blogs, Twitterfeeds, Wikipedia, the websites of various places and societies, and so on. The intention is that it might stimulate members to find out more about these people and to mention them as much as their male counterparts in members' writings and presentations. To aid that, the entries in these articles, and any future updates, will be merged and placed on the CGT website for easier access.

In drafting this, I am reminded that *suffragists* thought women should have the vote and that this could be achieved by finding good moments to ask nicely, while *suffragettes* thought that women should have the vote and that the Government was going to have to be forced to act.

PRACTICAL HORTICULTURE

Continuing to think about tools and kit made for people with small hands and moderate strength in their skeletal muscles, here are a few more useful finds.

- **Darlac's Lightweight Shears (DP800)** with polished carbon steel blades are neat and light (580 g) and do a great job on the top of the younger generation's privet hedge. They are not tiring to use, even with outstretched arms.



- **Gold Leaf make Kids Touch gardening gloves** in three sizes, the smallest being 3-5 yrs. The others are 5-7 and 7+. They really do keep young gardeners' hands safe, clean and warm. Smallest size seen here next to granny's **Ladies' Tough Touch**.
- Many children's trowels and handforks are toys, not functional tools. An honourable exception to this rule is **Spear & Jackson Kids Trowel and Weed Fork Set** which really do facilitate successful, meaningful gardening.
- For both the Kids Touch gloves and the Trowel and Hand Fork, one needs to go on the **Garden Divas** website. Physically based in Hitchin, they offer quick service and practical prices. <https://www.gardendivas.co.uk/product/gold-leaf-kids-touch-gloves/>
- While the RHS talks up interesting children in gardening, sadly their online shop offers only toy gloves and tools; they are not reduced-size real ones, with which small people can actually move compost or soil, make plant holes, get weeds out and so on.

Searching the internet brings up some patronising (suspect word, that - it's men giving in to a tendency to expect obeisance and gratitude, isn't it?) gestures on the tools-for-practical-horticulture front: Florabrite, for instance, make pink-handled secateurs for we gurlies. Unfortunately, they weigh 300 g which suggests they are just men's ones in a bit of disguise. My genuinely female-friendly Felco 6s are only 220 g. Why do so many designers and manufacturers have trouble grasping the difference between presentation and substance?

DIRECTORY OF PEOPLE -

A DEEPER DIVE TO REINFORCE THE IDEA

Harriet Isabel Adams (1863-1952; née Baker, preferred name Isabel): horticultural artist in Arts and Crafts style. Graduate of Birmingham Art School, member of the Linnean Society and the Botanical Society of the British Isles. Designed book plates and illustrated children's books. Famous for *Wild Flowers of the British Isles*, published in two volumes in 1907 and 1910.



Plate 53 from *Wild Flowers of the British Isles*, highlighting the spotted, early purple and green-winged orchids.

Madeline Agar (1874-1967): landscape designer and author, studied in the US and at Swanley Horticultural College, then taught at Wycombe Abbey before working for the Metropolitan Public Gardens Association where she was responsible for converting disused burial grounds into parks and gardens for public recreation. Worked with Brenda Colvin on Wimbledon Common War Memorial Garden after WWI, having taught Colvin when she, Agar, returned as a staff member to Swanley while also working with the MPGA. She apparently felt that her work at the garden at Place House, Fowey, Cornwall was important. Wrote *A Primer of School Gardening* (1909), *Garden Design, in Theory and Practice* (1911) and, with Mary Stout, *A Book of Gardening for the Sub-Tropics, with a Calendar for Cairo* (1921).

Margery Allen, Baroness Allen of Hurtwood (1897-1976; née Gill, known as Joan): landscape architect, especially of play-areas and adventure playgrounds, elected the first Fellow

of the Institute of Landscape Architects in 1930. She promoted child welfare (her campaigning led to The Children Act of 1948 and she worked for UNICEF). With Susan Jellicoe, she co-wrote *The Things We See: Gardens* (1953), *The New Small Garden* (1956) and *Town Gardens to Live In* (1977).

Lady Sarah Amherst, Countess of Plymouth (1762-1838; née Archer): plant collector. Her husband's job took her to China in 1816 and India in 1823. She collected *Clematis montana*, *Anemone vitifolia* and, in the Himalayas, *Amherstia nobilis*. (Sarah Amherst does not seem to have been closely related to Alicia Amherst q.v. issue 49).

Agnes Arber (1879-1960; née Robertson): botanist specialising in monocotyledons. First woman botanist to be elected a Fellow of The Royal Society (1946) and first woman to receive the Gold Medal of the Linnean Society for her contributions to botanical science. Her later career focused on philosophy in botany and the nature of biological research.

Elizabeth von Arnim (1866-1941; née Mary Annette Beauchamp; became Russell after second marriage, aka Alice Cholmondeley as a pseudonym for one novel): gardener and writer of fictionalised autobiography dealing with gardening, and novels.

Jeanne Baret or Barré, later Dubernat (c.1740-1807): a French swashbuckler, probably of Huguenot background, who dressed as a sailor and succeeded in sailing on the naval corvette *Étoile*, under Louis de Bougainville, an explorer and contemporary of James Cook. Getting aboard for the three-year expedition was achieved by her male disguise and being assistant to, and lover of, the naturalist Philibert Commerçon. Philibert being cabin-bound by a leg ulcer on the South American coast, Baret found the plant now called *bougainvillea*, named after the captain. Her true gender being discovered, Baret and Commerçon were left behind on Mauritius in 1768, as guests of the botanist-governor Pierre Poivre. Philibert died in 1773 and Jeanne ran a tavern in Port Louis before marrying Jean Dubernat of the French Army in 1774. She returned to France with her and Commerçon's papers, and 6000 botanical specimens, becoming the first woman to have circumnavigated the globe. Over 1700 new species were credited to Commerçon, and 70 named after him, but none initially to her. However, in 1785 the Ministry of Marine gave her a life pension of 200 livres a year with a commendation which recognised her contribution to botany, and in 2012 *Solanum baretiae*, a native of Ecuador and Peru, was named for her.



Imagined portrait of Jeanne Baret dressed as a sailor, from 1817, after her death.

Lina Barker (1866-1929; born at sea on a ship from Australia): around 1895 did a two-year diploma course at a horticultural college at Swanley, Kent. With Constance Ida Hay Currie and later Annie Morison, worked as a female practitioner gardener in the glasshouses at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh from

1897. Experiencing considerable discrimination (male uniform only, no outdoor work, two-year fixed-term contract), Barker and Morison then founded the Edinburgh School of Gardening for Women in Corstorphine in 1902. It was the first and only example of its kind in Scotland. The syllabus included ploughing, and two years of science classes at a nearby agricultural college. Driven by a feminist desire for equality (they were suffragettes), Annie and Lina dedicated almost twenty-five years to training women in all aspects of horticulture and many of those who graduated from the school went on to become head gardeners and nurserywomen.

Elizabeth Blackwell (c.1707-1758; née Blachrie): born in Aberdeen, a botanist, botanical artist, writer, engraver, publisher and marketer of *A Curious Herbal*. The herbal contained 500 illustrations and appeared in 125 weekly instalments from 1736-9. Dubbed 'Botanica Blackwellia' by



Linnaeus, she worked in Chelsea Physic Garden, focussing on plants and medicinal herbs from North America, doing all this to support the family while her husband (later executed in Sweden for treason) was in prison for debt. Fortunately, the herbal was an instant success.

Ladies Thistle from A Curious Herbal.



Group photo of gardeners at the Glynde College.

Mary G. Champion (1878-1965): book illustrator and good friend of Frances Wolseley. They collaborated on, for instance, *Gardens, Their Form and Design* (1919). She noted the 'inadvisable romantic attachments' which were apparently a feature of life at the Glynde College for Lady Gardeners, founded by Viscountess Wolseley in 1902.

Bertha Chandler (1885-1961; aka Mrs Norman Kemp): plant scientist at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh from 1908. Head of Laboratory under Bayley Balfour from 1912-13, so treated very differently by him from Barker, Currie and Morison. First woman to receive a DSc from Edinburgh University in 1915. Thesis title: *The Theory and Practice of Vegetative Propagation in Flowering Plants*. Left RBGE in 1913 on marriage to physical scientist Norman Kemp; one daughter, Doris, born 1914. Promptly back into work as a

radiographer/radiologist at the Second General Military Hospital at Craighleith, Edinburgh (her sister was a medically qualified pathologist). By 1921, she was applying for grants to make *Investigations in the Applications of X-rays to the examination of Materials, with special reference to the radiographic appearances of abnormal conditions in Timber*.

Lady Mary Coke (1727-1811; née Campbell, aka 'The White Cat'): socialite, scandal magnet, diarist and hands-on gardener who remained unmarried after she was widowed at 26, having previously tried to divorce Edward Coke, only son of the 1st Earl of Leicester (a drunkard and gambling addict) on the grounds of ill-usage. Her mother, the Duchess of Argyll, had been so worried about her that she had obtained a writ of Habeas Corpus from the judges of the Kings Bench. Apparently in later life Mary not only watered her own plants in a rented house and garden in Holland Park, but did it *on a Sunday*.

Brenda Colvin (1897-1981): landscape architect, pupil of Madeline Agar at Swanley Horticultural College; they later worked together on Wimbledon Common. Her landscapes include the gardens at The Manor House, Sutton Courtney (with Norah Lindsay), Burwarton, the University of East Anglia and Aberystwyth University (where her landscape at Penglais campus survives). She also worked on industrial landscaping - power stations and so on; she became president of the Landscape Institute, and wrote *Land and Landscape* (1947, revised 1970). Her own garden was at Filkins in the Cotswolds and opens under the National Gardens Scheme.

Matilda Conyers (1753-1803): an almost overlooked botanical artist whose skills were of the first order. Born into a family which derived its wealth from estates in Britain and the West Indies, Matilda grew up at Copt Hall, Epping and developed flower painting abilities which were exceptional and were encouraged to a degree that was unusual for the time. Specialising in new introductions, Matilda chose vellum as her medium, favoured by botanical artists for its smooth and even texture: a surface which allowed accurate depiction of the details of plants, flowers and foliage.

Sylvia Crowe (1901-97): important post-WWII landscape designer, she worked on Harlow and Basildon new towns and created Rutland Water. In a 60-year career, she also worked magic on the landscapes of reservoirs and nuclear power stations, power transmission lines and crematoria, hospitals, sewage farms, motorway intersections and USAF bases from Berkshire (Greenham Common) to Suffolk. Published an influential book, *Garden Design*, in 1958, and co-authored *The Gardens of Mughal India* (1972).

Constance Hay Currie (b. late 19C): briefly, one of the first female gardeners in the glasshouses (forbidden to work outdoors) at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh with Lina Barker (q.v.). Dismissed by Bayley Balfour for wearing her own clothes to work rather than the required boys' uniform. Her position was subsequently taken up by Annie Morison (q.v.).

*Gin Warren,
April 2022*

Editor's Note: space dictates that we leave the biographical entries at this point but we shall publish the remainder of Gin's research in forthcoming Newsletters.

DESIGNED LANDSCAPE INNOVATION IN RESPONSE TO CRISES ABOUT BURIAL: THE ROSARY, NORWICH, AND CAMBRIDGE GENERAL CEMETERIES

This article describes proposed changes to the English landscape to provide burial places for Nonconformists and dignified burials for the poor, and to improve public health. The personal focus is on John Claudius Loudon (1783-1843) and his 1843 book 'On the Laying Out, Planting, and Managing of Cemeteries and on the Improvement of Churchyards'. The geographic focus is on two unconsecrated cemeteries: The Rosary, Norwich (1821) and Cambridge General Cemetery, now known as Histon Road Cemetery, Cambridge (1843).

JOHAN CLAUDIUS LOUDON (1783-1843) was an early-19C polymath who worked in garden and landscape design and practice; botany; horticulture; agriculture; architecture; education; and by writing and publishing prodigiously on these topics.

His childhood was spent on his family's Scottish Lowland tenant farm, where he laid out his own little garden with miniature walks and beds (Simo 1988, p3). The ethos at home and school was Presbyterian. He moved to England in 1803, after spending some time at Edinburgh University under Prof. Andrew Coventry (Simo 1988, p4). Having earned money running an efficient 'Scottish' farm (Fig. 1), with an associated prototype agricultural college in Oxfordshire, and taught himself several languages (Dewis 2014, p9), he then travelled.



