



OXFORDSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

NEWSLETTER 26 AUTUMN 2017



A Sizzling Hot AGM

The 15th AGM of the OGT was held at Rousham, where in 2002 we had held our inaugural meeting, both by kind permission of Charles and Angela Cotterell-Dormer, owners of Rousham and Patrons of OGT.

This year the weather was unbelievably hot, and we met under a gazebo on the lawn outside the main house. There were the usual formalities of reports and elections. One item identified that over past years, and this year, we had not been compliant with the rules about our Trustees. We should have been electing these for terms of three years, with one-third retiring each year. Instead we have had the same trustees time and again! We need several new Trustees to be able to comply and this will all need to be dealt with at next year's AGM. You have been warned. During the lively discussion following the Treasurer's Report there were suggestions about how to cope with the future; about increasing membership and making contact with other organisations; about attendance at events and publicity for these; and following Joanna's yearly declaration that she would be resigning next year a call for an outline of the Secretary's duties and responsibilities so would-be volunteers could know what it entailed.

Following the formal meeting we were welcomed by Charles and Angela, who were presented with some Oxfordshire sparkling

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Members of the OGT at Rousham (photo Sean Vassen)

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wine, and a large folder containing an essay on the small temple in the grounds known as Townsend's Temple. After welcome coffee and biscuits, and the group photo on the steps, we were given a chance to tour round the house (see below). Since this has been a family home for over 400 years the contents are incredibly interesting, historic and generally delightful.

We then enjoyed our picnic lunches anywhere in the garden we chose, before reassembling to hear about the history of the garden from the Head Gardener, and going off to see for ourselves what it was all about.

Joanna Matthews

Tour of Rousham

After our welcome to Rousham, Charles and Angela Cottrell-Dormer gave us a brief history of the house before our guided tours led by Angela and Caroline Magnus.

Rousham is known as the most complete William Kent landscape in England. First constructed c. 1635 for Sir Robert Dormer, Kent began his remodelling of the house in 1738, adding a battlement parapet and low wings on either side of the main house. We entered the house through the Jacobean oak door with its musket holes from the Civil War (the guns above the door are from the troops led by the royalist Sir Robert at the Battle of Blenheim). In the hall are family portraits, including those of Robert Dormer and his wife Anne (Cottrell), painted by Lely. Ascending the Jacobean staircase, we passed portraits of the Adlemare Caesars who married into the family, while the small drawing room contains a portrait of the first Sir Charles Cottrell and his wife painted by William Dobson during the Siege of Oxford. The Oak Chamber is untouched by Kent, but retains its original oak panelling and a 4-poster Elizabethan bed. One of the most attractive rooms is the Painted Parlour, transformed by Kent from an old kitchen with 3 false doors, a painted canvas (1738) on the ceiling (which had to be transported from London) covering the original coffering, richly moulded ceiling surround, octagonal windows, carved brackets for Dormer's collection of Italian bronzes and Kent-designed furniture. The Dining Room has Kent dining chairs. The Great Parlour, designed by Kent as a library, was converted by James Adlemare Caesar – the books were auctioned over 14 evenings - but the unique plaster ceiling, window alcoves and marble fireplace by Kent remain.

Kent was commissioned by General James Dormer to design the landscape and his



The rose arbour, and, below, the pigeon house (Photos Jaqueline Mitchell)

drawings are on show in the house. From these upper rooms we had a good view of the grounds, with the distant mill and eyecatcher ruin, and the ha-ha added by Charles Bridgeman. A sweeping slope descends to the Cherwell, and the grounds are ornamented with a seven-arched portico, two pools originally linked by cascades, a serpentine rill leading to a Cold Bath, a Doric temple and statues in classical taste. These include a *Lion and Horse* by Scheemaker (1740). On the lawn are some wonderful trees from Kent's time, a Cedar of Lebanon and Cedar Atlantica, two of the more than 100 trees in the parkland. After lunch, Ann Starling, Head Gardener, who has transformed the planning and planting in recent years, gave us an introductory talk. Today, with 3 full-time staff, she manages 22 acres of landscape, including 5 acres of walled gardens. One of their biggest jobs is the winter pruning of the laurel, which grows 2–3 ft a year. Next to the c.1685 Pigeon House, the walled garden beds were vivid with roses and foxgloves on our visit, the long border already planted with some of the 300 dahlias for the autumn. Flowers, vegetables and fruit are grown organically, and the house is pretty self-sufficient.

