



Gardens of Paris LRGT abroad for the first time

with a Travel Edition Supplement



Vaux le Vicomte

Inside this issue

Lottery Grant	page 2	Leporc Lecture	page 10
Membership Update	page 3	Gardens of Paris	page 11
Research Group	page 4	Kelmscott and Buscot	page 13
Rufford Postscript	page 5	Hallaton Village Walk	page 17
Peto Lecture	page 7	Whissendine Gardens	page 17
Bramham Park Visit	page 8	2009 Programme	page 20

Chairman's Notes

It is my pleasure to introduce you all to this bumper edition of the LRGT Newsletter. I am also pleased to extend a warm welcome to the new members of the Trust. At the end of last year we launched a campaign to increase our membership. As I write, the membership now stands at 150. At this time last year the figure stood at 85. So thank you to those of you who have worked to achieve this excellent result and those of you who have joined us.

I am also pleased to say that we recently received a grant of just under £5,000 from the Heritage Lottery Foundation. The money will be used for two projects. The first is for the creation of a website for the Trust, which will help us to raise our profile and to make details of our work and activities more widely available. We are also planning to buy new 'projection' equipment to use for our lectures. My thanks go to Steve Horsfield, our Treasurer, for organising the application.

Leicestershire and Rutland Gardens Trust Lottery Grant

It was with the objective of providing a website for our Trust that we applied to the National Lottery "Awards for All" for a grant. You will be delighted to learn that, as part of our overall membership drive, the Trust has been awarded a National Lottery grant of £4950 for the provision of a website and improved multimedia equipment.

Increasingly, the provision of a good website is essential as part of any organisation's publicity effort. Many of the other County Gardens Trusts have their own websites, explaining not only who they are, but also their current programme of events and publications etc.

We are currently working on the design of the website and should have it up and running early next year. The multimedia equipment should be available for our Autumn lecture programme.



Email Addresses

I should like the permission of those Friends who have given me their Email address to use them for information of general interest. This will not replace the present system of regular mailings about events, the newsletter etc. So those of us without email will not lose out.

It is likely that some of you have changed your e-mail addresses, so I would be grateful if you would E-mail your permission to use them within the Trust, by Email. Mine if you need it is the longest I have met yet.-

donkinandiremarjones136@btopenworld.com

Irene Jones Membership Secretary

Membership Campaign Update - September

This year's drive for new members continues to deliver fantastic results. The 'Friend gets Friend' campaign has really started to work. Well done to all of you that have successfully recruited new members.



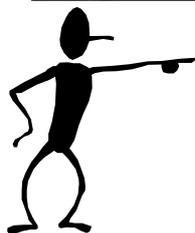
Results to date:

- Membership has increased to date by **68 new members** to a total of 150.
- An incredible **83% increase!**

Benefits:



- The benefits of more members are beginning to be realised.
- The 2009 programme is very strong with nationally renowned speakers. See **2009 programme** in this Newsletter.
- We are much more confident that we will fill a coach, keeping the cost of trips down.



We still need your help to achieve our goal:

- Keep the 'Friend gets Friend' campaign going.
- Use the 2009 programme to persuade your friend to join.
- New membership will be valid till the end of 2009
- More leaflets are available from Irene (Tel: 0116 270 9370)



Our goal:

- To double our membership by the end of the year.
- Some of you already have your champagne on ice.
- You all have the chance to win a bottle by the end of the year, including our new members. All you have to do to win is to introduce 5 new members during the course of the year. Of course, all new introductions help us to achieve our goal.



Don't forget:

Increased membership means we will be able to afford nationally renowned speakers, provide more exciting coach trips, and have more members to contribute to the work and success of the LRGT.

It is in all our interests to continue with the success of this campaign Thank you

Steve Horsfield

Research Group

The Research Group has made a great deal of progress in the last few months and we have now reached a very satisfying stage where we are starting to see some results after many years of background research into the history of our parks.

We have submitted our first full entry on to the Parks and Garden Database. If you look at the website - www.parksandgardens.ac.uk – and search for Queen’s Park, Loughborough, you can see our handiwork and learn about this park’s fascinating history.

We now have a massive task ahead to enter information on other parks that we have already researched. We are currently working on entries for Spinney Hill, Braunstone Park, Knighton Park and Victoria Park.

