

# Avon Gardens Trust

## Bulletin



SUMMER 2013

### *Capability Brown Tercentenary Festival*

Lancelot 'Capability' Brown, one of our most famous landscape designers, was born in 1716. Described by Horace Walpole as 'Lady Nature's second husband', Brown has played a significant part in transforming the English landscape. Plans are being formulated to celebrate the tercentenary in 2016 by organisations all over the country.

*In 1764 Brown dismantled an existing Rococo layout at Prior Park, preserving only the lake and Palladian Bridge*



Alan Kempton

A planning meeting held in June 2012 was attended by representatives of county gardens trusts, the National Trust, Visit Britain, the Garden History Society, English Heritage and many other interested organisations together with owners of Brown sites, landscape architects and garden historians.

Since then, the steering group created to plan and co-ordinate work on a national exhibition; branding and a website are being developed and radio and television series will hopefully be commissioned. By raising the profile of historic landscapes with projects to engage all age groups, we may inspire people to explore and care for their local heritage gardens and landscapes.

Avon is fortunate to have the vestiges of six Brown landscapes, namely Prior Park, Kings Weston, Newton Park, Kelston Park, Badminton and Dodington Park. The Trust will be looking at ways to join in the celebrations; these could include, for example, illustrated talks, site visits or projects involving local schools.

If you have an idea, please let us know. 2016 sounds a long way off but we should start thinking and making plans now.

Download the first CB300 Newsletter at [www.gardenstrusts.org.uk](http://www.gardenstrusts.org.uk)



*Capability Brown by Nathaniel Dance c.1773*  
© National Portrait Gallery, London



## Notes from the Chair

Despite the weather over the last few months making most people want to either hibernate or emigrate, both committee and many Trust members have been active on our behalf, and for this I thank them.

Unfortunately the weather got the better of us and the visit to Camerton Court was initially postponed for three weeks in the hope that some more seasonal weather would appear. Sadly, the temperatures remained stubbornly low leading to minimal spring growth in the garden and the visit was reluctantly cancelled. The weather must improve soon as we want the five other visits planned for the rest of the year to go ahead!

Research and recording gardens of historic importance is one of the Trust's most important remits and I am delighted to say that a newly created Research and Recording Group, ably overseen by Wendy Pollard, are working on updating information on those gardens of special significance across most of Avon. This process has become even more important because of the Government's proposed changes to the planning system and its localism agenda with emphasis on promoting development. Unfortunately, in reality, this means the current powers of heritage protection have arguably been weakened rather than strengthened. Change is inevitable so one cannot always argue blindly for no change but any proposed modification to a landscape needs to be assessed within the context of an understanding and appreciation of the history of the site and its immediate environs. Furthermore, the increasing popularity of the Parks and Gardens UK database makes it essential that any information for Avon is as up to date as possible.

To assist the Trust in protecting Avon's landscapes, two members attended a training day to enable them to respond on behalf of the Trust to inappropriate planning applications. The day was led by Verena McCaig of the Association of Gardens Trusts and Jonathan Lovie of the Garden History Society. Another Trust member has been appointed to the prestigious Joint Conservation Committee comprising members of Garden History Society and county gardens trusts who will be considering conservation issues at the national level.

I am conscious that as a Trust we are not moving with the times and using social media as a communications channel. Some Trusts are using this medium with positive results and have gained younger members as a result. It is something we should not dismiss because we don't fully understand it. As a start, if there is anyone who would like to set up a Blog, I would be delighted to hear from you.

I hope you will enjoy the Bulletin.

*Ros Delany*

### Avon Gardens Trust

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## Award of Life Membership to Peggy Stembridge

Peggy Stembridge has decided to retire from the committee and in recognition of her outstanding contribution to the Trust since its creation in 1987, it was unanimously agreed to award her with life membership of the Avon Gardens Trust.

For over 26 years Peggy has been a loyal and steadfast member of the committee which has included taking on the role of Chairman and being the Editor of the *Journal* and *Annual Review*. It was for this reason that the Trust wanted to honour and thank her in some way.

In her gracious response, Peggy modestly wrote 'When I was invited to join the first committee I certainly did not anticipate what would be involved over the years. The variety and range proved a great work and learning experience, especially as we have often been leading the way for other Trusts'.

## Subscription Increase

It was agreed at the AGM held at Goldney House last July, that after holding subscriptions at the same level for many years, they would be increased. The new rates effective from 1st July 2013 are:

Single adult   **£15**

2 adults at the same address   **£20**

I would be grateful if those members who pay by standing order could contact their bank and increase their subscriptions accordingly.

*Alan Kempton (Membership Secretary)*

## Donation to the Association of Gardens Trusts

Following the success of the Annual Conference last September in Bath, Avon Gardens Trust made a donation of £1,000 to the Association. It is usual practice for the organising and host county garden trust to make a donation to the Association.



