



Avon Gardens Trust

Bulletin

AUTUMN 2014

Don't miss our November talk

"Paradise Lost"

An illustrated talk by Julia Mottershaw

Tuesday 18th November, 2pm



Alan Kempton

This is the Stourhead we know and love. But was it always like this?

The Stourhead we see today is quite different from how it looked when first designed by Henry Hoare. He put many more features into the garden - a Chinese Bridge, a Turkish Tent and many others. These were later removed by his grandson and heir, Richard Colt Hoare. What were these features and why were they removed?

Julia is an experienced guide at Stourhead and was drawn to researching the history of the garden by the challenge of finding evidence for the existence of these early 18th century garden buildings. The disappearance of these features led Julia to wondering where did they go and why. Her detailed research took her to museums in France, making comparisons with other gardens and landscapes in England.

Tickets are just £5.00 for members and £7.00 guests.

Please book by 17 November.

To be held at the Apostle Room, Clifton Cathedral, Clifton Park, Bristol BS8 3BX where you will find free parking. A light buffet will be available from 1pm.

Please use the booking form on page 3

A date for next year's diary...

Open Garden at Little Naish

Sunday 21 June 2015

In 2012 we moved from Esher in Surrey to start renovations on our new home in North Somerset, 6 miles from the centre of Bristol. The process was filmed for television – you may have seen it - on *Restoration Home*, BBC2 in July 2013.

Three years, and lots of gardening later, we would like to welcome you to our garden to raise funds for Avon Gardens Trust. We have two walled gardens over two acres and an infinity field of oxeye daisies, grasses and achilleas, with views across to Wales on a clear day.



The garden will be open for you to visit, enjoy tea and homemade cakes and buy plants from the plant stalls.

Peter & Anne Hills

see Anne's brief history of Little Naish on p12

If you are collecting seed for propagating or plan to divide perennials before next spring, perhaps you might consider potting up a few for the plant sale?

Notes from the Chair

*Abroad to see wonders, the traveller goes
and neglects the fine things that lie*

under his nose

Anon

To the best of my knowledge, the above quotation appeared in an excursion manual of the Regency period extolling the delights of the Wye Valley. It struck me that the sentiment of this quotation is equally as appropriate today as it was two hundred years ago. I came across it during a recent study day at Hagley Hall in Worcestershire where the landscape that was created in the 'picturesque' style by the 1st Lord Lytton, is being restored to its former glory. It was a thoroughly enjoyable and informative day and it is visits such as this that the committee try to replicate for our members.

For reasons that are not apparent to us, we have had to cancel a couple of our planned visits this year due to lack of numbers. Possible reasons for this were discussed at a recent committee meeting, but ideally we would like to hear from our members on this topic as we want to ensure we find interesting gardens for 2015. If you could spare a few minutes to contact either Peter Hills on peter.hills7@btinternet.com or me on r.delany@virgin.net to give us your thoughts and ideas for possible future visits, it would be greatly appreciated.

By the time you receive this, the Indian summer will be over and the growth in our gardens may have finally slowed up which should give you the time to sit down and enjoy reading our latest *Bulletin*.

Ros Delany

We welcome our new members:

Mr & Mrs V Barley, Dr R Campbell,
Mr & Mrs KP Carr Briggs, Mr P Hervey-Brooks
Mr B Knott, Ms J McInnes
Dr & Mrs R Rafferty, Mrs L Suenson-Taylor

The following is a summary of the Chairman's Report given at the Annual General Meeting in July.

At the AGM last year, I stated one of the aims for the Trust for 2014 was to make grants to appropriate conservation and community projects, as well as continuing with grants to primary schools. I am delighted to inform you all that the Trust will be financing an interpretation board at Kings Weston. We were especially pleased to agree to this funding as 2016 is the Tercentenary of the birth of Lancelot 'Capability' Brown and the Trust will be organising a study day at Kings Weston focusing on Brown and his landscapes.