If you are interested in local history and would like to find out more about what we do, **why not come along to our next meeting on 25th September.** You can commit as much or as little time as you want. Honestly! Ring Deborah on 0116-270-7525 for more information.

London Launch of the Parks and Gardens Database



Back in May, Stephen Barker and Sue Blaxland attended the launch of this project, which took place at Kensington Roof Gardens (originally Derry and Toms). The speakers included Gilly Drummond, President of the Association of Gardens Trusts, John Julius Norwich (pre-recorded) and TV presenter, Chris Beardshaw (in person). Each in their own way, inspired and enthused us about this project.



The venue was, of course, a major attraction and it was extraordinary to find 1½ acres of gardens including a Tudor Garden, a Spanish Garden and a Woodland Garden, together with ducks and flamingos, 100 feet above Kensington High Street. The gardens, now owned by Virgin, are open to the public daily provided that they are not pre-booked for other events. They are definitely worth visiting if you can.

Sue Blaxland

Rufford Study Day - Postscript

Following the Rufford Study Day in May 2007, we were delighted to learn that this event will produce some further research. Funding has been received for a post-graduate student from Nottingham University to work full-time on the Savile Archives to find out more about the landscape and garden history of Rufford. The management at Rufford say that they would not have even thought about applying without the stimulus of the garden study day.

We are also pleased to report that our donation to Rufford has provided bulb and shrub planting in the Memorial Garden.



Planning Application College Hall, Knighton Road and Latimer House



A planning application for the development of this site has now been resubmitted and the Trust has written to the Council with a number of comments. We are concerned about the loss of a unique landscaped view into the former hall of residence, grade II listed, which was a significant aspect of the original (1960s's) design. We also feel that there is insufficient car parking for residents and visitors, which will result in cars spilling out on to the surrounding streets and have a significant impact on the overall character of the area.

We have also asked for more information relating to the hard landscaping materials to be used and requested that as much as possible be of permeable materials, to reduce water run-off. We are concerned about the maintenance of the new soft landscaping and have queried how it will be maintained to retain a high quality.

On the Latimer House site, we have asked whether the existing original terrace wall will be retained, as we feel that this is important, to keep the character of the garden.

We will let you know of further developments in our next Newsletter.



Gardens Trusts are on the up and up

You may be interested to know that there was a very good newspaper article in the Daily Telegraph on 27th June about the success and growth of the garden trust movement. If you have got Internet access, you can read it on line. Here is the link:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/gardening/main.jhtml?xml=/gardening/2008/06/27/garden-trusts127.xml>

Obituary

The Trustees, Committee and Friends of the Gardens Trust were sorry to hear of the death of Gill Oakley on 13th March 2008. John and Gill were both Friends of the Gardens Trust, Gill from its inauguration. She was an enthusiastic member, showing an interest in a wide range of activities. She attended the Rufford Study Day and many of our lectures and visits. She will be missed by us all and we offer our sympathy to John and hope he will continue with the Trust, remembering an interest they shared.

Irene Jones

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Events

2008 to date

We chose to go to **Paris** this year for our short holiday, to mark the opening of the Leicester St Pancras Eurostar link. This trip abroad was the first for the Trust and I hope not the last, as we are thinking of Italy for 2010. I am therefore using this Newsletter to thank Jo Blair of Travel Editions, Eurostar, the French coach company whose name I do not know, and finally the splendid Ms Joanna Dubois, the tour manager for making six days so memorable, enjoyable and for us, trouble free.

Joanna was a real star, Belgian by birth, an optimist, a writer and, among other things, she had unparalleled knowledge of all the mistresses of Louis XIV! During holdups on the motorway she was able to regale us with their stories and she was a natural raconteur. I just think we were so lucky to have such a “personality” with us on this trip. I hope she might be available for Italy in 2010. We saw so many gems that it is difficult to single out any for special mention: there were contrasts in all of them and all of them well worth seeing.

Of events nearer to home, I would never have thought, for example that we could have such a dry and pleasant evening at **Whissendine**. Whilst I was preparing the nibbles in the afternoon, the rain was streaming down and I thought “What’s the point, nobody will come”, but they did and we all had a lovely time.

