



Avon Gardens Trust

# Bulletin

AUTUMN 2017

## A Meyer Rockery in North Somerset

The owners of Backwell Down in North Somerset, Liz and Adam Tavener, bought their house and garden more than 20 years ago. Included in the sale was a very attractive drawing entitled *For Laying Out The Grounds of S.R. Lysaigh Esq.* In the bottom right hand corner it was signed Robert Veitch & Son, The Royal Nurseries, Exeter, January 1905, and then, so slight it could almost be missed, the signature of F.W. Meyer.

Earlier this year, the Taveners were notified by Bristol Water that a water pipeline would be laid through part of their garden. An email from Liz Tavener was sent to Devon Gardens Trust; it was forwarded on to Somerset Gardens Trust and finally arrived with us.



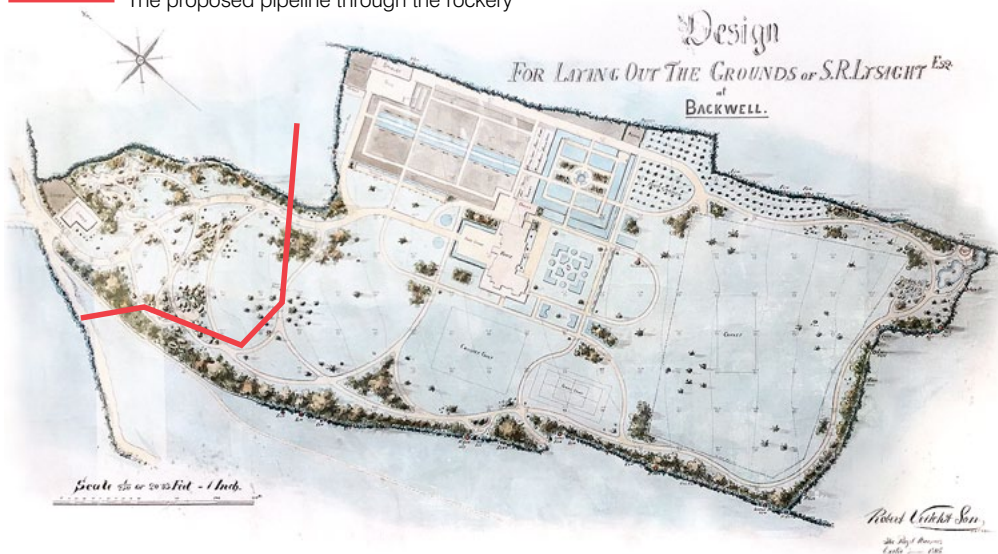
Anne Hills

The boundary excavation

It read: 'After recent research, the gardens at Backwell Down, (our family home), are the best part of an original Veitch garden and also contain a rockery by F.W. Meyer. The gardens are laid out according to an original design which is in our possession. My reason for contacting you is that the garden is under severe threat as Bristol Water are shortly to begin the installation of a large pipeline running the width of the entire garden and directly through the site of the rockery. I must stress the urgency of this request as their excavating machinery is currently at the boundaries of our property'.

continued on page 4

The proposed pipeline through the rockery





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## Chairman's Welcome

Next year marks the bicentenary of the death of Humphry Repton and the AGT, along with many county gardens trusts, will be acknowledging his work. In conjunction with Gloucestershire Gardens and Landscape Trust, we are planning a Repton study day at Leigh Court in April 2018 when Stephen Daniels will be the keynote speaker. Our Spring Bulletin which will be out early in 2018 will contain further details.

Two of our members, Margaret and Gerald Hull, have recently published a book on the grottoes built by Joseph and Josiah Lane in the 18th century. As a Trust we are always



pleased to publicise books on any aspect of garden history by a Trust member and details of the Hulls' book can be found on page 16.

The venue for our AGM was very different to the those we had previously used as we introduced members to a post-war designed landscape. Historic England has recognised these landscapes require protection and are looking to identify candidates for registration. As HE state *'these post-war landscapes offer a greater variety than those of earlier periods, for landscape design has come to feature in every aspect of the environment, both large and small'*. This is a worthwhile project that the Trust is getting involved with and further details are available in this Bulletin.

I hope that you will enjoy this Bulletin with its news about what the Trust has been involved with over the last few months.

Ros Delany

## Avon Gardens Trust & Social Media



Some of you are aware we have our own Facebook page but how many know we now have a Twitter account?

