

Gardens Trust events for 2017 and 2018

also on our website www.thegardenstrust.org

Gardens Trust Historic Landscapes Assembly at The Birmingham and Midland Institute 10am, Tuesday 28 November

Our second, annual Assembly from the Gardens Trust, providing an opportunity for all those with a stake in historic designed landscapes and their conservation to meet and discuss current issues.

Speakers include representatives from the Gardens Trust, Historic England, Natural England, Parks and Gardens UK, the Repton 2018 Celebrations team, and we will also be treated to case studies from County Gardens Trusts. **David Lambert** will be discussing our new report *Vulnerability Brown: Capability Brown landscapes at risk* [see p3]. We will also reflect on the legacy of the Great Storm, 1987, with a presentation from **Dominic Cole**, President of the Gardens Trust and an evening lecture and book-signing by **Tamsin Treverton-Jones**, author of 'Windblown: Landscape, Legacy and Loss, The Great Storm of 1987'.

Cost: £12. Full details of the day's programme are available on the website.

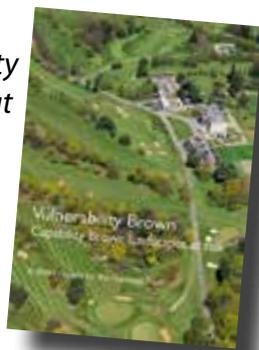
Members' Meet-Up, Lancaster at the Quaker's Meeting House, Lancaster 10.30am, Friday 1 December

Another opportunity for Gardens Trust and

County Gardens Trust members in the north to meet each other and discuss ideas, skills and questions.

The Agenda will allow for discussions on CGT experiences of Conservation, Education and Research & Recording. Highlights include Lancashire Gardens Trust's research on **Thomas Mawson's** landscapes.

Free event, with a suggested donation of £7 towards lunchtime catering. Please email: tamsinmcmillan@thegardenstrust.org for more information or to book a place.



Members' Meet-Up, Cambridge at Cambridge Botanic Garden 10.30am, Monday 22 January

An opportunity for Gardens Trust and County Gardens Trust members in the mid and eastern counties to meet each other and discuss ideas, skills and questions.

The Agenda will allow for discussions on CGT experiences of Conservation, Education and Research & Recording. Highlights include Norfolk Gardens Trust's experience of researching and publishing their new book on '*Capability Brown in Norfolk*', edited by **Sally Bate**.

Free event, with a suggested donation of £7 towards lunchtime catering. Please email: tamsinmcmillan@thegardenstrust.org for more information or to book a place.

The Gardens Trust 2018 Lecture Series in London, Bath and Birmingham see the back cover for full diary listings

Following our successful series of lectures held earlier this year, which included two in Birmingham, we are delighted to announce that our Lecture Series 2018 will include not only the usual five in London but also three in venues elsewhere.

Our **London Winter lectures** will be held as usual on Wednesday evenings at **The Gallery**, Cowcross Street, London EC1 during January, February and March.

The London series will start on **Wednesday 24 January** with **Pete Smith** speaking on *The history of the gardens of Wollaton Hall, Notts, from Robert Smythson's initial plan in 1580 to the present day*.

To commemorate the bicentenary of Humphry Repton, **Professor Stephen Daniels** will give a

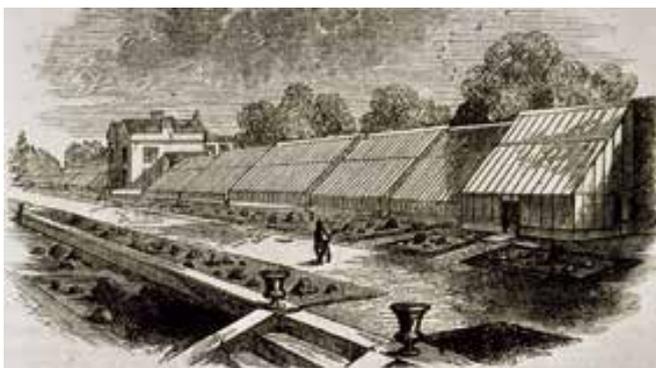
talk on **31 January** entitled *Revealing Repton: approaches to the Art of Landscape Gardening*. Stephen will be speaking about his long-standing interest in Humphry Repton and discuss new approaches to understanding and communicating the art of landscape gardening, and imaginative ways to commemorate the cultural significance of Repton's work and its legacy.