The lecturer for the **Peto lecture**, Mrs Jane Balfour stayed with me and, on Friday morning, I was able to show her the Botanic Garden and Mr Adam Suddeby showed us round his Gimson house, Inglewood. As an Arts and Crafts specialist, she was delighted and very

pleasantly surprised that Leicester had such treasures to offer. As a result of her visit, she has agreed to act as tour guide on some of the visits for next year's trip to the Hampshire /Wiltshire borders which, with her specialist knowledge, will be a real treat.

The **Leporc lecture**, a joint venture with the Friends of the Botanic Garden was a particular success. Of the one hundred and forty-nine people who attended, six had come especially from Dorset, and a couple from Warwickshire, who were particularly disappointed that there was no time for questions.

Our coach trips, two this year, to Bramham Park in Yorkshire in May and Buscot and Kelmscot in June, were of contrasting styles. At **Bramham** it is the 17th century and early 18th century landscape which is the main interest and, inspired by the French formal style, it was a good introduction for those of us who went to France in June. This unspoiled landscape must be almost unique in this country. I was really sorry that it was not well attended, as, not only did we have the owner to walk us around but also Andy Wimble from English Heritage. It is well worth the drive up the motorway.

The June visit was to the truly beautiful Tudor farmhouse, **Kelmscot**. Built of Cotswold stone, it was near to the Thames, and was surrounded by gardens with barns and dovecotes, a meadow and a stream. No wonder William Morris was so inspired. After lunch, we went on to **Buscot**, a much grander house - 18th century - set in parkland in the Palladian style. The garden is much more formal.

Both were splendid in their different ways. This was the first time we had used the coach company that took over Smiths of Market Harborough and I was not very impressed by the standard of the coach on either occasion, so I may well be looking for another company.

Elizabeth Bacon

Spring Lecture – Harold Peto 13th March 2008

Jane Balfour, who delivered this very interesting and well-illustrated lecture, is obviously a great enthusiast for the work of Harold Peto.

Almost an exact contemporary of Gertrude Jekyll - he was just ten years younger, and died only two years after her - he is much less well-known, despite leaving a large and impressive body of work, of which a great deal survives. His comparative obscurity, at least as far as the general public is concerned, may be because he was a somewhat reclusive character who did not set out, as Gertrude Jekyll did, to communicate his ideas through popular books, and also perhaps because he did not need to court publicity.

He was the 7th son of the 16 children of a very prosperous Victorian builder, and was educated at Harrow. After his father lost the family fortune through the collapse of a private bank, he entered the architectural practice of Ernest George, concentrating mainly on interior décor.

During the 1880's and '90's, he travelled extensively in Europe, visiting Italy and Spain, and also America and Japan. This exposed him to a wide range of influences, later synthesized with brilliant success in his garden designs. He became increasingly interested in gardens and their design, and, in 1890, he left George & Peto, as the practice had become, to set up his own design business.

Over the course of the next forty odd years, he was able to attract a succession of discriminating and clearly extremely affluent clients, who were prepared to spend lavishly, and go to considerable lengths – in the case of Garinish Island, Co. Cork - as far as to import the necessary soil from America – to realise his ideas.

The signature themes of his gardens were the very strong Italian influence, using terraces, balustrades, and water, and Japanese-influenced planting, notably in the use of wisteria and irises. While these influences are clear, he did not produce the sort of pastiche which was popular at the time, particularly of Japanese gardens. He also had a wonderful eye for the choice of garden artefacts, which he sourced very widely, though predominantly from Italy. Some of these were original, particularly items of what would now be called architectural salvage from decaying palazzi in Venice; others were high quality copies of Roman originals, many sourced from a firm in Naples.

Peto was extremely well-respected by his peers, including William Robinson and Gertrude Jekyll herself, who mentioned him frequently.



Peto water garden at Buscot

Later this year, the Trust will be visiting Buscot Park, designed by Peto in 1904. The house was worked on by the George/Peto partnership and a model village was also built. Members who were present at Jane Balfour's lecture will, I am sure, be eagerly anticipating this visit. Plans are also afoot to visit other Peto projects, notably Iford Manor, his own home from 1899-1933, as part of the 2009 programme of activities. It is possible that Jane Balfour may be able to join us on one of these visits, which will add an extra dimension to the occasion.