The OGT held its first meeting here in 2002 and we all thoroughly enjoyed this second visit to 'Kentissimo' – as Horace Walpole described it – and the glories of Rousham.
Jaqueline Mitchell



Capability Brown and his Account Book

A seminar preceded publication of Volume 14 of *Occasional Papers from the RHS Lindley Library: Capability Brown and his account book* by David Brown, Roderick Floud and Brent Elliott (available online at <http://bit.ly/2gd0leW>), highlighting the remarkable size of Brown's business. The account book (V) 1761–83, which was loaned and then in 2012 donated to the library by a descendant of Brown, can now be seen online at <http://bit.ly/2fLe4gn> (via an application form). This, together with Brown's Drummonds bank account (1753–83), reveals the impressive list of his super-rich clients, 'the King, seven Dukes, 26 earls, 20 other peers, 19 knights and baronets, two generals and a judge'. Floud estimates Brown's income between 1761 and 1783 to have been the equivalent of £508.7 million today. A lot more fascinating information is contained in the three articles.

Ruth Todd

'Compiling the Record' Campaign

The Gardens Trust and Historic England are collaborating on a campaign to identify mid- and late 20th-century designed landscapes that could merit adding to the national Register. Currently there are relatively few landscapes from this period on the Register, and just two in Oxfordshire – St Catherine's College and the Japanese garden of New House in Shipton-under-Wychwood. Any members with suggestions for additional entries are invited to contact the OGT Committee. Further details on the GT website: <http://thegardenstrust.org/compiling-the-record/>. The deadline for lodging suggestions is 31 October.

Will Holborow

NEW Secretary Needed

Can you help with the administration of the Trust? OGT is looking for someone to replace Joanna, who is stepping back from the post, as Secretary. This essential voluntary role will give a real insight into the workings of the OGT. It involves taking minutes at committee meetings, sending out the newsletter, responding on OGT's behalf to TGT and local authorities on planning consultations, and dealing with enquiries from other bodies and individuals concerning parks, gardens and landscape, and some general admin. Please contact Joanna who can give you more details: secretary@ogt.org.uk

Restoration of the Icehouses at Waterperry & Rycote Park

Many of us find icehouses and their use in the 18th and 19th centuries fascinating. Waterperry's is likely to have been commissioned by John Barnewall Curson in the late 1770s. I was delighted when Steve Pegrum, a volunteer and member of the School of Economic Science at Waterperry, took on the task of endeavouring to restore its entrance tunnel. This summer its brickwork has been exposed. You can follow progress at <http://bit.ly/2vnCL7e>. Meanwhile, the owners of nearby Rycote Park have recently completed a beautiful restoration of their icehouse, believed to have been designed by Lancelot 'Capability' Brown for the 4th Earl



of Abingdon in the 1760s. It has been capped with thatch. The icehouse can be seen when Rycote Chapel is open; see <http://bit.ly/2ulwD1Y> for details. *Ruth Todd*

Oxfordshire Gardens Trust Contacts

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Chair: Vacant

Secretary: Joanna Matthews, 7 Church Way, Iffley, Oxford, OX4 4DY; 01865 777531; secretary@ogt.org.uk

Other Committee Members: David Bradley, Sarah Eaton, Peter Edwards, Vanessa Fell, Ian Gourlay, Will Holborow (Treasurer), Beverley Lear, Sally Stradling, Ruth Todd.

Newsletter Editor: Jaqueline Mitchell.

Membership applications to: Vanessa Fell, c/o 30 West Street, Chipping Norton, Oxon, OX7 5ER.

NEWSLETTER 27: Please send copy to jmmit23@gmail.com. Deadline: 7 December 2017.

Simon Townley: Wychwood Forest and Cornbury Park, 23 February

Wychwood (or Huchewode) was first mentioned by name in AD840. From the 11th to the 19th century it was one of the great royal forests of England administered under forest law dating from the Normans. 'Royal Forests' were legal entities that included villages and arable land as well as woodland.

At its most extensive, during the reign of Henry II (1154–89) it covered most of west Oxfordshire. It was reduced in size first in 1219, then later to three blocks around Woodstock, Crawley/Hailey and Cornbury/Wychwood. The latter remained as the core Royal Forest until its dis-afforestation and enclosure in 1857.

The forest was complex, and by the mid-16th century divided into 'coppices', fenced against deer and used as a source of everyday wood; 'open forest', land over which local inhabitants had grazing rights; and 'purlieus', grazing areas for deer run by local lords on behalf of the Crown. Unusually, Wychwood was neither a commercial forest nor used for hunting after 1200, but it was a source of royal patronage for gifts of deer to individuals, religious houses and for stocking parks.

