

Birkbeck Garden History Group Newsletter



Autumn/Winter 2022 No 62

Sussex Prairie and Borde Hill

BGHG Visit 20 July

After the hottest two days in England, climate change and drought conditions were at the top of the agenda in both gardens we visited in West Sussex, thankfully on a cooler day.

As you enter the Sussex Prairie Garden, the first impression is of its extent. It is a huge expanse, densely planted with tall grasses and it has quite an impact. We were greeted by Pauline McBride, the owner, who told us some of the background to the garden. In 2008, Pauline was gardening in Luxembourg with Piet Oudolf and was inspired by him to make a prairie garden back home. Prairie gardening was quite radical then and she and her husband Paul had to propagate their own plants and drive them over from Luxembourg every Friday evening to their Sussex farm until they had 36,000 plants. A party of 60 friends arrived to help for two weeks of planting.

Our tour led by Paul was very entertaining. He explained that a third of the garden consists of grasses grown for ornamental structure which provide a black and white palette through winter with their seedheads. Summer-flowering perennials include day lilies, sedums, heleniums, red hot poker, fennel, and the home-bred *Echinacea* Sussex Prairie Seedling. Some of the grasses scented the air as we walked through the middle of the beds on narrow spiralling paths.



Sussex Prairie Garden

Photo: Joan Pateman

For several months in the summer, the garden gets hardly any rain. Huge tanks collect water from the roofs and climate change means that the McBrides are changing their displays; for example they plan to replace the *astrantias* which prefer moist conditions.

At Borde Hill, a Grade II* garden, we were given a tour by Harry Baldwin, head of horticulture, who is also dealing with the effects of climate change. He took us to see the fabulous view overlooking the parkland across to the Sussex High Weald. In the North Park he is planting young lime trees to replace those with disease or lost in storms.

The house was built in 1598 by the Borde family but it was the Stephenson Clarke family that created the garden from the early 1900s. They were patrons of the great plant collectors with species gathered from the Himalayas, China, Burma, Tasmania and the Andes. This has resulted in the wonderful collection of magnolias, rhododendrons and azaleas and the garden contains the largest private collection of champion trees in Britain. The family has an amazing archive of letters from the plant hunters; Joseph Hooker wrote and congratulated Stephenson R Clarke on the flowers on his new tulip tree from China.

I was impressed by the number of new projects in the garden. There is a new philadelphus area where the gardeners were busy cutting down laurel. In an old quarry, a new shady garden called the Round Dell has been created with retaining walls like the prow of a ship to represent the plant hunters. The old potting sheds, which are now roofless and ruined, have been planted up to give a very romantic feel. A large lily pool in the Italian Garden made in the late 1980s is flanked by a Paradise Border which is only two years old but already quite stunning with lots of blue and yellow, so good for insects. And the 1902 rose garden was reinstated in the 1990s with 750 roses arranged in a colour rainbow from white through to yellow, apricot and red.

It was a lovely day out and both garden tours were so entertaining and informative.

Carrie Cowan

Denmans and West Dean

BGHG Visit 12 August

Our August trip took us to West Sussex to visit two quite different gardens a mere 10 miles apart. The first stop was to the newer of the two, Denmans, well known as the home and design school of John Brookes MBE (1933–2018) but when John moved there in 1981 it was the home of Joyce Robinson. She was a plantswoman with a then innovative approach to garden design and one of the pioneers of gravel gardens, also an enthusiasm of John Brookes. After Joyce Robinson died in 1996, John continued to run the garden and his design school there. Towards the end of his life, the garden went through an uncertain time and became neglected. Thankfully it has now passed to the present owner, Gwendolyn van Paasschen, who clearly understands its ethos and history.

Gwendolyn, herself a garden designer and writer, welcomed us with a very interesting talk about the history of Denmans and John Brookes' work there.

Much of the design and planting at Denmans reflects a love of Mediterranean plants much suited to the



Denmans, dry stream bed

Photo: M G Jones

ground conditions of well-drained gravelly soil. Gravel features much in the design, often in the form of broad pathways peppered with planned and self-seeded plants. Like many a visitor, my stand-out moment was coming to the dry stream bed. A feature created by Joyce Robinson in the late 1970s and later developed by John Brookes, it wanders across the lawn in a naturalistic way leading to a pond that was added a few years later. Again, the gravel and cobbles are planted through in such a way as to feel natural and without contrivance.