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Figure 1. JMW Turner's Ploughing up turnips near Slough ('Windsor'), exhibited 1809 and now part of the Tate Gallery collection. In 1809, Loudon opened his 'Scottish agricultural college' in Oxfordshire: the image seems indicative of the disorganised state of English agriculture, which Loudon aimed to remedy to the advantage of both tenant farmers and landowners. Photo © Tate.

Firstly, he visited Northern Europe and Russia (1812-3), then France, Italy, Switzerland and the Netherlands (1819-20), and later France and Germany (1828). In Russia and Poland, he saw the horrifying unburied corpses of men and horses from Napoleon's army (Loudon 2013). Ill health and his literary activities eventually obliged him to settle in Bayswater where he made a home initially with his mother and sisters and later with Jane Wells Webb (m. 1830) and their daughter Agnes (b. 1832). This trio visited Paris in 1840, principally to study the Jardin des Plantes.

There seems no evidence that they visited Père Lachaise, the innovative and influential metropolitan cemetery which had been opened in 1804 to serve Paris. The extensive quotations in Chapter 1 of his book (Loudon 1843) *On the Laying Out, planting, and managing of cemeteries and on the improvement of churchyards* show that Loudon relied on John Strang's 1731 description in *Necropolis Glasguensis* and an unreferenced 1842 report for the French Government. On past trips he had clearly noted local burial arrangements. Loudon emphasised (Loudon 1843, footnote p10) that the 1842 French document criticised the original design as unsystematic and wasteful of space, and deplored the want of walks, roads and drainage, and the dilapidation and decay of the monuments.

Loudon died in December 1843 and was buried in the consecrated area of Kensal Green Cemetery (General Cemetery Company 1843) despite having apparently put his Presbyterianism to one side (Dewis 2014, Chapter 1). More extensive biographies of Loudon are to be found in the *Dictionary of National Biography* (1975) and in Melanie Simo's definitive study of his landscaping, agriculture and architecture (Simo 1988, pp3-16).

PRACTICAL ISSUES WITH BURIAL

As early as Edward VI's reign, London was overburdened with human remains. The 1549 demolition of St Paul's Cathedral charnel house generated 1000 cartloads of human bones. Taken through the Moor Gate and covered with earth, they made a Bone Hill, or Bunhill, large enough to carry seven windmills (Holmes 1896, Chapter 7).

During the 1665 Great Plague, the City of London set up Bunhill Fields Burial Ground, walling and gating it, but not consecrating or using it. It became a Nonconformist cemetery later that decade when a Mr Tindal took the lease (Historic England listing 1001713). Amongst famous Nonconformists buried there, albeit in an unmarked grave, is Eleanor Coade, whose Lithodipyra, or Coade Stone, graces many UK landscapes to this day (Fig. 2).

On 17 October 1671 John Evelyn was in Norwich and recorded in his diary, 'That most of the churchyards were filled up with earth, or rather the congestion of dead bodies one upon another, for want of earth, even to the very top of the walls, and some above the walls, so as the churches seemed to be built in pits' (Evelyn 1671). Forty years later Sir Christopher Wren, a member of the Commission for the Building of Fifty Churches for London, suggested that burial grounds should be created on the outskirts of towns or cities 'inclosed with a strong Brick Wall, and having a walk round and two cross walks, decently



Figure 2. This Coade Stone monument marks the family tomb of John Sealy, Coade's colleague, in the churchyard of what is now The Garden Museum in Lambeth. A snake swallowing its own tail, an ancient symbol or ouroboros, represents renewal and eternal life and a flame emerging from the top of the urn symbolises resurrection and the eternal life of the spirit (FRC 2020, p41). Photo courtesy of David Bingham thelondondead.blogspot.com

planted with Yew trees' (Friends of the Rosary Cemetery, hereinafter FRC, 2020, p10). The tradition of associating yews with religious practice long predates Wren: Edward I passed a statute in 1307 relating to churchyard yews, and William Caxton mentions their use as palm substitutes in Palm Sunday processions in his 1483 *Direction for keeping feasts all the year* (Buczacki 2018, pp78 & 85).

George Frederick Carden, a London barrister, perceived the same increasingly urgent problem as Evelyn and Wren, and acted to solve it for London. In February 1830 he convened the first meeting of what became the General Cemetery Company (Curl 1983). Curl asserts that Loudon published in the *Morning Advertiser* of 14 May 1830 suggesting that there should be several burial grounds equidistant from each other and at a constant radius from the centre of London 'sufficiently large to serve at the same time as breathing-places.' They should be planted so that, when full, they could become botanic gardens. However, that edition of the *Morning Advertiser* has no contribution from Loudon (personal reading).

At a July 1831 meeting of the Company, Carden described 'the crowded state of the places of public sepulture in the metropolis... coffins laid upon each other until the lower ones were broken, and all that was shocking to humanity was exposed... in some churches gratings alone separated the vaults from the body of the church, and while people were performing the offices of religion, they were inhaling at the same time the foul air which escaped from the vaults' (*Morning Advertiser* 1831). The Company's 1832 Act duly passed; they were to set up Kensal Green Cemetery in London, which they still run.

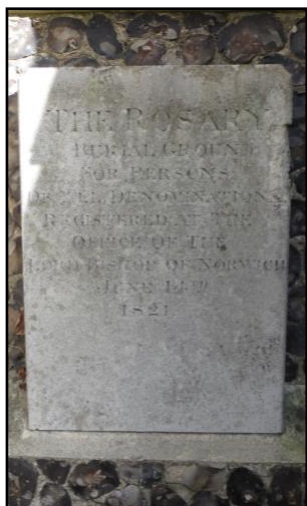


Figure 3. This 1821 stone (re-set on the Rosary's Gothic chapel) reads 'The Rosary burial ground for persons of all denominations registered at the office of the lord Bishop of Norwich June 14th 1821.' It records Thomas Drummond's authorisation by Bishop Henry Bathurst to keep a Register of Burials, as a CofE rector or vicar would do. This was tolerant after the 1819 Peterloo Massacre when most of the Establishment clamped down on anyone remotely radical (Dewis 2014, p1).

As well as the stench, water supplies were adversely affected by churchyards. The 1836 parish pump by St John Maddermarket churchyard, Norwich, (Plunkett 1955 & 1956) was sealed in 1851 because William Lee, the City's first Analyst, declared the water 'almost pure essence of churchyard' (FRC 2020, p19; Sprackland 2020, p129).

In 1839, a Select Committee chaired by William Mackinnon MP published a report titled *Improvement of the Health of Towns, Effect of Interments in Towns* and Edwin Chadwick his *Inquiry into the Sanitary Condition of the Labouring Population*, carried out for the Poor Law Commission to which was added his 1843 *Supplementary Report of the Results of a Special Inquiry into the Practice of Interment in Towns* (Dewis 2014, p146). Chadwick's 1839 report had not dealt with interment in towns because of the risk of offending the Church of England (Dewis 2014, p153), but Loudon had no such inhibitions (Loudon 1843, p12).

Loudon (1843, p21) reminded readers of his 1821 *Hints for Breathing Places* (Dewis 2014, p142): public parks or gardens were rare in cities, so the poor had few opportunities to enjoy plants. But this seems forgotten when he implies criticism (Loudon 1843, pp21-22) of Abney Park Cemetery (opened 1840, Nonconformist, the successor to Bunhill Fields) as unable to achieve the visual 'quiet and repose [of] the passive sublime' because it had been planted 'with a complete arboretum including all the hardy kinds of rhododendrons, azaleas and roses... also dahlias, geraniums, fuchsias, verbenas, petunias etc. planted out in patches in the summer season' by Loddiges of Hackney. Given that nearby Finsbury Park did not exist until 1869, there were probably people who only encountered trees and flowers in their short lives thanks to Abney Park and Loddiges.

SPIRITUAL ISSUES WITH BURIAL

It was potentially abhorrent to Nonconformists to have to bury their loved ones in CofE churchyards, using the Book of Common Prayer, but in most places there was no legal alternative. One exception was Bunhill Fields/Abney Park in London (see above). Norwich was a city of Nonconformists: Sprackland (2020, pp128-9) reports that Elizabeth I said 'Begin with Norwich' when she ordered the suppression of Puritans. Nevertheless, in 1670 Quakers were able to open a burial ground at Gildencroft, and Unitarians at Colegate in 1688 (Bartlett 2015).

Sometimes even CofE burial was refused. Rev. Thomas Drummond, (from 1805-14 minister at the Nonconformist St Nicholas Street Chapel, Ipswich) and the bereaved parents of a child whom he had baptised, asked the curate of the nearby CofE church to bury the little corpse, but the curate refused (FRC 2020, p12).

THE ROSARY CEMETERY, NORWICH 1821

By the 19C, resentment over burial and funerary ritual was acute (Sprackland 2020, p128-9). In 1819 Thomas Drummond (1764-1852; Fig 5), by then living in Norwich, suggested that a cemetery open to all should be established. He purchased a five-acre former market garden on Rosary Road (Fig. 4), later selling shares. It was walled, laid out in a simple grid pattern with a chapel of classical design and planted with trees and shrubs (FRC 2020, p11). Consideration of the Rosary is important to



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Figure 4. The Rosary Cemetery as shown on the 1886 6" OS sheet LXIII.SE, located to the lower right of the map. Thorpe Station, of course, did not exist in 1821.

assessing Loudon's contribution to cemetery design, exemplified for the purposes of this article by Histon Road Cemetery.

First, was Loudon actually involved with the Rosary? He had been in NW Norfolk in 1811-13 working on Stradsett Park, having won the contract in competition with Repton (Historic England Listing 1001263), and his 1822 *Encyclopaedia of Gardening* has an entry for Norfolk (no. 2160). But the project at Stradsett was poorly budgeted - the total estimate for work on the park, garden and house was £4000, but Loudon expended more than £7000 (£5.25m in present-day terms (Floud 2019)), so he probably acquired a bad reputation in Norfolk. His *Encyclopaedia* (Loudon 1822, entry 2160) mentions neither anywhere in Norwich itself nor Stradsett. Drummond was in Ipswich from 1805-14; and searching Norwich or Norfolk titles in the British Newspaper Archive for 1818-21 fails to bring up any mention of Loudon. So, it seems safe to reject Loudon as a designer of the Rosary.

The Friends attribute The Rosary's 'Garden' layout to an unknown person's awareness of Wren's thoughts (FRC 2020, pp10-11). The Rosary's importance for this article is that it demonstrates that several of Loudon's desirable features are, in fact, generic rather than representing original thinking on his part.



Figure 5. Paired memorial urns to Thomas Drummond and his wife Ann, in the Rosary. The urn represents death and mourning (FRC 2020, p41).

Over 40 years, 2,800 burials took place at the Rosary. In brief, the Rosary was modernised after Drummond's death (Fig. 5), was extended in 1903, became the responsibility of Norwich City Council in 1954, is still a working cemetery and forms part of the County Wildlife Site 1463 (FRC 2020, p49).

HISTON ROAD CEMETERY, CAMBRIDGE 1843

Loudon first inspected the Cambridge site he had been commissioned to design on 8 November 1842 (Fig. 6). He found it to be a 3.25-acre site with 'an open airy situation in the neighbourhood of the town,' and noted the slight slope and useful public drain. The soil was 'compact blue clay' in broad high ridges (presumably mediaeval plough marks) (Loudon 1843, p53). Loudon's plan (Fig. 7) was described thus by the *Cambridge General Advertiser* (1 February 1843), 'They were carefully drawn and exhibited considerable taste.' This newspaper describes the revolting state of Cambridge's churchyards in the editions of February 1843, noting that it is a national problem, not just a local one.

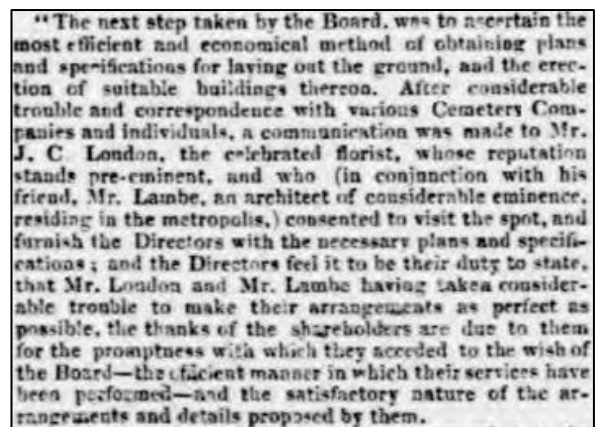


Figure 6. Excerpt from the *Cambridge Independent Press* for 4 Feb. 1843, reporting a meeting of the Cambridge Cemetery Company held on 25 Jan. J.C. Loudon is described as 'the celebrated florist, whose reputation stands pre-eminent'. The Company had approached him 'after considerable correspondence with Cemetery Companies and individuals.'