Shirley Evans's talk on **14 February** will be on *The life and work of William Andrews Nesfield*.

Susan Campbell, a Vice-President of the Gardens Trust, will speak about *Queen Victoria's*



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Susan Campbell

Kitchen Garden at Windsor on 28 February [above].

On 14 March Maria Luczak will speak on *The collaboration of Lord Leverhulme and Thomas Mawson in the creation of Rivington Terraced Gardens* near Bolton, Greater Manchester, and their recent restoration. Booking is available online or by post, see below for all details.

Our first **Gardens Trust Winter Lecture in Bath**, organised in association with the Museum of Bath Architecture, will be given by **Professor Stephen Daniels**, who will give his lecture on *Revealing Repton: approaches to the Art of Landscape Gardening* at the Museum on 15 March. Booking is online or through the Museum of Bath Architecture.

The **Gardens Trust West Midlands Spring and Autumn Lectures 2018** will be held at the Birmingham & Midland Institute, the Spring one will be on 18 April, given by **Maria Luczak**, on the *Rivington Terraced Gardens*. The autumn lecture will be given by **Stephen Daniels** on *Revealing Repton...* and will be held on 26 September.

Full details are available on [The Gardens Trust website](#) and booking is open now. Online booking is slightly different this year. There are separate items on the website for each lecture, as well as one for a London season ticket. There is no printed booking form, but if you wish to book by post, please contact Sally Jeffery for the London lectures: sally.jeffery2@gmail.com, or phone: 07817 128 147; Sarah Fitzgerald for the Bath lecture; fitzgeraldatpen@aol.com, or phone: 01747 840 895 and Advolly Richmond for the Birmingham lectures: ilex@advolly.co.uk

Members' Meet-Up, Dorset
at The Butterfly House, Castle Gardens,
Sherborne

10.30am, Thursday 15 February

Another opportunity for Gardens Trust and County Gardens Trust members to meet each other and discuss ideas, skills and questions.

The Agenda will allow for discussions on CGT experiences of Conservation, Education and Research & Recording. Highlights include researching and conserving public parks in Southampton and Gloucestershire, and an update on **P&GUK** from **Philip White**, CEO of Hestercombe Gardens Trust.

A free event, with a suggested donation of £7 towards lunchtime catering.

Please email tamsinmcmillan@thegardenstrust.org for more information or to book a place.

Members' Meet-Up, London
at The Gallery, Cowcross Street
March, to be confirmed

There will be a final **Members' Meet-Up** in March at The Gallery, Cowcross Street, to which all members and CGTs will be welcome. Again contact Tamsin for further information, as above.

Rivington Terraced Gardens
the lost garden of Lancashire,
a Mawson or a Leverhulme masterpiece?
11am to 4pm, Saturday 12 May

With your appetites whetted by **Maria Luczak's forthcoming lectures** (in London on 14 March and Birmingham on 18 April, see left column) the GT is organising a visit to **Rivington Terraced Gardens** near Bolton, Lancashire. These historic gardens (grade II) laid out on the very edge of the West Pennine Moors, with fine and extensive views, were originally created for soap magnate Lord Leverhulme as a spectacular venue for him to relax in and entertain friends and family.

Situated on the **steep** hillside below Rivington Pike, the Gardens were designed by landscape architect Thomas Mawson and his son between 1905 and 1922. Following Leverhulme's death in 1925 they fell into a state of extreme decay and have been cherished locally in their ruinous state for decades since. Now with a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund they are undergoing a three-year major programme of work by heritage professionals aided by enthusiastic volunteers to repair, stabilise and consolidate the extraordinary array of eleven listed buildings, structures and landscape features.

Guided tours will be led by Liam Roche, the site manager for Groundwork's contractors and Elaine Taylor (Lancashire Gardens Trust), who has



Elaine Taylor

One of Mawson's presentation plans for Rivington

researched both Rivington and other Mawson gardens in Lancashire.