Thanks to some of our intrepid committee members, Avon Gardens Trust is now a presence in the modern world. The massive marketing potential of both Facebook and Twitter is that any topic connected with historic parks and gardens can be posted on either site. By the use of the Like and Share button, it means that within a short time the same post may have been seen by several hundred people.

The Trust is gradually collecting new followers and, in turn, we are 'following' lots of heritage organisations. In an age of ever increasing postage costs, this free advertising is something that we cannot overlook. Why not take a look at our Facebook page? For first time users the easiest way is to go to the Homepage of our website and click on the Facebook icon at the bottom of the page.

If you want to check out our Twitter site, you will need to sign in and click on Following to see who's who. If you then go to Home you can see all the latest tweets that the people who we are following have posted.

Go on, give it a go!

[twitter.com/AvonGardenTrust](https://twitter.com/AvonGardenTrust)



## Avon Gardens Trust

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[www.avongardenstrust.org.uk](http://www.avongardenstrust.org.uk)



continued from page 1

The garden was unknown to Avon Gardens Trust, was not registered with Parks & Gardens UK and the Historic Environment Record (HER) had no knowledge of it. Having established that Bristol Water had applied for, and had planning permission to do the excavations, the AGT Planning Sub Committee (PSC) needed to prepare a report with expert evidence of why part of this site was of special historic interest.



Caradoc Doy

The proposed pipeline route through the Meyer rockery

Caradoc Doy of Devon Gardens Trust provided the expert information on how Meyer constructed his rockeries, and Carolyn Keep, a past Chairman of Devon Gardens Trust, and author of a recent publication on Meyer, wrote a supporting statement with evidence of the uniqueness of this site in North Somerset.

A site visit later and armed with this report along with several photographs showing evidence of original pathways and drainage system, the AGT PSC sent the report to the North Somerset Case Officer, the HER and Parks & Gardens UK.

The HER Officer responded swiftly, if pessimistically, saying the pipeline was a 'done deal' as Backwell Down was not protected as a Registered Garden and was not on their Historic Environment Record as an unregistered garden. He suggested that

Avon Gardens Trust offer to be involved with the on site process and make a photographic record before works to aid reinstatement.

All of the supporting evidence was sent by the PSC to all the people involved, which resulted in an unexpected outcome. An email from Liz Tavener started with '*Well it appears we may have a bit of a result!*'

The email went on to say they had finally had a site meeting with Bristol Water where '*a visit to the kitchen in order to view the original garden design and to take a look at the book on Meyer and a visit to the redundant badger sett ... it was clear that Bristol Water were feeling a bit rattled. It was quite a long meeting ... but we have this afternoon received an email from Bristol Water asking us to sign a statement stating that the badger sett is no longer in use, and although we can't stop the pipeline going through the garden, the rockery is saved*'.

It just remains now to finish the process of registering the garden to protect it from future planning applications ... and to find all those other gardens in our area that need recording and protecting.

Anne Hills

The book about F.W. Meyer by Carolyn Keep is available via the Devon Gardens Trust website: [www.devongardenstrust.org.uk](http://www.devongardenstrust.org.uk)

## Bristol Parks

Bristol City Council is proposing a cut of £4.5m to the parks budget which is planned to take full effect from April 2019. When this was first announced at the end of last year, the implication was that this would be achieved by finding alternative income sources and not by reducing the maintenance of parks or selling them off. Unless other sources of income are found, this will have a catastrophic impact on Bristol parks.

## The historic park and garden to Brislington House

In September 2017, Historic England (HE) amended this entry on the Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England. For the last eight years, the Grade II\* registered park has been included on the Heritage at Risk Register where the site is summarised as '*one of the first and most influential asylum landscapes in Britain*'. Despite the modern development on parts of the site, HE stated '*some components of the designed landscape survive*'.

The site is an early and important example of an asylum landscape. Although it continues to meet the criteria for registration, new evidence shows that the western half of this former asylum landscape has, over the years, undergone many changes that have eroded its character. St Brendan's Sixth Form College, the Beeches Training Centre and Bristol Harlequins RFC are housed in this significant landscape. Although the historic park boundaries have survived, there is a considerable loss of quality and character in this part of the historic landscape due to the introduction of new school buildings, the gradual expansion of all-weather sport-pitches with floodlighting and the introduction of further car parking. Continuous multiple ownership of part of the site along with substantial development pressure resulted in a fragmented management approach which failed to prioritise the interest of the historic landscape as a whole. This resulted in an irretrievable loss of its quality and character and, for these reasons, HE have recommended that these areas, with effect from September 2017, be removed from the registered landscape. The remaining landscape focused around the former asylum building (now Long Fox Manor) in the eastern part of the site retains its Grade II\* retention on the Register.