The budget was £2000 (equivalent to £1.5m today (Floud 2019)), of which £400 had been spent on buying the freehold land. It has not been possible to discover how much Loudon was paid: Loudon (1843) does not say and neither does any issue of the *Cambridge Independent Press*, *Chronicle* or *General Advertiser* for the relevant years, but we do know that he was paid £34 3s 4d (equivalent £25,620: Floud 2019) for his similar 1843 work for Southampton (Simo 1988, p286).

Chapters I-IV of Loudon (1843) detail his general guiding principles on how to establish and run a well-ordered cemetery. The 1885 OS map (Fig. 8) and my 2020 fieldwork show that Histon Road cemetery did demonstrate many of Loudon's desirable characteristics but the directors ignored some of his suggestions. Loudon dealt with this site in Chapter V, and shows the Italian-style chapel and lodge (Loudon 1843, pp58-9) which the Scottish architect Edward Buckton Lamb had designed. Lamb was a long-term collaborator, being responsible for many of the designs in Loudon's 1833 *Encyclopaedia of Cottage, Farm and Villa Architecture and Furniture* (Dictionary of Scottish Architects website). Both the *Cambridge Independent Press* and the *Cambridge General Advertiser*, reporting on the Company's 25 January 1843

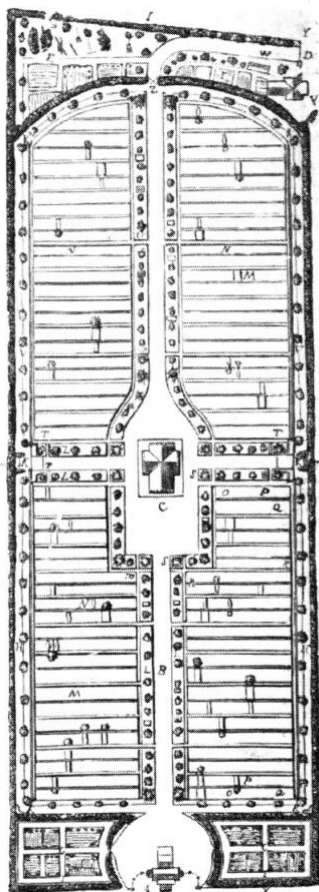


Figure 7. Plan (Loudon 1843, p56) for a 'small cemetery on level ground', actually Histon Road cemetery. Thanks to Lightning Source UK Ltd for facsimile edition of Loudon's book. Note: the ornamental gardens by the lodge; the central chapel; the working yards at the east end (top); the road allowing hearses to enter through the west gates and leave through the east; the terrace walk surrounding the ground; the Cedars of Lebanon (each marked S); the Deodar Cedars (each marked T); the perimeter holly hedge (marked I) and the Taurian or Black Austrian Pines lining the main path. The Cedar marked S to the right of the chapel was planned to be where the 1865 Warren grave (see Fig. 11) now stands.



Figure 8. 1885 OS 25" map (Cambridgeshire XL.14) showing Cambridge General Cemetery. Benchmarks to NW and SE confirm Loudon's assessment of the slope. The public drain is by the main road at the SE corner, by the 58.5' benchmark. 'Cemeteries... ought to be in an elevated and airy situation, open to the north but with a south aspect, that the surface may be dried by the sun.' (Loudon 1843, p14) so the directors had bought an appropriate piece of land. Reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Scotland CC-BY 4.0.

meeting, record that the buildings were to be in the Gothic style (Fig. 9). So the directors, possibly influenced by Pugin's 1836 *Contrasts* which presented the medieval era as morally preferable to the classically influenced Georgian and Regency periods (Lay 2021), must have decided this without shareholder input. Loudon felt the Italianate option to 'have great merit'. This aesthetic preference accords with the style in which he had designed Tew Lodge in Oxfordshire for his own use in 1811 (Simo 1988, pp81-84, and plates 4 & 5).

They did not entirely follow Loudon's management recommendations either. He envisaged (Loudon 1843, p54) the frontage being the curator's ornamental garden (attracting visitors and selling cut flowers) but this had been ignored by 1849 (Fig. 10).



Figure 9. Gothic lodge, showing a 'two-storey Elizabethan Tudor-style lodge (listed grade II) built of grey gault brick with red diapering and stone dressings under a roof of octagonal slates' (Historic England Listing 1126200). Loudon (1843, p116, Fig. 56) shows the roof slate detail.



Figure 10. Grave with monument dated 1849 by the Lodge. Loudon (1843, p53) suggested that 'the frontage, and a portion of the ground along the Histon Road, be not included in the plan, in the first instance, in case the cemetery should not succeed; but that the general plan be so contrived that the frontage may be added afterwards, without deranging the cemetery part of the original design.'

It is unknown whether the directors followed his instructions initially to plant spruces alongside the central walk between the pines and yews, then remove them when the latter attained 6 ft high (Loudon 1843, p64), or whether they sowed perennial rye grass and white clover at 1 bushel and 1 lb to the acre respectively. Loudon's sizing and pricing of graves, and therefore assessment of the potential commercial viability of the cemetery, is as meticulous (Loudon 1843, pp60-64) as is his pricing for the plants (Loudon 1843, p65) '2120 hollies at 10s per hundred... 4 Deodar cedars, in pots, 5s each... Planting the hollies and trees with the greatest possible care, including mulching with littery stable dung £6.' He stipulated evergreens on both practical and aesthetic grounds, but the 1885 OS map (Fig. 8) shows either planted or self-set deciduous trees four decades later. The directors allowed graves where Loudon planned Cedars of Lebanon (Figs 7 & 11).



Figure 11. Looking south from the chapel towards the 1865 grave of Harriette and John Warren (forebears of my husband), where there should have been a Cedar of Lebanon. Photo shows the fastigiate *Cupressus sempervirens* by the crossing path. They are recent, not of a species Loudon mentioned, but in the spirit of what he sought. This photo also shows mature deciduous trees, not on Loudon's plan.

The gates and railings are listed grade II (Historic England 1099097): each pier bears a slate plaque guiding visitors' behaviour (Fig. 12). Loudon intended that it should be possible to approach each grave without treading on any other, and that mourners should be allowed to plant flowers and shrubs on graves (Loudon 1843, p15).

Cambridge Cemetery Company was wound up in 1936, the then Borough taking over responsibility. The chapel was demolished by the City Council in 1957 as vandalised and unsafe (Malyon 2015). The eastern building is also missing, presumably demolished at the same time. Loudon specified palings and a holly hedge (Fig. 13) for the whole boundary but



Figure 12. Slate plaque reading 'Cambridge General Cemetery. Visitors are requested to keep on the gravel paths and not to pluck the flowers or injure the shrubs. No gratuity allowed to be received by the curator.'



Figure 13. Holly hedge 'to combine security and a solemn effect' (Loudon 1843, p54) and palings on the northern border - it was open to the adjacent field when Loudon saw it in November 1842.

they have not survived all round. There are modern benches, and not in the positions Loudon specified. Loudon did suggest *Cedrus deodara*, but not in the positions where two stand today (Fig. 14). They are on the 1885 OS map (Fig. 8).

On the northern border of the eastern end of the axial path there is a row of four stoutly-fastigiate yews. They are around 36 ft apart, and there are five graves between the second and third ones away from the chapel site. Loudon wrote, 'Between every two trees there may be one burial-place, rendered ornamental by some description of tomb, monument or enclosure,' (Loudon 1843, p55). The size of the Warren grave



Figure 14. Looking north, towards the former chapel site and a Deodar cedar, located below the M of Mortuary Chapel on the OS map (Fig. 8). Several gravestones would not be sloping had Loudon's plan been followed, as they would have been on continuous foundations and not on the graves themselves hence vulnerable to settling (Loudon 1843, pp28, 40).

(9 ft x 9 ft) and its being immediately adjacent to one of 12 ft x 12 ft does not match his plans.

Fieldwork shows that the current uses of Histon Road cemetery, which is closed to new burials but where the Council may permit community events to be held, include its being a place for rest and reflection, and for learning - both for children to balance on bicycles and for informal dog training. But predominantly it is a moderately busy walking and cycling route into the city centre for local residents. Its daytime atmosphere is welcoming and inclusive.

CONCLUSION

Loudon must have worked on the Cambridge design in November and December 1842. In 1843 he also produced cemetery designs for Southampton and Bath, and was himself buried in Kensal Green having died on 14 December. He tackled burial and mourning in public health and education as a progressive Utilitarian thinker. His achievements in this area were to develop previous thinking and practice and to codify and disseminate his own detailed approach. Characteristically, Loudon sought to ensure that burial places were aesthetically pleasing and educative as well as safe for the living.

Women Matter Loudon (1843) was probably hand written, and possibly edited, by Jane Webb Loudon, herself an author. Mary Loudon and Jane Loudon produced illustrations (e.g. Fig. 7) for Loudon's works and translated, principally from German, for their brother. 'To us, who saw the state of his health [from

1838 onwards]... we determined to do everything in our power to prevent the necessity of his exerting himself. Two of his sisters learned wood engraving, and I... began to write books on those subjects myself.' (Dewis 2014, Chapter 5) apparently quoting Jane Webb Loudon's *Life of John Loudon*.

Gin Warren, November 2021

Acknowledgement

I thank Annie Jackson, Hannah Pennington, William Shand and Antony Warren, none a garden historian, for reading a late draft and feeding back from their varied viewpoints. They improved it: errors and oddities that remain are mine. Photographs were all taken by my husband, Antony Warren or myself, in 2020.

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AN APPRECIATION OF JULIA WEAVER, 1960-2022

IT WAS WITH SORROW that we learned of the death of Julia Weaver, who passed away on 7 July 2022 at the Arthur Rank Hospice. This untimely loss is mitigated by the huge pleasure and friendship she had given to many CGT members and colleagues who came to know her during her years as a member and especially as Chairman of the Trust from 2011 to 2013.

Julia took over from John Drake, on the understanding that it would be a temporary appointment while John was treated for his heart problem. Sadly, John's plans did not work out as he had intended and so Julia found herself charting the future direction of CGT without its founding chairman. With characteristic energy, Julia set to refreshing the Trust, which included developing a set of policies for the day-to-day activities of each of the Council of Management functions, improving communications with members, revitalising visits and events, and developing a new website. John had left a bequest to CGT and so Julia applied the funds to boost the recently launched education programme to encourage wider awareness of gardens and their history through schools projects, youthful activities at the Cambridgeshire Show and the University Science Week, a garden apprentice bursary, research grants and study day talks.

There was no relaxation, even after handing over the baton to David Brown, as Julia became part of the team responsible for delivering the local programme to accompany the 2016 AGM of the newly formed Gardens Trust. As if that wasn't enough, 2016 was also the tercentenary celebration of Lancelot 'Capability' Brown's birth in 1716, so the programme had to be something special.

Rising to the challenge, Julia engaged with all the members of the CGT council in a CB300 team. Together they arranged an outstanding programme of talks and guided visits to Brown's sites in Cambridgeshire, accommodation and a superb conference dinner at Robinson College for the large number of visitors, transportation to get them to and from sites, marketing, advertising and brochures to raise awareness, and opportunities for relevant local businesses to showcase their goods and services. It was a remarkable achievement.

Enthused by the college garden visit reports that founder member Charles Malyon has produced for the Newsletter, Julia herself put together a selection and published them in the 2016 CGT memoir *A selection of Cambridge College Gardens in the 21st Century*. In fact, the Newsletter editor had contacted Julia earlier this year regarding a possible second volume when she broke the news of her illness. Generous as ever, she invited us to collect her gardening books and past Newsletter issues, wherein we found a copy of Issue 4 from 1998, the final issue needed to complete the online archive. She was delighted.

Julia had been employed at Liz Lake Associates and the founder, Liz Lake, was moved to write the following.

