



# OXFORDSHIRE GARDENS TRUST

NEWSLETTER 27 SPRING 2018



Nina Carroll postcard of Stonor Park

## OGT Postcards by John Steane

Sally Stradling writes: A few years ago I had the idea that it would be fun to have some eye-catching publicity and promotional material in addition to the OGT banners and brochures we have from the HLF-funded Walled Kitchen Garden Project. I approached John Steane, former member of our committee, as I knew he was a talented artist. I had once been billeted at Manor Farm Cogges when in the museum service, at the same time as John and his first wife Nina Carroll and their children, and knew Nina and John to sketch, draw and paint prodigiously. Their work is colourful, full of energy and captures everyday scenes of buildings, landscapes, people, events in Oxfordshire and beyond. John agreed to provide me with some images that we could use for OGT purposes. He chose two Nina had painted, one (above) of Stonor with deer and the other of Manor Farm Cogges' kitchen garden. John's

Continued on page 2

## IN THIS ISSUE

- 1-2 OGT postcards by John Steane
- 3 Birmingham HLP Workshop
- 4 Rob Jacobs: Beatrix Havergal & Waterperry
- 4 Val Bott: Discovering West London Nursery Gardeners 1650-1850
- 5 Twigs Way: The Social History of the Allotment
- 6 GT Annual Conference & AGM
- 6 Review: Hal Moggridge: *Slow Growth*
- 7 Celebrating Humphry Repton
- 7 OGT Research Committee
- 8 Events

Continued from page 1

images are of Rousham's 17th-century walled kitchen garden with dovecote, a view of the Vale of White Horse from the Ridgeway, Wytham Woods, and 27 Harpes Road, his own north Oxford garden.

Each OGT member will receive a free pack of five cards and a greeting card with the newsletter in January. Additional packs may be purchased for £2.50 and a single Stonor Greeting card for £2 plus pp or at lectures and events. I hope you will enjoy the cards, send them to your friends and invite them to join us at events or even to become members!

Sally Stradling



John Steane: *The Walled Rose Garden at Rousham*



John Steane: *Garden at 27 Harpes Road with pots*



John Steane: *Vale of White Horse from Ridgeway*



Nina Carroll: *The Kitchen Garden with Tulips, Manor Farm, Cogges*



John Steane: *Wytham Wood*

## Secretary Needed-PLEASE HELP!

OGT is looking for a new Secretary to replace Joanna Matthews, who is stepping down, in this essential voluntary role. It involves taking committee meeting minutes, sending out the newsletter, responding on OGT's behalf to TGT and local authorities on planning consultations, dealing with general enquiries, and a little general admin. Please contact Joanna who can give you more details:

[secretary@ogt.org.uk](mailto:secretary@ogt.org.uk)

## Birmingham HLP Workshop, 28 November

This was a good opportunity to learn and share experiences with representatives from other organisations and those involved with County Garden Trusts (CGT). Although the day was not focused on Repton, there was a 20-minute presentation from Linden Groves about research, events, exhibitions and online information. Kate Harwood is to be the CGT Repton research co-ordinator. The Heritage Lottery Project (HLP) website has more information on Repton issues:

<http://thegardenstrust.org/news/celebrating-humphry-repton-2018/>

Jim Barton told us in his introduction that next year The Gardens Trust (TGT) AGM and conference would be in Birmingham. He told us that at the HLP conference 25 CGTs were represented and 21 external organisations as well as good representation from TGT itself. Linden Groves mentioned her new role as Strategic Development Officer. A new communications development officer has been appointed. They are trying to see what training CGTs would like and then try to access finances for it. David Lambert did a presentation on the report 'Vulnerability Brown, CB Landscapes at Risk' which is available online through the TGT website:

<http://thegardenstrust.org/vulnerability-brown-capability-brown-landscapes-risk/>

He explained the relevance of the report to all landscapes at risk and not just Brownian ones. It sounds as if the report would be useful in relation to planning applications. Kate Fitzsimon talked about TGT campaign Compiling the Record of mid- to late 20th-century landscapes, nominations have been extended to end December and should include ten different typologies. More info on TGT website:

<http://thegardenstrust.org/compiling-the-record/>

Among the presentations were: Jenifer White on Historic England's agenda and Elaine Willett on Natural England's agenda; Dominic Cole about 30 years on from the Great Storm, focusing on the various projects with which he has been involved; Sally Williams on planning issues relating mainly to Bramshill Park; and the East Midlands Gardens Trust's Research and Recording project.