Kings Weston

David Maryn

At a committee meeting in September 2013, we all approved a 'Forward Thinking Plan' which set out certain objectives for the next three years. One of the main aims was to raise the profile and awareness of the Trust and this is something that has been achieved over the past year through meetings with the Historic Environment Officers in both North Somerset and South Gloucestershire; attending various training workshops, including a regional forum for county gardens trusts, as well as participating in several conservation and planning training days which many local planning officers attended. Continued presence on the Bristol Parks Forum and at the Festival of Nature, a successful open gardens event in Chew Stoke, meetings with potential advertisers, and a newly designed leaflet which has been distributed widely have also helped.

The Trust has continued to respond to those planning applications that may affect a listed site of either national or local importance. In the past year, at least four Trust members have helped with this important aspect of our work. It has been a busy year for them especially as the Garden History Society, in its role as statutory consultee, now only has the capacity to respond to those planning issues which affect grade I listed historic landscapes. Those with a grade II* or II listing and those of local importance are now covered by county gardens trusts.

Next year, the committee has decided that responding to planning issues would be better placed by the setting up of a planning sub-committee. This is the practice for most CGTs and should allow for greater flexibility in our responses. It is anticipated it will also enable the Trust to further working relationships with the local authorities that will lead to direct consultation on relevant planning applications.

Finally I would like to thank my fellow committee members for the hard work and support over the past year.

Committee for 2014-15



Your committee elected at the AGM at Barrow Court 26 July 2014:
 Ros Delany (chairman), Lesley Gallant, Anne Hills, Peter Hills, Emma Jones, Anne Merriman, Tony Merriman, Wendy Pollard and Cynthia Troup.



Avon Gardens Trust

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“Paradise Lost”

An illustrated talk by Julia Mottershaw

Tuesday 18th November, 2pm

number of tickets

members' tickets @ £5.00

guests tickets' @ £7.00

I enclose a cheque (payable to 'Avon Gardens Trust') for £ _____

Please book by 17th November

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

E-mail _____

If you would like to be kept informed by e-mail of news and events connected with the Trust, please tick this box

If you can include the names of any guests, that would be most helpful. Confirmation of booking will be by e-mail. If post is preferred, please send a stamped self-addressed envelope with your cheque to:

Peter Hills, Little Naish, Naish Hill, Clapton in Gordano, Bristol BS20 7RZ

Proposed Merger Update



The AGM of the Association of Gardens Trusts was held on Friday 5 September and the main item on the agenda was to discuss and vote on the proposed merger between the Association and the Garden History Society.

The main reason for this potential merger is that in the current historic landscape funding climate and with the need to think long term about the work of the Association and the GHS, it was appropriate these two charities which have so much in common should consider a merger.

At the meeting, each county gardens trust has a designated voting member to represent the views of their trust and the result of the voting was 19 for and 9 against

with 2 abstentions. This means that it was agreed in principle to merge with the GHS on such terms and date to be agreed between the trustees of the respective charities.

The next stage is for a new Transitional Committee be set up whose prime tasks will be to finalise a draft constitution, recommend a structure and financial arrangements for the new organisation and draft a comprehensive business plan, including recommendations on staffing, name, branding, communications and websites.

The Draft Constitution has now been prepared and will go to the Association Council of Management and the GHS Council to consider at their October meetings. It will then be sent round to all CGTs for comment (CGTs or individual members are invited to comment). Once the final version has been approved, a business plan for the new organisation will be prepared and sent out to all interested parties by Christmas 2014.

*Don't forget to include your cheque
and return the form by 17 November*

Changes to English Heritage Agreed & Announced



A letter from Sir Laurie Magnus, Chairman of English Heritage, was circulated by e-mail on 14 October. The following is an edited version.

After a period of wide consultation, Ed Vaizey MP, Minister of State for Culture and the Digital Economy, has announced final government approval for the separation of English Heritage into two organisations.

A new charity, retaining the name English Heritage, will run the National Heritage Collection of historic properties. A newly-named non-departmental public body, Historic England, will be dedicated to offering expert advice, championing the wider historic environment and providing support for stakeholders in the heritage sector. The changes will come into effect on 1 April 2015. The Minister confirmed that the government will provide additional funding of £88.5m to invest in the National Heritage Collection.