The Gardens, known in their early days as Royton Cottage (Lever's first house on the site, destroyed in an arson attack by the suffragette Edith Rigby), are the result of a highly personal collaboration between Mawson, and later his son, and Lord Leverhulme. They were, in their hey-day, a foremost example of the Arts and Crafts style. The 'Cottage' and its replacement house have long disappeared along with most of Mawson's experimental ornamental shrub planting but there's still much to admire in the stonework of several surviving summerhouses, the monumental and magnificent 'Seven Arched Bridge' and the Pigeon Tower. The latter, designed on three floors as a lookout tower, contains Lady Leverhulme's sewing room on the top floor.



Elaine Taylor

The Japanese Garden designed by Mawson in 1922 [above] was inspired by Lord and Lady Lever's trip to Japan; its rockwork, lake, two waterfalls, lanterns and a tea houses were the work of James Pulham and Son.

Did we mention that the site includes steep slopes, hence its drama? Please be advised that there may be accessibility issues on some parts of this extensive visit.

Booking and venue details including ticket price will follow in our March Newsletter and on the GT website; bookings will be made through Eventbrite via the Gardens Trust website. Contact Claire de Carle: claire@decarle.plus.com

Japan Gardens Study Tour based in Osaka, visiting Hiroshima and beyond Monday 26 March to Sunday 8 April

Now fully booked

Japanese gardens reflect the philosophy of their people who live close to nature and combine their ancient spiritual beliefs in Shinto with their particular form of Buddhism, developed there from the seventh century onwards. This 'Cherry Blossom Spring Tour' is based initially in Kyoto, with visits to Nara, Hiroshima and beyond. We will look at gardens ranging from the earliest archaeological reconstructions in Nara from 750 AD to the 20th century gardens of Shigemori Mirei, who both restored historic gardens and designed new ones.

Although fully booked, places *may* become available. The full itinerary and cost details, as well as an application form are on our website, contact Kristina Taylor: wowkristina@hotmail.com or: 07972 702 061.

The Prophet in his own Country: 3 Repton gardens in Norfolk A GT Repton Festival Event Friday 1 & Saturday 2 June



To mark the bi-centenary of the death of Humphry Repton, the Norfolk Gardens Trust in association with The Gardens Trust is offering a two-day conference focused on **Sheringham Hall** and Park, **Barningham Hall** and **Honing Hall**, based at the Links Country Park Hotel in Cromer.

We shall be visiting three of Repton's surviving landscapes, two of which, Sheringham Hall and Barningham Hall, were commissions to both Humphry Repton and his architect son, John Adey Repton. At Sheringham this was for a new house and at Barningham a remodelling.

Red Books were prepared for all three, but only two, those for Sheringham Hall and Honing Hall, survive complete.

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At Barningham Hall, Thomas Mott commissioned both Humphry Repton and John Adey Repton in 1805 to remodel the Hall. A number of watercolours have survived from the Red Book (private collection) which suggest that Humphry was also involved in the design of the park and gardens.

Programme

We begin at 9.30 on Friday morning with registration followed by talks from Professor **Tom Williamson**, Dr **Jon Finch** and GT President **Dominic Cole**. After lunch, we visit **Sheringham** (own transport) for a guided tour of the park and an opportunity to view Repton's Red Book in the Hall's library. A conference dinner and after-dinner talk concludes the day.

On Saturday morning we take a coach to **Aylsham** and the parish church where Repton is buried. A picnic lunch follows in the park at **Honing Hall** (weather permitting) and thence on to **Barningham Hall**, returning to the Links Hotel for 5pm.

Only a few places remaining, so act fast...