Steffie Shields

*Conference delegates at Sydney Gardens last year*

Below is part of the letter sent by the Steffie Shields, Chairman of the Association.

*"I write to thank Avon Gardens Trust for the wonderful donation of £1000. As you know, the Association operates on a shoestring and volunteer goodwill. So a donation such as this is a tremendous morale booster, especially when the conservation workload is ever increasing. We could not operate without the support of active county gardens trusts such as Avon.*

*Last year's Conference at Bath will live long in the memory. There was such warmth of welcome for the delegate that was more than the sunshine and there were many plaudits for the enlightening and entertaining programme of visits you organised. Please pass on all the thanks to all your members especially the team that worked so hard to make it a success."*



### Acton Court

#### *A House Fit For a King*

#### *Annual General Meeting & Tour*

**Saturday 27 July, 4.45pm**

Latteridge Road, Iron Acton BS37 9TL

[www.actoncourt.com](http://www.actoncourt.com)

Our AGM is being held in the royal state apartments at Acton Court, which were built for the visit in 1535 of Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn while on their summer Progress around the West Country. Nicholas Poyntz, the owner of Acton Court, wanted to impress his sovereign and so he built a magnificent new East Wing on to the existing moated manor house for the royal visit.

The Poyntz family owned Acton Court until the late 17th century when the direct line of succession ended and the house was sold. It was reduced in size and converted for use as a tenant farmhouse. This neglect meant that the house was left largely untouched and as a result a unique Tudor building has been preserved virtually intact. It retains very rare trompe-l'oeil classical painted panels and inscriptions, and numerous 16th century features, including fireplaces, panelling, doorways and plaster friezes. It is now a Grade I Listed Building.



Dorothy Brown of the Bristol Visual and Environmental Group had recognised the importance of Acton Court in 1976, and the Group's Buildings Preservation Trust stepped in to buy it at auction in 1984 to save it from collapse or possible demolition. Dorothy was awarded the MBE in 1988 for her role in this.

In 1989 English Heritage purchased Acton Court and after structural repair sold it to the Rosehill Trust which bought the surrounding land so that the building and its enhanced setting are now re-united and secured for future generations.

Archaeological excavations resulted in many exciting finds thought to be associated with King Henry's visit, and established the layout of the gardens, waterworks, fishponds and deer park. A find of particular importance was the earliest surviving stone polyhedral sundial, designed by the royal horologist Nicholas Kratzer and dated 1520.

Dorothy Brown is to be our guest of honour, and will say a few words about how she rescued the house from an uncertain future.

Tea and cake will be served on arrival followed by tours of the house. Unfortunately the first floor state apartments are only reached by stairs, but the ground floor rooms are accessible to most wheelchairs.

Members: £7.50; non-members: £9.50 for tour, tea and cake. Entry to the AGM at 6.30 pm is free. Book by 22 July.



Alan Kempton

## *A Tapestry of Colour at the Yeo Valley Organic Garden*

**Wednesday 14 August, 2.30pm**

Bath Road, Blagdon BS40 7SQ

[www.theorganicgardens.co.uk](http://www.theorganicgardens.co.uk)

[www.yeovalley.co.uk](http://www.yeovalley.co.uk)

The family have been farming in Somerset since the 1400s. The dairy business, Holt Farm, began in the late 1960s. It completed its conversion to wholly organic in 2009; as the gardens had been following the same principles, they decided to obtain the Soil Association's certification in 2010. The re-named Yeo Valley Organic Garden became the only organically certified ornamental garden in the country.



Originally a small garden, in twenty years its expanded into six and a half acres: a patchwork of ornamental and edible planting areas, with a contemporary feel reflecting the varied ideas of the gardening team. The garden includes:

The Bronze Garden: a formal area around a pool with colours in herbaceous beds linking to late summer colours in the landscape.

The big grass bed: a giant version of the meadows beyond.

The kitchen garden: one of the original areas created when some of the old farm buildings were demolished in order to open up the view of the lake.



The willow garden: a modern play on the Somerset Levels with old pollarded willows and water meadows.

A stream garden with ferns and hostas; glorious meadows; a tapestry of colour in the gravel garden; all with wonderful views.

A guided tour of the gardens at 2.30 pm will be followed by afternoon tea. Please note there are steps throughout the garden.

Members: £14.50; non-members: £16.50 including afternoon tea. Book by 7 August.

*A joint visit with the Bristol Civic Society.*

## *Behind the Scenes at Dyrham Park*

**Sunday 15 September, 2pm**

A46 north of Bath SN14 8HY

[www.nationaltrust.org.uk/dyrham-park](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/dyrham-park)

Join us on a guided tour led by Dale Dennehy, the Outdoor Operations Manager for the National Trust (Bath and South Cotswolds) when members will have the opportunity to see behind



closed gates and access areas to see hidden gems not usually seen by the general public.