Eileen Peers

Botanic Garden Lecture – 15th May 2008

English Landscape Garden Style Re-interpreted by Tsarist Russia

Speaker – Professor Alexei Leporc



Professor Alexei Leporc with our Chairman,
Stephen Barker

This joint lecture with Friends of Botanic Gardens was given by Professor Alexei Leporc, Curator of the Department of Western European Art, Hermitage Museum, St. Petersburg. An indication of his international reputation was demonstrated by the fact that a group of devotees seated at the front had travelled significant distances to hear him.

We were treated to a fascinating lecture which traced the broad canvas of influences of garden design from the earliest phase of the French

landscape gardeners to the three later phases of the English gardeners. Amongst a host of interesting facts, the writer found it particularly interesting to note that a number of the English gardeners were in fact resident in Russia for approximately thirty years during the period of the Tsarist regime.

Professor Lepore showed a superb series of slides, spoke without notes, and included a number of amusing anecdotes. It was a model lecture and highly stimulating. It was therefore particularly disappointing that the evening ended on a note of anti-climax because no opportunity was offered for questions from the audience. The committee has provided feedback about this.

Grant Pitches

Bramham Park – 18th May 2008

The visit to Bramham had originally been planned for spring 2007, but was cancelled due to the atrocious weather of last year. We were fortunate to be guided by Andy Wimble of English Heritage and the owner, Nicholas Lane Fox.

Bramham is situated 6 miles south of Wetherby in Yorkshire and it remains one of the finest examples of a French-inspired formal garden from the early eighteenth century. The house and grounds are the creation of Robert Benson, later Lord Bingley. In 1697 he commenced a Grand Tour of Europe; the fruits of his learning and the inspiration of Italian architecture and French gardens were incorporated at Bramham. The house and general layout of the gardens were completed by 1710.

The house is relatively modest, being based on Italian villa design and was originally intended as a summer house and not as a principal residence. The gardens are interesting in that the main axis, which extends for a mile from the chapel to the obelisk in Black Fen, are at right angles to the house, contrary to French practice where the main axis would be aligned on the house.



The parkland covers 900 acres; within this are the formal grounds of 70 acres which are bounded by a ha-ha with bastions which act as viewpoints across the surrounding landscape. Within the gardens are hedge-lined avenues of French inspiration, Nick Lane Fox explained that even with modern technology, it takes over 10 weeks to clip the hedges and he showed us the survey points that had been installed to ensure that the lines of the hedges are kept straight. In the 1970's the garden had been hit by a major storm that had felled many of the original trees, which were coming to the end of their life. Nick Lane Fox's father had replaced the fallen trees but it was possible to see the difference between the original and replacement plantings.

The formal garden contains an extensive series of water features, fed from springs to the west of the garden. A number of the pools are now dry and we were told that work has been carried out to determine the original extent of the water supply and how this could be improved for

the pools that remain. This was particularly important for the T-pool, which acts as a mirror for the surrounding trees and the house. Another feature of the garden is the placement of temples at key vantage points. These were not part of the original scheme, but the work of Robert Benson's daughter, Harriet, in the 1750's.

Our tour took us on to Black Fen, an area of woodland bisected by a geometrical pattern of rides, radiating from a 100 foot obelisk. Nick Lane Fox described the work that is currently being carried out. This will open up the rides, by clearing intrusive scrub growth. It will restore the eighteenth century drainage system, which has become blocked. As a result of the clearance work, more wild flowers, including orchids, are growing, as they receive more daylight and the drainage improves. The clearance work is also restoring the pattern of the rides, each of which is lined by a different variety of tree. One ride, lined by copper beeches, was particularly attractive with the light streaming through the new growth on the trees.



Throughout the park there were extensive drifts of wild garlic, several varieties of orchid, bluebells, cowslips and primroses, which added to the attractions of the woodland walks. The orchids benefit from the underlying magnesium limestone. Over 235 different varieties of wild flowers have been identified at Bramham, making it an important site for naturalists.



Although the weather was a little cool, the trip was enjoyed by those attending and the insights given by Nick Lane Fox added much to our enjoyment. The refreshments from the coffee and biscuits, packed lunch to the closing tea and homemade cakes supplied by Bramham were much appreciated.

Bibliography

Bramham Guide book and leaflet

English Gardens and Landscapes 1700-1750. Christopher Hussey. Country Life Limited. 1967. pp 70-77.

England's Thousand Best Houses. Simon Jenkins. Allen Lane. 2003. pp 923.

