



Eyecatcher

The Association of Gardens Trusts
The national charity representing 35 County
Gardens Trusts (CGTs) in the care and
conservation of the historic designed
landscape

Newsletter No 29, Spring 2014

Capability Brown Tercentenary Celebrations

2014 is off to a flying start! Many congratulations to Gilly Drummond, Paul Lincoln, and Jennifer White (English Heritage). Their successful Heritage Lottery Fund



application has led to the award of a first round pass for the Capability Brown 300 Celebration and Festival. A magnificent £139,200 has been made available for the Festival's development funding.

(Gary Webb, Landscape Manager at Compton Verney, Gilly Drummond, Paul Lincoln Landscape Institute and research volunteers walking the grounds at Compton Verney)

The bid was led by the Landscape Institute on behalf of a partnership of organisations, all of whom share our interest in historic designed landscapes and in the work of Capability Brown.

Some County Gardens Trusts (CGTs) are already working on the research that will help to build as complete a picture as possible of Brown's landscapes. What a wonderful opportunity we have to pass on our understanding and enjoyment of the work of one of history's most influential landscape architects to a new audience. Sign up to the website to receive information about the plans for 2016 as they appear.

A Training Day for AGT and NADFAS volunteers is being planned. Keep a look out for details in the Events section of the AGT website.

<http://www.capabilitybrown.org>

Business Meeting Workshops

The Spring Business Meeting will be held on **Thursday 6th March** at 70 Cowcross Street, London EC1M 6EJ. Prior to the meeting, Verena McCaig and Linden Groves, our Historic Landscape Project Officers, will be leading two workshops designed to help us develop our CGTs in the most effective way.

Making the Most of Social Media will introduce us to the benefits of social media. It will explain why it is important to get involved and what it can do for the profile of our County Gardens Trust. We'll learn how to set up and run Twitter and Facebook, and to make connections through LinkedIn. It will even suggest that social media can be stimulating and fun!

Working with Volunteers will show us how to encourage people to join our Trusts and then how to ensure that they 'stay the distance'. Barbara Moth from Cheshire Gardens Trust will help us look at the issues of attracting and keeping volunteers. How do we ensure that volunteers really enjoy working with their CGT and that the projects in which they are engaged are a success? There will be plenty of useful tips and discussion.

The two workshops will run for approximately an hour at 11.00am

and then again at 12.00 noon. This will ensure that Business Meeting delegates can benefit from both sessions.

Historic Landscape Project

Working with Parks and Gardens UK, the Historic Landscape Project recently organised a workshop to help CGTs interested in undertaking research projects for the First World War and Capability Brown Tercentenary anniversaries. The day was very successful and it is hoped that another day will be organised in the coming months in other regions – watch the AGT and P&GUK websites for details.

Two training days on *Responding to Planning Applications affecting historic designed landscapes* have been organised in Birmingham (3 March) and Cambridge (18 March) – there might still be space left if you act quickly! Check the AGT events list on the website for details.

Don't forget to log in to the HLP forum. It's a wonderful resource and it's free!

<http://gardenstrusts.invisionzone.com>

Put the dates in your diary...

Trustees, Joanne Kidd and Sarah Fitzgerald, bring us an enticing preview of two Research and Recording Study Days that will take place later this year (further details in Forthcoming Events)

Wednesday 9 April
Melbourne, Derbyshire
Melbourne Hall: Celebrating George London 1640 to 1714
One half of a great gardening duo

(photo: Joanne Kidd)



The London and Wise Nurseries at Hampton Park were the centre of excellence for plant sourcing in the 17th and early 19th centuries. They supplied plants in huge numbers for the intricate allee and wilderness schemes of the times and enabled designs of extreme complexity to be planted. These designs of George London and Henry Wise were nearly all swept away by the passion for the natural landscape in the later part of the

18th century. Melbourne Hall is a wonderful survivor. The layout was a collaboration between London and Wise and the owner Thomas Coke. Coke was heavily involved in the theatre of the early eighteenth century and the garden reflects his personality.