The name Dyrham probably derives from the Saxon word either for deer or water, both of which feature prominently on this estate. Its dramatic topography of hillsides and combe make it the most unlikely setting for what was one of the most elaborate Baroque gardens of its day. Neptune's statue is all that now remains of the former impressive water feature that fed three fountains before plunging under the Orangery to feed two cataracts in the west garden flowing into what were formerly the fish ponds.



By the end of the 18th century, all signs of the parterres, terraces and water-gardens had been swept away and 'reconciled to modern taste' as a landscape park with soft, flowing lines, clumps of trees and deer outside the front door. Tea and cake will be served in the West Garden Room.

Members: £7.50; non-members: £9.50 including tea and cake. **An additional admission charge will apply on the day to National Trust non-members.** Book by 6 September.



## *A Colourful Autumn Afternoon at Tyntesfield*

**Saturday 26 October, 2 pm**

Wraxall, Bristol, BS48 1NX meet at Home Farm Visitor Facilities

[www.nationaltrust.org.uk/tyntesfield](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/tyntesfield)

A guided tour of the gardens by Paul Evans, Head Gardener at Tyntesfield. Come and explore the Arboretum known by the Gibbs family as 'Paradise'. These expansive acres host many unusual trees and shrubs planted by four generations of the Gibbs family and we hope to be able to see them in their best autumn colours.

Tea and cake will be served after the tour.

Members: £10.50; non-members: £12.50 including tea and cake. **An additional admission charge will apply on the day to National Trust non-members.**

Book by 19 October.



**Please book with the included forms.  
Ensure each is sent to the appropriate address as shown.**

## *Clifton Hill House Garden Restoration*

By mid 18th century some of the wealthiest Bristol merchants were already established on Clifton Hill, although De Wilstar's *Plan of the Manor of Clifton 1746* shows the area to be still predominantly rural with a field plan very typical of the agricultural parishes of the time.

Thomas Goldney had commissioned a house there in 1692 that was rebuilt in the classical style in the 1720s. Clifton Court was erected in 1742 for the merchant Nehemiah Champion, husband of Martha Goldney. But on the last vacant ledge of the cluttered slope around Clifton's old church was built the grandest house of them all Clifton Hill House. It was built between 1747 and 1750 from the designs of Isaac Ware, chimney sweep and protégé of Lord Burlington who became the architect of the Palladian movement. It is simple but somewhat severe, faced with Bath stone, rusticated below and considered to be the most sophisticated of its style. The only hint of decoration is in the monogram of the pediment probably carved by Thomas Paty who was the mason on its construction. Ware was proud of his achievement as he included a plate in his book *The Complete Body of Architecture* published in 1756. No design plans for the garden have been found.

The house was built for Paul Fisher a wealthy linen draper and ship owner who already had a house on this site with a larger formal garden which it is assumed disappeared with the building of Clifton Hill. These 'new' houses were situated to command views far into Somerset, across to Leigh Woods and the green slopes of Dundry as well as the Avon.

Fisher died in 1762 and the house was sold and continued with several owners.



In 1909 Bristol University bought it from John Addington Symonds for £5,500 and it became the first women only hall of residence in the south west, now mixed. In 2004 the house was restored for which it won a prestigious award from the London Georgian Group. In the same vein it intends to restore the garden.

The gardens are now a sloping lawn with many of the original trees, an overly wild area towards the lower part and two gazebos at the lower corners probably built at the end of the 17th century, both of which are in a state of disrepair.

The volunteer restoration team led by Louise Hopkins sees the project as a re-envisaging of the garden rather than a pure restoration. 'Our design incorporates elements of the 1746 garden plan, and has also been inspired by the vogue for 'Arcadian wilderness' which prevailed at the time. Ultimately, we hope to create a garden in which the past and present are both respected and balanced'. The greatest challenge will be financing the project but this will be done in part by guided tours. How long it will take will depend on the number of volunteers and of course the weather.

*Lesley Gallant*

*Get involved or find out more at*  
[www.universityheritagevolunteering.org.uk](http://www.universityheritagevolunteering.org.uk)

### **Sources**

Edwards T: *Bristol*, Batsford 1951  
Mowl T: *To Build the Second City*, Redcliffe 1991  
Warren L: *Restoration Drama, Clifton Life*, 2013

# Research & Recording

## A Journey of Discovery

Since the launch of Parks and Gardens UK in 2009 Avon Gardens Trust has been actively involved.

**[www.parksandgardens.org](http://www.parksandgardens.org)**

Members Ros Delany, Laurie Bingle, Alan Kempton and I have introduced new Bristol sites including, importantly, Temple Gardens on the site of the cemetery by the Ancient Monument of the Temple Church with its leaning tower.