There will be two HLP days in March, one on 'Protecting Historic Parks and Gardens' suitable for those responding to planning applications (2 March, Glos, venue tbc) and a Members' Meet-up day in London.

Ruth Todd

### Do we have your correct e-mail 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 and other matters. Contact Vanessa Fell on:

[membership@ogt.org.uk](mailto:membership@ogt.org.uk)

## Oxfordshire Gardens Trust Contacts

Company registered in England and Wales No. 04499797 Registered Charity No. 0194648  
Registered Office: 30 West Street, Chipping Norton, Oxon, OX7 5ER. A member of The Gardens Trust  
[www.ogt.org.uk](http://www.ogt.org.uk)

Chair: Vacant

Secretary: Joanna Matthews, 7 Church Way, Iffley, Oxford, OX4 4DY. T: 01865 77753  
[secretary@ogt.org.uk](mailto: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.

[membership@ogt.org.uk](mailto:membership@ogt.org.uk)

## Rob Jacobs: Beatrix Havergal and Waterperry, their story and legacy, 26 October

Rob Jacobs, Horticultural Manager, gave a spirited and amusing account of the setting up of Waterperry under Beatrix Havergal – a talk unusual in combining history with in-depth horticultural knowledge. The daughter of a vicar from Diss in Norfolk, Beatrix loved gardening from an early age. She went to Thatcham College for Ladies where she was taught the ‘French Method’ using cold frames to produce crops out of season to high standards. In the



Two students in the 1940s thinning the grapes, Mary Spiller on the right

1920s Miss H met Avice Sanders while teaching at Downe House school and they hatched the idea of a Girls’ Horticultural School: this was started at Pusey House, Oxfordshire in the walled garden, with 7 students. In 1931 the school expanded and moved to Waterperry House, with 42 rooms and 53 acres.

The 1930s were halcyon days with 14 glasshouses growing specialist fruits such as nectarines and peaches. During the dark days of 1939–45, Waterperry became a teaching college for the war effort – ‘grow for victory’ – with women taken into the workplace as ‘landgirls’. After the war there followed another halcyon period when Miss H managed to buy Waterperry House and expanded to 14–20 students in the house. Jean Major was the first member of staff and Horticultural Manager. Peggy Chaplin built the collection of saxiphages, Mary Spiller developed the Rock garden and collection of alpines, Joan Stokes the Royal Sovereign strawberry – trays of which would be sent to The Queen at Windsor Castle. In 1960 Miss H was awarded an MBE and gold medal from the RHS; she retired in 1968. Today, Waterperry is a business, with the School of Economic Science in the house and the gardens run as a separate company within the estate. We look forward to our AGM and visit there in 2018!

Sally Stradling

Miss Havergal and her students at Pusey House in the 1930s

## Val Bott: Discovering West London Nursery Gardeners 1650-1850, 16 November

Val Bott MBE, museum consultant and local historian, has spent over 10 years trawling parish records, wills, obituaries and land leases, and so her talk on the intertwined lives of west London’s gardening families, sprang to life. Successful, wealthy and influential as well as being innovators and modernisers, they included women who married into other nursery families; sisters and widows taking on responsible roles. Here were families forging ahead in nursery and market gardening whose job by the 1800s was, importantly, to supply food to London. Rocques’ map shows Brompton to Chiswick and Chiswick to Hounslow. This land was often gardened by several generations of the same family. The Brentford families were: the Swindens (1680s–1790s); the Greenings (amazing!) (1710-1780) and the Ronalds (1740s–1880s). The Chiswick families were: the Masters; the Woodmans; James and Henry Scott; Richard Williams. We heard about their fortunes rising and falling, sometimes inexplicably: the Swindens, having shown a 21st-century capacity for publicity and sales during most of the 18th century are in 1841 recorded being discharged from a workhouse.