The afternoon took us to nearby West Dean which lies by the river Lavant. The river is a 'winterbourne' only running and flooding with heavy rain; for most of the year it remains dry and was the inspiration for Joyce Robinson's dry stream design at Denmans.

The Grade II * gardens as we see them now began to evolve in the 19th century under the ownership of the James family. The property passed to the last of the line, the poet Edward James, in 1912 but he seldom lived there. In his final years he set up a charitable trust to run the estate, including the gardens. The house became a centre for education with an emphasis on traditional crafts and skills. The gardens were placed in the hands of Jim Buckland and Sarah Wain as head gardeners to restore and remake. They remained head gardeners for most of the restoration and saw the gardens open to the public.

Under their guidance the 13 glasshouses and walled gardens were restored from a wilderness, making the former now some of the best examples of Victorian glasshouses in the country. Historic features such as the 200-year-old crinkle-crankle (zigzag) wall in the fruit garden and the apple store were also restored and the 49-acre arboretum of the 1830s was reinvigorated. The North Lawn is dominated by the impressive 100-metre pergola designed by Harold Peto with borders running along each side. On this visit however, I found myself drawn to the dry river bed; perhaps because of the hot, dry summer, this part of the garden stood out. Developed in the 1820s, it is crossed by little rustic bridges that have been restored and the banks have been replanted. The river leads through into Spring and Wild gardens.

Although Edward James spent most of his life in his homes in California and Mexico, he eventually returned to West Dean and was buried in the Arboretum.

M G Jones

Wimpole Hall Study Visit

BGHG Visit 6 September

After train cancellations led to some travel chaos for those coming from London, our visit to Wimpole Hall, Cambridgeshire, started with an introduction to the history of the estate from the Iron Age to the present day by Alison Moller. A garden historian and member of Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire and Essex Gardens Trusts, Alison has done extensive research at Wimpole.

Alison's introduction provided a context for looking in detail at developments and changes in the gardens and grounds during the 18th century when many of the best-known practitioners left their mark there, London and Wise, Charles Bridgeman, Sanderson Miller, Robert Greening and Lancelot 'Capability' Brown among them. The timeline sheet she provided juxtaposed the owners with the designers they commissioned – an invaluable aid to understanding how the garden and landscape were developed during this period.

Wimpole Hall today is in the centre of a modern 3,000-acre estate but the site has been inhabited since the Iron Age. The estate is situated on the Roman road to Cambridge near 'where it joins the great Roman road of Ermine Street from London to Lincoln and York – the Great North Road'.¹ Evidence of occupation in medieval times is seen from the marks of ridge and furrow fields on the site, just visible in the right light.

From 1428 and for the next 250 years Wimpole is associated with the Chicheley family. The present house, built by Thomas Chicheley, dates from the 1650s. In serious debt by 1686, Chicheley had to sell the estate and by 1693 it became the property of Charles Robartes, 2nd Earl of Radnor. Employing London and Wise, Radnor transformed Wimpole 'into one of the great houses and gardens of the age of William and Mary'.² The accompanying Kip and Kniff view, though not totally accurate, gives an impression of how it was (or was projected to be) in 1707. There were many significant changes to the landscape in the next 100 years under the ownership of the Earls of Hardwicke. One could see on the historic plans how Bridgeman significantly widened the southern avenue in 1721, Greening swept away the formal gardens in 1752 and Brown put in a perimeter carriageway and joined the fishponds into a lake in 1767, to name just a few of the changes.

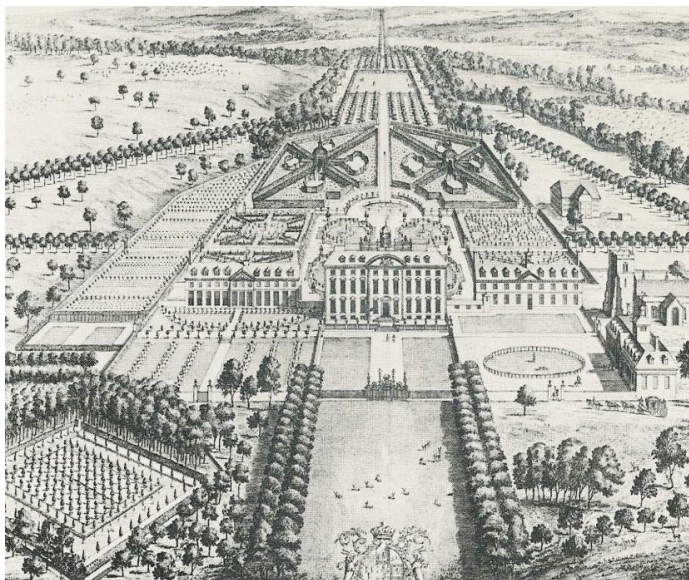
Alison demonstrated that by using modern geophysical surveying techniques, such as electrical resistivity tomography and Lidar,³ plus the various plans of the garden, the location of earlier features which are no longer visible in the garden today could be confirmed. It was fascinating to see what was revealed.