*Temple Gardens, added to the national Parks and Gardens database by Ros Delany*

Avonmouth Park has joined the numerous other Bristol Parks included, many of which are important Victorian designed landscapes. Most of the Clifton communal gardens can now be accessed together with an increasing number of photographs. The gardens form an attractive topography for the Georgian suburb of Clifton. For the past three years Sylvia Maughan has worked on the South Gloucestershire area, checking and verifying records to ensure the information is correct and not misleading. The Trust is grateful to have received help from the City Archaeologist in Bristol and

the Historic Monuments Officers in South Gloucestershire and North Somerset.

If you are aware that any sites in our area listed on the national database are incorrect in some way, or if you think there is a site missing which really merits inclusion, please contact me on 0117 973 7603 or [w.a.pollard@gmail.com](mailto:w.a.pollard@gmail.com)

*Wendy Pollard*

*We are delighted a new team of volunteers has come forward with Wendy Smale, Cynthia Troup, Kay Ross, Anne Hills and Lyn Jacobs continuing the good work in Bath & North East Somerset and North Somerset.*

## Research & Recording Group

As the original records were started back in the 1980s (Avon being one of the first counties to create their gazetteer) there will obviously be many changes to take into account. It is clearly important that any information in the files is accurate and up to date, both for local and national users. In view of the Government's proposed changes to the planning system, it is now even more vital that our records are reviewed in order to support challenges to planning applications relating to historic gardens and designed landscapes in our area.

It is anticipated that this updating process will take several years. If any of our members has specialist information such as Conservation Management Plans, dissertations, personal research, tree reports, on a particular site relating to the past twenty years or so, we would really welcome their input.

Lyn Jacobs [lynjacobs@btinternet.com](mailto:lynjacobs@btinternet.com) or Kay McLaughlin [kay@mcross.co.uk](mailto:kay@mcross.co.uk)

*Wendy Smale*

# Planning & Conservation

## Training Workshop

The Association of Garden Trusts and the Garden History Society are encouraging county garden trusts to boost their involvement in monitoring and responding to consultation on many planning applications affecting historic designed landscapes. You may have heard English Heritage and the GHS, as statutory consultees, are to concentrate on our Grades I and II\* designed landscapes; Grade II sites (some 60% of that whole listing) are to be addressed by the county gardens trusts. To help members volunteering to monitor and comment on such proposals, free training workshops are being provided.

Along with a dozen or so representatives from CGTs in the south-west, Anne Hills and I recently attended such a workshop at Taunton Deane Borough Council's offices. We appreciated their hosting the meeting and the buffet lunch they provided. The workshop was led by Verena McCaig (Historic Landscape Project Officer for the Association) and Jonathan Lovie (Principal Conservation Officer and Policy Advisor for the GHS).

Pre-course reading included background notes on planning, and extracts from the Localism and National Planning Policy Framework provisions concerning 'Heritage Assets' (defined as a building, monument, site, place, area or landscape having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions because of its heritage interest).

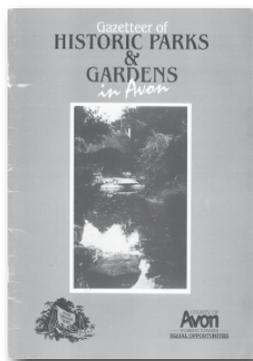
The workshop comprised presentations and discussions, examination of examples and participation in a practical exercise, with an introduction for those without previous experience. The aims were

to break down the jargon, offer basic principles and practical tools enabling members to formulate effective, consistent and proportionate responses by their CGTs to planning consultations. During the day reference documents were identified and we were each given a DVD compendium of all resources mentioned.

Whilst we are mostly concerned with registered and those other parks and gardens appearing in the National Heritage List for England and/or in the local Historic Environment Register (HER), permission is also needed for relevant changes to gardens not listed in their own right but forming part of the 'curtilage' or 'setting' of listed buildings (being the most numerous registration category). Many varieties of structure may come within the term 'Scheduled Monument' which accordingly receives a high degree of protection, depending whether the structure is sufficiently associated with the designed landscape. Extensive records are accessible through the Heritage Gateway website [www.heritagegateway.org.uk](http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk) with links to other relevant websites. Many CGTs do not have comprehensive records of



designed landscapes in their areas and only a small proportion of historic parks and gardens may be on local HERs. Avon Gardens Trust is fortunate in having the Gazetteer, compiled in 1991, recording details of over 300 listed and notable parks, gardens and landscapes within its area. Since 1991 the Gazetteer has formed the basis for Avon Gardens Trust's responses to planning applications as well as being available for use by our four unitary authorities.



The preferred approach is engagement seeking to manage change, not simply opposition seeking to freeze designed landscapes in time. We need to be made aware as early as possible of planning proposals, so we have time to evaluate them and make representations. Hence GHS alerts are sent out weekly to CGTs for them to respond. CGTs can consider local opinions and use local information with a degree of support from the Association and the GHS when needed, particularly on policy approaches towards major designed landscape cases.