The English Heritage Charity will be responsible, under an operating licence from Historic England, for the care of the National Heritage Collection. Whilst all of its properties will remain in public ownership, it will be able to make the most of commercial and philanthropic opportunities. The additional government investment will deal with urgent conservation defects and enable the upgrading of visitor facilities including the

renewal of outdated displays. This will provide a better experience for visitors which will increase visitor numbers and grow membership. A business plan for the English Heritage Charity, which anticipates financial break-even in 2022/23, has been agreed by government and published today. This will be followed by further details of the investment plans for additional funding from government.

Sir Laurie Magnus made this announcement, saying that it was clear from the responses to the government's consultation on the New Model that there is a great deal of support for Historic England and a clear desire that it should continue to champion England's heritage, providing expert advice, promoting constructive conservation and providing support with research, guidance and grants. No changes are proposed to the current duties and powers in planning and heritage protection.

The government has recognised that a level of security is needed to give English Heritage and Historic England firm foundations for success. The Secretary of State has made a commitment to the success of the New Model which will be reflected in future spending reviews. There is also a guarantee that the grant from government for 2014/15 and 2015/16 will be protected from any further cuts. This will enable the best possible start for English Heritage and Historic England.

New E-mail Discussion Group for CGTs



Following feedback from county gardens trusts, a new e-mail group for CGTs and related organisations has been set up by Verena McCaig and Linden Groves, the Historic Landscape Project Officers. This new e-mail group replaces the previous discussion facility on the Historic Landscape Project web forum.

Interested members are invited to join at <http://uk.groups.yahoo.com/group/leapthehaha>

Over the coming weeks, Linden and Verena will be starting discussions on relevant topics including research and record keeping, writing Statements of Significance and solar arrays.

Education

The grants that we donated to ten primary schools in the Bristol, South Gloucester and North Somerset area in 2014 were much appreciated. Just three examples are:



Henbury Court Primary Academy who said the grant enabled them to buy seeds and plants for their colourful enclosed garden which is a haven of peace and tranquillity amid a very large playing field. The children were not there when I visited but the special needs teacher who showed me around said it was an invaluable asset especially for troubled children to relax in.

The Oasis Academy in Hengrove used the money to buy tools such as the new wheelbarrow being put to good use seen here. The gardening club have built raised beds using planks and tyres and it was good to see the children's enthusiasm as they harvested radishes and lettuces.



Cynthia with children at St Theresa's RC Primary

I also much enjoyed an afternoon with the gardening club at St Theresa's RC Primary in Monks Park, Bristol helping them to build their scarecrow. The grant had enabled them to mend their eco greenhouse made of plastic bottles and to buy evergreen plants to adorn their 'Octopus's Garden'. The children also proudly showed me their school chickens and the two eggs they had produced that day!



It has been so good to see all this gardening activity and enjoyment in our schools. I would love to hear from any schools who think they might benefit from our support, and also from other organisations or initiatives in our area who are working towards the same end – ie promoting the concept of outdoor learning through the development of gardens in primary schools.

Cynthia Troup

Summer Visits

University of Bristol Botanic Garden

Wednesday 25 June

Sixteen keen and curious members assembled by the 'Floral Diversity', pollination area on a sunny and warm June morning. We were welcomed by Nicholas Wray, the curator, who reminisced about the last time he greeted a group from Avon Gardens Trust back in June 2008.

At the time of the 2008 visit, the Botanic Garden had only recently moved from Bracken Hill, in 2005, to the new location at the Holmes in Stoke Bishop. Many of the specimen plants and trees were still in their infancy. The monkey puzzle tree from Chile was small due to its recent planting.



Dr Ann Brooks

A dinosaur hides in the monkey puzzle tree

From 2002 onwards, once the decision to move was made, propagation of as many woody plants as possible, was carried out, especially those more difficult subjects, to allow for varying techniques to be tried.

Seed was also collected each year, then finally herbaceous plants were lifted and bagged up over the winter of 2004/5. Over 12,000 plants were eventually moved to their new home.