## Sydney Gardens: The Parks for People Project

This project is a partnership between Bath & North East Somerset Council's Parks Team, the Friends of Sydney Gardens, local residents' groups and the Holburne Museum. The partnership successfully secured an initial £332,000 to develop a detailed restoration plan for the Gardens from the Heritage Lottery Fund Parks for People grant programme.

This funding was the first part of a programme to secure a £3.6 million grant to improve the historic park. The second phase of this funding bid, the Development Phase, is currently running until August 2018. During this period, the initial plans will be developed and refined, events and activities will be undertaken and there will be plenty of opportunity for people to have their say.

If the bid is successful, it will secure funding for what is arguably Britain's only remaining 18th century pleasure garden. The funding will be used for landscape work and garden restoration as well as the restoration of historic park buildings. The project will celebrate the history of these former Pleasure Gardens with its cosmorama, labyrinth, Merlin's swing, concerts, public breakfasts, galas and illuminations.

You can read more about Sydney Gardens at [www.parksandgardens.org](http://www.parksandgardens.org)



Wendy Pollard

## Education Grant for Culverhill School

Last academic year, the Trust received an application from Culverhill School, a special school in Yate that caters for 135 pupils within South Gloucestershire. The pupils' ages range from 7-16 and all have complex learning difficulties including communication and interaction problems. Learning is broken down into small steps with lots of visual and tactile clues with opportunities for consolidation.

The school was seeking a grant towards building raised accessible beds so the pupils could take part in the important sensory aspects of growing flowers and vegetables. These young people have communication and interaction difficulties and gardening



Culverhill School

provides the ideal environment for building relationships with others and so assisting with their social and emotional development and well-being.

The Trust was delighted to make a donation of £150 and we look forward to visiting the school in the near future.

## The Historic Landscape Project



There have been some recent changes within the Historic Landscape Project (HLP). Linden Groves is now the Strategic Development Officer for the Gardens Trust but will continue to work closely with the HLP, guiding its development and seeking additional funding to place the project on a more secure footing.

Tamsin McMillan is now the main contact for queries from the County Gardens Trusts (CGTs) and has taken over the day to day running of the HLP as well as leading on the majority of its activities. Margie Hoffnung, who is the Gardens Trust's Conservation Officer, continues in her role of responding to planning applications affecting historic parks and gardens but she has also increased her work with the HLP. Together Margie and Tamsin will continue offering training and networking opportunities for CGTs.

The Resource Hub, comprising 500 documents to support CGTs in all aspects of their work can now be found at: [thegardenstrust.org/conservation/hlp-hub/](http://thegardenstrust.org/conservation/hlp-hub/)

Documents include a Conservation Management Plan reference list, various conservation publications and social media training documents.

The website also includes a brand new online discussion group for CGTs and this Forum is an easy-to-use platform for sharing ideas, experiences, questions and problems. Simply click the link on the Gardens Trust's website home page and you will find full instructions for registering; starting new discussion threads and commenting on existing ones (see How to use the Forum). Any user will be able to read existing posts, but will need to register if they would like to post. Registration is straightforward as it requires only an email address and a username.

If you wish to contact Tamsin, Margie or Linden, their email addresses are:

[tamsinmcmillan@thegardenstrust.org](mailto:tamsinmcmillan@thegardenstrust.org)  
[margiehoffnung@thegardenstrust.org](mailto:margiehoffnung@thegardenstrust.org)  
[lindengroves@thegardenstrust.org](mailto:lindengroves@thegardenstrust.org)

## Back to the Future Avon Gardens Trust AGM

Wednesday 2 August

On an overcast day in early August, members of Avon Gardens Trust assembled in the foyer of The Pavilions, the former regional headquarters of the Central Electricity Generating Board and now the premises of Computershare, not quite knowing what to expect.

Understandably, this was because we were in a building designed a mere forty years ago with no parkland, water features or herbaceous border in sight. This was the introduction to what is arguably the first organised visit by the Trust to a post-war designed landscape.

After the formal business of the Annual General Meeting and a well-earned cup of tea, members were given a guided tour of the building and its surrounding landscape by Joe Williams of Computershare. He explained how The Pavilions was a rare survival of a late 1970s commercial landscape associated with a contemporary office building and he hoped this would become more obvious to us during our visit.