*Egan Brooks*

NOTE from Ros Delany - *I should be delighted to hear from any members who would be interested in helping to monitor planning applications in their localities. Please contact me on 01275 371398 or r.delany@virgin.net*

## *A recent planning issue considered by Avon Gardens Trust*

### **4 Cleveland Place West**

A planning application was submitted to Bath and North East Somerset for the erection of a three-bedroomed dwelling with associated hard and soft landscaping on part of the garden of 4 Cleveland Place West, a Grade II listed building. The application for this proposed building also forms the setting of the Grade II\* listed building of Cleveland Bridge and the four former toll houses.

Cleveland Place and Cleveland Bridge, originally a toll bridge, were developed from the 1820s on land belonging to the Marquis of Cleveland to the designs of H.E. Goodridge, a noted local architect. A plot was conveyed to Messrs Goodridge, Lester and Goodridge on 26 August 1830 and the house, known as 4 Cleveland Place West and an organ factory, were eventually built around 1870 for William Sweetland, a local organ maker. Over the next 40 years, Sweetland laid out an interesting and unusually personal grass-terraced garden running down to the River Avon. There were several stone ornaments which included one whole and one half column from a demolished chapel as well as a late 18th century urn on a Victorian base. The artefact is embellished with scratch carvings of



organ pipes and other related items which suggest it was made specifically for William Sweetland.

The 1886 OS map shows an object placed in the semi-circle formed by the grass terraces but sadly this feature is no longer extant. The urn and its surround still stand on top of the terrace. A pool and fountain post-date this map but are still a feature of the garden. Otherwise the garden remains substantially the same as in Sweetman's day.

Paragraph 128 of the National Planning Policy Framework says that 'In determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the asset's importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance'.

The proposed development would be on that part of the garden fronting onto the River Avon, harming the integrity of the historic garden. In addition the rear wall of the proposed house and the fenced pedestrian access to it would form the new boundaries of the remaindered garden harming its character and appearance,



*Cleveland Bridge, 1830*

including the views from it to the river and beyond. The applicants may not have been aware that the garden is on the Historic Environment Record as a historic garden, and therefore had not assessed the impact of the proposed house on its significance as a heritage asset.

The Avon Gardens Trust Committee considered the plans at a recent meeting and decided to object to the proposal on the grounds that it clearly conflicted with the National Planning Policy Framework in respect of the conservation of heritage assets.

Full details of the planning application, Application No. 12/05547/FUL 4 Cleveland Place West, Bath BA1 5DG, are on the B&NES website ([www.bathnes.gov.uk](http://www.bathnes.gov.uk)). To date, the application has not been determined.

## **Joint Conservation Committee**

Gill Clarke has been appointed to sit on the newly formed Joint Conservation Committee (JCC) which has been established by the Council of the GHS and the Committee of Management of the Association of Gardens Trusts. (The former GHS Conservation Committee is discontinued.) The new committee will be responsible for advising GHS and AGT Trustees on matters relating to the conservation of historic parks and

gardens and designed landscapes, and related matters.

Gill lives in Bath and has been a member of Avon Gardens Trust for many years. She has had a career in town planning in local authorities in the Avon area and the West Midlands. Her particular interest is Prior Park Landscape Garden in Bath, where she was able to help the National Trust with historical research in preparation for the restoration of this early 18th century garden.

## *South West Education Conference*

This was held on 16 April on a rare sunny spring day in the National Trust owned medieval surroundings of Trerice in Cornwall. Delegates representing six counties across the south west region attended.



The keynote speaker was Sarah Chesters, Principal Education Officer at Rosemoor, the RHS garden in Devon. She described a series of activities that were available to her predominantly nursery and primary school visitors to the garden there including pond dipping, tree planting, a hands on experiment mixing water with different soil types and woodland activities whereby pupils would build a fire, boil a kettle and toast marshmallows. She soon discovered that many of the children were not used to woodland and being outside and, initially, they were

not at ease with their surroundings and this is from children who live in Devon. Interestingly she stopped using work sheets a few months after she started at Rosemoor as she wanted the pupils to feel, look and listen to what was around them instead of looking downwards at a piece of paper.

After a coffee break, there were group discussions focusing on ways of fundraising to raise money for education grants, ways of working with both primary and secondary schools and rethinking 'education'. One area of agreement was the importance of working more closely with other organisations such as National Trust, the Woodland Trust and Plant Heritage.

After lunch, the Head Gardener at Trerice led delegates in the spring sunshine on a guided tour of the grounds and described the plans to restore parts of the gardens to their former glory.