These gardening families worked as propagators, landscape designers and advisers. Some sold seed products around the world, and therefore travelled in an age when most people barely left their own villages. Thomas Greening the elder worked with all four of his sons on different high-profile projects. With Thomas the younger he worked on Queen Caroline’s garden at Kew, now restored, and with John he worked at Claremont in Esher. Closer to home he worked with son Robert on designs at Kirtlington in the 1740s among other projects. Richard Williams of Chiswick gave his name to the Williams Pear. Val’s website [nurserygardeners.com](http://nurserygardeners.com) provides more detail about her findings.

Sarah Eaton



## Twigs Way: An Inducement to Early Marriage? The Social History of the Allotment, 7 December

Looking back on my 1950s childhood I recollect spending many happy hours with my grandad on his allotment. From this he provided his family with such a supply of fresh fruit and veg that they were almost self-sufficient. I knew little about the background to the allotment movement, but in an entertaining yet fact-filled hour, Twigs Way, garden historian and author of *Allotments* (Shire Library), talked us through their history.

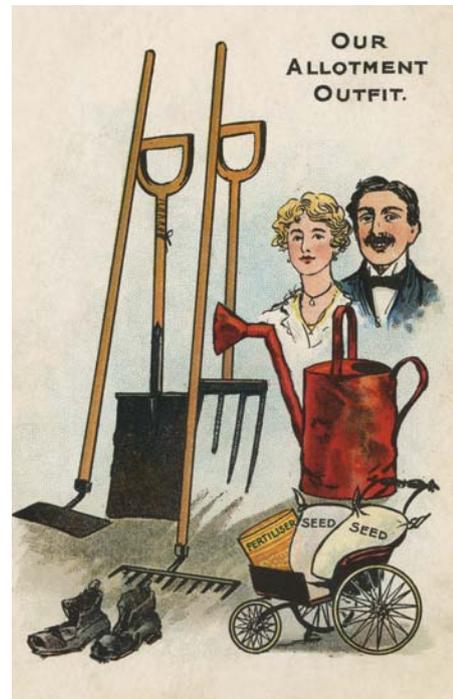
Although the modern definition of the allotment derives from the 1922 Allotment Act their origins lie in the 17th century Right to Dig campaigns when land enclosure deprived labourers of their right to cultivate common land. But it was not until 1819 that parish wardens were allowed to let parish land for individuals to grow vegetables and there were debates over the pros and cons of doing so lest growing their own food might encourage the poor to marry earlier and have more children.

Allotment provision remained patchy until the extension of the male adult franchise in 1884 turned the next elections into an 'allotment election', winning candidates promising implementation of what became the Allotment Act (1887). While this led to the rapid expansion of parish allotments, they became hedged about with rules that ensured farmers could dismiss labourers for spending too much time on their plots and churches could bar allotment work on Sundays.



In urban areas the history of allotments is quite different. Here the origins lie in 'guinea gardens', fenced 'detached gardens' provided initially for the aspiring middle class. As cities grew and the middle class acquired houses with gardens, allotment use moved down the social scale to the skilled working class. Midland cities such as Birmingham and Nottingham were well known for their extensive urban

fringe allotments. Originally privately provided, the 1908 Allotment Act laid a duty on local authorities to make provision for allotments where there was proven demand. By Edwardian times the urban allotment movement was well established and promoted in magazines such as *One and All Gardening*.



The two World Wars provoked both further expansion and recognition of the need for allotments. Building on the experience of World War I, the government in 1939 was quicker to recognise the importance of promoting home-grown food.

'Dig for Victory' was part of a major propaganda campaign not only to provide more land (target: 1 allotment per 5 households) but to recruit women into an 'Allotment Army' home front. Unfortunately, after 1945 allotments became so strongly associated with post-war austerity that their use declined rapidly.