Stephen Barker

Gardens of Paris - 2nd-7th June 2008

Having chosen Paris for our annual short holiday, Versailles was the obvious first choice on our list of places to be visited. Sue had always wanted to see Vaux Le Vicomte, so that was second. As for the rest, they all came from a book called *Gardens of France*. This was well illustrated and with good descriptions of the gardens, so it enabled us to choose contrasting sites.

Roseraie de L'Hay-les-Roses, as its name suggests is a 100 year old garden devoted to a single genus- the rose. As the first garden to be visited it dictated the timing of the holiday, we wanted to be there when as many of the 3,200 roses as possible would be at their best, and they were.



In the afternoon we went to the **Chateau Saint Jean de Beauregard**, a small chateau, the interior of which seemed unchanged in 200 or so years. The original 17th century potager has been replanted with rare vegetables and around the walls a mix of shrubs, roses, bulbs and herbs. So with its variety of planting and its rural setting it could not have been more different from the morning.



Wednesday was the big one: **Versailles**, the creation of Louis XIV and Andre le Notre. It was very crowded and, with hindsight, it might have been better to have spent our time seeing more in the park than inside the palace. There were just so many people from all over the world, with their guides, speaking in a multitude of languages, that it was impossible to see or hear anything properly.



Once outside, the crowds disappeared in to the landscape. The way to explore the large area of parkland is simply use ones feet or a small train which encircles the park stopping off at the various places. We used both, taking the train to the Long Canal and then slowly making our way back to the Palace, finding many delights on the way. What an ego Louis must have had to create such a place, and then leave nowhere for his servants to sleep!



I was lucky enough as a 9 year old to spend a summer in Versailles. It seems amazing, but then, we were able to use the family car to drive round the park.

We went to **Vaux Le Vicomte**, Le Notre's first garden, the following day. The forerunner of Versailles, it was a much easier Chateau and park to absorb, due to its smaller scale. When it was seen by Louis XIV, he wanted one the same, only bigger.



Because of its history it has been perfectly restored and preserved by generations of owners through wars and revolutions. The Chateau with its moat, pools, statuary, fountains, vistas, canals and parkland make a perfect whole. The restaurant here was very good and at last, on this visit to France, I found the perfect raspberry tart.

Courances, which we visited in the afternoon, was laid out by the father of Le Notre and the beautiful garden which remains to-day is essentially his plan. Surrounded as it is with woodland, it is truly magical.





On Friday, we returned to the 20th century when we visited **Parc Andre Citroen**, in the middle of Paris. It occupies the site of the former car factory. Whilst it is splendid that a popular public park, with 20th century landscape design is created on what was an industrial landscape, it is a pity that it was not better maintained.

That was our last garden and I thank the publishers of *Gardens of France* for their role in helping to make our travels so diverse and enjoyable. The afternoon in Paris was free for the group to go their separate ways. I went to The Cluny museum to see The Tapestry of The Virgin and the Unicorn. It is quite delightful and for those who have not seen it I do recommend it. Stephen bought a copy of *Jardins de France* which we were able to present to the personality of the week, MS JOANNA DUBOIS, after dinner that evening. We felt she had put so much into the week that we needed to show our true thanks and I think we would like her to remember us. On Saturday morning Travel Editions had arranged a guided walk through the Marais district of Paris and then some of us had a very jolly lunch - an excellent way to finish our little holiday.

You can read a more detailed account of the week in our special TRAVEL EDITION.

Bibliography

Gardens in France Ed: Angelika Taschen Pub: Benedikt Taschen Verlag GmbH 1997 ISBN: 3-8228-7746-8

Elizabeth Bacon

Visit to Kelmscott Manor and Buscot House and Park – 26th June 2008

The weather for our trip started dull, but brightened up during our journey. We arrived at **Kelmscott**, to be welcomed by the Custodian of the Manor for the Society of Antiquities, which now owns it. Our guides gave us a history of William Morris and the Manor, which he rented from 1871.



William Morris was born in 1834, from an affluent background. He went to Oxford where he met Edward Burne-Jones and Philip Webb, who became life-long friends and also Dante Gabriel Rossetti. William, who lost interest in academic studies, only got a third class degree, took up architecture and gave it up for design, which had been his main interest for a long time. When he was 24 he married 18 year old Jane Burden, who had been used as a model by Rossetti.