The relocations, whilst being a logistical and botanical challenge, allowed for a new key area; the 'Angiosperm Phylogeny Collection'. This 'family tree' layout represents the latest scientific findings on flowering plant evolution based on the sequencing of DNA in their genes. Bristol was the first botanic garden to display plants in this way.

The local Flora and Rare Native Plants collection is another work in progress. Plants are being introduced that are native to rivers, streams and water meadows in our local area. The Somerset Levels are being emulated over several metres of low lying ground next to a pool so that the area floods in wet winter conditions and dries out in the summer, as indeed it had at the time of our visit. The plant information board, that Avon Gardens Trust contributed towards, stands nearby.

We walked through 500 million years of plant evolution in the next section of the garden, the Evolutionary Dell. Relatives of key groups of plants have been planted in the order in which they first evolved.

Two things immediately became apparent. This area, more than any other, felt completely contemporary with its Tree Ferns, granite boulders, Horsetail grasses and ferns.

The other striking feature is how well the water technology has been discreetly hidden. Strategically placed rocks containing fossils reinforced the concept of the geological time line.

There are 19 diverse areas to progress through, all of which reflect in one way or another the garden's main theme of plant evolution and its four core collections: Evolution, Mediterranean, useful, and



Dr Ann Brooks

The large pie-dish like leaves of the *Victoria cruziana* rare local and threatened native plants. For example, 'useful plants' are represented by the European and Chinese herb gardens and the economic crop plants in the Tropical Glasshouse, home also to the Giant Amazon Water lily, *Victoria Amazonica*.



Wendy Smale

About one and a half hours later, refreshments were served on the West Terrace. It was as grand and enjoyable as the name suggests. We were able to refresh, mingle and thank AGT member and Bristol Botanic Garden's guide, Wendy Smale for her informative and expertly guided meander around this unique garden.

Anne Hills



Dr Ann Brooks

Three Open Gardens in Chew Stoke

Saturday 19 July

**Success! A Wonderful Day
Despite the Weather**



Anne Hills

Paul Hervey-Brookes waits with Lindsey Suenson-Taylor for the sky to clear outside St Andrew's Church

After weeks of glorious sunshine, a dreadful weather forecast for heavy rain and thunderstorms made for a damp start, but people turned up in waterproofs, lifting our spirits; the sun started shining and we had a very successful day making circa £700 for the Avon Gardens Trust's charitable causes.

The rain came on cue just as we opened at 1.30pm, but thankfully soon stopped, leaving our gardens refreshed and sparkling. Grouped around the village church, the three gardens were manned by their owners: Lindsey Suenson-Taylor, Dick and Carol Raffety, and myself with my husband Andrew



Vanessa Harrison

Troup. We were helped by AGT volunteers Peter Jones, Oliver Delany and Carolyn and John Bridge, to whom we are most grateful. The gardens are very different. Lindsey's garden was designed and created from a flat riding arena only the year before by Chelsea Gold Award Winner, Paul Hervey-Brookes; it features prairie planting, a wild meadow and formal areas.



Vanessa Harrison

The Raffety's 14th century Rectory is surrounded by a newly designed garden by Mary Payne, making a most attractive enhancement of an ancient space. In contrast, my garden has been a family garden for thirty years, maturing naturally



Vanessa Harrison

without any organised design but with the advantage of two streams and many different levels.

At 3.30pm Paul Hervey-Brookes' illustrated talk was well received by a packed audience in the village church. He gave us an introduction to the thinking and influences behind his designs, and discussed how to create an illusion of space, transporting us from a palace in the desert in Jordan to Derek Jarman's cottage in Dungeness.

Throughout the afternoon, teas were served by my local friends in the Church Hall, with scones and cream and delicious home-made cakes. Outside, Lesley Gallant sold plants



Vanessa Harrison



Vanessa Harrison

and cuttings provided by the AGT committee. Local plantswoman, Hazel Wedlake, also had a stall doing such good business, so much so she is keen to come again!

Cynthia Troup



Ros Delamy

Avon Gardens Trust AGM Barrow Court

Saturday 26 July 2014

It has been twelve years since the Trust last held its AGM in the impressive setting of Barrow Court with its stone floors, ornate wooden panelling and leaded windows.