### **Education Grants**

This year, 19 primary schools across Avon have applied to the Trust for a small grant of £50 per school to help with the development of their school gardens. Two of the schools were from Bristol, one from North Somerset, seven from South Gloucestershire and nine from Bath & North East Somerset.

Several of the schools have issued invitations for the Trust to visit them and see what the money has been spent on and we plan to visit several over the next few months. This means that in four years since we introduced this policy of applying for small grants, nearly 50 primary schools across the area have received some financial help to develop their school gardens.

## *Therapeutic Landscapes*

### *An exploration of 19th & 20th century hospital gardens in and around Bristol*

A talk by Dr Clare Hickman held on  
**25 April 2013**

The long relationship between plants, gardens and health can be seen in medieval times and later with the emergence of botanic gardens. In 1785 the German theorist Hirschfeld wrote about a hospital surrounded by gardens 'because a view from the window into blooming and happy scenes will invigorate the patient, a nearby garden encourages patients to take a walk'.



*Brislington House*

In Bristol, Brislington House opened as a private asylum in the early 1800s. Looking at a prospectus, plans, maps and drawings, Clare showed us 'airing courts' near patients' rooms, with plants and mounts enabling views over the walls. Using landscape ideas of the time attracted patients from affluent backgrounds; the surrounding parkland contained a grotto, a cottage ornée, a cliff top walk, kitchen garden and summer house. Quakers considered purity of air and lots of light as the key to countering ill health.

Bristol General Hospital opened in 1858 with 'a spacious airing ground, laid out as a garden' on a roof at first floor level using asphalt for paths and flower beds, enabling views of boats arriving and departing with the tides.

For an orthopaedic hospital, it was desirable to have a site with ample acreage, air pure and free from the contamination of cities, preferably dry, not subject to mist, on a hill, several hundred feet above sea level. So in 1925 a sixty acre site was purchased at Winford on the outskirts of Bristol, so that the wards could open to the south or south west. A photograph dated 1936 shows patients' beds lined up outside on a terrace and the 1928 programme states that 'open pavilions will be erected... [to] get every bit of sunlight available.'

The architect at Winford, Sir George Oatley, also worked on the Bristol Homeopathic Hospital. The site in Cotham had 'the advantage of being on the summit of the hill and slopes towards the south'. Funded by the Wills family, the Homeopathic Hospital gardens shared many design similarities with the gardens at the Wills' home at Bracken Hill.

Whilst increasingly large hospitals offer complex medical treatments, within towns and cities any leftover space tends to be for car parking, but the therapeutic value of gardens may be emerging again. In 1996 the first of many Maggie's Cancer Caring Centres opened. Conceived by landscape architects Maggie Keswick and Charles Jencks, these ambitious buildings and gardens are being created alongside NHS hospitals, thanks to generous fundraising. Near to Bristol, we have Penny Brohn Cancer Care, a registered charity based in Ham Green with a beautiful and peaceful retreat set in four acres of landscaped gardens.

Clare Hickman won the first GHS Essay Prize in 2005 for her article on the gardens surrounding Brislington House, in Bristol (see *Garden History* 33:1). Her doctoral research on the history of hospital gardens is being published by Manchester University Press as *Therapeutic Landscapes: A History of English Hospital Gardens Since 1800*.

## ***Gertrude Goldsmith MBE***

Avon Gardens Trust was saddened to learn of the death of member Gertrude Goldsmith MBE and have sent their condolences to her family. The eminent garden historian, Michael Symes, a close friend of Trudie Goldsmith, has sent us the following obituary:

Trudie Goldsmith, who died in November 2012 at the age of 94, had been a member of the Trust for several years. Although she lived in Surrey, she had a great love of gardens in Avon, occasioned by many visits to the area. She was awarded the MBE for her voluntary service to adult education, through the Croydon WEA, which led to her organising tours to gardens (her

particular passion) in various parts of the country, initially for the WEA and then for smaller, more specialist groups. For twenty years she arranged such tours, but Avon always held a special place in her affections, and the groups returned thither regularly.

Trudie loved Prior Park and Badminton, and she would have wished to attend the AGT conference last September, but ill health, particularly failing eyesight, did not permit. She was eager, though, to keep in touch with the Trust through her membership, and was delighted by the work and achievements of the Trust and deeply interested in its newsletters and other publications.

*Michael Symes*

## ***Bookshelf***



### ***RHS Lindley Libraries***

The libraries house the finest collection of gardening literature, art and archives



Royal  
Horticultural  
Society

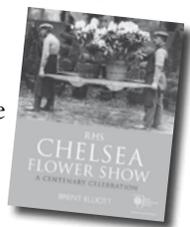
in the world with works charting 500 years of horticultural history. Their aim is to make collections accessible to all, to safeguard the nation's gardening heritage as well as store information on all aspects of gardening.