Government concern about declining demand for allotments led to the setting up of an inquiry. The recommendation that untidy allotment gardens with ramshackle sheds be replaced by family 'leisure gardens' with summer houses led only to a few pilot schemes however. Then in the mid-70s the first stirrings of the Green movement (captured by the popularity of *The Good Life* TV series) began to suggest that allotments might be part of an alternative, more sustainable future. Women, young professionals and immigrants wanting to grow their own food led the upturn in demand by the 1990s. Subsequently, more flexible and communal approaches to allotment management have allowed them to flourish again.

Peter Edwards

## GT Annual Conference & AGM, University of Plymouth: ‘Blest Elysium’ – Sustainable?

This year’s conference, held 31 August–3 September, AGM and the Research Symposium will be the last to combine the events: next year’s AGM will be stand-alone in Birmingham, with a visit to Joseph Chamberlain’s estate the following day.

This year, the conference took as its theme the development of 18th-century and later landscapes, examining how conservation can be balanced with ensuring sites are sustainable and relevant in the 21st century. Organised and hosted by Devon Gardens Trust, it included visits to three large sites and a number of other smaller ones scattered around Plymouth’s very extensive harbour, as well as a visit to Endsleigh a few miles away.

The size of the harbour is striking, something forcefully impressed upon us during an introductory trip around the harbour on our first day. En route to the well-known Mount Edgcumbe, we passed the historic naval base at Devonport, its Victorian character contrasting with the nearby modern base looking like a multi-storey car park. Five rivers flow into the harbour, the best-known of which is the Tamar which marks the Devon–Cornwall boundary and is crossed by Brunel’s famous bridge. Edgcumbe itself is a very large site which stretches from ocean shore to harbour shore. After dinner in a grand marquee and some provocative speeches about the state of landscape conservation, we were driven back along winding roads skirting the little inlets from the harbour to our Plymouth accommodation.

The following day we had a delightful sunny visit to Saltram, the other large estate bordering the harbour, and like Edgcumbe now run by Plymouth Council, and to Devonport Park. After tea and the AGM (see below), we departed for the Hoe, where Drake reputedly finished his game of bowls before setting off after the Spanish Armada. A large level parade ground at the Hoe overlooks the harbour on one side and slopes down to the city centre on the other. There are various military monuments here and – a surprise – some of the ceramic poppies from the Tower of London displayed at the foot of the main cenotaph. Finally, we walked downhill to the Guildhall, whose Gothic original had been reconstructed post-war in the 1950s, for the conference dinner. The final day, Sunday, we visited the huge Ford Cemetery, and then Endsleigh, once the Duke of Bedford’s fishing lodge, but now an expensive hotel. The rain provided spectacular waterfalls up the rocky valley, but we finished up warm and dry over lunch during which we were addressed by John Phibbs.

So how has TGT fared since the last AGM? Well, a bit better than expected, thanks to a couple of hefty legacies. The amalgamation of the administration has done what it was meant to, and saved money. For a full evaluation of the year see the lengthy report in TGT News 5.

Joanna Matthews

---

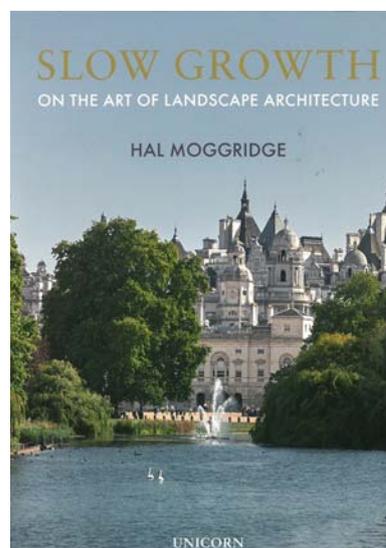
## Review: Hal Moggridge, *Slow Growth: On the art of landscape Architecture* (Unicorn, 2017, £30)

Hal Moggridge OBE was principal of Colvin and Moggridge from 1969 when he joined the late Brenda Colvin until 1997 when he became a consultant. An architect by background, he is recognised as having made a huge contribution to the practice of landscape architecture through his long career, as teacher, practitioner and expert adviser.