Cornbury originated as a hunting lodge under Henry I. Imparked in 1244 and walled in the 1330s, it remained a working park throughout the 13th/14th centuries, supplying 'great timber' for Naval use. By the 16th century a water mill and fishponds had been created. It was granted to the Earl of Clarendon in 1661, when it became a private landscaped park. The lodge (Cornbury House) was remodelled (1631–33) by Nicholas Stone, who designed one of the first classical country house fronts in England. This was reconfigured again (1666–77) by Hugh May in the 'Wren style'. In 1751 debts forced sale of the estate to the 3rd Duke of Marlborough; the 4th Duke settled the estate on his youngest son, created Baron Churchill of Wychwood in 1815.

By 1896, when the Churchills sold the estate, it totalled over 5,000 acres. Landscaping of the park began in 1664 when John Evelyn designed grand formal avenues (the Grand Vista). In 1689 George London laid out walks and built a stone bridge (designed by Talman) over the Evenlode. A walled kitchen garden was added in 1815 and in the later 19th century the fish ponds were reconfigured as a series of lakes. Several of the formal avenues, including the Grand Vista were replanted in the 1990s.

Simon Townley's talk was based upon the draft of the VCH Vol. XIX, which can be accessed in full at <http://bit.ly/2uUisi6>. *Peter Edwards*

Friday 9 June, Visit to Wychwood Manor

When I arrived at Wychwood and drove down the lime walk, I entered an entirely new dimension. Everything – from the square, practical, beautiful 'bays' for the cars, edged with *Alchemilla mollis* and *Buxus*, to the spacious creamy stone steps – spoke of delight and comfort. Good design has the power to move you, and to alter your perspective. And there beyond the central heavy pale oak and glass door and the hall, was our hostess just starting her tour.

Wychwood is the house and garden you would probably design yourself if you had the grand vision, or commission if you had the budget. Without that substantial budget it could never have been achieved. But it is not all about money. I. and J. Bannerman work on high-profile gardens but the appeal of their designs lies as much in the fact that they can rein in their fantasies as well as give in to them. So at Wychwood while there is a splendid huge raised viewing and seating platform – all oak and natural bounty which in a few years will be covered in the lovely small violet Vichenbaum Rose – there is also a private walled pool area which is fighting off the rosemary. This area is brought to life by a quirky arrangement of antlers in a compellingly designed pediment above the doors of the outdoor kitchen. No ordinary space this. Leaving hints of parties Fiona led us on and up towards the kitchen garden. A pretty space not obsessively cultivated with veg, it is entirely appropriate to the house and situation. Peonies abound. The most dramatic design decision was moving a virtual forest of trees from the area around the house (great vision) to literally open up the views from the house. Refreshingly, there is not a series of 'rooms' although the house is Arts and Crafts; it would have been obvious to conjure up a mock Hidcote. As Fiona admitted, once their cheque book had been well and truly opened, rural views started to be enjoyed by the family every day.

Wychwood is not historic. Two wings of the house are impressive extensions. The earlier terrace has been extended and some of the *Magnolia grandiflora* here retained. It does not wish to imitate other houses or gardens: it is new, with the accoutrements of a grown-up. Fiona knows that after 10 years the garden – whose peony walk and restricted planting palette: roses, lavender and Belgian yews round the upper croquet lawn in early June – will make up its own mind, now it has been so brilliantly planned. It is hard to see how it could become more beautiful. *Sarah Eaton*

Stephen Harris: What have plants ever done for us?, 5 April

Members of OGT had an exceptional treat in this lecture by the curator of the Druce Herbarium at the University of Oxford, Dr Stephen Harris, who told us about the first comprehensive analysis of what had been grown in the University's botanical garden in its earliest days. So often in garden history we become obsessed with layout and views but here is somebody getting down to the real detail of what was grown.

The Oxford Botanic Garden was founded on 25 July 1621. It was the first such institution in Britain and followed the setting up of 'physic gardens' by universities in Italy to enhance medical teaching and to deal with the problem of counterfeit medicines in circulation. But while the famous entrance gate was completed in 1632 at a cost of £500, there was no evidence of a gardener or any plants until the appointment of Jacob Bobart in 1642.