For these reasons the Lindley Libraries were officially recognised in 2011 as collections of national and international significance. The Cultural Heritage Collections are now available online at [www.rhs.org.uk/occasionalpapers](http://www.rhs.org.uk/occasionalpapers) or to purchase as a paperback written by Dr. Brent Elliott (2009) for £7.00.

### ***RHS Chelsea Flower Show: A Centenary Celebration***

***Brent Elliott***

Brent Elliott begins by looking at the flower shows held by the RHS from 1827 onwards, with the site in Chelsea coming into use in 1913. Using archival photography, plans and posters, he looks at how the show evolved. Short pieces about rock gardens, conservatories, garden ornaments and water features, alongside stories from nurserymen, nurserywomen and garden designers, illustrate the changing fashions in gardens over the years. To some extent, the RHS Chelsea Flower Show can be seen reflecting and shaping the nation's taste in gardens since it began one hundred years ago.



*RHS Chelsea Flower Show: A Centenary Celebration*, isbn 9780711234512, is available at an offer price of £20.00 (inc UK p&p) from Bookpoint tel 01235 400400 by quoting the code 46CFS.

## Dates for your Diary

London Borough of Richmond upon Thames

### *The Gardens Festival 2013*

**until October 2013**

Celebrating gardens past, present and future in their first Gardens Festival and includes an exhibition:

#### *Arcadian Vistas*

**until Sunday 21 July**

Poet Alexander Pope's writings and garden in Twickenham had a profound impact on the development of the English landscape garden. This exhibition, which features works from the Richmond Borough Art Collection and loans from National museums and private collections, charts the change in local gardens, from formal to more naturalistic designs and explores tastes in classical, gothic and Oriental styles.

Orleans House Gallery, Riverside, Twickenham, TW1 3DJ. Free entry.

[www.richmond.gov.uk/gardens\\_festival\\_2013](http://www.richmond.gov.uk/gardens_festival_2013)

University of Bristol

#### *Goldney Garden and Royal Fort Garden Tours*

Tours will be led by garden historian and AGT member Angela Nutbrown and will last approximately 1½ hours. £5.50, ticket only in advance, numbers limited.

Goldney Garden on the following **28 July; 18 August; 15 September**. Tours begin at **10.30am** and **2.00pm**

Royal Fort Garden tours on:  
**Wednesday 17 July, 6pm**  
**Tuesday 20 August, 2pm**  
**Wednesday 18 September, 2pm**

More details: 0117 331 4901 or [Nicolette.Smith@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:Nicolette.Smith@bristol.ac.uk)

Ashridge House

### *A celebration of the work of James Wyatt and Humphry Repton at Ashridge*

**Saturday 27 - Sunday 28 July**

The conference marks 200 years since the presentation of Repton's Red Book for Ashridge and the death of Wyatt. The house, Wyatt's last creation, was virtually complete by the time of his death. Lectures focus on both men and their works with particular reference to Ashridge and the surrounding park.

To book your place please contact Sally Rouse T: 01442 841028 E: [sally.rouse@ashridge.org.uk](mailto:sally.rouse@ashridge.org.uk)

[www.ashridge.org.uk/200anniversary](http://www.ashridge.org.uk/200anniversary)

### *Association of Gardens Trusts*



**AGM & Conference**

**London 6 - 8 September**

*Eastern Promise - Transforming London's Landscapes from Abercrombie to the Olympics*

Hosted by the London Parks & Gardens Trust and based at Queen Mary's College, the conference will look at the transformation of East London's landscapes since Patrick Abercrombie's seminal 1940s London Plan.

More details: 0207 839 3969 or [office@londongardenstrust.org](mailto:office@londongardenstrust.org)

Banwell Bone Cave, Follies and Tower

#### *Open Days*

**Sat14 & Sun 15 Sept, 10.30 - 4.30**

Filled Rolls, cream Teas and Cakes available. Part of the National Heritage Open Days. Admission is free but donations towards further restoration can be made in the various collection boxes.

[www.banwellcaves.org](http://www.banwellcaves.org)

## ***The Pulham Gardens of Dewstow***

**Saturday 28th September, 10.15am**

Presentations by Claude Hitching (author of the critically acclaimed book *Rock Landscapes: The Pulham Legacy*, talking about his experiences during the research for his book) and Val Christman (direct descendant of the Pulham family, talking about her childhood among the Pulhamite of Ponsbourne Manor) at Dewstow Golf Club, Caerwent, Monmouthshire NP26 5AH.

Followed by lunch and an afternoon tour of the wonderful gardens of Dewstow.

More details: Marilyn Anderson 01600 780389 or m.anderson666@btinternet.com

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

Painshill Conference 2013

## ***Gardens of Association: the Roles and Meanings of Garden Buildings in 18th Century Landscapes***

**Thursday 10 - Friday 11 October**

A two-day conference to explore the ways in which garden buildings have been interpreted from their time of creation to the modern day, and how they relate to the landscapes in which they are placed.