Wednesday 1 October, Hagley Hall, Worcestershire, Hagley Hall: Past, Present and Future
Speaker Joe Hawkins, Head of Landscape at Hagley Hall

It was an early love of nature and landscape that led Joe into the world of historic gardens. He started work in the Grade 1 registered landscape at Shugborough Hall in Staffordshire where, after fourteen years he became Head Gardener. A Masters degree in Garden History followed. Serendipitous events led to a chance meeting with Lord Cobham and the opportunity to become Head of Landscape at Hagley Hall in Worcestershire. Joe's task has been to oversee the restoration of the once much celebrated Grade 1 registered, 18th century Park.

Joe spent January this year as a reader at the Huntington Library in California, researching Hagley for his DPhil on the Park's restoration. We look forward to hearing what he has discovered.



AGT Trustee, Elaine Taylor brings us news of a centenary project and a very special daffodil

(photo: Elaine Taylor)

A DAFFODIL NAMED FOR THOMAS MAWSON

In spring last year I received a call from Holland, more precisely from Roos van Meurs, administrator at the Peace Palace, The Hague. In 2013 celebrations were held there to commemorate the opening of this great institution, founded with the support of Andrew Carnegie. Another of Carnegie's philanthropic ventures was the improvement of his home town, Dunfermline, and there the landscape architect Thomas Mawson had provided designs. So when an ambitious plan was needed to complement the Peace Palace, the Mawson firm entered a competition and won against stiff competition. Grandson David wrote: *The aim of the garden design was to unite the palace with the natural beauty of the wider park while bringing both the palace and the park into a proper relationship with the town.* Thomas sought an impression of spaciousness and restfulness, by means of restrained ornament, tranquil pools, harmony, and an absence of prickly exotics or violent colour schemes.

The gardens extended over 60 acres and were completed in 1910. They are kept meticulously today by a team of six: Dolf, Cor, Peter, Stefan and Thorry with Roos (English version Rose). The call in spring was to say that they had commissioned a special daffodil to commemorate this centenary; they wished to forge links with Mawson gardens in England by distributing the bulb to owners, and I was asked to propose some names: a very pleasant task indeed.

Among those who took up this most generous offer were The Hill, Hampstead; Bushy Rose Garden; Greenthorne, Lancashire; Graythwaite, Cumbria and Rydal Hall, Cumbria.

(photo: Elaine Taylor – Greenthorne, Lancashire, owner Carolyn and the daffodil delivery team)

October arrived, and so did the team, carrying



numerous large boxes of bulbs. At Greenthorne, owner Carolyn and I toured the garden with them and talked much about designs, materials and plants which would have been used in those early decades of the 20th century. We resolved to visit again, and I should certainly like to visit The Hague in spring to see the swathes of Thomas Mawson daffodils in bloom.

Elaine Taylor MA (Lancashire Gardens Trust)

Forthcoming Events

The Association of Gardens Trusts
Spring Business Meeting and Workshops

**70 Cowcross Street, London
EC1M 6EJ**

Thursday 6 March 2014.

Workshops 11 am and 12.00 noon
followed by the Business Meeting
at 2.00pm

**CB300 Training day for CGT and
NADFAS Volunteers**

Details to follow later in the year in
the Events section of the AGT
website

The Association of Gardens Trusts
and Derbyshire Gardens Trust
in conjunction with The Garden
History Society

**Research and Recording Study
Day**

Melbourne Hall:

*Celebrating George London 1640
to 1714*

One half of a great gardening duo

**Melbourne Hall, Church Square,
Melbourne, Derbyshire DE73**

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Wednesday 9 April 2014 – 9.45 to 4.30 - £45

The Association of Gardens Trusts
and Hereford and Worcestershire
Gardens Trust

**Research and Recording Day
Hagley Hall, Worcestershire**

*Hagley Hall: Past, Present and
Future*

**Wednesday 1 October 2014 –
9.45 to 4.30 - £45**

Please email Teresa the AGT Co-
ordinator at

gardenstrusts@agt.org.uk

or phone 020 7251 2610 to make
Study Day reservations

The Association of Gardens Trusts
AGM and Annual Conference
hosted by Cheshire Gardens Trust
*Continuity and Change in Cheshire
Gardens*

The Queen Hotel, Chester

5, 6 and 7 September 2014

Further details: [www.cheshire-
gardens-trust.org.uk](http://www.cheshire-gardens-trust.org.uk) Expressions of
interest: joy.uings@btconnect.com