The tour began outside the main entrance where members could see for themselves how, in what had been innovative practice forty years ago, this concept of aiming for complete integration between building and site had been achieved. The architect had made full use of a steeply sloping towards the back of the plot and this had resulted in the construction of a building that followed the contours of the existing landscape and which presented a low profile at the front.

Trust members were able to see how an 'invisible' car park had been created by the skilful use of utilising the contours of the site. As we walked around the building we were able to inspect the continuous perimeter plant box that had been designed and built to soften the outline of the office



photos: Ros Delany





block and to form a link between the building and its landscape. The planting scheme in these large elongated beds has survived remarkably well and contain many varieties of low growing evergreen shrubs including vinca, hebe, horizontal cotoneaster, box and *Lonicera nitida*, their shapes reflecting the long, low lines of the building. These plant boxes also softened the link between the building and the hard landscaping of car parks and pavements.

At the back of the building there were panoramic views across to Long Ashton, Ashton Court and Clifton, but unfortunately the view of the Suspension Bridge has been obliterated by tree growth. People were surprised to discover that the grassed area they were standing on was in fact the roof of the former indoor swimming pool. This unusual floor gave us the ideal view of the on-site allotment plots which are tended by various staff members.



Once inside the building, we were able to see for ourselves how the building was on several levels due to the slope of the land, something that was not always obvious from the exterior. The original building comprised seven linked pavilions each with a central open air courtyard. These courtyards contain plants and small trees and help detract from the large open plan office spaces.

The lowest level of the building which is now used for storage was of particular interest as it illustrated just how important social events for the work-force were regarded a few decades ago. A wooden dance floor, bar area, skittle alley and trophy cabinet all lent testimony to the social activities of the CEGB staff who had worked and socialised there. A disused swimming pool and its ancillary changing rooms showed how some leisure activities had been rather more active.

We all found the tour fascinating and Joe proved a knowledgeable and enthusiastic guide. Hopefully the visit went some way towards introducing some of our members to the concept of post-war landscapes where garden designers and landscape architects worked together to create designed landscapes such as The Pavilions where art, architecture and horticulture have been skilfully integrated.

The Trust subsequently sent a donation to Change-a-Life, Computershare's chosen charity.

*Ros Delany*



A summary of the

## Chairman's Report to the AGM

Ros Delany, the Chairman, welcomed members present and extended her thanks to the generosity of Computershare for allowing the Trust to use their premises for the AGM.

The Chairman said the Trust had continued to build on networks and partnerships throughout the year. Many were longer standing associations such as the Woodland Trust on the Bishop's Knoll site, while others, such as the National Trust at Dyrham Park and the American Museum at Claverton Manor have been established during the past year. Other groups include the Parks Forum, Kings Weston Action Group, Bristol Tree Forum as well as the many community groups that Wendy Pollard had worked so tirelessly to establish links with.

Currently our members receive three Bulletins a year plus a Journal which comes out either annually or biennially. External influences outside our control such as rising postage costs have meant we may need to consider different options in an effort to reduce our overheads. Nothing has been decided yet but over the next year the committee will be considering possible alternatives such as the Bulletins coming out twice a year, sending Bulletins out by email and asking those members who require a

hard copy to pay a subscription supplement of £2, a practice being increasingly undertaken by local societies.

In the past year, the Trust has made a number of conservation, community and education grants. The Trust donated £250 to the Penny Brohn Centre (Ham Green House) towards the cost of replacing the lead roof of the gazebo and £130 for tree tags in the Arboretum Walk at Bishop's Knoll. The Woodland Trust had reported positive feedback and the tags were greatly appreciated by visitors to the site. Another award, this time for £50 was made to the Friends of Greville Smythe Park to help purchase a bench.

A future grant is a donation of £500 to the Kings Weston Action Group to help them secure funding to rebuild, where required, the Viewing Terrace at Kings Weston.

On the community groups' front, contact has been maintained with many community groups we have made awards to over the last few years. The Trust feels it is important to support such groups especially as they all have an element of education. In the last year, a donation of just under £200 has been made to Easton Community Garden in Bristol to replace garden tools lost in a fire at the site and an award of £768 was given to Greenlinks in Bath to build a

shelter in a tranquil garden for those who have struggled with mental health issues.

At last year's AGM, one of our members had asked why the Trust always made education grants of £50. In response, it was explained this figure had been based on advice from the local education authorities. At our next committee meeting, this point was discussed and the committee agreed that all future applications would be considered on merit. This year, the Trust awarded a grant of £150 to Culverhill School in Yate.