The participants had been given copies of the Kip and Knyff view and the plans that Alison discussed. Towards the end of the morning session, we were asked to identify features from them on two Lidar images she supplied, one of the bare ground and the other with tree coverage. This was challenging and fun.

In the afternoon, Alison led one group on a long walk to see many of the features she had discussed during the morning talk. BGHG Committee member Pippa Temple took a second group on a guided tour of the Walled Garden, designed by William Emes in 1790. The glasshouse, originally designed by Sir John Soane, has been recreated using his plans.

The weather was mild and dry and the group was congenial and highly motivated. Alison's introduction was comprehensive, clear and concise and the afternoon tours helped to illustrate it – a wonderful day!

Michael Ann Mullen



Wimpole Hall, Kip and Knyff engraving 1707

¹ David Souden, *Wimpole Hall*, (Swindon), Acorn Press for National Trust (Enterprises) Ltd, 1991, p.5.

² Ibid, p. 8.

³ The US Geological Survey defines Lidar, Light Detection and Ranging, as 'a technology used to create high-resolution models of ground elevation with a vertical accuracy of 10 centimetres (4 inches)'.

US Geological Survey. <https://www.usgs.gov/faqs/what-lidar-data-and-where-can-i-download-it>

The Chelsea Physic Garden

BGHG Visit 21 September

As you step into the Chelsea Physic Garden, London, the impression is of a hidden, quiet, green space. Letta Jones, lecturer in garden history and a guide for many years at the garden, introduced us to the origins and history of this 4-acre site and its current collections. The garden was first acquired by the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries in 1673. By the time of Philip Miller, botanist and Head Gardener (curator) at the garden for nearly 50 years (1722–1770), the garden's collection of plants from across the world had made it the most richly stocked botanic garden in the world. Many of the plants were recorded by Miller in his highly popular book *The Gardeners Dictionary* which ran to eight editions. The garden opened to the public in 1983 and is now a registered charity.

Among the notable trees are two large *Ginkgo biloba* trees, one male and one female, the latter of which produces an unpleasant smelling green fruit. Apparently it is rare to find both trees in a botanic garden. Although the glasshouses are undergoing a huge Heritage Lottery Funded restoration, we were able to visit the Cool Fernery, which displays



Cool Fernery, Chelsea Physic Garden

Photo: M G Jones

varieties cultivated by botanist and garden curator Thomas Moore in the mid 19th century. Along the western boundary, the Historical Walk shows the plants introduced to the garden by well-known figures from its past; it includes a Sir Joseph Banks display of species from Australia and New Zealand.

Another section of the garden displays plants grown for their use in both herbal and medical treatment over time. The Dioscorides bed displays plants first listed by this first-century Greek pharmacologist, physician

and botanist in his book of medicinal plants. The Traditional Medicine of the British Isles collection (17th to 19th centuries) includes those known from the Doctrine of Signatures, referring to the belief that herbs resembling various parts of the body can be used to treat ailments of those body parts. An obvious example is *Pulmonaria* (lungwort), with its spotted leaves resembling a diseased lung, being used to treat respiratory problems.

The Garden of World Medicine contains species used in ancient cultures and in tribal medicine around the world. This includes some of the many plants used in Ayurvedic medicine and, as we could see, *Agapanthus praecox* used in South African tribal medicine. The Pharmaceutical Garden shows plants related to different branches of medicine. In Oncology, there is *Taxus brevifolia* (Pacific yew), from which the chemical taxol used in the treatment of cancer is derived and in Ophthalmology we find *Atropa belladonna* which contains the chemical compound atropine used to dilate the eye.