Morris decided to rent Kelmscott in order to install his wife and daughters, May and Jenny, there during the summer months, away from the terrible atmosphere of London and also to avoid any gossip concerning Jane and Rossetti, who were having an affair. Rossetti shared the rent (£60 per annum) and stayed at Kelmscott though he never liked it and, in fact, suffered a major mental breakdown in 1872 and lived there in seclusion with intermittent visits from Jane and daughters until 1874, when he returned to London very suddenly.

Jane enjoyed her time at Kelmscott and, although Morris was away a lot, Kelmscott always remained his favourite home. He died in 1896 at Hammersmith and was buried at St. George's Church in Kelmscott. Jane had a pair of cottages built in the village, designed by Philip Webb, in memory of William, and when Jane died in 1914, her daughter May, had another pair of cottages built, designed by Gimson of Leicester, in her memory. Jane had bought Kelmscott before her death for £4,000, so her daughters continued to live there.



The guide who gave us this information went off with half the group. The second guide told us that Kelmscott Manor was built in the 16th century by one of the Turner family of yeoman farmers. Another member of this family extended the house in the 17th century by the addition of two rooms, one above the other. Members of the Turner family retained ownership of the house until 1913 when Jane Morris bought it from them. When May Morris died, it passed to Oxford University and then, in 1962, to The Society of Antiquities. The Manor was then renovated and the rooms refurbished with furniture and articles brought in from William Morris' other houses – the Red House in Bexley, Kent and Kelmscott House, Hammersmith, in addition to some of the original furnishings and items designed by Morris, Philip Webb and Burne-Jones.



The sense of the place being a home, not a museum, was enhanced by the absence of the usual barriers, even though the items on display were very valuable. It was extraordinary to realise that, although many of them, which were quite familiar designs, were genuine and not reproductions.

When we left the Manor, we went through the courtyard to see the 3-seat privy in a separate little building at the back of the house, and then to the Restaurant, where we enjoyed a cheese salad lunch, sitting outdoors not far from the river.

Before we left, we wandered through the delightful gardens. In the back, there was a mulberry tree said to be over 200 years old. Standard roses led up to the

front door, and the front garden was separated by a high yew hedge, shaped into a dragon at the top.

It was only a 15 minute drive to **Buscot** Park, where we were met by the Curator of the National Trust, who also is employed by the 3rd Lord Faringdon, as he and his family have a big say in the actual running of the gardens and the house and its contents e.g. artworks are still being bought by the family and exhibited elsewhere at times.



The Curator gave us a guided tour of the gardens, leading us to the walled Four Seasons' Garden, designed by the present Lord Faringdon and which includes a tunnel of Judas trees with border plantings by Tim Rees and Lady Faringdon. The original vegetable garden, with greenhouses introduced by the 2nd Lord Gavin Faringdon, the present Lord's uncle and run by the Cooperative Society, was replaced in 1977 by the present Lord Faringdon, when he inherited a bill for £8,000 spent in the running of the greenhouses.

From here, we were led up some steps to the large lawn in front of the house, and given the history of the House, which was built in the 18th century for Edward Lovedon Lovedon, on the site of the Manor of St. Michael's Court, originally owned by Sir Francis Stonor in 1557. The family continued to own Buscot until 1859, when Sir Pryse Pryse, 1st Baronet, put the Buscot estate on the market. The next owner, Robert Tertius Campbell, an Australian tycoon with grandiose ideas, died in 1887, leaving the estate heavily in debt.



It was then sold in 1889 to Alexander Henderson, a wealthy financier, who became the 1st Lord Faringdon (1850-1934). His eldest son died 12 years before his father, so Gavin Henderson, the 2nd Lord Faringdon, succeeded his grandfather in 1934. Before this, he had joined the Labour Party and was also a member of the Fabian Society, an LCC Councillor and served on the Historic Buildings Committee. Later Buscot was often used as the venue for Socialist conferences.

When the 1st Lord Faringdon acquired Buscot, he enlarged the House by adding wings and a porch to it, and employed Peto, the garden designer to redevelop the gardens on the principles of a Renaissance Garden, which included the Water Garden. The 2nd Lord Faringdon, on inheriting Buscot, had the wing additions and porch removed to return the house to the simple 18th century design, but added two pavilions, one on each side: one housing the Estate Office

and staff premises, the other the Swimming Pool and theatre. We were led to the latter, where we were shown some wall and ceiling paintings c. 1930 in the archway leading to the swimming pool, by John Hastings (later the Earl of Hastings), depicting the 2nd Lord Faringdon and his friends and some Park staff.