Cost of the two-day conference (excluding accommodation) is £125 for County Garden Trust and The Garden Trust members, and £150 for non-members. You will need to book their own accommodation at the Conference hotel: **The Links Country Park Hotel in Cromer NR27 9QH: www.links-hotel.co.uk/ or phone: 01263 838383**, please state you are with the Norfolk Gardens Trust Group. Rates are, for double rooms: £150 per room per night to include breakfast; single occupancy (in a double room) rate is £95 per person. **The hotel rooms are reserved only until 31 December 2017.**

Please contact Karen Moore: Karen Moore, Norfolk Gardens Trust Organiser, Point House, Back Street, Litcham, Norfolk PE32 2PA, or: moore.karen@icloud.com or phone: 01328 700 313

Wonders & Marvels: Water, the intellect & science in the 17th-century British garden Annual Oxford Rewley House weekend Friday 1 to Sunday 3 June

Seventeenth-century gardens were not only designed to delight and entertain, but also to foster intellectual activity ranging from quiet Puritan contemplation to cutting-edge scientific enquiry. The owners of several gardens near Oxford had social and professional connections with the emerging scientific community of the

University, and also with the founders of the Royal Society. This weekend will explore different types and functions of gardens, from the frivolous to the scientific, and set a number of Oxfordshire gardens in a wider British context.

There will be a coach trip which will include an extended visit to **Hanwell Castle** on the Saturday afternoon. There will be some standing and walking over rough and potentially muddy ground. Please bring boots or stout shoes and be prepared for all weathers. There will also be an exhibition centred on the results of excavations in the park over the past seven years including many of the finds that have been made.

Dinner and registration from 6pm on Friday evening will be followed by a talk by **David Jacques** on *Seventeenth-Century gardens and their context*.

Saturday starts, following breakfast, with a talk by **Christopher Dingwall**, on *Edzell Castle: 'Ane excellent dwelling, a great hous and a delicat gardine'*; **Elisabeth Whittle** on *The marvels of Raglan Castle, Wales: the water parterre and Edward Somerset's 'water commanding engine'*; and again on *The formal water garden at Tackley, Oxfordshire*. We then depart for an extended trip to Hanwell castle, and its excavations, before returning for dinner and an evening talks by **Stephen Wass** on *The Enstone Marvels: rediscovered and redefined*.

On Sunday there are further talks by **Paula Henderson** on *Francis Bacon: the empiricist and the garden*; **David Marsh** on *John Evelyn and the Garden as a Scientific Elysium*; and **Toby Parker** on *The Oxford college gardens in the second half of the seventeenth century*. The course concludes after lunch.

Costs from: £153 (tuition only), £363.20 with accommodation and meals. Full details at: www.conted.ox.ac.uk/courses. Accommodation for this weekend is at Rewley House, 1 Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JA. Contact: ppdayweek@conted.ox.ac.uk or phone: 01865 270380

Danish Landscapes and Gardens Study Tour Monday 4 to Sunday 10 June

Our six day tour of landscapes and gardens in Denmark will take place in early June. Success Tours, who will be administering the application forms and moneys, have got us rooms in two excellently



Robert Peel

located 4-star hotels; in Odense, a late 19th-century classic for two nights and, in Copenhagen, a larger contemporary hotel for four nights.

From Odense, in the centre of the island of Funen, we will visit the recently restored 18th-century Romantic garden of **Sanderumgaard**; the Renaissance moated castle of **Egeskov** with its roomed gardens designed to respect the historic nature of the site and including one designed by **C Th Sørensen**; a landscape designer's private garden; and the **Hans Christian Andersen garden** in Odense, the birthplace of perhaps the most celebrated Dane in modern history.

The only moderately long coach trip of the visit will take us from Funen across the Storebaelt, spanned by an impressive bridge, to Zealand, the easternmost island. After visiting an historicist garden by **G N Brandt**, the picturesque manor garden of **Liselund** in some of the only hilly country in Denmark, and a restored glasshouse in the grounds of **Gisselfeld**, the Milners' only design in Denmark, we shall arrive in the impressive capital city.

In Copenhagen we will see several royal landscapes, including the baroque garden of **Frederiksborg** [above], the picturesque garden of **Frederiksborg** (confusing!) and the **Kings Garden**

in the centre of Copenhagen; and the **Botanic Gardens** also in the city centre.



Robert Peel

We can't miss the open air sculpture museum of **Louisiana** overlooking the Oresund, that narrow strait between Denmark and Sweden [above]; the unusual **allotment gardens at Naerum** by C Th Sørensen and, hopefully, the garden where his daughter, **Sonja Poll**, still lives; the **garden of G N Brandt** and his most famous cemetery of **Mariebjerg**, and a couple of public parks depending upon time.