The arrangement of themed beds of plants in this way acknowledges the debt which pharmaceutical medicine owed to the plant world and continues to do so. A group of unassuming plants is being grown for current research into chemical properties which could help in the treatment of COVID-19. *Hypericum perforatum* (St John's Wort) has small, red, oily cells in its leaves and is being investigated for its anti-inflammatory properties, while *Nigella sativa* is being studied to understand why it improves recovery time in COVID-19 patients.

The Chelsea Physic Garden remains a very special place to visit, with the many species from different climates which flourish there, and the variety of plants grown to reveal their importance to healing, health and medicine.

Margot Watkins

The Aga Khan Centre and Jellicoe Gardens, London BGHG Visit 4 October

A cubic limestone building with large windows of whitened glass, the Aga Khan Centre in Kings Cross, London, sets a serene note amongst its industrial brick-and-metal neighbours. Designed by award-winning Japanese architect Fumihiko Maki and completed in 2018, it is the London base for the Aga Khan's charitable Development Network (AKDN), and is a place of learning for the study of Muslim civilisation for some 80 students.

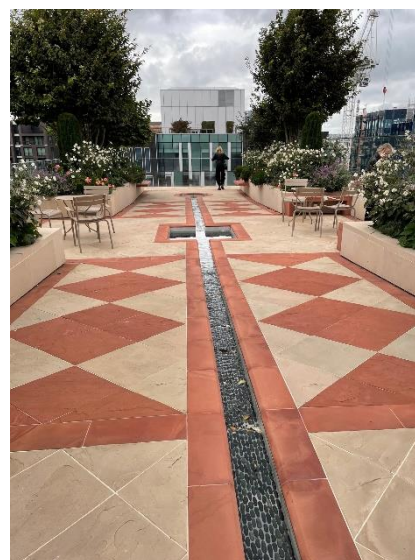
The interior, which includes six skilfully crafted Islamic gardens on the roof and within its walls, makes theatrical use of light. A dramatic shaft of daylight floods the central core of the nine-storey building from a glass skylight in the roof. Islamic geometric girih patterns are a theme throughout and are evident on the elegant garden screens, railings and stone and tiled paving.

Most of the gardens are laid out in the chahar bagh quadrilateral design, representing the four gardens of Paradise in the Quran. The Garden of Life, the largest of the gardens on the roof with airy views across London, has elaborate waterworks inspired by the chadar waterfalls in Kashmir. From a marble tablet, water flows through the channels and pools of the chahar bagh. Trees here include the Persian ironwood, *Parrotia persica*, as well as pears, medlars and quince, and there are floriferous raised beds. In contrast, the Garden of Light is contained within a chiselled pattern of marble walls inscribed with quotations from the Persian poets and the Quran while the planting is confined to four pairs of scented Japanese *Magnolia x loebneri*.

The loggia Garden of Tranquility overlooks the Jellicoe Gardens, a public space, designed by Tom Stuart-Smith who based the design on the 16th-century Bagh-e Fin in Iran. An impressive open pavilion, reminiscent of the entrance to Persian palaces, dominates the formal layout of the gardens. While maintaining the spirit of the *bustan*, or fragrant orchard, Stuart-Smith has replaced it with orchestrated borders overflowing with scented and nectar-rich flowers and shrubs.

Unfortunately, the fountains in the square pond that feeds water rills and pools that flow down the centre of the length of the gardens were turned off for October but we plan to return to this tranquil garden to enjoy the full effect of the waterworks and the spring planting next year.

Caroline Foley



Garden of Life, Aga Khan Centre
Photo: Caroline Foley

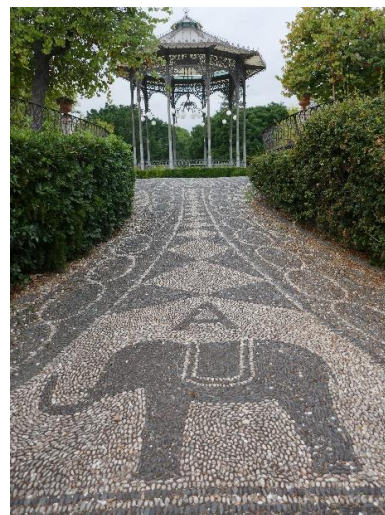
Orto Botanico and Giardino Bellini, Catania

Catania in Sicily is more of a stopover than a tourist destination per se, but apart from its Greek theatre, amphitheatre, castle, cathedral and university, it has two interesting public gardens to detain the garden lover, both on the long, straight Via Etnea, at the end of which Mount Etna looms in the distance.