This substantial book (over 350pp) is in effect a retrospective of his career, demonstrating a huge variety of projects from restoration of historic parks to the landscaping of quarries, and even a nuclear bunker in the Chilterns. The book also deals with many aspects of landscape design, such as climate, views, skylines, art works. Moggridge’s work is widely distributed across the UK, encompassing urban and rural sites, public and private spaces. In Oxfordshire, he provides a detailed analysis of the parks at Blenheim and Rousham.

As the introduction states ‘this book is the outcome of a lifetime’s work creating new landscapes, and latterly also restoring historic designed landscapes.’ It demonstrates how the naturalistic tradition of landscape design which took hold in England in the 18th century is still relevant to contemporary needs. The book acknowledges the contribution made by many individual staff of the practice, which continues under Colvin and Moggridge.

William Holborow



## Celebrating Humphry Repton 1752–1818

2018 marks the bicentenary of Repton's death and The Gardens Trust is coordinating a collaborative celebration. Aylsham in Norfolk, where Repton first worked as a landscape gardener, at Catton Park, and where he was buried, at St Michael and All Angels Church in Aylsham, will host the official launch of Repton 200 in March 1818. The more local and significant events are given below, but a full list may be found here:

<http://thegardenstrust.org/news/celebrating-humphry-repton-2018/>

6.30pm, 31 Jan, Revealing Repton, lecture by Stephen Daniels The Gallery, 77 Cowcross Street, London, EC1M 6EL.

<http://bit.ly/2BHcx6l>

9am–4pm, Sat 24 March, Humphry Repton History Workshop, Aylsham Parish Church Tom Williamson, Professor of landscape history and archaeology at UEA gives talks and leads practical sessions exploring the nature of Repton's style and how it reflected his ideas about the relationship between landscape and society; offers the chance to examine copies of Repton's Red Books. Free, donations welcome.

<http://bit.ly/2BW3FdY>



10am–6.30pm, 21 April, Humphry Repton Study Day, Woburn Abbey, Bedfordshire In-depth look, on Repton's actual birthday, of his career, techniques and creations, by landscape historian Keir Davidson. Chance to look at Woburn Abbey's Red Book, journals and account books; guided walk through the gardens & deer park explores how his designs were implemented and current restorations. Champagne reception in the Chinese Dairy by permission of the Duke and Duchess of Bedford. £85, inc. 2-course lunch.

<http://www.woburnabbey.co.uk/events/gardening/repton/>

10am–4pm, Fri 27 April, Repton in Bedfordshire, Study Day at Moggerhanger Park, Bedfordshire Includes an overview of Repton as a landscape artist, research by BGT volunteers on Repton sites, and guided tours of Moggerhanger Park, where he worked. £45–£50.

<http://bit.ly/2CyYJry>

2.30pm, Sat 28 April Bucks GT Talk, The life and work of Humphry Repton, County Museum, Aylesbury Prof. Tom Williamson gives an overview of Repton's life and work. £10.

<http://bit.ly/2BxnsWM>

Sat 19 May, Repton Memorial Lecture, Aylsham Parish Church, Norfolk Stephen Daniels looks at the way Repton has been interpreted and commemorated. Free, donations welcome.

<http://bit.ly/2CW90no>

29 Jun–1 Jul, The 200th anniversary of landscape designer Humphry Repton, Cambridge Weekend course exploring his career, family and friendships, financial mismanagement and professional disappointment.

<http://http://bit.ly/2CBVb7T>

## OGT Research Committee

Set up to support members who want to research the county's gardens, our informal group meets every other month in Oxford to share experience and ideas, as well as help with getting new material published and onto our website. Currently finalising material to be uploaded from the Walled Gardens Project and Capability Brown Sites, we are also slowly building a Gazetteer database of Oxfordshire gardens aimed at assisting OGT's assessment of planning applications and to provide a 'first stop' for site details, references and sources. If you fancy coming along – maybe you would like to join us researching the work of Repton in Oxfordshire perhaps? – please get in touch with Beverley Lear ([bev@learassociates.co.uk](mailto:bev@learassociates.co.uk)) or Joanna Matthews ([secretary@ogt.org.uk](mailto:secretary@ogt.org.uk)).