The opportunity to hold our AGM here again was due to the kind permission of Iann Barron and it gave many of our newer members the opportunity to visit the privately owned house and gardens. Thirty five members attended and after the business

side of the meeting had been conducted, Iann Barron gave a brief introduction to the history of the house. He described how in the late 19th century, this Jacobean house had been remodelled and refurbished by Henry Martin Gibbs, a wealthy individual who had acquired the house and estate from his older brother Antony Gibbs of Tyntesfield.

A cream tea was then served and many chose to enjoy their refreshments indoors to escape the heat outside. Suitably fortified, the members split into two groups and were taken on a guided tour of the magnificent gardens by Iann Barron and Gareth Edwards.



Ros Delamy



Ros Delamy



These grounds were laid out in just over four years from 1892 by Francis Inigo Thomas who had been commissioned by Henry Gibbs to produce a comprehensive new garden design.

In the bright sunshine, members were taken through a series of interlinked formal compartments which are dominated by yew hedging and architectural features including gazebos, balustrades, obelisks and statuary. The Sundial Court and the Green Court were designed by Thomas on a more intimate scale that did not dominate or overawe. The shrubbery area provided a welcome element of shade and was an unexpected, more informal element in this garden where enticement and surprise are the main elements.

The focal point of the garden is by the exedra with its twelve pillars representing each month of the year and it never fails to

impress especially against a backdrop of a blue sky. Each pillar supports a sculpture by Alfred Drury representing the 'daughters of the year' and range from a young girl as January through to an elderly matriarch as December.

Barrow Court is probably one of the best examples of the brief taste for formal architectural gardens and has delighted visitors for over a hundred years. Without doubt, our members continued this tradition of enjoyment for the Trust's visit.

Ros Delany

Events for 2015

We hope to include a list of our intended visits and talks with the Journal

Little Naish

a Brief History of a Walled Garden



Anne Hills

Just before you descend Naish Hill towards Clapton in Gordano and Portishead, you may have noticed a stone cottage on the left called Naish Lodge. The cottage marks the entrance to an estate that has a history dating back to the 14th century.

Its name is thought to derive from a former owner or occupier, Johannes Atte Nasch, recorded in 1327-28 in the exchequer lay subsidies. Naish House came to the Halswell family in 1634-35 through marriage and was rebuilt on the site of the earlier house. In 1685 the estate passed to the Kemys family and subsequently Mr Walter King. Certain structures in the walled gardens suggest that the stone walls could have been built during this period. A substantial and productive kitchen garden would have been essential to supply food to the table of the family, guests and servants living on the Naish Estate, 400 feet above the Bristol Channel.

About the time that James Adam Gordon inherited the Naish Estate in 1824, a map was drawn up to show the Upper and Lower Naish Estates. It enables us to see the mainly Georgian Estate before James Adam Gordon spent some of his vast fortune expanding and *gothicising* the buildings.

What appears to be the three towers, the gazebo, The Gardener's Tower and the Bailiff's Octagonal Tower are on the plan but less developed. Stone garden walls attach to Little Naish and extend north-west to the gazebo; south-west towards Naish House and south-east to divide the walled garden from the orchard and north-east into a field. The two walled gardens and garden slips, shown in 1824, exist today.



Estate map 1824

Little Naish was built as the gardener's cottage circa 1830-1840 by James Adam Gordon as part of the extensive services and garden buildings of the former Naish House, all in Perpendicular Gothic style. Its design, with a three stage tower with a polygonal stair turret, was probably intended to create an elegant outlook together with the nearby two storey gazebo, to be viewed from the former Naish House.

The north-east section of the wall creates a courtyard in front of a further series of out buildings associated with Little Naish. The bothy, potting shed, mushroom house etc. were added during the intervening 28 years and illustrated in the 1872 sale documents. These buildings still exist and must have been essential for the cultivation of produce, for the table of 'a mansion of considerable size'.

Estate map 1872



Most of these buildings still exist and are described in the *Particulars and Conditions of Sale 1872*: “Two walled kitchen gardens, well stocked with Wall and other Fruit Trees, Gardener’s Cottage with Tower, Grapery, Mushroom house, Potting shed, Tool House, Store, Green House, Fernery, Outer garden”.