A novelty will be a half day on bikes with a landscape architect guide, talking to us about the contemporary landscapes of the capital, as well

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as a boat trip along the canals and harbour to better appreciate some of the city's iconic new designs and carefully conserved historic parts. An alternative will be found for those whose biking days are over, although I would emphasise that 25% of Danes go to work by bike and the safety record is excellent. It is an appropriate and relaxing way to see the city.

Costs will be around £1500 per person sharing twin accommodation to include bed and breakfast, one other meal a day, all group transport during the trip, site visits and guiding costs but not transport to the hotel in Odense at the start and from Copenhagen airport at the end. Prices per person will depend upon numbers, with 25 participants paying much less than 15 or even 20. We will recommend, in details to be sent out soon, along with booking form and exact prices, flights to Copenhagen and details of connection from the airport to the central railway station and from there to Odense, a journey of just over an hour. For further information please contact Robert Peel: rma.peel@btopenworld.com

Gardens Trust Annual Family Picnic Wicksteed Park, Northamptonshire Saturday 30 June

Our 2017 annual family picnic event merrily moved to Wollaton Hall, Nottinghamshire, in November, and who doesn't love a picnic out of season.

Our family picnic in 2018 will be at the fun packed **Wicksteed Park**, Barton Seagrave, with Northamptonshire Gardens Trust, and mentioning the Humphry Repton bicentennial.

Full details will appear in the next issue.

Northern Ireland Gardens Study Tour Sunday 5 to Saturday 11 August

Until recent years Northern Ireland has not been seen as popular destination for garden visiting despite having some of the most interesting in the UK. To remedy this two of our enthusiastic Northern Ireland members, Doreen and Ivan Wilson, are organising a study tour of some of the gardens and historic estates in August 2018 when many will be at their best. The tour will be based in the 4 star **Dunadry Hotel** near Antrim (BT21 4HA), which is conveniently situated for Belfast International Airport.

The study tour will include the **Hillsborough Castle and Gardens** which is undergoing a £16 million restoration, and **Antrim Castle Gardens** which has recently completed a £6 million restoration of its 400 year old landscape. We will also go north to the 17th-century **Benvarden** estate, situated on the banks of the river Bush, and in the ownership of the Montgomery family since 1798 where will have lunch in the unusual diamond-shaped stable yard and, if time permits, a tour of the mansion house.

At **Clandeboyne**, the home of the Marchioness of Dufferin and Ava, the head gardener will take us on a tour of the grounds which contain many rare and exotic shrubs as well as the newer Bee Garden with its collection of Old Irish Heritage apple trees, and a beautiful wild flower meadow which should be at its peak in August. Over the years the Marchioness has embarked on extensive tree planting to augment the existing woodlands as well as breeding pedigree cattle which supply the milk for her award-winning yoghurt sold in Fortnum & Mason.

The National Trust property of **Castleward**, on the shores of Strangford Lough, has been one of the settings for 'The Game of Thrones' but we will be 'extras' visiting the Temple Water, currently also undergoing an ambitious restoration project to reveal the important late 17th-century water garden and walks.



David Foreman

No visit to Northern Ireland would be complete without a visit to **Mount Stewart** [above], another National Trust Property, where the mild climate enables an astonishing range of unusual plants and trees to flourish. We have allowed a whole afternoon for tours and exploration of the Formal

Gardens, the Pleasure Grounds and the House itself, especially interesting for the the fascinating story of Lady Edith Londonderry and her 'set'.

Our visit to **Castlewellan** to the Annesley Arboretum will confirm why it was considered one of the top three arboreta of the UK. Established by the 5th Earl Annesley towards the end of the 19th century many of the specimens have reached maturity including over forty varieties of *Chamaecyparis*. August should see the avenue of late summer flowering *Eucryphia* a mass of white petals.

Visits to several other private estates will include a plant hunter's arboretum at Seaforde and a stunning modern garden at the foot of the Mourne, not normally open to the public. On the shores of Strangford Lough we will visit the privately owned **Rosemount** estate, and the adjoining physic garden of the ancient 12th-century Cistercian Grey Abbey.