The Planning Sub Committee has been kept busy over the last year as it has responded to 32 planning applications, including consultations, from across the four local authorities that may affect registered parks and gardens.

A Research and Recording working group has recently been formed with the intention of re-vitalising this activity of the Trust. It is anticipated that training will be set up for anyone interested in joining the group.

Over the last year, several events have been organised including a coach trip to Pen Mill Farm and Hauser and Worth/ Durslade Farm, an illustrated talk by Margie Hoffnung on Rosemary Verey and the 'Snowdrops in the Spring' visit to Camerton Court. The Trust and Gloucestershire Gardens & Landscape Trust will be holding a joint study day in April 2018 to mark the 200 years since the death of Humphry Repton.

The Chairman thanked her fellow committee members for their work and support during the last year. She also thanked members of the Planning Sub Committee for their time and expertise, as well as those members who volunteered at our fund raising events, and to those who are actively involved with research for the Trust. A final thank you was made to all members whose support through their annual subscriptions enabled the Trust to protect and conserve the historic designed landscapes which we all care about.

## Compiling the Record:

### the essential mid to late C20 Landscapes

*Interested in 20th century gardens? Do you know of any in our area that should be protected?*

This is a Gardens Trust initiative to discover and record important post-1945 designed landscapes, and seek to have them added to the National Heritage List for England held by Historic England. Full information and background can be found at [www.thegardenstrust.org/compiling-the-record](http://www.thegardenstrust.org/compiling-the-record)

At present the only information needed is:

- Name and address of the site
- What type of site
- The designer, if known, and the date
- Summary of why it is important.

Ideally the landscapes that are most likely to be accepted will have a strong design element; will be the work of a well-known designer and will have as much as possible of the original garden in place.

All ideas are welcome - if our nominations don't make the GT shortlist, this will still be an excellent resource for us to start investigating and add to our own AGT Gazetteer and maybe get locally listed. For now, we just want to know your ideas and even if you do not know all the details yet, please contact us anyway.

Perhaps you are interested in research and recording parks and gardens of other periods? Or maybe you are involved in researching particular types of gardens or garden features? We would like to reinvigorate the Research and Recording Group of the Avon Garden Trust.

At present, an email group is proposed, sharing interests and ideas. If you would like to be involved, whether you have knowledge of research methods or not, please contact Gill Clarke, committee member of the AGT at [gillianmclarke@hotmail.com](mailto:gillianmclarke@hotmail.com) to register an interest.

Gill Clarke

## Clifton Hill House Garden Opening

Thursday 7 September 2017

Clifton Hill House is the work of architect Isaac Ware. The large Palladian style house was commissioned in 1746 by the successful Bristol merchant and linen draper, Paul Fisher.

The garden preceded the house. One feature already in the gardens by 1730, was the pair of summerhouses or 'turrets', as they were referred to on contemporary maps. The gardens were also larger than they are today, extending further east down the hill beyond Bellevue Terrace, to the orchard, now outside the current garden environs.



1746 Wilstar's plan of Bristol (Know Your Place)

Jacob de Wilstar's map clearly shows the *patte d'oie* (goose-foot) layout of the gardens in 1746. The map also shows the two 'turrets' previously referred to. The villa was built between 1747 and 1750 and it is unlikely that the formal gardens were retained when the villa was completed. Although no record of a garden design by Ware has been found, it is likely that he carried out some landscaping which reflected his interest in garden styles. This is indicated in his later publication *A Complete Body of Architecture*, published in 1756, in which he states 'A large house, where there is ground, was never designed without the thought of a garden at the same time'.

Isaac Ware had studied classical architecture in Italy and mixed socially with Lord Burlington

and William Kent. The prevailing garden and landscaping preference for natural wildernesses was preferred by Ware who abhorred the formal style of 'clipped yews and scalloped greens'.

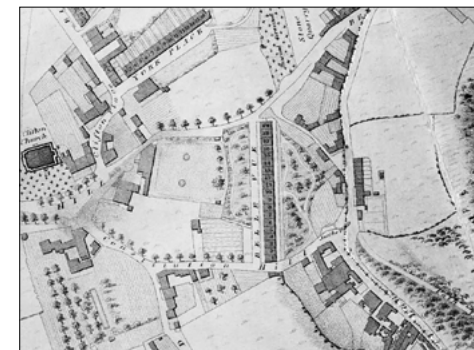
The final feature suggested by Ware as 'an essential article' was water, which 'must be clean; and it should be continual; in whatsoever form it once appears'.