Three plant lists for the garden survive, dating from 1648, 1658 and 1676. These all predate the use of binomial plant names, each plant listed using a non-standardised Latin description. This makes the lists immensely difficult to use, but fortunately herbarium material collected from the garden survives from the same period, and over the past five years, Dr Harris has been working through thousands of these specimens. He has discovered that between the years 1648 and 1676, the botanic garden grew about 1,300 different species, of which about 500 were typically found in other European catalogues. Only 346 plants grown at Oxford were for medicinal use – the garden also grew food and ornamentals, and about 20 per cent of plants were grown purely for their curiosity value as 'new species', thereby indicating both the collecting power of the University, and the growing intellectual interest in species diversity at the Enlightenment.

Members can find out much more on this topic from the Druce Herbarium website: (<http://bit.ly/2uhYMH6>) and

Dr Harris's new book *Oxford Botanic Garden & Arboretum: A Brief History* (Bodleian Library).

Beverley Lear



Herbarium sheet from the Druce Herbarium



The new glasshouse (photo Vanessa Fell)

Thursday 13 April, Visit to Corpus Christi College Gardens

On a warm spring day, in the quincentenary year of its founding, 33 OGT members and guests visited these college gardens. They are not large but they are renowned for their natural planting as a wild garden, created by David Leake, college gardener since 1979. David led the tour, entertaining us with historical and horticultural tales in his genial and characterful manner.

Many of the college buildings date from the 1570s, but recently two new buildings have been completed, both designed by Rick Mather Architects. The glasshouse is a novel display case for plant propagation as well as curiosities collected by David. The multi-purpose auditorium, within the original Fellows' Garden, is built above a bastion of the medieval town wall, and its roof terrace affords magnificent views of Christ Church College grounds including the cathedral, several of the gardens and Pococke's tree – the 400-year-old oriental plane.

We followed the raised terrace walk (the 'Pelican') above the town wall with views of Christ Church meadows and descended into the college's oldest garden, established in the 16th century. Here, a mound is occupied by a 200-year-old copper beech, a tulip tree, herbaceous plantings and a fox den.

Throughout the gardens, the borders are largely self-sown with a range of wild and cultivated annuals and perennials. There are also uncommon herbaceous plants, and trees such as a handkerchief tree (*Davidia*), quince and Wollemi pine.

From the gardens we strolled through quads and cloisters, the chapel, and lastly came to the dining room with its hammerbeam roof in Headington oak. Here we ended our delightful visit with tea and biscuits.

Vanessa Fell

Friday 19 May, Visit to Sarsden Glebe

About 30 members and guests enjoyed a privileged visit to Sarsden Glebe, near Chipping Norton. We were shown round by Amanda Ponsonby, who has restored and enriched the gardens since inheriting the house with her husband Rupert almost 20 years ago. She began by telling us the estate's history. In 1792 James Langston, a merchant banker, bought Sarsden and the neighbouring estates. His son John summoned Humphry Repton to Sarsden in 1795, and Repton produced a Red Book with his proposals. James Haughton Langston inherited the estate in 1812. When in 1817 James's sister Elizabeth married the Revd Charles Barter, lands were obtained lying adjacent to the north end of Sarsden park on which George Stanley Repton (son of Humphry) built a new rectory, Sarsden Glebe. The Glebe's grounds form the northern part of the main Sarsden park, separated from it by the Churchill to Sarsden lane. The whole estate is included in Historic England's Register of Historic Parks and Gardens (Grade II). We started our tour on the lawn at the south front of the house, which enjoys broad views across the park beyond a ha-ha, and a glimpse across the valley to Churchill church, built by Langston on the model of Magdalen College's tower. From the west front a formal terraced garden, enclosed by yew hedges, descends towards the valley. A number of old oaks and yews survive in the grounds, amongst new trees and wild meadow planted in recent years. The walled garden, north-east of the Glebe, has been restored and brought back into cultivation by the present owners, having been used formerly for growing Christmas trees. It is laid out in vegetable plots divided by box hedges, with pear arbours and a peony border. A new greenhouse occupies one corner. The gardener Brian Hedges explained how he keeps the garden in good order using largely organic methods, and aided by natural springs which supply brick-lined tanks. Our visit concluded with tea and cake in the house. *Will Holborow*



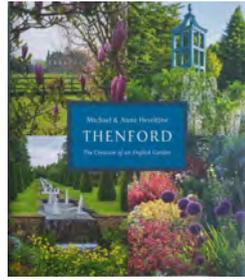
Friday 23 June, Visit to Haseley Court Gardens

Haseley Court, whose manor house is of medieval origin, though remodelled in the early 18th century, is best known for its garden, rescued and redesigned by Nancy Lancaster. She took over the estate in 1955 as a wreck after inter-war neglect and wartime military use. Although of Virginian origin, Nancy, a partner in Colefax & Fowler, was the doyenne of 'English country house style'. In the garden her style was eclectic. She drew upon inspiration from, among others, Geoffrey Jellicoe and Norah Lindsay, and sought to make the garden an extension of the interior, with more formal elements close to the house gradually extending into nature.