An undated photograph which is of too poor quality to include here, shows little Naish with a substantial glasshouse approximately 7m in length to the west of the tower and leaning to the south face of the south-west wall.



Anne Hills

The photograph above shows the red brick chimney flues built into the south facing wall. These ‘hot walls’ were popular in the 18th century to heat the lean-to glasshouses to ripen exotic fruits.

Susan Campbell, in her book, *A History of Kitchen Gardening*, states that; “In the 1820s the problem of erratic and unequally distributed heat was alleviated by the introduction of hot water pipes instead of hot air flues. Both of these heating systems continued to be used in old fashioned places until well into the 20th century, but it is doubtful if hot walls were built much later than the mid 19th century. By the 1880s the more avant-garde horticulturalists considered them to be ‘nearly or quite’ obsolete”.

After the heady, lavish entertaining years of James Adam Gordon, the walled gardens took on a new lease of life as the food source for a boarding school at Naish House. In 1891 a Captain Spencer opened a residential prep school in the mansion. The 1901 census records that 31 pupils aged between 7 and 14 plus a staff of 12 lived and studied in Naish House.

In 1902, the mansion burnt down. There were no fatalities fortunately, but it meant that the school moved to another location and Little Naish must have missed the market for its produce for a while.

By 1923 Arthur Besley and his wife Mary Ellen had moved into Little Naish and ran the walled gardens as a Market Garden. Produce was taken to the market in Bristol every Friday on a horse drawn cart. Apparently, the figs sold for sixpence each, which Mr Besley considered easy money as the fig trees (which are still producing figs) needed no attention.

Sadly, during the blackout of 1940, a lorry crashed into Mr Besley’s cart as he returned from the Bristol market and demolished his only means of transport for his market garden trading.

The intervening years have seen the Alfreys, the Parkers and now the Hills family adding flowers, shrubs and specialist bulbs as well as enjoying the produce of the walled gardens.

Peter & Anne Hills

Conservation Management Plans

This summer, the Garden History Society published a second edition of the list of Conservation Management Plans. It means there are now over 1400 entries available online as a free download at

www.parksandgardens.org

A Productive Day's Labour

We gave a 'helping hand' (see *Summer Bulletin*, p11) to the Hartcliffe Health and Environmental Action Group (HHEAG) by providing a new cover for one of their poly tunnels.



Wendy Pollard

Digging out a trench for a start

On the appointed sunny morning I turned up at the allotment site as a volunteer to meet a dozen people, all connected with running HHEAG. Led by Sue Walker together with the leader of their allotment gardening and under the instruction of an expert, we were soon issued with spades and forks to make a start on digging out an eighteen inch deep trench all round the site of the poly tunnel. Great friendliness and chat amongst all of us as we laboured with the hard ground. It took most of the morning session to complete the trench.

Lunch appeared thanks to Caroline who runs the kitchen at the Gatehouse Centre with cookery courses and lunch clubs for local people. Delicious food, sitting out in the sun and getting to know people was a reward for the hard work.

Next task - putting up the hoops



Wendy Pollard

Back to work and the process of putting up the supporting hooped framework. With the ends of the hoops firmly in the trenches, they could be levelled up. It was important they were evenly installed at this stage. We achieved this to the satisfaction of the expert and then it was time to unfold the polythene, yards and yards of it. Draped over the hoops it then had to be anchored in place.

Here the earth we had dug out of the trenches came into its own. Gradually backfilling the earth into the trenches on top of the polythene - each time all hands along the side to keep heaving up the polythene from under the earth to make sure the cover was as taut as possible - gradually all the earth was returned to fill the trenches and we had a new poly tunnel. The finishing touches were to create the doorway one end, a 'window frame' the other end for a through draught and a wire netting fence all along the outside to prevent foxes clambering up and ripping the polythene.



Wendy Pollard

On the last stretch to completion

Now they can get on with planting up ready for growing on in the winter. The produce is used in the kitchen and sold in the community shop; all of which benefits the local community.