## 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 £8, including a glass of wine or juice.

**Friday 9 February, Mazes, ancient traditions and modern meanings: the story of making the largest hedge maze in the world**

Beverley Lear, OGT committee member and co-founder of Lear Associates Landscape Architecture, talks about the genesis and creation of Northern Ireland's Peace Maze following the signing of the 1998 peace agreement, its symbolism, the design competition and the political hurdles that needed to be overcome.

**Friday 9 March, The Harcourt Arboretum: One of Oxfordshire's Brightest Botanical Jewels**

Timothy Walker recounts the 180-year history of Harcourt Arboretum, annexed to the University of Oxford Botanic Garden in 1963, from its beginnings in 1835 when the Harcourt family started to collect conifers from North America to the present day.

**Friday 20 April, Death in the Garden**

Historian Michael Brown presents his research on Poisonous plants, Myths, Magic, Passion and Murder.

## VISITS

Tickets should be obtained in advance from: Sarah Eaton, Byways, 131 Cassington Road, Yarnton, Oxon OX5 1QD; email: eatonsarah@hotmail.com. Please make cheques payable to Oxfordshire Gardens Trust, and include a SAE for return of tickets and directions. Pre-booking essential.

**Saturday 28 April, 2–5pm Visit to the former Morell Estate, Oxford**

Peter Edwards, OGT committee member and local resident, leads a walking tour of the Morrell Estate landscape, now occupied by Oxford Brookes, Cheney School, Headington Hill Park, South Park and Morrell Avenue. £5 members, £10 non-members. Maximum 20.

**Friday 11 May, 11am Visit to Oare House and Garden, nr Pewsey, Wilts, SN8 4JQ**

Head gardener and curator leads a tour of the gardens set out by Clough Williams-Ellis in the 1920s, inc. kitchen garden, Magnolia garden, mixed borders, park and arboretum, as well as a spectacular garden pavilion by celebrated architect I.M. Pei. £5 members, £10 non-members inc. tea/coffee.

**Saturday 9 June, 10am AGM and Visit to Waterperry Gardens, nr Wheatley, OX33 1LA**

10am AGM (no charge). 11am coffee/tea, followed by a talk on the house and its garden from Simon Buchanan, Steward, and on the restoration of the ice-house by Steve Pegrum; self-guided tour of the garden; 2.15pm guided tour of house. Nearby church and museum and walk along what was the carriageway via Bow Bridge to Waterstock Mill. Talks and tour inc. tea/coffee: £15 OGT members, £10 Waterperry card-holders & Friends of Waterperry, £20 non-members, Max. no. 30; Lunch £10 extra, must be booked in advance.

**Friday 22 June, 6pm Visit to Thame Park, Thame Park Road, Thame, OX9 3PU**

A rare opportunity to visit the beautifully restored gardens of this former Cistercian monastery, which incorporates a medieval deer park with veteran oak trees within the Old Park; 'Capability' Brown-landscaped gardens with 19th century improvements. £11 members, £16 non-members. Maximum number 28.

**Thursday 5 July, 2pm Visit to Adwell, between Thame and Watlington, OX9 7DQ**

Colin Roberts, Head Gardener, leads us on a tour of the gardens, developed by the Birch-Reynardson family from the 19th century onwards, including herbaceous borders, lakes, a walled garden, and a parish church in the grounds; David Bradley will talk about the water features. £11 members, £16 non-members inc. tea/coffee.

## OTHER EVENTS

20 Nov–2 Mar Exhibition: Collecting in the Clouds: Early 20th Century Plant Discoveries, Lindley Library  
Tells the story of collectors George Forrest, Reginald Farrer, William Purdom and Frank Kingdon-Ward who were exploring the eastern-most edge of the Himalayas 100 years ago.

1 Dec–25 Mar Exhibition: John Brookes: The Man Who Made the Modern Garden, Garden Museum

Thursday 22 March, GT Members' Meet-up, The Gallery, 77 Cowcross Street, London, EC1M 6EL  
Donation £7 for catering. Email [tamsinmcmillan@thegardenstrust.org](mailto:tamsinmcmillan@thegardenstrust.org) to book a place