Evidence of a 'Bason' in the garden is recorded by a tragic incident reported by Felix Farley on 1 April 1758 when Benjamin, the youngest son of Fisher's friend and colleague, Christopher Willoughby, fell into the pool and drowned.

Clifton Hill House was then owned by a succession of wealthy merchants. During this time a portion of the garden was sold for the building of the houses on Bellevue Terrace. The slicing through the woodland area at the bottom of the garden to form a road and terrace of houses is starkly shown on the 1828 map.

The gardens at Clifton Hill House remained largely unaltered and in 1829 the entire property was listed as having the highest rateable value, even greater than the neighbouring Goldney. Ashmead's map of 1828 portrays a very simple layout with two circular pools set into the lawn.

Ashmead's plan of Bristol 1828 (Know Your Place)







photos: Ann Hills

*The lower meadow and wildlife pond under construction*

In 1851, Dr. John Addington Symonds moved his family into Clifton Hill House. His son, also John Addington, recorded his first memories of the house and gardens:

*The garden, laid out by Paul Fisher in 1747, had not been altered in any important particular, except that a large piece of it was cut away at the bottom to build a row of houses called Bellevue Terrace. Four great tulip trees, covered with golden blossoms, met our eyes at four points of vantage in the scheme. Between them, on either hand, rose two gigantic copper beeches, richly contrasted with the bright green of the tulip trees. They dated from an earlier period than the foundation of the dwelling house. The grove, which clustered round the central grass plot, was further diversified by ilexes and feathery acacia, with cypresses from the black boughs of which the clambering roses fell in showers. Sycamores, beeches and walnuts formed a leafy background to these choicer growths and masked the ugly frontage of Bellevue.*

The next owner of the house, William John Rogers, added the northern wing in the 1890s, but there is no record of any changes to the gardens during his tenure.

In the early 20th century two anonymous women, who were strong advocates of female education, bought the house and gardens. They donated the property to the University, and in 1909 Clifton Hill House opened as the first women's hall of residence.

With the outbreak of World War II, the air raid shelter was built beneath the top terrace. As the air raid siren blasted its warning, 150 female students would descend the stone stairway to the grass terrace and file into the long, narrow underground bunker. As the male gardeners were conscripted, the female residents took charge of looking after the gardens.

*The entrance to the newly restored WWII air raid shelter*



In 2010, Professor Timothy Mowl, Chair of the University's Historic Buildings & Gardens Committee, commissioned the garden designer, Douglas Gillis, to prepare a scheme to re-design the gardens based on archival material, but this scheme never came to fruition.

The summer of 2013 saw the formation of a historic gardens volunteering group, co-ordinated by Louise Hopkins, under the Women Returners to Amenity Gardening Scheme (WRAGS). Volunteers were engaged in all aspects of the refurbishment. Equipped and trained, they commenced work during the summer months.

As the first pathway was staked out, a hard subterranean feature was discovered. Archaeological investigation revealed a lime mortar capped pathway thought to be the original path, as depicted by de Wilstar, and having survived for one hundred years, since the English Civil War, before being buried around the time that Clifton Hill House was built. Fragments of clay smoking pipes and other artefacts were retrieved from the site and could be dated to circa 1640, confirming the provenance.

The new design for the garden evokes but does not replicate any original design, as the horticultural fashions of the period were continually changing. However, the strong shape of a sextant, shown in the 1746 Wilstar's plan, is reflected by the contrasting meadow and lawn shapes whilst Ware's preference for a 'natural garden', is provided by the woodland walks and informality of the lower meadows and wildlife pond.

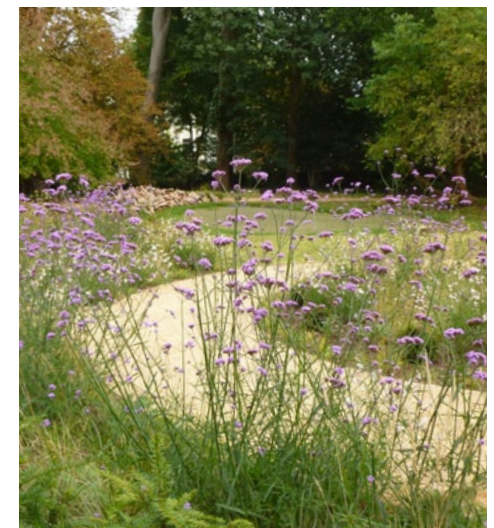
Avon Gardens Trust has been involved from the outset and has been in broad agreement with the projected plans for the garden and had supported the project by writing a letter of endorsement to the HLF. The Trust felt the proposal brought together several historic strands regarding the house and grounds whilst being mindful of the fact it was a University hall of residence (see spring 2015 Bulletin with an article by Louise Hopkins).