'Julia worked at Liz Lake Associates, Chartered Landscape Architects, in Stansted from 2008 to 2014, after finishing her BSc and Master's in landscape architecture from Writtle College in 2007. She became a Chartered Member of the Landscape Institute in 2010. This was all quite an achievement for a mature student: Julia never did anything by halves.

Julia worked on several historic landscape projects with Debois Landscape Survey Group including Conservation Management Plans at Highclere Park in Hampshire, the Swiss Garden in Bedfordshire and Weald Country Park in Essex. She also worked on enabling development projects at historic parks: RAF Bentley Priory in Harrow and St Osyth's Priory on the Essex coast which required complex planning applications. All these projects involved liaison with many different professionals: architects, archaeologists, landscape historians, planners, arboriculturalists and ecologists including the

numerous specialists for protected species. On one project that required multiple copies of many reports, she hired the Quaker Hall in Stansted and set up a production line. Nothing phased Julia and she efficiently organised and coordinated the different disciplines and tasks with humour and tact.

A very capable project manager, Julia also enjoyed the detailed design work. At the Grange Farm Centre in Chigwell, Essex, she was part of a design team implementing a Section 106 proposal for football pitches and a pavilion within a sensitive site, which is part of a nature reserve. Her detailed work included

planting plans and a children's play area, Pelican Park. Julia had a great sense of fun and when the client asked for a pirate ship, Julia had no problem including that in her design. She designed a successful courtyard garden at St Clare Hospice in Harlow and a much-used public park at St Botolph's Priory in Colchester. Because Julia had worked as a garden designer her plant knowledge was excellent and she designed the planting on several housing schemes including sections of Trumpington Meadows in Cambridge. She was always willing to share her expertise and was often seen helping younger employees develop their skills.

Julia was an all-rounder and would cheerfully take on any challenging landscape project. But it was more than that; as a staff member she was always willing to organise the cakes for Red Nose Day or set up an art exhibition in aid of a breast cancer charity. She was the kind of person who makes an office a happy place and we thank her for that. It was prescient that she left the practice to retire early, aged 54, and she really made the most of those remaining years. We would not have expected anything else.'



FIELD ARCHAEOLOGY AT THE MANOR HOUSE AND GARDEN AT LEIGHTON BROMSWOLD

Continuing our archaeology theme in memory of Christopher Taylor, CGT member of council Ann Colbert has kindly made available her dissertation in Garden Archaeology adapted as an article for the Newsletter. We hope that you enjoy reading about her discoveries as much as Ann did in uncovering them.

LEIGHTON BROMSWOLD lies 2 km to the north of the A14 dual carriageway, midway between Huntingdon to the east and Thrapston to the west in what is now Cambridgeshire (formerly Huntingdonshire). The village sits on heavy boulder clay with a subsoil of the Jurassic Oxford Clay formation at 200 feet above sea level on a ridge between two brooks. The ridge is known as ‘the Bromswold’ and commands wide-ranging views in all directions.

The site (Grid Reference TL 11737515) consists of earthwork remains of an early 17C formal garden together with those of the former village and putative brickworks. These are located at the SE end of the main street of the village. Surveys as referenced below record that the garden was laid out for a house of c.1616 which no longer survives.

Leighton was the ancient seat of judgement for the Hundred of Leightonstone – there being three others in Huntingdonshire. Though moved from its original setting, the Leighton Stone marked the location of the Saxon Moot Court, where taxes were collected and criminals of the day were brought to judgement.

Taylor (1983) provides us with a definition of archaeology in the context of garden research as ‘the scientific study of the past by the examination of the material remains left behind by previous generations’. He expands this by referring to methods available, particularly in what can be seen from a site visit, reference to earthworks, interpretation by air photographs, the examination of the ground for traces of objects and geophysics.

Earthworks (Fig. 1) are visible in the form of surrounding banks, mounds in corners of the site, ponds and escarpments,

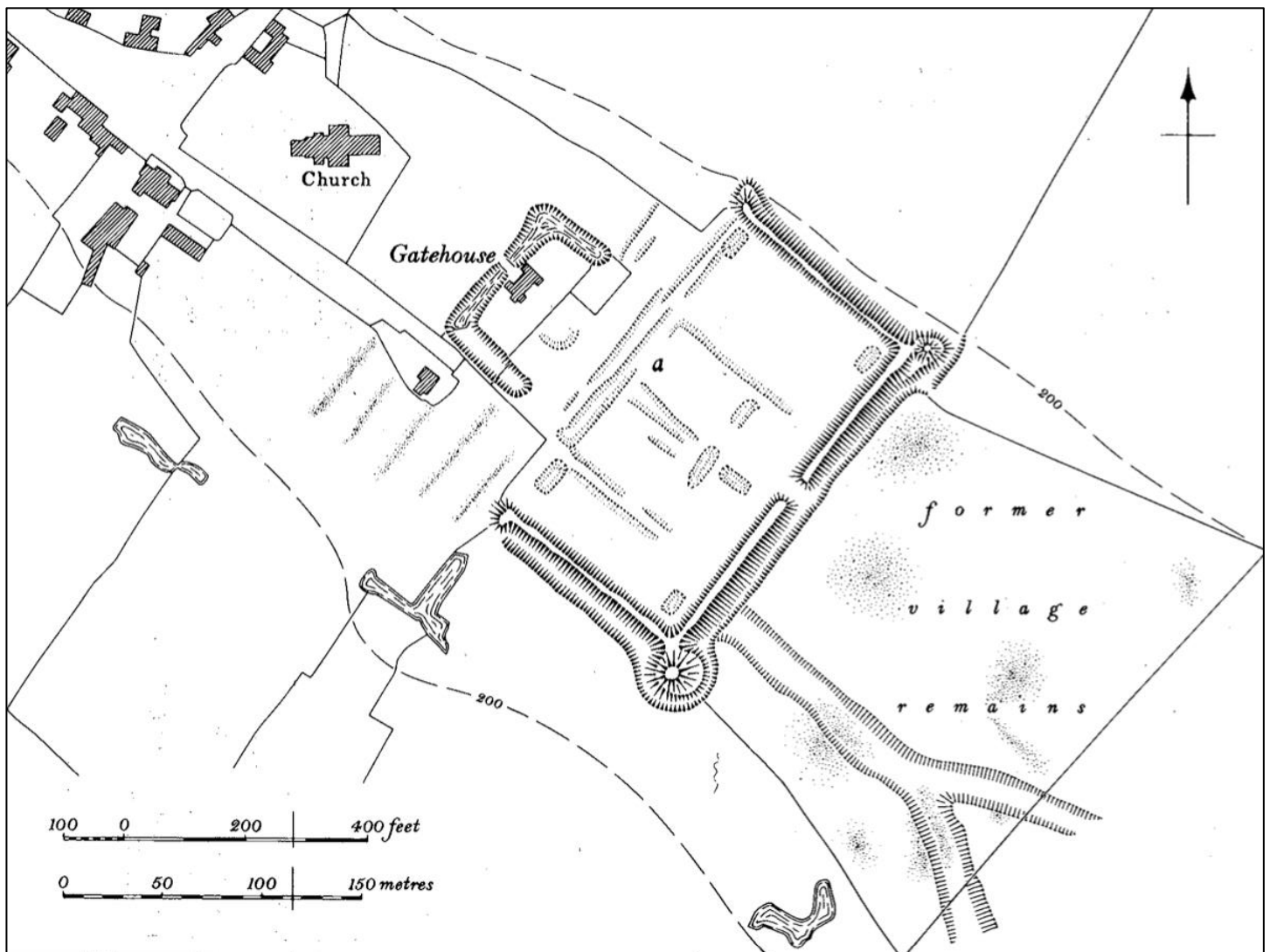


Figure 1. Earthworks at the site of Leighton Bromswold Manor House with garden and remains of deserted village. The garden is surrounded by earthen banks, with prospect mounds in two corners and four shallow ponds. The moated gatehouse exists and is located some 50 m NW from the proposed site of the Manor House, denoted by a. Bricks have been found in the former village where mounds and pits north of the Y-shaped holloway suggest a former brickworks. Figure from Brown & Taylor (1977).

and differences in levels of the ground. Importantly, there is on site a former gatehouse, in good condition and converted to residential accommodation.

PROJECT AIMS

As well as satisfying the requirements for a Diploma in Garden History, the goals of the project were:

- to investigate historical and recent documentary sources on Leighton Bromswold, with a focus on archaeological field surveys and related information;
- to identify the location of the garden and view the earthworks, and
- to evaluate the utility of field archaeology in describing and reconstructing the Manor House and garden.

BACKGROUND REVIEW

Taylor (1983) introduces garden archaeology and its practice and includes a chapter on the survival of gardens. By using a timeframe from prehistoric and Roman gardens in Chapter 3, to parks and gardens of the 18C and 19C in Chapter 6, the value of field archaeology and its importance in supporting documentation and remains of buildings is confirmed.

In Chapter 5 *Gardens from the Sixteenth to the early Eighteenth Century* (pp46-47), there is a short account of the garden at Leighton Bromswold. Taylor emphasises the importance of archaeology in its understanding. He states that although the rectangular area of ground bounded on three sides by a low, flat-topped terrace or walkway, with prospect mounds set on the corners, was recognised as a garden as early as 1926, and its assigned date of 1616 with its builder, Sir Gervaise (or Gervase) Clifton, are known, recent documents have asserted that the accompanying Manor House was never built. If so, it seems reasonable to assume that any attempt to describe the garden in the context and status of a large Manor House would be unsuccessful.

Taylor (1983) reports that, by using field archaeology and looking carefully at the site, there is evidence of foundation walls of a house which match almost exactly the location of the

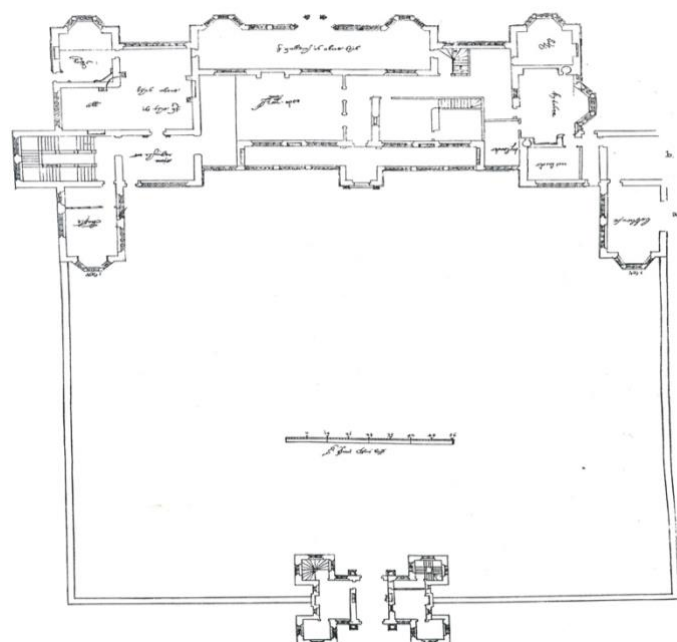


Figure 2. Plan of Clifton's house by Thorpe (c.1605) showing proposed Manor House linked by walls to the extant gatehouse. Scale 14 ft to the inch. From Summerson (1966).

house on the plan of its architect John Thorpe (Fig. 2), which has survived in the Soane Museum. This reference influenced me to research and confirm for myself the links to the field archaeology.

As an added complication in interpreting the field archaeology, Taylor also notes that the whole site was superimposed on a holloway lined by former paddocks and closes, identified as the remains of the main street, houses and gardens of part of Leighton village which had been deserted centuries before the garden was built. Clearly this could influence interpretation of the earthworks.

In the Victoria County History (VCH) for Huntingdonshire, (Page *et al.* 1936), the village of Leighton Bromswold is described, including a history and details of the architecture of the gatehouse. The VCH notes on the Prebendal Manor House and its owners are interesting and give context to the research.

We may assume that the Prebendary of Leighton Manor always had a good manor house upon his estate, and it would seem that Henry Carnbull (1478-1506) rebuilt this house. Leland says: 'One Carneballe, prebendary there, dyd builde a peace of a praty House standinge within a Mote.' [...] This house probably stood somewhat south-east of the present gatehouse; and in it Sir Robert Tyrwhitt and his successors, Sir Henry D'Arcy and Sir Gervase Clifton, lived (VCH pp86-87).