Please note you will need to arrive for the night of Sunday 5 August 2018, with a stay of six nights, the study tour commences on Monday morning. As the hotel can only hold reserved rooms until mid-January firm bookings must be made by Wednesday 10 January. The tour will be limited to 28 participants and is likely to be very popular, so early expressions of firm interest should be sent by email to: doreenwilson123@btinternet.com

Booking details and a booking form are on

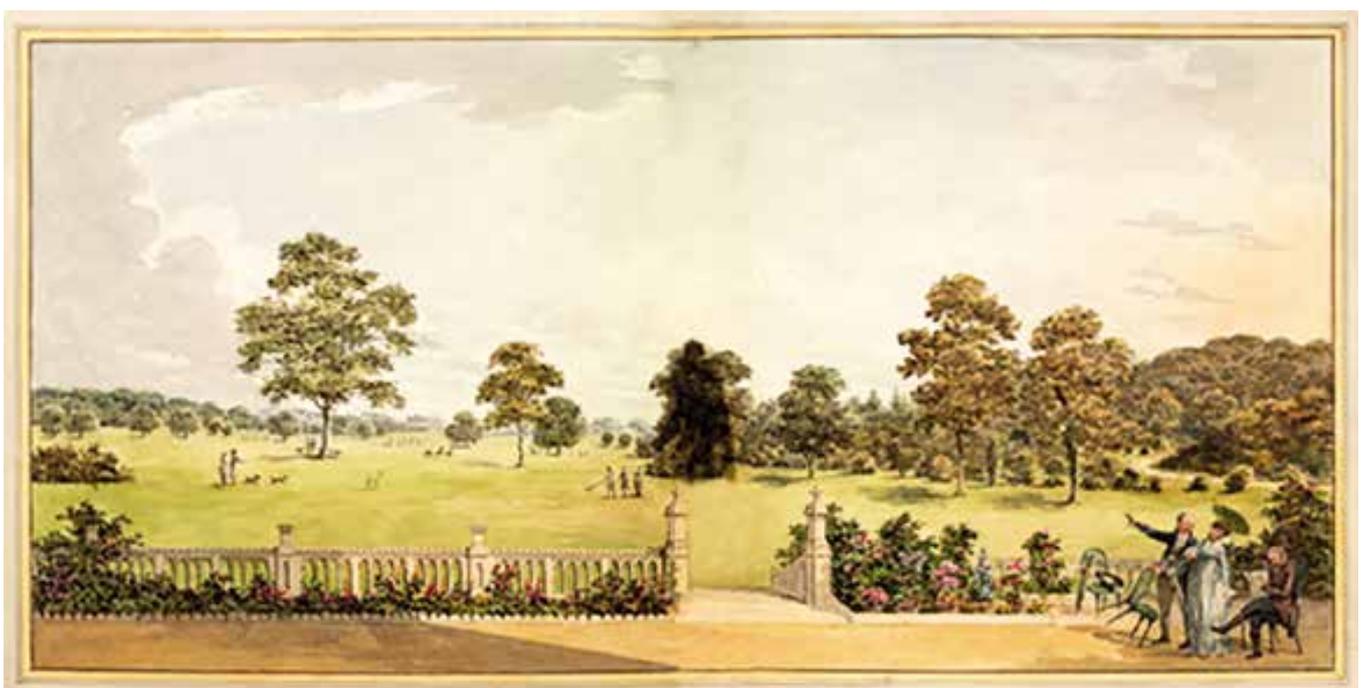
our website, anyone requiring a paper form should write to: Doreen Wilson, Tuffley Lawn, 14 Ballyrogan Park, Newtownards BT23 4SD.

Cost (not including flights) for Gardens Trust members: £760 sharing twin/double; non-members £790; Single room supplement: £150. Cost includes all meals: six breakfasts and six dinners and coffee & lunch every day.