Anyone seen Elizabeth?



The Swing Garden

We were then shown the several walkways which branch out to the various gardens. The left hand one was to Harold Peto's Water Garden with its pool, which led to a bridge and the lake. The next avenue led to the Swing Garden, designed by Lady Faringdon, full of lovely scented roses with four swing seats. Further down the same avenue was the Marble Vase. The Avenue which led directly from the Swimming Pool went to the Citrus Bowl and Holly Circle, but some of us weren't able to walk there or to the next two avenues leading to The Pond and Tumulus and Whalebone.

We returned to the House and toured this, enjoying the many paintings by Rubens, Rembrandt, Van Dyke, and a beautiful set of four paintings of The Legend of the Briar Rose by Burne-Jones, with the frames and lettering designed by William Morris. In one of the bedrooms was a red and blue chalk picture of Pandora, modelled by Jane Morris, and painted by Rossetti. Also upstairs was a painting by Lord Leighton of Daedalus and Icarus, and two paintings by William Etty. All these are part of the Faringdon Collection, assembled by the first two Lord Faringdons.

We walked back through the lovely walled gardens to the Tea Room, decorated with murals painted by Ellen-Ann Hopkins between 1991 and 1994 and had a very welcome cup of tea and piece of cake.



The driver took us back home via Lechlade, Burford and along the Fosse Way – a very pleasant ending to the day, which I am sure all the Members of the LRGT thoroughly enjoyed, thanks to Elizabeth Bacon's hard work in planning and arranging the two visits.

Helen Long

Hallaton village walk



Hallaton was mentioned in the Domesday Book; Market Harborough was not. Hallaton church has a broached spire; so does Market Harborough. However the former remained a village whilst the latter became a small town, because of its more strategic situation and the spire of the church is taller!

This is how Stephen began his village walk on the steps of Hallaton church, our most recent event to date. It is considered to be one of Leicestershire's

prettiest villages, famous for its Norman motte and bailey castle site, the market cross, the church and the annual bottle kicking contest on Easter Monday. The green forms the centre of the village, on which stands the butter cross and which is surrounded by old stone buildings. These would have been a mix of domestic housing, shops and a smithy. Now there is not even one village shop. Stephen took us on a circular walk pointing out all the points of interest including the Alms Houses and Village Hall, given to the village by a benefactress, Miss Isabella Stenning. We did not have time to visit the museum, but enjoyed looking at the different architectural styles, building materials and houses which had been shops.

We have now walked through Welham, Great Bowden and Horninghold with Stephen, but I do think this was his best to date. Several of the Friends went back to his house for tea, which, as ever, was most enjoyable. The instructions to get there rather proved the point that Hallaton is not the most strategically-placed village, but get there we did.

Elizabeth Bacon

Evening Visit to Whissendine, Rutland – 6th July 2008



On 7th July, friends and guests visited two gardens in Whissendine. It had poured with torrential rain all day but happily dried up at 7.00 p.m.

The first garden visited was the **Old Vicarage**, adjacent to the attractive 14th century Church. We were graciously received by Professor P. and Dr. S Furness and fortified with a glass of Pimms. The first view of the garden for most visitors is through the gate separating the Churchyard from the Vicarage, leading to a stunning landscaped terrace completed only last year and incorporating four mature olive trees placed in tiered beds bounded by galvanized metal. This walled

area also features many colourful plantings, clipped and cloud-pruned box and an impressive fountain. At the rear of the area is a charming gothic style orangery which blends perfectly with the Church's architecture.



Moving round to the back of the Vicarage the visitor is met by two beautiful, intricate sloping box parterres divided by a series of steps decorated with the minute flower of *patrinia* growing in the cracks. This leads up to a lawned area surrounded by mature trees and traditional, densely planted herbaceous borders. An archway at the rear of the lawn leads through into a well kept old fruit orchard, which, in the spring, contains a magnificent display of tulips.