The small Orto Botanico, founded in 1858, has an attractive formally laid out area with paths and many exotic mature trees, including around 50 palm species, in front of a neoclassical columned building. Etna's presence is felt in the lava stone liberally used in paths, as edgings and in walls. There is an area of native flora,

the Sicilian garden, collected from the varying regions of the large island. Also important are the large collections of cacti and succulents and a glasshouse collection in a large tepidarium destroyed in the Second World War and subsequently restored. A small lava grotto houses ferns.

Further down Via Etnea is the Giardino Bellini, developed as a large public park from the 1860s on the site of a former 18th-century garden labyrinth owned by the Prince of Biscari. A grand wide staircase leads up and into the gardens, floored in white and black pebbles, edged, of course, with lava stone and flanked by thickets of bird of paradise plants. At the top is the swan pool and fountain, with two little swan houses. The hill above, planted with white roses still flowering in October, is crowned by a 'kiosk', below which gardeners change the date marked out in succulents every day! The elephant depicted on the path is the symbol of Catania (the black basalt elephant from the Roman period still stands in the main city square) together with the large A for St Agatha (the city's patron saint). Among the many paths, terraces and bridges there is an avenue of busts of 'illustrious men' and of course a statue of Bellini himself. A magnificent huge fig tree is a special treat.

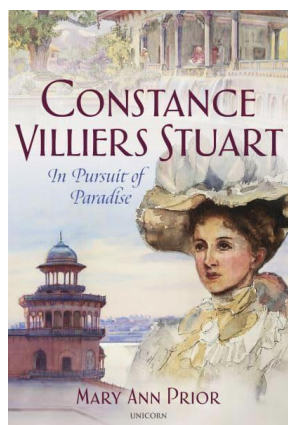


Giardino Bellini Photo: Susan Jellis

Susan Jellis

Book Reviews

Constance Villiers Stuart – in Pursuit of Paradise by Mary Ann Prior, Unicorn, 2022



Art curator Mary Ann Prior's book is the first full account of the life and work of garden historian Constance Villiers Stuart (née Fielden), 1876–1966, author, artist, photographer and journalist. The book charts the domestic, social and professional life of the author of *Gardens of the Great Mughals* (1913), the book for which Villiers Stuart is best known and still revered today by those who visit and write about paradise gardens. Prior draws on the artist's private correspondence, sketch books, paintings and photographs relating to her travels to France, Australia and South Africa with her family, later with her husband to Greece and India and finally her extensive visits to the great gardens of Europe and Scandinavia as a journalist for *Country Life*.

Villiers Stuart's family wealth was based on the Lancashire wool industry; on her father's retirement the family moved to Beachamwell Hall, a 4000-acre estate in Norfolk, when Villiers Stuart was eight. Marriage to army officer Patrick Villiers Stuart in 1911 provided her with the opportunity to travel to India for an extended period. In the book, Prior looks at these early influences and Villiers Stuart's motive for starting her writing career with such a large and important project – documenting old Mughal gardens across India with an enthusiastic appreciation of their garden craft – with the stated ambitious aim of influencing the design of the gardens of the new Government House in New Delhi.

Villiers Stuart wrote just one more book, *Spanish Gardens: their History, Types and Features* (1926) preferring to write shorter pieces on key European gardens which she did over a 50-year journalistic career culminating in a trip to St Petersburg, aged 80. An accomplished photographer, her articles were illustrated with her own images.

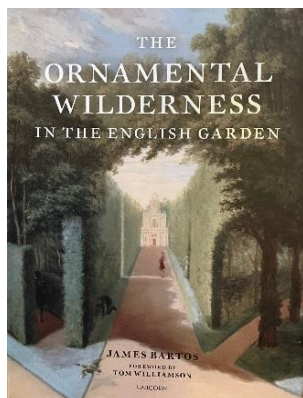
Prior's book provides over a hundred beautiful sketches, paintings and photographs giving an insight into the world of the fashionable traveller of the time as well as fascinating early images of famous gardens. With an accessible style, this book will appeal to garden historians, those who love paradise gardens and travel writing.

Patricia Maitland

The Garden Museum recently held an exhibition, 1 June–13 November 2022, of Villiers Stuart's paintings, sketches and letters. See <https://gardenmuseum.org.uk/exhibitions/constance-villiers-stuart-earthly-delights/>. In addition, a much larger collection of her sketchbooks, diaries, scrapbooks, albums of photographs and press cuttings has been donated to the Museum's archives by her granddaughters and will be made available for research.