Celebrating Humphry Repton at Ashridge House, Hertfordshire Friday 10 and Saturday 11 August

A two-day conference based at Ashridge, Hertfordshire to cast new light on the life and works of Humphry Repton and consider his legacy in landscape design. The programme comprises a series of lectures on the first day followed by a **tour of the gardens at Ashridge**. The second day comprises a series of lectures in the morning followed in the afternoon by a **tour of Woburn Abbey gardens** led by Gardens Manager **Martin Towsey**. The conference will finish after the tour of Woburn.

Speakers that have indicated they would be able to speak at the conference include; Professor **Tom Williamson** on *Contrasting landscapes and commissions: Repton in Norfolk and Hertfordshire*; Professor **Stephen Daniels** on *Envisioning Landscape: the Art of landscape Gardening*; Dr **Jonathan Finch**; Dr **Sarah Rutherford** on *Research undertaken by CGT's into Repton*;



Repton's Red Book proposal for a terrace view over the park at Ashridge

Courtesy of Ashridge (Bonar Law Memorial) Trust

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Dr Jane Bradney on *Lewis Kennedy and the legacy of the Red Books*; Michael Symes on *Who inspired Humphry Repton?*; Dr Kate Felus; John Phibbs; and Keir Davidson on *Repton's commission for Woburn Abbey*.

Cost to delegates attending both days with one-night accommodation, meals and visits is £285 inc VAT. Non-residential rate that includes dinner on the Friday night will be £150 inc VAT. Accommodation for the night(s) preceding and following the conference is available on application. Bookings can be made through the website or contact contact Sally Rouse: sally.rouse@ashridge.hult.edu or phone: 01442 841 028

The Gardens Trust AGM 2018 and New Research Symposium Weekend in Birmingham Saturday 1 & Sunday 2 September

The Gardens Trust will be heading to Birmingham for our major annual event next year, developing the theme of taking garden history to new places and people. We will be based in two locations: on Saturday on the **University of Birmingham's** campus for lectures and the **Annual General Meeting**, and on Sunday at nearby **Highbury** for tours of the house and grounds, an introduction to its restoration project and the ever-popular **New Research Symposium**.

Our conference aims to add to the rising profile that The Gardens Trust is building for itself in Birmingham through the Historic Landscapes Project 'Meet-Ups', the extension of the Gardens Trust's lecture programme to the city and the series of introductory courses on garden history which will run at both Highbury and the University's **Winterbourne House and Garden** throughout 2017 and 2018.

Highbury, now managed by the Chamberlain Highbury Trust, chamberlainhighburytrust.co.uk, is a magnificent Venetian Gothic villa (listed grade II*) with exceptional Arts & Crafts features and grounds (registered grade II) mainly landscaped by Edward Milner. It was built in 1880 for Joseph Chamberlain (1836–1914), father of Neville and Austen and once described by Winston Churchill as the man 'who made the weather', and the figure who shaped the political agenda when the British Empire stood at the height of its power.

In terms of his built and administrative legacy in



Highbury, home of the Chamberlain Highbury Trust

Birmingham, Chamberlain had a great and lasting impact, of which Prof. Peter Marsh, Chamberlain's biographer in 1994, said, 'Under his guidance Birmingham was known as the best-governed city in the industrial world'.

Arrangements, still in progress, will differ from last year and, we hope, make the event easily accessible for everyone. Delegates will book with the Gardens Trust for the event only, and be able to choose and book their own accommodation; it is likely that a range of room types will be available on the Campus itself but we will provide a list of alternatives in the City or near the University. The Campus is served by its own station as well as by bus from the City and there is free parking at weekends. The programme for each day will begin no earlier than 10.30am to allow the many delegates who would prefer to come just for each day to do so.

The embryo programme includes introductions to Birmingham's estate landscapes and the context for Highbury and to the late 19th-century political, social and cultural world in which Chamberlain lived. We will enjoy guided tours both of his magnificent villa and grounds, now the subject of a restoration plan and HLF bid, and of Winterbourne Garden, also laid out by a Birmingham City industrialist and pioneer of town planning, John Nettlefold (of Guest, Keen & Nettlefold). We're also exploring linking up with other heritage organisations in the City such as Birmingham's Open Spaces Forum, and the Heart of England forum.

Full details of our Annual General Meeting and New Research Symposium weekend in Birmingham, with costs and information on booking will be available in spring 2018.