Our informative tour, led by owner Fiona Heyward, took us on a route starting at the front of the house, with its vista along a lime avenue which the Heywards planted to replace Lancaster's storm-wrecked chestnuts. From here we turned onto the Italianate terrace overlooking the sunken topiary garden where in the late 1950s Nancy sat for Cecil Beaton's camera. Dating originally from the 1850s, the 'chessmen' from 1902, the topiary miraculously survived the estate's mid-20th century decline. Round the north-east corner was Nancy's shady 'topiary parlour', an enclosed courtyard with flint paving laid on the footprint of the 12th-century house. The remaining walls of the old house border a path through a grove of nut trees leading towards a canal and at its end a fountain. Beyond a long shady avenue marking the north edge of the garden, a gate leads to a hornbeam tunnel designed by Lancaster to form two sides of the walled garden (*above*). This was just a hayfield when Nancy took over. She transformed it with a relaxed mix of parterres and potagers, rose walks and herbaceous borders. In the centre is a rose-covered arbour painted, as is the garden furniture, in Confederate Grey, Nancy's signature colour derived from her Virginian origins. In recent years the spirit of this delightful garden has been carefully nurtured by the Heywards, who moved here in 1982 while Nancy (d. 1994), was still in residence at the coach house. *Peter & Pauline Edwards*

Review: Michael & Anne Heseltine, *Thenford: The Creation of an English Garden* (Head of Zeus, £26)

I didn't expect to enjoy this book very much – but how very wrong I was! It is very much the personal tale of how the Heseltines transformed a run-down and overgrown estate into the beautiful gardens and grounds that it is today.



What makes that story so interesting is that it is full of the Heseltines' anecdotes and tales of the involvement of a long list of nurserymen, architects and designers, not to forget political friendships all rendered through the lens of their developing garden.

The Heseltines acquired Thenford, a comparatively modest Palladian mansion dating from 1765 and a wider estate including many of the village houses, in 1976. The book has 14 chapters with Michael and Anne Heseltine taking on separate chapters and both writing in an easy reading, almost conversational style. The quality of the photography, by Andrew Lawson, Clive Nichols and others, is excellent – though they are credited only on the copyright page: they complement the text very well. It is fascinating to see 'before and after' shots, Victorian photographs of the village and Georgian engravings among the images. Amongst much besides, the book includes details of how the Heseltines cleared the lake, built a fountain, constructed an orangery, set out a sculpture garden, and developed a 2-acre walled garden. Whilst there are many pictures of plants, and indeed a chapter by Michael is devoted to the creation of the Thenford arboretum, this book is very much about the diverse range of skills and interests required to develop the garden as whole, rather than about the plants themselves.

Recollections of working with Lanning Roper, Quinlan Terry, Sir Harold Hillier, Roy Lancaster, Keith Rushforth, George Carter read like a social history of the upper echelons of garden-making in England, and provide valuable insight into how our 'heritage' parks and gardens all once evolved in private hands. Indeed, with its story of acknowledged mistakes (such as the high-tech greenhouse supposed to grow chrysanthemums for Covent Garden!) as well as all its fabulous successes, this book illustrates how making a garden is a developmental organic process of happenstance, friendships, deep pockets and vision. It is an interesting read.

Beverley Lear

Review: Jinny Blom, *The Thoughtful Gardener: an intelligent approach to garden design* (Jacqui Small, £22.75)

'Beauty changes the way we feel; there is no doubt about it, and it is good.' Jinny Blom is in the business of turning ambitious horticultural dreams into reality. This is achieved by detailed and considered means and this lavish book with its inspirational photographs of her case studies along with short philosophical 'essays' is a typically generous one showing the process to be dependent on a rare series of talents, the latest of which is writing. She intuitively sees what a landscape needs and has the dedication to realise the vision. Fascinating and detailed, many aspects are covered, from the philosophical to the practical. Jinny Blom says she does not have a style but calculates the mood a space requires by careful consideration of the place along with gut instinct. She invokes Marcus Aurelius ('a precious privilege to be alive') and Freud (flowers bring peace since they feel neither conflict nor pain) but overall there is a compelling workmanlike approach. No nonsense. She works hard. We see the tensions between the processes of gardening (private, physical, personal and soul-searching) and designing for clients on almost every page. (Full disclosure: being a gardener I haven't read every word: her own advice on page 152). But in every chapter there's pure honesty and joy – on the orientation of the house: 'North is a gift!' Any visit to a Blom-designed garden is a must. If you can't get in, read this. *Sarah Eaton*