The entry goes on to say that 'Sir Gervase Clifton (1591-1618) began to build a new house from the designs of John Thorpe.' Thorpe's plan (c.1605) from the Soane Museum is shown in Figure 2. A detailed description of the rooms is also in the museum.

VCH also suggests that Clifton 'probably altered the moat and formed the banks with terrace walks and bastion corners inside it, and in 1616 he built a new Gatehouse... but it is very doubtful whether he actually built anything of the house.' This uncertainty as to whether a house was ever built might be resolved by examining evidence which may support the building of the house and therefore, the extent of the garden.

Brown & Taylor (1977) describe their survey of the site and recount the findings of three previous surveys. Their earthworks survey was carried out to add to, or challenge, understanding as to the true function and history of the site resulting in the plan shown in Figure 1. Their report points out that this reveals within the garden area a series of extremely slight earthworks which fall into two parts. On the NW of the garden is a slightly raised strip of ground, bounded by low scarps (letter a in Fig. 1), with dimensions 76 m long, 20 m across and 50 m from the gatehouse. From the 1605 plan in Figure 2, the proposed house measures 73 m overall, 20 m wide and lies 50 m from the gatehouse. By relating the planned house dimensions to the earthwork measurements, they conclude that the house was indeed built 50 m from the gatehouse.

The survey also records in the area of the lost village the remains of brickworks and quantities of red brick which may have been for the gatehouse and the Manor House.

In describing Leighton Bromswold, Woodger (1986: pp56-59) refers to the inscription on the ancient stone in the village – thought to mark the ancient seat of judgment of the Leightonstone Hundred, though moved from its original site. From this he suggests that the site was the moot or meeting place of the Leightonstone Hundred, and that the gardeners of the 17C 'used, improved and incidentally preserved, the

Saxon/Danish earthworks.’ He raises the possibility that the study site was that of a castle, likening the mounds to those at Lyveden Old Bield in Northamptonshire and the earth banks to Saxon earthworks at Wallingford in Oxfordshire, and makes the point that the later garden was built on this site.

DESCRIPTION AND EVALUATION OF SOURCES AND METHODS

Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Record. The HER provided survey reports on the earthworks of the village, as well as copies of the RCHME (1926) and the VCH (1936). I was able to photocopy relevant pages of these, including the 1660 plan by Thomas Norton (dated c.1680 in Brown & Taylor 1977), and staff printed off for me HER reports on sites of earthworks in the village.

Evaluation. There was a large amount of information here, recording surveys during the 20C. This enabled me to identify other specific sources such as aerial photographs and maps. Overall, the information from the visit at the time was rather confusing but it was a good starting point to move forward.

The Huntingdon Records Office. The HRO holds old maps and I examined the Thomas Norton village map from 1660, the Inclosure map of 1793 and the tithe maps dated in the mid-19C. Early OS maps confirmed the site location but did not show an indication of a building or earthworks although the gatehouse and moat were clearly seen. Detailed examination of the 1660 map allowed me to see that the building is exactly as the house plan of 1605 by Thorpe, and therefore supports the assertion by Brown & Taylor (1977) that the house was actually built and was not, as stated in VCH, an imaginative sketch.

Evaluation. Having a copy of the maps as primary sources set the site in a wider context of an agricultural landscape on the ridge. The 1793 Inclosure and Estate Maps do not show the house, but the gatehouse and moat can be seen. This points to the house being demolished before these drawings and supports the inferred c.1750 date from oral accounts.

Site Visit Evaluation. Walking the site enabled me to see the scale of the garden remains, and the large size of the Manor House site in comparison to the substantial gatehouse. I was not able to access the field, but viewed from the public track alongside. Overgrown areas prevented a close look at the prospect mounds. Walking along the back of the garden field behind the terracing illustrated that these were approximately 12 ft (3.7 m) high and would have given an excellent view of the surrounding countryside. The earthworks appear as low escarpments and are not clearly identifiable as features. See Photos 2-3.

Aerial Photograph Evaluation. Seen at Cambridge University Unit of Landscape Modelling. Dated from 1953 and 1968, the clarity of the specific garden area was not good, although the village remains and park showed very clearly. An earlier photograph showed a hedge across the field, and a dividing structure at the edge of the house site, both of which had been removed in the later photographs. I found the earthworks difficult to interpret, even with a magnifying glass, but it proved that when a building is constructed on top of other features, much research is needed to untangle the remaining features with any confidence. Although not available to me at the time, the recent LIDAR image of the site (Fig. 3) clearly reveals the main features identified by Brown & Taylor (Fig. 1).

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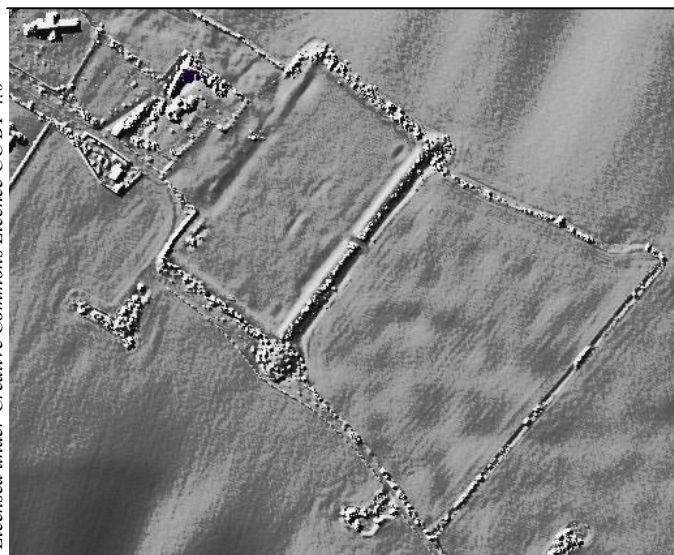


Figure 3. LIDAR map of the study area showing church in NW (top left), the existing gatehouse in the arms of the moat, the rectangular garden with two bastions and four corner ponds, and the platform area of the proposed Manor House. Compare with Figure 1 by Brown & Taylor (1977).

RESEARCH FINDINGS

A survey by the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments of England in 1926 looked in detail at the moated gatehouse (Photo 1) which survives on the NW corner of the site, and was built in 1616 by Sir Gervaise Clifton (RCHME 1926: 180). As with the VCH (1936) report, it suggests that the planned new house was not built, although acknowledges the gardens were constructed by Clifton. Both records refer to the house plan drawn up by the architect John Thorpe c.1605 (Soane Museum) but assume other explanations account for any remains or records of a building on the site. From my research of the literature, the site has been variously described as a castle (RCHME 1926; Beresford & St Joseph 1958), the remains of the Prebendal Manor (VCH 1936) and the earthen banks of a Saxon meeting place (Woodger 1986).

On my site visit, it was clear that the gatehouse is still a large and impressive building, little altered since photographs of 1904 except for a front porch area across the original arched entrance, which is still evident (Photo 1). The moat is also clear, although somewhat overgrown on the western end, but steps down can be seen (Photo 2). The earthworks escarpments are

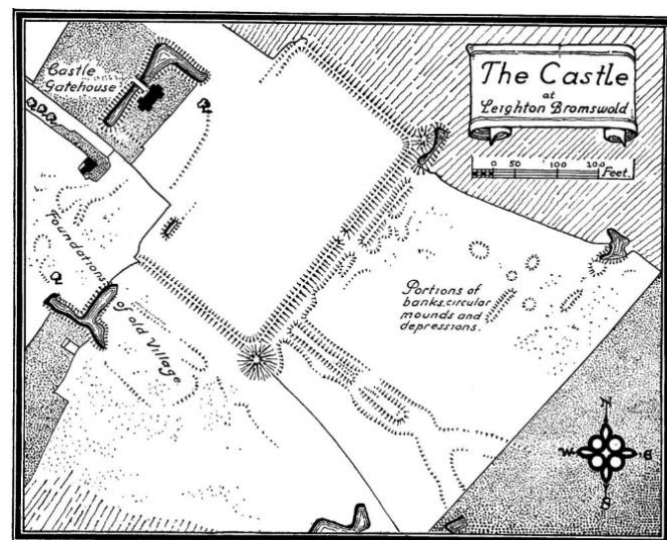


Figure 4. The site of Leighton Bromswold 'castle', as depicted in RCHME (1926), but with no date earlier than 1616.

scarcely visible and would need closer and measured examination to interpret (Photo 3). But the terraces on three sides of what is now a grass field and the mounds are clearly seen – and both features from the outside of the field form a barrier to what was the garden. The terraces may be analogous to those at Kirby Hall, if on a lesser scale.

In assessing the possibilities for the site, the appellation of castle (Fig. 4), as reported in RCHME (1926) but with no dating earlier than 1616, may be the source for Woodger (1986), though the existing gatehouse is still known as The Castle.

Returning to the Victoria County History – and somewhat at odds with its quoted evidence – the entry states that ‘Thomas Norton’s map (c.1660) shows a very fine house standing in the centre of the moated inclosure, but the sketches on old maps are generally only imaginative pictures, and this is not proof of the size or appearance of the house.’ Having the Thorpe plan of the Manor House (Fig. 2) influenced me to study the Norton map of c.1660 (Figs 5 & 6) to correlate them, despite the marginalisation of the Norton map by the VCH assertion.

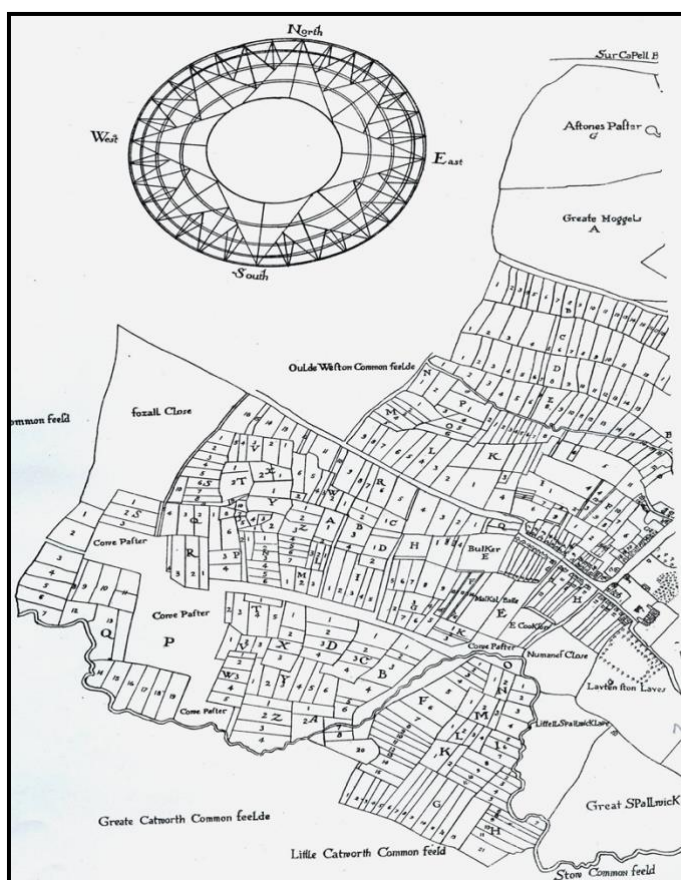


Figure 5. Thomas Norton's map of Leighton Bromswold, dated 1660 or 1680. The Manor House is depicted to the SE.

Brown & Taylor (1977) rebut the VCH view and note that the ‘evidence that the VCH gave and then rejected, of the 1680 map and the local tradition [that the house had existed until its demolition around 1750] is convincing and much more so when the map itself is examined carefully. The house depicted there is not an imaginative sketch but the carefully drawn elevation of a building which agrees exactly with the 1605 architect’s plan. It is hardly likely that the 1680 cartographer had access to the earlier plan’. While some may take issue with the final assertion on what was available to the cartographer, it does seem unlikely that Norton would go to the trouble of copying Thorpe’s building plan onto an otherwise open piece of land.

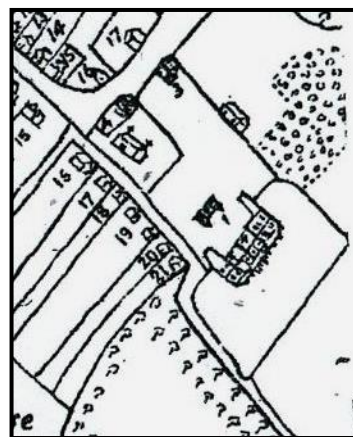


Figure 6. Detail of Figure 5, showing gatehouse and NW elevation of the Manor House, SE of the church.