*The restored Woodland Turret*

The creation of the garden has only been possible due to the encouragement and support of the Heritage Lottery Fund. A £35,000 funding boost from the HLF has enabled the part-time employment of Volunteer Co-ordinator, Louise Hopkins, who ably assisted by many volunteers and working to the contemporary plan by local landscape designer, Nicola Greaves, has

*Informal lower meadows and wildlife pond*





over the last twelve months worked to make the garden a reality. Two long borders are currently bare as part of a medium term programme to eradicate bindweed. The meadow planting and the woodland walks of the lower garden, which lead to a wildlife pond, add an air of informality that contrasts with the terrace and symmetry of Clifton Hill House.

Before the invited guests toured the new garden, we were addressed by the Pro Vice Chancellor of Bristol University, Professor Judith Squires, to commemorate the completion of the garden at Clifton Hill House. Commandant Anthea Larken CBE (President of the Association of the Women's Royal Naval Service), then unveiled a blue plaque to commemorate the full and eventful life of Dame Katherine Furze who was born in Clifton Hill House in 1875, and was the first Director of the WRNS.

*Anne Hills*



*Unveiling the blue plaque to commemorate the life of Dame Katherine Furze GBE RRC*

Photographs of the creation of the new garden, taken through the seasons by the ground staff, can be seen on the University Instagram and Facebook pages:

[www.instagram.com/unibrisgardens/](https://www.instagram.com/unibrisgardens/)  
[www.facebook.com/unibrisgardens/](https://www.facebook.com/unibrisgardens/)

Acknowledgements to:

Annie Burnside, *A Palladian Villa in Bristol: Clifton Hill House and the People Who Lived There* (Redcliffe Press, 2009).

Marion Mako, *The University of Bristol Historic Gardens*, (University of Bristol, 2nd edition, 2011).

Maps from Know Your Place [www.kypwest.org.uk](http://www.kypwest.org.uk)

## Blooming Whiteway

Claire Loder had a dream; she dreamt the front gardens on the Whiteway estate in Bath were full of plants, flowers, shrubs, fruit and humming with insects which had attracted more birds. So Claire did something about it and together with like-minded friends and neighbours, she set about publicising and organising a Festival of Front Gardens for the summer of 2017.



*photos: Wendy Pollard*

*Claire Loder and Jude Rice*

They wanted to celebrate Whiteway's front gardens and public facing spaces, bring Bath to the estate, make connections across the city and together celebrate what they had. The activity of gardening would be the most important activity as a garden can be anything when it is in the hands of a gardener. Blooming Whiteway's Festival would be supported by a programme of events, workshops, meetings, seed swaps and plant shares; it would engage with all age groups with a focus on children through connections with schools.

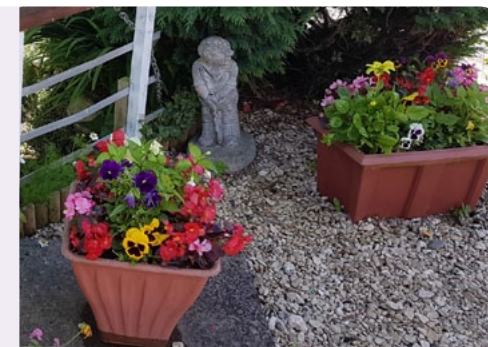
Claire contacted Avon Gardens Trust, but at the time she did not have a section of her project which was suitable for requesting funds from us. I thought her project was so worthwhile I kept in touch and received all their mailings. Support and encouragement was received from Avon Wildlife Trust, Bath City Farm, Bath's Corporate Sustainability

Officer and South West in Bloom amongst others and financial support from Curo and Tesco Bags of Help. Events ran from January with an initial Warm-Up Day with residents signing up for the Front Garden Festival and even non- Whiteway residents pledged their support. February brought a drop-in session at Bath City Farm with the planting of a garden of ideas and Seeds for Change.

The launch day came on Saturday 6 May with an all-day event in Roseworn Park, a day with activities for all the family. They were on their way with the Festival. Support sessions for the entered gardens were held throughout the summer. Claire and Jude Rice held 'Make and Grow' events with children. At the Festival of Nature, a Teasel and Finches workshop was held when children could pot on a teasel and talk about the connections between teasels and goldfinches while making a goldfinch out of craft materials.