Kew Pagoda Restoration

Restoration of the pagoda, designed by William Chambers for Princess Augusta in 1762, has commenced! In June a group of us from the Institute of Historical Research 'climbed' up the scaffolding to the top. We heard from Lee Prosser and Polly Putnam from Historic Royal Palaces about fascinating new research that has been undertaken for the pagoda and Queen Charlotte's Cottage. It means that 80 new dragons are going to be erected painted green, along with other wood-work, as this was the colour used on English versions of Chinese buildings. The cupola, made of copper, is to be painted red. See <http://bit.ly/2ur8NDO> and a recent article <http://bit.ly/2pxeLya>. *Ruth Todd*

One of the new Kew dragons (photo Ailsa Sleight)



Oxfordshire Gardens Trust

LECTURES

All lectures are at Kellogg College, 62 Banbury Road, Oxford. Doors open 6.30pm, for lecture at 7pm. Pay at the door: members £5/guests £7, including a glass of wine or juice.

Thursday 26 October Beatrix Havergal and Waterperry, their story and legacy

Rob Jacobs, Garden Manager, Waterperry will tell us about its history and the continuing influence of its founder, Beatrix Havergal.

Thursday 16 November Discovering West London Nursery Gardeners 1650–1850

Val Bott MBE, an independent museum consultant and local historian will give us an account of her research on nursery gardeners at Chiswick and surrounding areas between 1650 and 1850.

Thursday 7 December An Inducement to Early Marriage? The Social History of the Allotment

Twigs Way, garden historian and author of *Allotments* (Shire Library), charts the allotment's rise and fall, and the factors behind its recent resurgence.

Other Events

Thursday 31 August–Sunday 3 September GT Annual Conference, University of Plymouth: 'Blest Elysium' - Sustainable?

Explores 18th-century landscapes, a Victorian public park, memorial and 20th-century civic spaces, & how conservation can be balanced with sustainability and relevance in the 21st century. See: <http://bit.ly/2rYNXp6>

–3 September 'British Art, Ancient Landscapes', Salisbury Museum

Exhibition showing how artists' recorded and reflected on landscapes over the past 250 years, with paintings from Constable, Turner, Ravilious, Piper, Hepworth, Moore, Paul Nash, Richard Long, Derek Jarman and more.

Wednesday 6 September Bucks GT Visit to the Flint House & Windmill Hill Archive, Waddesdon Manor

Two prize-winning buildings in their landscapes and the 20th- and 21st-century artworks collection. Bucks GT and CGT members £30, others £37. Contact rosemaryjury@wendoveremail.co.uk or 01296 715491.

2pm, Saturday 21 October Oxford Tree Club visit to Pusey House Gardens, SN7 8QB

Another chance to see the fine gardens and grounds of this Grade II house (not open), originally laid out by Geoffrey Jellicoe in the 1930s; inc. many fine specimen trees, walled garden & lake. Contact Ian Gourlay for details: 01865 275046/089; ian-gourlay@plants.ox.ac.uk

Tuesday 3 October–5 December, 2–4pm, Ewert House, Oxford, OX2 7DD An Introduction to Garden History; from Nineveh to Munstead Wood

10-week course studying a selection of gardens from key periods of garden design and introducing students to methods of historic research and resources. From £199. <http://bit.ly/2rYzixq>

Thursday 26 October–Friday 27 October New Research on Chinese Gardens, GT & the Dept of Landscape, University of Sheffield

International conference covering East-West encounters in Cantonese gardens, Jesuit water landscapes, gardens as museums, the Chinese concept of paradise, Feng Shui symbolism, public parks, the Chinese park movement, and more. Further details <http://bit.ly/2sWJfc4>

2–3 December Oxford Botanic Garden Christmas Fair

DO WE HAVE YOUR CORRECT EMAIL ADDRESS?

If your email has changed recently, please let us know: that way you will receive all the circulars on forthcoming events and be kept up-to-date with news. Contact membership@ogt.org.uk