Wendy Pollard

The English Country House Garden

George Plumptre
Frances Lincoln Publishers
£25
ISBN 978-0711232990



This is a large format book with plenty of beautiful photographs by Marcus Harpur; featuring 25 gardens, it can be enjoyed without reading anything other than the captions. Once into the text, you quickly discover that Hidcote, Sissinghurst and Great Dixter are presented as 'The Three Essentials'. As Plumptre says: "They were acclaimed as encapsulating the best principles of garden making when they were being created, and a century later they are still judged to be equally relevant today".

These three gardens were created around the same time. Sissinghurst, "a romantic country house ideal", and Hidcote were given to the National Trust, whereas Great Dixter became "dynamic, adventurous" as Christopher Lloyd, and now Fergus Garrett, have approached the garden in an "irreverent way".

Country houses demonstrate early and evolving garden history, according to fashions. In the chapter, 'Unfolding History', Plumptre explores this aspect by comparing Montacute, Rousham, Tyntesfield, Rodmorton Manor and Folly Farm. In the next chapter, Broughton Castle, Goodnestone Park, Kiftsgate Court, Trebah, Cothay Manor, Helmingham Hall and Spencers are discussed as 'Country House Garden Ideals'. Plumptre says "these gardens revel in feelings of nostalgia and romanticism" and there are plenty of lovely photographs to illustrate this.

The themes explored in five chapters can often apply to many of the 25 gardens, so you may find yourself wondering about the

choices Plumptre has made. For instance, Charleston, Exbury, Thorp Perrow, Felley Priory and Lullington Castle appear as 'Personal Creations'. Whereas the choice of Scampston Hall, Seend Manor, East Ruston Old Vicarage, Broughton Grange and The Old Rectory in Naunton is more obvious for the final chapter, 'Contemporary Designs'.

John Edmondson says in his review which you can find in full on the website www.parksandgardens.org

"My only slight reservation about the selection of gardens is that it is weak on examples from northern England (though perhaps unsurprising given the uneven distribution of wealth today). By referring to Scampston Hall in North Yorkshire as one of Lancelot Brown's most 'far-flung commissions' he appears to disregard the fact that Brown's birthplace was also in north-east England; to my mind Robert and Charles Fox's Trebah more richly deserves that designation."

But, choices aside, I found the book gave me an enjoyable and interesting opportunity to read about 25 gardens, some of which I've not come across before.

Emma Jones

Association of Gardens Trusts

Writing Planning Response Letters

Tuesday 11 November, 1.00-4.30pm

Practise using what you know to write an effective, punchy letter in response to planning applications to support your trust to protect your local landscapes.

Held at The Gallery, Cowcross St, London EC1M 6EJ. See the Association website for booking and more details

www.gardenstrusts.org.uk



Dates for your Diary

Friends of Kingswood Heritage
Museum and Warmley Gardens

Warmley Gardens and Grotto

Sunday 9 November, 2.15pm

Explore the Warmley gardens on a guided walk. Starting from the Museum at 2.15pm, approximately one and a half hour walk on level ground some of which may be muddy in wet weather. Bring a torch and wonder as you wander through the grottoes, which will be specially opened for you by your guide.

Meet at the Museum. £2.00

Enquiries: Chris Quarry (tel 0117 957 5387)

Bristol Civic Society

Arnos Vale:

***The Architecture, Sculpture & Symbolism
of a Victorian Garden Cemetery.***

Wednesday 10 December, 7.30pm

An illustrated talk by Friend and volunteer guide at Arnos Vale Cemetery, Alan Bambury. In the Upper Meeting Room, Friends Meeting House, Hampton Road, Bristol BS6 6JE.

Arnos Vale Cemetery was created in 1837. In this well illustrated talk, Alan looks at the different architectural styles of the buildings, and considers the many different types of monuments and their significance.

Members £2 (voluntary), Non-members £5.
Booking not required.

If you know about something happening in your area which might interest other members, please don't keep it under your hat.

Send what details you can to web@avongardenstrust.org.uk and we'll post it on our website and try to find space in future *Bulletins*.



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www.riversidegardencentre.com