Consideration will also be given to how such assessments can be used in the restoration and conservation of buildings in historic landscapes. Chairman: Tim Richardson, with many eminent speakers.

Full conference: £175; Students: £160  
Book online or call 01932 868113. Ticket price includes refreshments, lunches and a glass of Painshill wine on day two.

[www.painshill.co.uk/painshill-conference-2013](http://www.painshill.co.uk/painshill-conference-2013)

Details of these and other events at our website [www.avongardenstrust.org.uk](http://www.avongardenstrust.org.uk)

## **Don't forget...**

### ***Tour of the Kings Weston Estate***

**Saturday 29 June, 1.15pm**

An opportunity to see the latest improvements made to the estate. David Martyn, founder of Kings Weston Action Group, will take you around the estate explaining its history from the 17th century to the modern day. The walk offers new insights based on KWAG's recent research.

Tea and cake will be served in the vaulted tea rooms after the tour.

Cost is £8 per person for members, £10 per person for non-members.

Please book by 19 June using the form provided in the Spring *Bulletin* or on our website.

*Kings Weston Action Group comprises local people, users of the park and anyone interested in the conservation of the Grade II listed landscape and the Grade I listed house. It was set up to protect the Kings Weston Park and House, fight for its future, and protect its past. Regular working parties are held to cut back vegetation and restore paths and views.*

## **and our other events this year...**

### ***Acton Court AGM***

**Saturday 27 July, 4.45pm**

### ***Yeo Valley Organic Garden***

**Wednesday 14 August, 2.30pm**

### ***Dyrham Park***

**Sunday 15 September, 2pm**

### ***Tyntesfield***

**Saturday 26 October, 2 pm**

**see page 4 for details**

*Acton Court*  
*A House Fit For a King*  
**Saturday 27 July at 4.45pm**

Please make your own travel arrangements and share cars where possible.

members @ £7.50

non-members @ £9.50  
including tea and cake

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Your e-mail address will be used only in connection with this booking. If, however, you would like us to use it to keep you informed of possible future news and events connected with the Trust please tick this box.

Note that your personal details are kept only for Avon Gardens Trust purposes and are not shared with any third party.

**Please enclose a cheque payable to 'Avon Gardens Trust' together with your e-mail address so that we can send confirmation of booking. If preferred please enclose SAE.**

Avon Gardens Trust, 31 Coombe Bridge Avenue, Stoke Bishop, Bristol BS9 2LT by **22 July**

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*A Tapestry of Colour at the*  
*Yeo Valley Organic Garden*

**Wednesday 14 August at 2.30pm**

Please make your own travel arrangements and share cars where possible.

members @ £14.50

non-members @ £16.50  
including afternoon tea.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Your e-mail address will be used only in connection with this booking. If, however, you would like us to use it to keep you informed of possible future news and events connected with the Trust please tick this box.

Note that your personal details are kept only for Avon Gardens Trust purposes and are not shared with any third party.

**Please enclose a cheque payable to 'Avon Gardens Trust' together with your e-mail address so that we can send confirmation of booking. If preferred please enclose SAE.**

Wendy Pollard, Garden Flat, 22 Richmond Terrace, Clifton, Bristol BS8 1AA by **7 August**

*Behind the Scenes  
at Dyrham Park*

**Sunday 15 September at 2pm**

Please make your own travel arrangements and share cars where possible. **An additional admission charge will apply on the day to National Trust non-members.**

members @ £7.50

non-members @ £9.50  
including tea and cake

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Your e-mail address will be used only in connection with this booking. If, however, you would like us to use it to keep you informed of possible future news and events connected with the Trust please tick this box.

Note that your personal details are kept only for Avon Gardens Trust purposes and are not shared with any third party.

**Please enclose a cheque payable to 'Avon Gardens Trust' together with your e-mail address so that we can send confirmation of booking. If preferred please enclose SAE.**  
Lesley Gallant, 13 Bayham Road, Bristol BS4 2DY by **6 September**



*A Colourful Autumn  
Afternoon at Tyntesfield*

**Saturday 26 October at 2 pm**

Please make your own travel arrangements and share cars where possible. **An additional admission charge will apply on the day to National Trust non-members.**

members @ £10.50

non-members @ £12.50  
including tea and cake

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Your e-mail address will be used only in connection with this booking. If, however, you would like us to use it to keep you informed of possible future news and events connected with the Trust please tick this box.

Note that your personal details are kept only for Avon Gardens Trust purposes and are not shared with any third party.

**Please enclose a cheque payable to 'Avon Gardens Trust' together with your e-mail address so that we can send confirmation of booking. If preferred please enclose SAE.**  
Wendy Pollard, Garden Flat, 22 Richmond Terrace, Clifton, Bristol BS8 1AA by **19 Oct.**