The Ornamental Wilderness in the English Garden by James Bartos, Unicorn, 2022

James Bartos (garden historian and first Chairman of the Gardens Trust 2015–2020). untangles the mythology and history that surrounds the wilderness with impressive scholarship. The title of the book describes a specific type of wilderness (or 'grove') prevalent in the gardens of the English country house in late 17th and early 18th centuries.



Unlike its predecessors, the Italian Renaissance *bosco*, which was ‘more of a woodland walk’, or the French *bosquet*, which comprised ‘trees in an elaborate series of cabinets’, the paths of this English wilderness were a set route designed for walking, not riding, and led to theatrical surprises – the framed view, the mythical statue or the temple. Key elements were the myths and legends around the sacred groves of ancient Greece added to those in the Bible and in literature, and amongst the pagan myths of the Druids; as Bartos points out, these ‘had special place in the English imagination’. John Evelyn clearly saw their importance when he included a chapter entitled *An Historical Account of the Sacredness, and Use of Standing Groves, &c.* in the 1670 edition of *Sylva*.¹

Authors of the day, including designers Stephen Switzer (1682–1745) and Batty Langley (1696–1751), took part in a lively debate that stipulated further that the wilderness must be within the pleasure garden, not the park, and that the trees must be intended for shade, not commerce. In the second half of the 18th century the ornamental wilderness gave way to the Landscape Movement’s greensward, with trees in clumps and the shrubbery.

The book is well illustrated with contemporary maps and plans that clarify the diverse layouts and planting schemes adopted by the great designers. The intriguing chapter titles describe the range of these designs and include *The Planting of the Quarters*, *The Wilderness of Complex Geometry* and *Block Planting, Curves and Cabinets*. The last chapter heading *The Wilderness and the Shrubby* is quite poignant as it marks the end of this inspiring and creative era.

Caroline Foley

¹ *Sylva, or A discourse of forest-trees, and the propagation of timber in His Majesties dominions*. Second Edition (1670), chapter XXXV.

News

BGHG Study Day 2023

This year the BGHG Study Day will be held in person in March on the theme of gardens in the Czech Republic. BGHG is collaborating with the Friends of Czech Heritage (<https://www.czechfriends.net/>) to explore the history and development of some of the Czech Republic’s diverse and distinctive gardens. The day will include four lectures on topics ranging from gardens of the baroque period to 20th-century architects’ gardens. It will be held on Saturday 25 March, 2023, in a central location in Bloomsbury, London, starting at 10.30 am. Tickets will be available via Eventbrite and members will be sent a flyer about the event as usual but please put the date in your diary now. Details will also be advertised on <https://birkbeckgardenhistory.org.uk>.

New Repton Bust Unveiled

On October 19 this year, a new bust of landscape designer Humphry Repton was unveiled in Wembley Park, Brent, in north-west London. The bust was the prize for winning the Gardens Trust competition held at the end of their Repton project.

In 2018, the Gardens Trust launched the project *Sharing Repton: Historic Landscapes for All*, with a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, to mark the 200th anniversary of Humphry Repton’s death. The project’s aim was to find new ways of engaging wider audiences with historic parks and gardens. The prize in the competition at the end of the project was a bust of Humphry Repton, created by professional sculptor Hannah Northam and donated by Haddonstone, specialists in the design and manufacture of decorative cast stonework. Amongst fierce competition from gardens and landscapes, large and small, across the UK this unique sculpture was awarded to Wembley Park, which has a long association with Repton. He laid out the landscape gardens for the Page Family home, Wellers, in the late 18th century which then grew into the original Wembley Park in the late 19th century with the arrival of the Metropolitan Railway.

Today Wembley Park is the centre of a large urban regeneration scheme led by Quintain, which includes much imaginative landscape design. The bust, temporarily sited on the corner of Humphry Repton Lane and Elvin Gardens, just moments away from world-famous Olympic Way, will be relocated in due course to Union Park, Wembley Park’s new, seven-acre public park, due for completion in 2025.

After the unveiling ceremony, Julian Tollast, Head of Masterplanning and Design for Quintain and former founding trustee of the National Park City Foundation, led a fascinating tour of the area, showing how the



Humphry Repton in Wembley

Photo: Barbara Deason

principles that Repton embodied in his visionary work have helped shape Quintain's own thinking in designing and delivering a memorable landscape in Wembley Park.