Their Festival Prize Giving was at Bath City Farm on Saturday 12 August when I was able to join them. With seven categories for prizes there had been something for everyone to aim for, including Best Fun Garden as well as Best Blooms. Community Asset Awards went to gardens which had

*Winner of the Best Blooms category*



*Winner Best Container Garden*

made a difference to their surrounding environment. This included a gravel garden with pots requiring much care and attention, but it had been noticed the owner's efforts were encouraging neighbours to have a go at brightening their gardens.

I congratulated Claire and her helpers on all their hard work to engage the community and to enhance their neighbourhood. The more we can 'Green' our cities, the more we can attract birds and other wildlife to share our spaces. We can also help with problems such as flooding as gardens provide land where water can soak away rather than run out into the street and add to the burden carried by the drains. Personally, I look forward to Blooming Whiteway 2018.

*Wendy Pollard*





# Dates for your Diary

## *A Historical Survey of the English Grotto within 18th Century Landscape Gardens with special reference to Mary Delany and the work of Joseph and Josiah Lane of Tisbury, Wiltshire.*

**Monday 13 Nov 2017, 7:30pm**

Bath Royal Literary and Scientific Institution,  
16 Queens Square, Bath, BA1 2HN

**Friday 2 Feb 2018, 12:30pm**

Dillington House, Ilminster, TA19 9DT

**Tuesday 13 March 2018,**

Bath Citadel Salvation Army,  
Green Park Road, Bath, BA1 1XE

More info: [www.shellhouse-talks.com](http://www.shellhouse-talks.com)

or contact Margaret Hull and Dr Gerald Hull  
at [margaret\\_hull@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:margaret_hull@hotmail.co.uk)

The Gardens Trust

## *Historic Landscapes Assembly*

**Tuesday 28 November 2017, 10am-5.30pm**

The Dickens Room, Birmingham & Midland Institute, Margaret Street, Birmingham B3 3BS  
There is an optional evening event at 5.45pm when there will be a talk by Tamsin Treverton Jones, author of *Windblown: Landscape, Legacy and Loss, The Great Storm of 1987*. Speakers will include representatives from the Gardens Trust, Historic England, Natural

England and Celebrating Repton 2018, and there will also be case studies from CGTs. Discussion will include 'Capability' Brown landscapes at risk; progress of the recently re-housed P&G UK database; the place of research in conservation; and ways to drive our sector's renewed determination to be a combined force for good.

Details & booking: [thegardenstrust.org/events/](http://thegardenstrust.org/events/)  
Tickets £12 including admission to both Assembly and evening presentation.  
Enquiries: [tamsinmcmillan@thegardenstrust.org](mailto:tamsinmcmillan@thegardenstrust.org)

The Gardens Trust Lecture Series

## *Revealing Repton: Approaches to the Art of Landscape Gardening* by Professor Stephen Daniels

**Thursday 15 March 2018, 6:30pm**

at Countess of Huntingdon's Chapel, The Paragon, The Vineyards, Bath BA1 5NA

## *Rivington Terraced Gardens* by Maria Luczak

**Wednesday, 18 April 2018**

at the Birmingham & Midland Institute, Margaret Street, Birmingham B3 3BS

Booking [thegardenstrust.org/events/](http://thegardenstrust.org/events/)  
More details - Bath: Sarah Fitzgerald [fitzgeraldtpen@aol.com](mailto:fitzgeraldtpen@aol.com) or Birmingham: Advolly Richmond [ilex@advolly.co.uk](mailto:ilex@advolly.co.uk)

# Bookshelf

## Half-Forgotten

The grotto work of Joseph Lane and his son Josiah of Tisbury, Wiltshire

Margaret & Gerald Hull

Includes social and historical context. Tisbury and Wiltshire background. The specific Lanes' work, notably Wimborne St Giles, Painshill, Oatlands, Claremont, Belcombe



Court, Bowood, Fonthill and the Beckfords, Old Wardour Castle. Evidence for a range of others and grottoes of association.

Fully referenced and with a select bibliography. 97 sides, 42 photographs. Printed in Bath, August 2017. £10 (plus £2 P&P) from the authors at 12 Bathwick Street, Bath, BA2 6NY

More details: [www.shellhouse-talks.com](http://www.shellhouse-talks.com)  
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