Establishing the connection between the original plan and this later map of the village provides evidence for the construction of the house, which in turn indicates the likelihood of a large and formal garden of an appropriate status to fit a person of the gentry living in a country house. Despite being on a much smaller scale than the ‘grand’ Restoration parks, David Brown (pers. comm. 2008) suggested that features which were in vogue in the early 17C such as a terrace walk, prospect mounds or bastions and formal flower beds, possibly in rectilinear arrangement with garden walks, might well have existed at Leighton.

Although offering no firm indication of why it was demolished, other than alluding to loss of fortune and enforced sale of land, VCH (1936) draws on local knowledge to suggest that a house had existed on the site: ‘Eighty years ago [i.e. in 1856] it was asserted that the house was still standing in 1750, and that people only recently dead could remember it and said that it was a red brick house with stone dressings; but it is probable that this was the old Prebendal house left standing while the new house was being built.’

Although cited by VCH in support of the remaining Prebendal house, the reported memory ties in with evidence from the Inclosure Map of 1793 (Fig. 7) which shows no building in the garden area. The gatehouse and moat are seen and, assuming the Inclosure Map is accurate in this respect, supports demolition by 1793.

In Figure 7 can be seen the gatehouse standing central to two arms of the moat. An orchard is labelled where the garden was. The prospect mounds on the corners are shown and a wider area labelled as Vicarage. VCH notes that the gatehouse is recorded as being converted to a Vicarage house in 1904, and its use as a vicarage is supported by RCHME (1926).

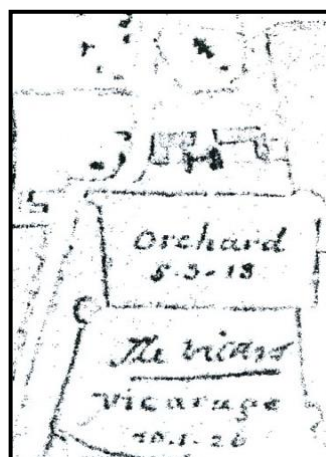


Figure 7. Detail from Inclosure Map (1793), showing an orchard on the Manor House site.

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

This investigation has shown that using a range of sources and disciplines, the Manor House may be described and reconstructed. The landscape and topography of the wider area give a context for the village and its sustainability from agriculture. Primary sources, including plans, maps and the Leighton Stone itself, give a timeline leading to the study focus on the early 17C, when Clifton engaged Thorpe to design a new house. Evidently the gatehouse and garden were completed but the fate of the main Manor House was uncertain. RCHME (1926) suggests only the gatehouse was completed. VCH (1936) more strongly asserts that no Manor House was built and proposes that the building demolished sometime between 1750 and 1793 was probably the pre-existing Prebendal House.

Brown & Taylor (1977) refute the ideas of a mediaeval or earlier castle on the basis of the 17C garden features interpreted at the site and assert that the main house was indeed constructed but subsequently demolished sometime after 1750. The analysis presented here supports that view after consideration of the following evidence.

- There is a clear correlation between the buildings depicted on Thorpe's 1605 plan and Thornton's 1660 (or 1680) map of Leighton. Even if he had access to Thorpe's plan, why would Thornton go to the trouble of creating a view of a non-existent building?
- The demolished building of human memory was red brick, with stone dressings; Thorpe's existing gatehouse is also of red brick with stone dressings, increasing support that the demolished building was indeed the Manor House.
- Brown & Taylor (1977) report that narrow red bricks found SE of the garden and north of the holloway in the former village area match those used in the gatehouse. They suggest that now-cleared pits in this area, identified in the RCHME map (Fig. 4), may have been a brick-making site for the construction of the Manor House.
- The dimensions of the present-day earthworks identified by Brown & Taylor (1977) match those of Thorpe's plan and lie at the same distance from the gatehouse.
- Garden features interpreted by Brown & Taylor (1977), supported by the LIDAR map (Fig. 3), including terraced walks, footpaths, shallow ponds and prospect mounds, are consistent with a substantial early-17C house and garden.

The preceding sections have explored the history of the site.

In conclusion evidence shows that field archaeology has contributed to the description and reconstruction of the early-17C Manor House and its garden and previous earthworks.

Ann Colbert, September 2022

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PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 1. The gatehouse, of narrow red brick with stone dressings, showing 1904 alteration to entrance. Ann Colbert.



Photo 2. The moat to east of the gatehouse. Ann Colbert.



Photo 3. The raised terrace along the eastern boundary. Ann Colbert.

THE BICYCLE BOYS AND THEIR VISIT TO EMMANUEL COLLEGE IN 1928

This article draws on research by Gin Warren and material from the RHS Lindley Library and the Gardens Trust's Unforgettable Gardens programme.

IN THE SUMMER OF 1928, two young Americans arrived in Liverpool, bought bicycles (Fig. 2), and set off round Britain. They covered more than 1500 miles and visited over 80 gardens, including those of Emmanuel College. One wanted to become a garden designer, took photos and wrote a detailed diary. He recorded every part of their lives over the three months they were here. His name was Loyal Johnson (Fig. 1) and his friend was Sam Brewster (aka 'The Great Brewster'). Back in the US, Loyal got a job with the Long Island Parks Department then moved to the New York City one. In 1941 he published a book called *How to Landscape Your Grounds*. Ten years later he moved with his family to Maryland, and worked for a landscape architecture and city planning firm.



Figure 1. Loyal Johnson, aged 24, at the start of his cycle tour. Photo credit RHS Lindley Library.

Johnson's diaries and photograph albums were donated by his son Marshall to the RHS Lindley Library in 2015 and feature in an exciting new online exhibition *The Bicycle Boys: An Unforgettable Garden Tour*,¹ launched in June 2022 on the RHS Libraries Digital Collections. The exhibition forms part of the Gardens Trust's Unforgettable Gardens campaign to raise awareness of the value of local parks and gardens and the importance of protecting them for our future.

THE GARDEN, WILLIAM FARROW AND BRENDON SIMS

The Head Gardener at Emmanuel College when the boys visited was William Farrow (Fig. 3): now it is Brendon Sims (see following article). Mr Farrow introduced clumps of flowers into the garden, was a flower show judge, and grew prize chrysanthemums at home. Mr Sims is rightly proud of 'the garden department's achievements over the past few years at increasing the biodiversity in the college in what is a particular

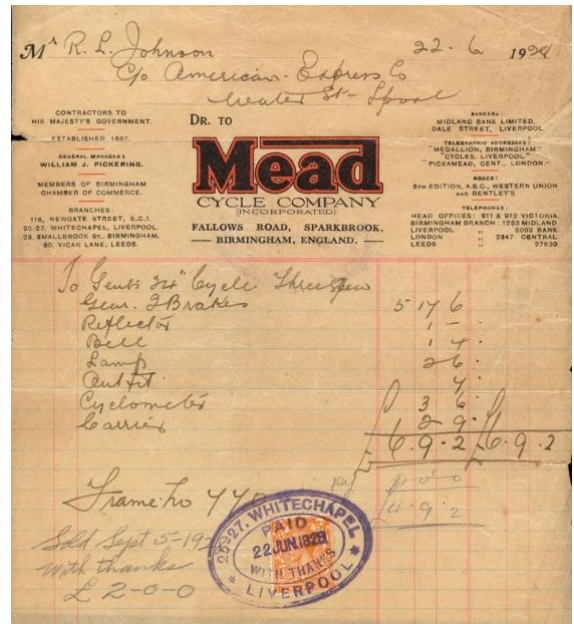


Figure 2. The bicycle receipt from the Mead Cycle Co. in Liverpool. Photo credit RHS Lindley Library.



Figure 3. William Farrow (right) holds a mulberry tree to be planted by Edward, then Prince of Wales. Photo credit RHS Lindley Library.

urban situation. Meadows have been created to form an urban green corridor to link with the wildflower meadows on Christ's Pieces and Parker's Piece. We have increased the natural flora and fauna by rewilding some areas of college and introduced wildflowers into what was otherwise a more formal situation. We have increased the college's beehives and created more habitats for insects and animals. The department have increased their sustainability with increased composting and have a more organic approach to gardening than ever before.'

Noting that it has been a very difficult year because of the weather, Brendon is keen to point out the beautiful mature trees, many of which, such as the chimeric trees beyond the entrance to the Paddock, are rare. At the time of the CGT visit (see

¹ www.rhs.org.uk/digital-collections/the-bicycle-boys

following article) the meadows had finished flowering for this year and the lawns were being repaired but there was lushness and growth around the ponds, more of which later.

Emmanuel College is obviously about education, but not just for academics. Brendon says, ‘Maintenance standards have increased with the education of the garden staff, with two of the garden team going on to be finalists in the Young Horticulturist of the Year competition.’ Cambridgeshire Gardens Trust congratulates them!

SNIPPETS FROM LOYAL JOHNSON’S DIARY

August 29th. ‘Next was Emmanuel which has large gardens and a swan pool. It has a nice outdoor swimming pool too, as does also Christ’s.’

August 30th. ‘Sam has decided to go fishing this afternoon with Douglas the little 10 year old red headed boy whose grandparents we are staying with here in Cambridge. Douglas went down to the shop and Sam and he stocked up with fishing tackle. Needless to say, our fishermen returned with nothing they did not take with them.’

‘St Johns and Downing in my opinion have the most beautiful grounds of any and they have no flowers - it is the beautiful lawns, trees and shadows that make them.’

‘I went back to Mrs Wolfe’s and put away another of her sumptuous meals. I’ve never seen such a place for eats in my life. We’ve not made mere pigs but pure gluttons of ourselves every meal that we’ve been here and we’ve always had something left over too.’

‘I think I like Cambridge the best of any place we have visited yet... The streets are mostly narrow and quaint and crooked and to a large extent their original and quaint beauty has not yet had to yield to the demands of modern city planning. Still the place somehow seems new and modern.’

‘I sat up talking to Mr Wolfe till nearly midnight - he was telling me all the mischief the Cambridge boys do, especially on their principal ‘rag night’ November 5th.’

August 31st. ‘Ely Cathedral is in many respects the fairest one we have seen... It is the finest piece of Norman architecture that we have seen... I had to talk rather firmly in order to get Sam in the notion of doing the extra 20 miles that were required in order to see Ely but I surely don’t regret having done it, and judging from the interest he took in the Cathedral, he doesn’t either.’

‘I had a flat in the village of Witchford... the valve shot out and landed a few feet in front of the bike but we couldn’t find it... there were no bicycle shops in town, but a chap who had an extra sold me one.’

WHAT LOYAL DIDN’T KNOW ABOUT EMMANUEL COLLEGE’S PONDS

As keen readers of *Garden History* or this Newsletter will be aware, Emmanuel College is fed by water from Hobson’s Conduit. This is the same Thomas Hobson (1544-1631) who made his fortune in carriage between London and Cambridge and is said to have given customers of his livery stables the eponymous choice as to which horse they could select. With others, Hobson helped fund construction of the conduit and left a legacy for its maintenance which is managed by the Hobson’s Conduit Trust: Liz Whittle, CGT chairman, is also vice-chairman of the Conduit Trust.

In 1610 water rising in the Ninewells Springs near Great Shelford was diverted from the Vicar’s Brook into a new course, called Hobson’s River or Brook, running alongside Trumpington Road and the Botanic Gardens and ending up at the present-day Conduit Head at Lensfield Road. Originally intended to flush the pestilential King’s Ditch and improve sanitation, the supply quickly became an important source of drinking water. Several water runs were built from Conduit Head and, in 1631, a branch was constructed along present-day Lensfield Road and St Andrew’s Street towards Drummer Street where it splits into feeds that ran into Emmanuel and Christ’s Colleges, as well as a public dipping point. The

colleges wanted the water for their ornamental pools which still survive in altered form.

Emmanuel College took the water via Chapman’s Garden (Fig. 4) to feed a large pond – originally a mediaeval fishpond for the college’s founding Dominican monks that is shown in Loggan’s 1690 *Cantabrigia Illustrata* – and, in the 19C, a rectangular pond in the Fellows’ Garden, the swimming pool seen by Johnson in 1928.

