



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 28, Autumn 2013

An enormous 'thank you' to London Parks & Gardens Trust for organising such a stimulating 2013 Conference. We were walked and talked through the regeneration of East London's designed landscapes over the last sixty years.

What a difference it has made! We saw the incredible range of facilities now available to the residents of Tower Hamlets at Mile End Park. We admired the planting at the Thames Barrier Park and the landscaping and sculptures at Canary Wharf.

The weekend finished in sunshine in the soon to be completed Queen Elizabeth Park. Some sections are now open to the public and plenty of people were out enjoying them. If there hadn't been quite so many children around, a few middle-aged garden historians would have loved to try out the imaginatively designed play equipment! *(Queen Elizabeth Park – c. Liz Ware)*



Put the date in your diary...

The details of the 2014 Conference are equally enticing. Cheshire Gardens Trust is inviting us to Cheshire to join in the discussion about 'Continuity and Change in Cheshire Gardens'.

The Conference will focus on the challenges of sustaining and maintaining Registered Parks and Gardens in private ownership.

AGT Conference

Continuity and Change in Cheshire Gardens

The Queen Hotel, Chester
5th, 6th & 7th September 2014



How did industrial wealth and patronage influence the Cheshire landscape? To help us understand, we'll visit Thornton Manor; the Arts & Crafts garden that William Hesketh Lever created with Thomas Mawson. Then it will be on to Port Sunlight, the model village Lever build for his workforce. We'll also be looking at 20th century development in the long established and award-winning gardens at Cholmondeley Castle and Arley Hall. A wonderful opportunity to learn about the designed landscapes in another county and perhaps to re-consider some in our own.

Keep 5th, 6th & 7th September 2014 free!

Further details: www.cheshire-gardens-trust.org.uk **Expressions of interest:** joy.uings@btconnect.com

Conservation

As you will probably know, English Heritage is funding the Historic Landscape Project for another 2 years. Verena McCaig has been joined by Linden Groves. You may have come across Linden as the Casework Manager for the Garden History Society. Their shared, full-time post will allow this excellent project to be extended across England. Have a look at their Web Forum on the AGT website. Verena and Linden have provided masses of resources for you to

download. It's also the perfect place to read about the conservation projects that are going on in other County Gardens Trusts. Find out how they are dealing with their conservation issues and then sign up and share your own experiences.

<http://gardenstrusts.invisionzone.com>

Conservation Management Plans

The Garden History Society's list of Conservation Management Plans has now been published and is available at www.parksandgardens.org. Linden Groves thanks you for your help:

Many of you have been extremely supportive, either by sending information or by helping publicize the project, and as a result we have 1000 entries! Thank you to the landscape architecture practices, County Gardens Trusts, organisations and individuals who have all embraced the project and got involved.

There are many more CMPs out there though, and I am hopeful that publication of this first edition will prompt their submission so that we can expand the list in future. If you have not already sent any submissions, do please consider doing

so now. Equally, there are many gaps within entries and any bit of information you have to help fill these would be very welcome.

Linden Groves

Capability Brown Tercentenary (CB300)

Don't forget to have a look at the recently launched Capability Brown website.

<http://www.capabilitybrown.org>

It's early days. The content will grow as the project takes off. If you sign up now, the quarterly newsletter will come straight to your inbox. An effortless way to keep up with developments!
(Thoresby Dam – c. Steffie Shields)



First World War (FWW) Commemorations

You will all be aware of the scale of the First World War (FWW) Commemorations that are due to start in 2014. How can your County Gardens Trust can get involved? Here are a few websites that might help.

Finding funding for a project is important. The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) are making £1million a year available for projects that are of benefit to all ages, but particularly young people, during the 4 years of commemorations. Have a look at the HLF website at www.hlf.org.uk . 'Quick links – Understanding the First World War' will take you to all the information you need to get started.

The National Archives (TNA) will be launching their FWW program on 11 November 2014. They'll be including plenty of examples and case studies that will inspire us to explore our local FWW history. Greater Manchester archives have already started to tell weekly stories from their archives. Have a look at <http://gm1914.wordpress.com> .