Barbara Deason

Garden History Blog

This entertaining and informative blog, www.gardenhistorygirl.co.uk, is well worth a look. Set up in 2020, it is written by BGHG member Paula Sewell. Paula studied garden history at Birkbeck, gaining an MA in 2010/11. After retiring and moving to Herefordshire, Paula decided to set up her website with monthly blogs which are, she says, purely 'a romp' around the subject, exploring stories about gardens, plants and people that catch her interest.

The website has been well received; some comments from her readers follow:

"gardenhistorygirl looks at topics mostly (but not always) from late 19th-century/early 20th-century garden history. Her pieces are always presented in a lively and readable fashion with lots of related images, but are based on solid and thorough research from someone who knows the period really well and makes much use of primary sources. A reading list is usually included, and I would thoroughly recommend subscribing, and catching up with previous blogs." *Ailsa Sleigh, MA Garden History*

"gardenhistorygirl takes a detailed, scholarly approach, thoroughly researching her subjects, then presenting them in unexpected and accessible ways. Her wide-ranging topics cover questions that have either never been asked or not been asked enough. Each post is highly illustrated, with images found deep in the 'archives less-travelled', making gardenhistorygirl a joyous 'long-read' for anyone interested in horticultural history."

Sandra Lawrence, journalist, garden writer and author of the recently published book 'Miss Willmott's Ghosts'

[gardenhistorygirl is]"always soundly researched and well written... For those interested in garden history it is well worth following." *Sue Barnard, MA Garden History*

RHS Occasional Papers

The RHS Lindley Library has published a series of *Occasional Papers* since 2009 on a range of topics relevant to the library. Volume 18, the October 2021 issue, features Reginald Cory (1871–1934), collector, horticulturist and benefactor. It describes the life, influence and collections of Cory in seven chapters and makes fascinating reading. Cory, the son of a wealthy shipping magnate, had significant influence in the horticultural world. His sponsorship and support of key figures included plant hunters, botanical artists and garden designers and his circle included many well-known figures in the field. Cory lived at Dyffryn, south-west of Cardiff, where Thomas Mawson designed the garden in 1904. Reginald Cory left his collection of books, including a huge collection of botanical art, to the Lindley Library, the largest single donation it had ever received.

The *Occasional Papers* issue on Reginald Cory, marking the 150th anniversary of his birth, is well worth investigation and the many illustrations of botanical art within it are exquisite. It can be found at https://libraries.rhs.org.uk/custom/web/SD_PDF/occasional-papers-oct2021.pdf.

The whole set of *Occasional Papers* is available online on the library website (see Search Results for sirsidynix.net.uk) and can be downloaded as pdfs, or printed copies can be purchased from the library. Among the titles are the 2012 issue on the history of garden history, the 2016 issue on 'Capability' Brown and his account book, and in 2010, Charles Darwin in the British horticultural press, among others equally of interest.

London Parks & Gardens

As many of you know, London Parks & Gardens, formerly London Gardens Trust, cultivates, celebrates and champions London's historic green spaces. It runs the annual London Open Gardens weekend, a much-loved event offering a glimpse into some of London's most magical gardens, and its informative lecture series help attendees to learn more about the greenery around them. These events, along with its members and donors, raise critical funding so that staff and volunteers can campaign to protect London's landscape for everyone's enjoyment.

The charity was created in 1994 as the County Gardens Trust for London and is part of the National Gardens Trust network. Since then, it has rigorously documented London's parks, gardens, squares and green spaces, enabling it to give meaningful responses in the planning system to protect the integrity of the city's historic landscapes. Its Inventory, a very useful resource, now includes more than 2,500 entries with excellent photographs to illustrate the sites (<https://londongardenstrust.org/conservation/inventory/>). The charity also publishes the *London Gardener*, its annual journal containing articles on garden history. New members are welcome; to learn more about London Parks & Gardens activities, and to join if you are not already a member, please visit <https://londongardenstrust.org>.