Easily missed at the side of the Vicarage is a delightfully planted shady walkway ending with a tinkling fountain. On the other side of the garden a new garage has been built in vernacular style by local craftsmen without disturbing a venerable hornbeam in the centre of the drive. An unusual herringbone-style red brick retaining wall leads down from the garage to a curved tree-lined entrance drive the borders of which are characterized by graceful repeat plantings of flowers and shrubs.

The synergy between the professional garden designer - in this instance, Bunny Guinness- and the personal inspiration and labour of the owners, has resulted in a garden of exceptional interest and quality.

The second garden visited, **Whissendine Cottage**, owned by Mrs. Louise Davies (co-incidentally a former design collaborator with Bunny Guinness) was in marked contrast with the Old Vicarage but equally interesting. The much extended late 18th century house, later converted into a hunting lodge, is wrapped around by immaculate lawns and bordered by a shelter belt of large beautiful old trees.



The front of the house features a strikingly intricate box parterre. At the side of the house is a large, well stocked vegetable garden and two productive glasshouses, the whole area enclosed by sensational 'roller coaster' clipped yew hedges. At the rear of the property the lawns are intersected by triangular beds, including an audacious axis from garden seat to the far corner of the garden. The beds are planted with unusual perennials and the large trees at the rear are smothered in the flower heads of rambling roses such as Cedric Morris and Paul's Himalayan Musk. A new linear bed cut into the lawn is smartly planted with varieties of ivy and heuchera. In the outer courtyard are a fig tree, a water feature and numerous pots of thriving agapanthus.

Both gardens exemplify the successful marriage of bold exuberant planting with inspired hard landscaping that fully respects the glorious heritage of trees and shrubs. Friends will remember these two hidden gems in a beautiful Rutland village for a long time to come.



Pat and John Woodliffe

Other events

ART DEJARDIN has an exhibition of good sculpture set out in an interesting garden. It is at 5, Top Street, Wing, Oakham, Rutland and is open now until 7th September 2008 from 10.00am to 5.00pm, Wednesday to Sunday. Admission £3.50
www.artdejardin.co.uk

AGT Events and News

www.gardenstrusts.org.uk

2009 Programme

Sunday	18 th January	Winter Lunch Venue to be confirmed.
Saturday	14 th February	Coach Trip to the Winter Garden at Cambridge Botanic Garden and the garden at Anglesey Abbey, famous for display of winter bulbs.
Thursday	12 th March	A.G.M. and Spring Lecture St Johns Church, Clarendon Park Road Leicester. <i>The Indian Influence on English Gardening Style.</i> Speaker Kate Harwood A.G.M. 7.00pm Lecture 7.30pm.
Thursday	7 th May	CELEBRITY LECTURE <i>Why Garden?</i> Speaker ANNA PAVORD Leicester University Frank and Katherine May Lecture Theatre 7.30pm
Thursday	14 th May	Visit to Broughton Grange Estate, Oxfordshire.
Wednesday	24 th June	Evening visit Goadby Hall gardens, Goadby Marwood Leicestershire
Wednesday	1 st July	Coach trip to Sezincote and Batsford Arboretum Gloucestershire. This will be a whole day visit.
Sunday	26 th July	Guided walking tour of Uppingham with Blue Badge Guide followed by tea at South Luffenham Hall.
Thursday	20 th August	Whole day visit to the restored Elizabethan Garden at Kenilworth Castle and restored Victorian Allotments at Hill Close in Warwick.
Friday	11 th September	Visit to the house and gardens at Boughton House in Northamptonshire. It is hoped to go to The Old Rectory in Sudborough in the morning, but this has still to be confirmed.
Thursday	15 th October	Autumn Lecture Speaker Mr Pyllip Statner Head Gardener at Cottesbrook Hall Northamptonshire. 7.30pm Octagon Room St Johns Church, Clarendon Park Rd, Leicester
Thursday	19 th November	Friends Evening 7.30pm Octagon Room St Johns Church, Clarendon Park Rd, Leicester.

Plans for our annual short holiday are well advanced and I did think that I would have more information for this Newsletter. However, arrangements take time and I'm still awaiting final details. We plan to visit The Wiltshire /Hampshire borders in early June. The trip is likely to be for five days; the dates are still to be decided. Gardens to be visited include Iford Manor, Heale House, Wilton House and Upton Grey. I have been down there and checked out some others; the problem for this holiday is too many possible gardens and which do we leave out?
Elizabeth Bacon