If it hadn't been for the FWW, The Imperial War Museum might not exist. It was founded in 1917 in order to record what was happening. At the moment it is only partially open, but in June next year it will re-open fully with new FWW galleries. The website is already up and running. <http://www.1914.org>

Westfield Memorial Village

Elaine Taylor, from Lancashire Gardens Trust and an AGT Trustee, describes a landscape in her county that was created in memory of a young man killed in Flanders:

Thomas Hayton Mawson, the celebrated landscape architect known for his lavish, extensive gardens created for the wealthy in Edwardian England, lost one of his sons in Flanders in 1915. He resolved to champion the idea of sheltered villages for the returning wounded, where they could find accommodation, opportunities for recreation and workshops to earn a living. His offices were in London and Lancaster where he spent his youth, and it was here that he gained strong support, from industrialists and townspeople. They donated the land and money, but Trades Unions forbade the subsidised workshops.

The Mawson firm were also town planners, and they designed the avenues of the village to radiate from a central circle, and here a memorial was placed as the focal point. In 1924 Earl Haig performed the official opening, and 2 years later a bronze memorial was added which features a

soldier stooping to give water to a fallen comrade. The houses were designed as spacious terraces and semi-detached houses in Arts and



Crafts style, with great care afforded to materials and details.

Today there are 189 inhabitants and priority is still given to ex-service men and women; there is a waiting list and the village is a Conservation Area, its affairs managed by a Trust which ensures that facilities are kept up-to-date and gardens are well-maintained.

**Elaine Taylor MA, Lancashire
Gardens Trust**
(photo c. Elaine Taylor)

The Garden Museum and FWW

Russell Clark, Curator of Exhibitions at The Garden Museum, is collecting material for its 2014 exhibition: one that will reveal some of the stories that military histories have overlooked. He is keen to hear about any stories that you might have. Here are just a few of the ideas that Russell is exploring:



(Sailors' Allotments, 1917 – Image provided by The Garden Museum)

- the impact on the Grand Estates and Parklands of the huge and tragic loss of man power as the departure and death of gardeners during the war introduced a generation of women to gardening.
- the impact of the conflict on Britain's heritage of gardens, urban parks, and designed landscape. Hundreds of parks and historic designed landscapes were transformed by temporary uses such as training camps or food production, or by abandonment.
- the concept and consequences of the government campaign to encourage growing food. The first *Dig for Victory* campaign, although in 1914 it was not called that this campaign was vital to the country. Soldiers and civilians gardened to lessen the shortages brought about by actions of U Boats and the threats to trade from the Empire.
- Trench Gardens, soldiers growing flowers at the Front, bringing humanity to the squalor of the trenches.
- the design legacy of landscape memorials and memorial landscapes across the country. The planting around war memorials and grave is little-studied and yet this planting has such a powerful symbolic place in the memorials both public and private. The War Graves that were established in France changed in character dramatically as the conflict ended and peace and order was established and this story will be told for perhaps the first time.

If you have information to share or know of any stories about Parks, Gardens and Gardening during the First World War and about the memorials that followed, Russell will be pleased to hear from you. Russell@Gardenmuseum.org.uk

The 2014 Year Book

Would you be interested in contributing a short article on something **your garden trust** has been involved with recently? Perhaps there is a topic relating to research, education or conservation that your trust has undertaken? Year Book Editor, Liz Robinson would be delighted to hear from you.

Liz is looking for articles of 500-700 words plus 2-3 images per article. It's best to include images that give a particular idea of place. Photos that show the front of people, rather than the back are far more engaging and help us to give a positive image. Ideally, images need to be a minimum file size of 300dpi.

If you would like to discuss an idea, Liz Robinson can be contacted at gardens@gasholder.co.uk. Space is limited so, if your Gardens Trust would like to be included please email your article and images by **7 December 2013**.

Forthcoming Events

Thursday 6 March 2014
Cowcross Street, London
Workshops and Business Meeting
(details of morning Workshops to follow)
2.00 pm AGT Spring Business Meeting

Wednesday 9 April 2014
Joint AGT/GHS Study Day at Melbourne Hall, Derbyshire to mark George London Tercentenary

Wednesday 1 October 2014
Study Day at Hagley Hall, Worcestershire
'The Landscape: Past, Present and Future'

5, 6, and 7 September 2014, The Association of Gardens Trusts AGM and Annual Conference
Continuity and Change in Cheshire Gardens, The Queen Hotel, Chester.
Further details: www.cheshire-gardens-trust.org.uk
Expressions of interest to Joy Uings: joy.uings@btconnect.com