Today, the conduit water supplies the curved pond in Chapman’s Garden, the more informally landscaped main Paddock pond and, after appropriate filtration, the Fellows’ Garden swimming pool.

THE ANATOMISTS

In the Long Vacation of 1928, there weren’t many people around to tell



Figure 4. Map of Emmanuel College. Note especially the ponds in Chapman’s Garden and The Paddock, as well as the pool in the Fellows’ Garden. Map courtesy of Emmanuel College.

the Bicycle Boys the history and stories connected with the college gardens they visited. Loyal noted the 'Swan Pool' at Emmanuel College (now the main pond in The Paddock, Fig. 4), but apparently nobody told him that it had been the hiding place for a stolen corpse.

Stolen corpse? Not in Rembrandt's 1632 painting *The Anatomy Lesson of Dr Nicolaes Tulp* (Fig. 5) that followed the dissection of Aris Kindt, aka Adriaan Adriaanszoon, who was hanged for armed robbery. Rembrandt painted the scene on the day Adriaanszoon was executed. In Amsterdam, one dissection of an executed criminal a year was allowed, so this was not a stolen corpse.



Figure 5. *The Anatomy Lesson of Dr Nicolaes Tulp*, by Rembrandt, hangs in the Mauritshuis.

A little earlier, William Harvey, Fellow of Gonville and Caius College and physician to King James I, was teaching anatomy in London, having studied in Padua under Italian anatomist and surgeon, Hieronymus Fabricius. Using both mathematics and empirical science, including dissections of executed criminals, Harvey demonstrated that Galen's assertion, that the liver made blood which then flowed to the extremities, could not possibly be correct. He published *De Motu Cordis* in 1628 and medical science was never the same again: unquestioning reliance on classical sources and belief systems was demolished, and purposeful experimentation became part of the scientific method.

Stolen corpse in Cambridge in the 1730s? Yes: two Fellows of Emmanuel College dug up the body of someone recently buried in Fen Ditton - or made arrangements for it to be exhumed for them. The deceased's friends and relatives realised what had happened and stormed the college. They searched diligently but failed to find the body, as it had been wrapped and weighted down in the Swan Pool for later recovery.

Body snatching was apparently rare in 18C Britain: the high execution rate, even for trivial crimes, assured supply. Furthermore, the 1751 Murder Act prevented the bodies of convicted murderers from being buried - they were either displayed publicly or handed over for dissection. By the early 19C the number of executions had fallen to around 55 a year, while the growth of surgical science meant that about 500 bodies were needed. Stealing bodies from churchyards probably wasn't difficult because many in towns were so full that new burials were very shallow, in graves which had been

pre-used many times. Christopher Wren and John Evelyn had noted how disgusting urban graveyards were in the 17C and, by the early 19C, churchyard overcrowding and the consequent opportunity for body-snatching were significant issues.

In London, the philosopher Jeremy Bentham had drawn attention to the problem, and in 1828, a parliamentary select committee had drafted a Bill *for preventing the unlawful disinterment of human bodies, and for regulating Schools of Anatomy*. The House of Lords threw it out in 1829. Bentham subsequently left his own body to be publicly dissected (1832), to try to change public opinion on the topic.

Families who could afford it tried to protect recent graves. J.C. Loudon reported several methods of thwarting body-snatchers in his 1843 book *On the laying out, planting, and managing of cemeteries and on the improvement of churchyards*. These included building walls and fences, hiring watchmen, creating very deep graves, and even using a mortsafe - a weighty cast-iron box, to remain over the coffin for six or eight weeks, till decomposition rendered the body unfit for the purposes of the anatomist. The mortsafe was then disinterred for reuse and the grave completed in the usual manner (Fig. 6).



Figure 6. *Mortsafes in Chuny kirkyard*. Photo by Martyn Gorman, licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 2.0 license [CC BY 2.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/).

The problem of locating the recently deceased could be circumvented by procuring their death. Burke and Hare infamously provided for the surgeons and anatomists of Edinburgh in 1827-8, probably murdering 16 people on their lucrative spree. Burke and Hare were paid £8 to £10 per body, whereas Burke's day-job as a cobbler earned him around £1 a week.

The Anatomy Act of 1832, the year of Bentham's dissection, finally enabled Anatomy Schools to collect, from workhouses, prisons and hospitals, bodies which had not been claimed for burial in the 48 hours after death. It was deeply resented by the poor, because prior to the Act they had run the same risk as everyone else of being body-snatched and dissected. Now it was systematically they who were dissected, like common criminals, and Loudon tells us that they felt this keenly. In fact, it was one of the reasons for the rejection of the 1828 bill, as the reformer William Cobbett opined, 'They tell us it was necessary for science. Science? Why, who is science for? Not for poor people. Then if it is necessary for science, let them have the bodies of the rich, for whose benefit science is cultivated.'

SWIM SWAN SWIM

It is somewhat ironic that two swans in Emmanuel's Pond helped to overthrow a theory expounded by Cambridge's greatest physicist, Sir Isaac Newton. Newton had studied optics throughout his life and had made huge achievements in understanding the nature of light based on careful experimentation. His great work, *Opticks* (1704), is one of the earliest approaches to scientific understanding based on applying mathematics to experiments, in contrast to applying deductive reasoning based on assumptions or axioms. In it, Newton maintained that light from a candle consisted of a stream of tiny particles, called corpuscles, that were emitted by the candle, travelled in straight lines and entered the eye to create the perception of light and colour. Newton's corpuscular theory contrasted with the wave theory of light, proposed by Christiaan Huygens in 1678, and such was the overwhelming weight of Newton's reputation that Huygens' wave theory was consigned to the deep-freeze of history for 125 years.

Enter Thomas Young (1773-1829); a polymath whom some considered to be the last man who knew everything. Young was the eldest of 10 children and was fluent in both Greek and Latin by the age of 14. He studied medicine at Bart's Hospital,



Edinburgh University and the University of Göttingen, and was elected to a Fellowship of the Royal Society at the age of 21 after writing a paper on visual accommodation in the eye.

Figure 7. Portrait of Thomas Young by Henry Perronet Briggs. Copyright © The Royal Society

In 1797, Young entered Emmanuel College and, in 1799, set himself up as a physician in London. Despite launching a successful medical career, Young was appointed professor of natural philosophy (i.e. physics) in 1801 at the recently founded Royal Institution, where he delivered 91 lectures in the course of two years.

While at Cambridge, Young became interested in the nature of light and, in 1803, he conducted an experiment which eventually fired a cannonball through the corpuscular theory and holed it below the waterline. It is said that while observing the pattern of ripples created by two swans swimming in

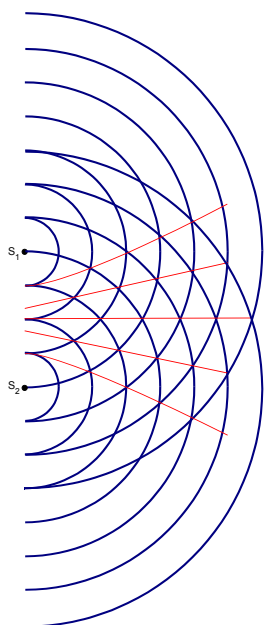


Figure 8. Schematic of Young's experiment with interfering water ripples from two 'swans'. Red lines link points where the two sets of waves from 'swans' S1 and S2 reinforce each other; nulls occur mid-way between each red line where the waves cancel.

Emmanuel's Pond, Young noticed that, in places, ripple-peaks from one swan coincided with troughs from the other swan and cancelled each other out. He created a ripple tank to demonstrate the effect on water waves under controlled conditions (Fig 8), and extended his experiment to see whether similar patterns could be observed using light instead of water waves.

Young devised his eponymous two-slit interference experiment, whereby light from a single narrow primary slit (a in figure) illuminated two further slits (b and c) (Fig. 9), arranged at equal distance from the centre line. Each secondary slit acts as a source of light which falls on a screen (d) where Young observed a pattern of light and dark stripes, spreading symmetrically from a bright, central stripe. He inferred, correctly, that light from each secondary slit was interfering with light from the other slit and, because both slits were illuminated by light from the same primary slit, the stripes were due to constructive and destructive interference, just like the water ripples from the two swans.

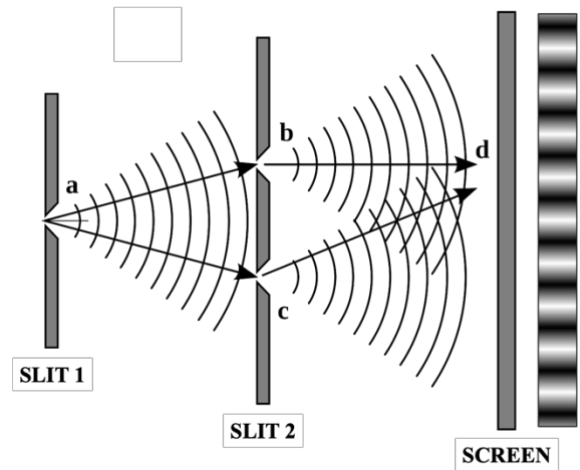


Figure 9. Young's two-slit light experiment shows the same interference seen with water waves (Fig. 8). Modified from image by Stannerd, licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 3.0 license [CC BY 3.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/).

Young's famous experiment was the first experimental proof of the wave nature of light and his experiments were supported by theory from others, such as Augustin-Jean Fresnel, to explain and quantify his observations. In the 20C, Albert Einstein gave some solace to corpuscularists by demonstrating that light could interact with matter both as a wave and as a particle, a concept from quantum mechanics known as wave-particle duality, but modern physics recognises light as a part of the electromagnetic wave spectrum, beautifully described by James Clerk Maxwell in his eponymous equations.

Young had an illustrious career, with major contributions to sound, optics, elasticity, a theory of tides and the decipherment of the Rosetta Stone. He advised on the introduction of gas lighting in London and was foreign secretary at the Royal Society. His monument in Westminster Abbey recognises his achievements as being from a 'man alike eminent in almost every department of human learning': an appropriate epitaph for a polymath.

Gin Warren & Phil Christie,
August 2022

BICYCLE BOYS' CELEBRATION AT EMMANUEL COLLEGE, 17 SEPTEMBER 2022

This account of the 'tea and tours' event at Emmanuel College follows the article introducing the Bicycle Boys.

LOYAL JOHNSON AND SAM BREWSTER visited Emmanuel College garden on 29 August 1928 but practicalities dictated that Cambridgeshire Gardens Trust would not visit on the exact anniversary. This turned out to be advantageous: by September, the gardens were looking magnificent - the lawns predominantly green again, and the trees more contented than at the end of the heatwave (Fig. 1).



Figure 1. Warm September light beckons the onlooker through the gateway from Front Court into Chapman's Garden. Photo Antony Warren.

Ever sociable, CGT had invited Cambridge Cycling Campaign members, along with the Emmanuel Society (for former college members) and current Emmanuel postgraduate students who happened to be in Cambridge before the beginning of Full Term, to join us for the afternoon. Fifty people booked and 44 attended. Bicycles were encouraged and five are known to have made it to the event. One, a stately Raleigh Superbe, festooned herself in photos relating to the exhibition and visit (Fig. 2). She felt that Loyal's bicycle should feature loud and clear in the attendees' mini-guide to the 1500 miles and 80-odd gardens to which Loyal and Sam pedalled, so this image hung from her basket. Some of the others may be found in the accompanying article on the Bicycle Boys.



Figure 2. A Raleigh Superbe bedecked with photos marking the Boys' visit to Cambridgeshire. Photo Antony Warren.



Figure 3. Emmanuel College Head Gardener, Brendon Sims. Photo Antony Warren.

Brendon Sims, the current Head Gardener, has been at Emmanuel College for three years and is clearly thrilled with the special mature trees which he now has in his care. In Figure 3, during our tour of the gardens, he can be seen indicating the finer points of the large *Paulownia tomentosa* in North Court (Fig. 4). These fast-growing natives of China and Korea reach full size (more than 8 m x 8 m) in 20-50 years, and have pinky-purple, fox-glove-like flowers in spring.

Mr Sims pointed out that they can be grown at the back of borders if regularly clipped: with that treatment in that setting they will not flower but will be excellent foliage plants.¹



Figure 4. The Paulownia. Photo Antony Warren.