Events

BGHG Provisional Programme 2023

19 January	Hyde Hall, Essex
February	AGM and Lecture, London
25 March	Study Day on Czech Gardens, London
April	to be confirmed
18 May	Easton Walled Garden and Belton House, Lincolnshire
22-25 May	Gardens in Cumbria Study Tour
29 June	Compton Beauchamp and Buscot, Oxfordshire
July	to be confirmed
August	to be confirmed
September	to be confirmed
October	Twickenham Study Visit
November	Winter Lecture

London Parks & Gardens Lectures Online

Tuesday 10 January 6.00 pm *The Doctor's Garden: Medicine, Science and Horticulture in Britain*, Dr Clare Hickman. Part of the Winter Lecture series. <https://bookwhen.com/londongardenstrust/e/ev-sva1-20230110180000>

Art Historical London Lecture Online

Monday 16 January 7.00–8.00 pm *Gardens of Love in the 17th & 18th century*, Mariska Beekenkamp-Wladimiroff. <https://www.arthistoricallondon.com/calendar>

Institute of Historical Research Seminars

Spring Term 2023 Hybrid or Online Only

Starting Thursday 12 January 6.00 pm

Theme: Gardens, Politics and Power (cont'd). Enquiries: gardenhistory.ihr@gmail.com. The programme will be available end December on www.history.ac.uk/seminars/history-gardens-and-landscapes.

Cambridge University Institute of Continuing Education Course

20–22 January *Gardens and plants in Ancient Egypt and Ancient Greece*, Caroline Holmes. Madingley Hall, Madingley, Cambridge, CB23 8AQ. <https://www.ice.cam.ac.uk/course/gardens-and-plants-ancient-egypt-and-ancient-greece>

Cambridge University Botanic Garden Lecture

Thursday 2 February, 6.30–8.30 pm online *Secrets of the Georgian Garden*, Laura Mayer. Email: education@botanic.cam.ac.uk, <https://www.botanic.cam.ac.uk/education-learning/courses>

Learning with Experts Course Online

Anytime *Conservation of Historic Gardens*, Dr Audrey Timm. Mail: info@learningwithexperts.com, <https://www.learningwithexperts.com/gardening/courses/conservation-of-historic-gardens>

Gardens Trust Lectures Online

Starting Monday 6 February The first series is on C17 and C18 Books of Natural History Watercolours (4 lectures). Henrietta McBurney. For details and booking: <https://thegardenstrust.org/events-archive/>

Plant Heritage Lecture

Saturday 11 February 2.30–4.00 pm, *A Bouquet of Weeds*, Michael Brown. Courtyard Suite, Madingley Hall, Madingley, Cambridge, CB23 8AQ. Email: ppsrjb@gmail.com, Tel: 07798 732747

Pope's Grotto Preservation Trust Symposium

Tuesday 21 February 9.30 am–5.00 pm *Re-Creation: Digital Technology and the Interpretation of Heritage Properties*. Conway Hall, London WC1R 4RL. Email: contact@popesgrotto.org.uk, <https://popesgrotto.org.uk/events/>

Linnean Society Lecture Online

Wednesday 22 February 6.00–7.30 pm *St Helena: Napoleon's Garden Island*, Donal McCracken. <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/st-helena-napoleons-garden-island-tickets-474240194187?aff=ebdssbeac>

Kew Mutual Improvement Society Lectures in person and online

Monday 20 February 6.00 pm *Managing Richmond Park in the 21st century*, Simon Richards.

Monday 13 March 6.00 pm *Nymans: Adapting to the times*, Joe Whelan. Part of a series. In person at Lady Lisa Sainsbury Lecture Theatre, Jodrell Gate, Kew Gardens, Richmond TW9 3DS, also online via Zoom. <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/kew-mutual-improvement-society-31129647785>

Oxford Botanic Garden Winter Lectures

Thursday 9 March 7.00–8.00 pm *Saving the Blossom: 'Cherry' Ingram and his rich legacy*, Naoke Abe. Last in the series. Andrew Wiles Building, Woodstock Road, Oxford OX2 6GG. <https://tickets.ox.ac.uk/webstore/shop/viewItems.aspx?cg=bga&c=WinterLectures>

The Gardens Trust with Oxford University Department for Continuing Education

2–4 June *Women and Gardens*, Rewley House, Oxford, OX1 2JA, Tel: 01865 270368, Email: ppdayweek@conted.ox.ac.uk, <https://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/>

Study Tour of Dutch Gardens

Early September 2023

Saturday 4 February 10.30 am Information meeting and bookings. Mill Hill, London. Details from gill@ponderstravel.co.uk, Tel: 01954 232802

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