¹herbaria.plants.ox.ac.uk/bol/plants400/Profiles/OP/Paulownia

North Court forms part of a pollinator pathway between the meadows on Christ's Pieces, the main college gardens and Parker's Piece. There are annual and perennial meadow areas produced with a mixture of home-germinated plug plants and seed, including some from the bales of hay produced on King's College meadow. North Court also contributes to the environmental quality of the city centre with its row of tall, bushy hornbeams. These grow inside the boundary wall with Emmanuel Street and have a rôle in dealing with air pollution as well as giving some privacy from the double-decker buses.

The Fellows' Garden has pollarded trees along its wall around the historic swimming pool - more air quality improvement and privacy provision. But the big attraction of the Fellows' Garden, from an arboreal point of view, is the *Platanus orientalis* (Fig. 5). This is a veritable cathedral of a tree, with a huge trunk and several points where the branches touch the ground, have rooted and sprung up again. It shares this habit, which has developed since a photograph in the College archive was taken between 1894 and 1919, with a tree at Blickling Hall in Norfolk. Its girths in 1986 and 2006 imply that it was planted in the early 19C. There is one at Jesus College which is known to have been grown from seed brought to Cambridge in 1802 from the ancient battlefield of Thermopylae, but it is of different habit.

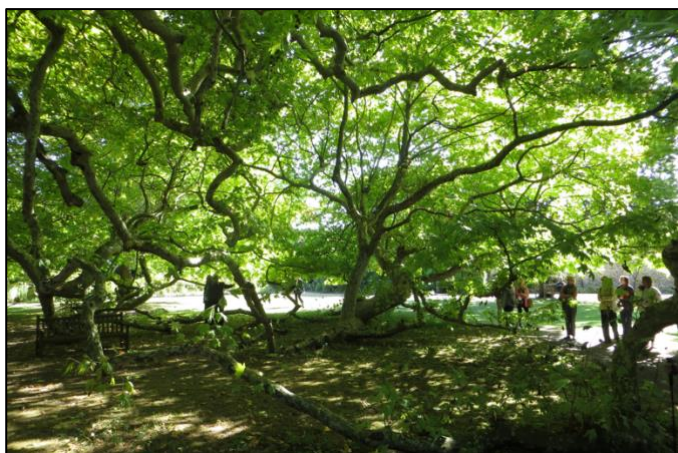


Figure 5. The Fellows' Garden boasts a *Platanus orientalis*. Photo Antony Warren.

Platanus orientalis is, with *Platanus occidentalis*, one of the two parents of the life-saving London Plane, of which the college has one against the mediaeval wall which makes up the SE boundary of the Paddock. Life-saving, because it is very efficient at removing small particulate pollutants from the air we breathe - and it survives in urban settings where we need it most because (apparently) it is resistant to root compaction. Thousands were planted in Victorian London: Cambridge's best-known collection of them is arguably that in Sidgwick Avenue (see Charles Malyon's article on Newnham College gardens in Newsletter 52). These were planted on the instructions of Mrs Nora Sidgwick when the eponymous Avenue was provided for the townies after Newnham College had, with self-confidence similar to that of King's College in building their chapel over the Viking street which ran parallel to the river and gave access to the wharves, closed the ancient track which was the westward continuation of Malting Lane and Newnham Walk. The London Plane, *Platanus x hispanica*, arose spontaneously as a natural hybrid as the result of humans bringing the two parent species together from different parts of

the world. Depending on which story you believe, this either happened in the Tradescants' garden in Lambeth, Oxford Botanic Garden or possibly somewhere in Spain. There is a famous very old one in the garden of the Bishop's Palace in Ely.

Mr Sims then drew our attention to the *Taxodium distichum* on the island in the pond. The point of interest about this is the impressive pneumatophores which this tree uses for gaseous exchange for its roots when underwater or in waterlogged soil. The Emmanuel gardening team had kindly cleared away some of the undergrowth round the tree so these could be clearly seen from the bank of the pond.



Figure 6. The pneumatophores at the base of *Taxodium distichum*. Photo Gin Warren.

We passed the autumnal *Koeleruteria paniculata* with brief comments about its glorious appearance earlier in the year, but did not comment on the fascinating chimera trees, + *Crataegomespilus dardarii* and + *Laburnocytisus adamii*, in the corner of the Paddock near the chapel. Hybrids have genetic material from both their parents in all their cells: chimeras have some cells with the genetic material of only one 'parent' and some cells with the genetic material of only the other 'parent', with the cells mixed together. They thus differ from both hybrids and grafted trees in having two distinct genomes, but in different places in the same tree.

We noted the *Ginkgo biloba* and *Liriodendron tulipifera* in Chapman's Garden but focussed on the *Metasequoia glyptostroboides*. This 'fossil tree', which was believed to be extinct in 1941, and had been described from Mesozoic fossils, was subsequently discovered growing in small numbers in China. The Emmanuel College tree is one of the first to be germinated in the UK, from seeds received by Frederick Brooks, a graduate and Fellow of Emmanuel and Professor of Botany in the University. Two were planted in Emmanuel College, another in Clare College and three others in the Botanic Garden, one of which survives to this day and is credited as being the first to be planted in British soil, though the Emmanuel specimen could be equally venerable.

After touring the grounds, participants enjoyed tea and cake in the college. CGT expresses its sincere thanks to Emmanuel College and especially to Head Gardener Brendon Sims for hosting the event, which was inspired by the joint initiative of the RHS Lindley Library and the Gardens Trust's Unforgettable Gardens programme.

CGT SUMMER SOCIAL EVENT AT THE MANOR, HEMINGFORD GREY, 15 JUNE 2022

AFTER TWO POSTPONEMENTS due to Covid, this social event in the grounds of Hemingford Grey Manor proved to be, as predicted by our Chairman in the May Newsletter, a special treat. This time, in contrast to our enforced 'picnic in the pews' at Kirtling church in 2019, the month of June graciously blessed us with a fine summer evening of warm sunshine, which showed off the delightful gardens to perfection. A variety of approaches to picnicking were laid out on the front lawn, from the 'full works' including tablecloths, napkins and ice buckets, to marmite sandwiches made on the spot! It was a wonderful chance for members and friends to get together, with the pandemic in abeyance, and relax in beautiful surroundings.



CGT members in full swing at The Manor picnic.

The gardens displayed the profusion of growth characteristic of an English cottage garden, with many roses in flower, as well as salvias, poppies, campanulas and less

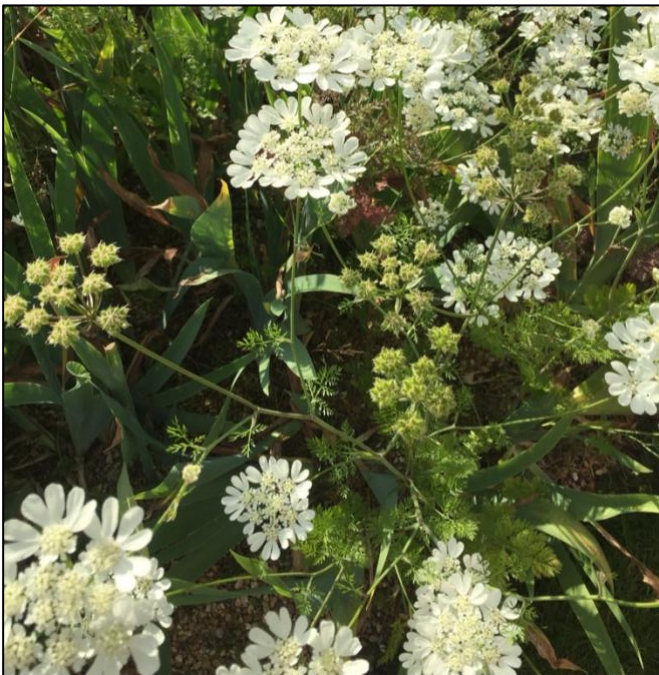
common varieties such as *Orlaya grandiflora*, *Agrostemma githago* 'Milas Snow Queen' and *Gillenia trifoliata*. Some areas were enwilded, developed as flower meadows, while the formal topiarised yews planted by Lucy Boston in the 1940s and given a majestic theme for the late Queen's coronation in 1953, were impressive.



Delightful Gillenia trifoliata. Photo Sarah Hundleby.

We were very grateful to Diana Boston for offering her gardens as a venue, but what made the evening particularly special was the chance to be guided round the house and especially the quilts. One of the oldest inhabited houses in England, dating from the twelfth century and still lived in as a family home, it was a privilege to experience the rooms that inspired the Green Knowe books, to hear the gramophone that entertained RAF pilots during WWII and to see the intricate tapestries made by Lucy Boston. The internal evidence of the development of the house from its Norman origins, was also fascinating. Diana's family home is a piece of living history, which delighted and enthused us all.

Sarah Hundleby, September 2022



Orlaya grandiflora in full bloom. Photo Judy Rossiter.



To a backdrop of topiary, CGT Chairman Liz Whittle thanks Diana Boston for hosting a wonderfully relaxing event.

PROGRAMME OF VISITS AND EVENTS 2022

Because of covid, all visits are subject to possible changes in response to Public Health guidelines. We will update the website regularly and notify members as needed. We invite members to evaluate prevailing advice and to consider whether participation in an event is appropriate for them. If members have locations they'd like to suggest for visits, please get in touch via the admin email address below.

NOV. 2022	5 Sat	11:00am- 2:30pm	AGM in Fen Drayton Village Hall, Cootes Lane CB24 4SL. Coffee from 11:00am, AGM starts 11:30am, followed by guest speaker Andrew Sankey at about 12:00noon, with buffet lunch to follow. Andrew's title is <i>The History of the Cottage Garden</i> . AGM papers to be sent out beforehand. AGM attendance is free but for catering numbers, please register for lunch and talk (£12/head via BACS or at the door) via admin below.
DEC. 2022	8 Thurs	From 11:00am	Christmas Lecture at Hemingford Abbots Village Hall, High St. PE28 9AH by garden history researcher and lecturer Dr Laura Mayer whose talk, <i>The Society of Dilettanti: bacchanalian antics & building the Antique</i> , will no doubt intrigue both the serious garden historian and the dilettante. Tickets, to include our traditional seasonal refreshments, £12 for members/ £15 for guests, payable by BACS or at the door. To gauge numbers for catering, please email admin below.
2023			Our programme of visits and talks for 2023 is under construction at the time of going to press. Sites actively being considered for a visit include: Southill Park, Biggleswade; Moat House, Little Saxham; Chippenham Park Gardens, Newmarket; Downing College, Cambridge; 23a Perry Road, Buckden; Wright's Farm, Kimbolton, and others. Details will be posted on the website as events firm up. If you have a site that you would like to suggest or a speaker you wish to recommend then please feel free to contact the events team via admin@cambridgeshiregardenstrust.org.uk

(For up-to-date details please go to <https://cambridgeshiregardenstrust.org.uk>)

For the time being, our preferred method of booking is by BACS transfer to Cambs. Gardens Trust (sort code 20-29-68, account number 30347639) using your name as reference; please confirm payment by email to admin@cambridgeshiregardenstrust.org.uk. Cheques, **payable to Cambridgeshire Gardens Trust**, to Jane Sills, The Willows, Ramsey Road, Ramsey Forty Foot PE26 2XN. To avoid disappointment (some venues limit numbers), please book at least 2 weeks before the visit, where possible. Should you need to cancel a booking, please advise admin@cambridgeshiregardenstrust.org.uk as early as possible.

SWAVESEY COMMUNITY ORCHARD

CGT was delighted to support an application to the Small Grants Scheme from David Mottram, the treasurer of Swavesey Community Orchard. Established in 2019 by a group of Swavesey residents, their aims were to maintain and develop the orchard for the benefit of Swavesey residents, visitors and wildlife, and to encourage community involvement of families, schools and children's groups. With well over 40 trees planted, labels were needed to identify the varieties for visitors and so David's application for £248 to cover the costs of engraving and supplying 55 labels with suitable screws was duly approved by CGT's Small Grants Committee.

Church Green lies to the east of Station Road, Swavesey. It is part of Church End, that includes St Andrew's church, Swan Pond and the Manor House. The green has interesting humps and bumps related to the Swavesey navigation from the River Ouse. If you are passing Swavesey Church End, feel free to visit the Green and see how the orchard is progressing.



Cambridgeshire Gardens Trust

The Willows, Ramsey Road, Ramsey Forty Foot, Cambs. PE26 2XN. Tel: 01487 813054

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