

LEICESTERSHIRE
AND RUTLAND
GARDENS
TRUST



www.lrgt.org

Newsletter

No 24 Spring 2010

Registered Charity no. 1063075

SPOT THE SNOWDROP



Falling snow brought real magic on our 'snowdrop' visit to Easton Walled Garden

Inside this issue

Autumn Lecture: <i>Head Gardener's Perspective</i>	page 2
Friends' Evening	page 3
Visit to Haconby and Easton Walled Garden	page 4
Winter Lunch	page 6
Spring Lecture: <i>The Re-awakening of the Walled Kitchen Garden</i>	page 6
The Octagon Room	page 9
'Schools into Gardening'	page 10
Research Group	page 11
A Thomas Messenger Greenhouse in Syston	page 12
Dates for your diary	page 13

Chairman's Notes

After the long cold winter, the recent spell of warm sunny weather that we have been enjoying as I write this, finally confirms that spring has arrived. Not that all aspects of the winter were bad. The snowfall, on the day of our visit to Easton Walled Garden to see snowdrops, combined with the mist to create a very atmospheric scene, only marred by the background hum of traffic from the A1. It was pure bad luck that, after cancelling the original date for the Winter Lunch, the snow melted and it turned out a fine day. But, like the recent ash-cloud covering Britain, it was decided to err on the side of caution. The good thing about the longer sunnier days is that I can go into the garden after coming home from work and observe the progress of the plants. It would be even better if my neighbour's cats did not also favour my garden with their visits.

This year's programme has got off to a good start with our first lecture at our new venue, which accommodates the increased membership. We paid one last visit to the Octagon Room for the lecture on Sir Joseph Banks. This was the first time we have held a lecture on a Saturday and it was sold out despite being a glorious sunny day. Ironically after the years we have been using the hall and enduring the seats designed for children rather than adults, the hall has finally acquired some adult sized stacking chairs! We are looking forward to an interesting programme with the underlying theme of walled gardens. I am sure that this year will go well, despite Elizabeth's pessimism, which seems to be based on the idea that the success of last year will be followed by disaster this year. I therefore look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the forthcoming events and outings to confound Elizabeth's fears.

Over recent years the Trust has been successful in increasing its membership, but we are still keen to attract new members and so, if you do know someone who may be interested, I would ask you to encourage them to become members. We are always happy to see guests at the lectures, if they would like to come along and get a feel for our activities before committing themselves. We will this summer be carrying out a number of activities to promote the Trust and attract new members, with a stand at a Village Open Gardens Day and a lecture to a garden club. If anyone has any suggestions or ideas on how to promote the Trust the committee will be happy to hear from you.

It only remains to wish that the fine weather will continue and that you have a pleasant time in the garden.

Stephen Barker

Events

Autumn Lecture 15th October 2009

The Head Gardener's Perspective – Speaker Phylip Statner

The gardens at Cottesbrooke Hall are going through a period of change. Not least of these has been the appointment two years ago of a new Head Gardener, Phylip Statner, and in this

entertaining lecture Phylip gave us an account of the pleasures and challenges of the task he has taken on.

The gardens he came to were largely developed in the mid-twentieth century under the aegis of the current owner's grandparents, the late Sir Reginald and Lady Catherine Macdonald-Buchanan, and comprise two main areas - the Wild Garden, an informal woodland area planted along the course of a stream; and the formal areas, incorporating a number of individual gardens, walks and terraces. Much of the formal garden had become overgrown, with major pruning required in some instances and simply a return to proportionality in others. An additional benefit of this cutting back is that it has enhanced the beauty of the brickwork of the house and garden walls, and sometimes revealed previously hidden statuary - in addition to the yew-hedged Statue Walk, throughout Cottesbrooke the various individual gardens are graced by statues, urns and plaques, many bought from Stowe in the 1930s.

The size of the workforce at Cottesbrooke also represents a major change from earlier years: then the head gardener was assisted by a team of five, but in these straitened times Phylip has the help of one full-time gardener and a part-time volunteer. Accordingly the planting has been planned with low maintenance in mind, often using grasses and other less demanding species. Sadly the natural phenomena of disease and old age have also driven change. Box blight necessitated the removal of the box edging in the Dutch Garden which has now been redeveloped with a new scheme, again designed with maintenance a factor. And recently a large section of one of the enormous 300 year-old Cedars of Lebanon crashed to the ground, tragically pointing to the end of the beautiful tree's life.

The work of renovating and developing the gardens at Cottesbrooke Hall is very much work in progress, with new projects currently in hand and others in mind for the future, and it would be fascinating if in a few years' time Phylip could be persuaded to return with an update on his *Head Gardener's Perspective*.

Penny Howie

Friends' Evening 19th November 2009

Our last meeting at the Octagon Room

Stephen introduced the idea of having a Friends' Evening about three years ago and it has proved to be one of our most enjoyable evenings, but not necessarily the best attended. This year we reached a milestone, because we did not have to ask anyone for contributions, all were offered, and we had Peter's stunning photographs to finish the evening.

Joyce Farnese was so enraptured by the garden at Broughton Grange to the extent that she made another visit later in the year and asked if she could give a short presentation of the photographs she took at Broughton. She was so professional in her approach and her slides so beautiful that I assumed that she had been doing this on a regular basis, but this was not the case. For those who had not been on the visit she gave an excellent idea of what they had missed, and for those who had, a lovely reminder of a stunningly imaginative garden and, with slides of her later visit, an idea of seasonal contrast.

After our visit to Hill Close Gardens in Warwick, Rowan told us that Leicester could have had a similar scheme on the site of Fosse Road allotments. She took the opportunity of the Friends' Evening to tell us about it. There was quite a lot of interest and English Heritage went as far as listing the only remaining 'Bothy', it was a very attractive looking little building. Nothing much happened after that except that bits of the 'Bothy' disappeared over the passage of time, until there was nothing left and the plans came to nothing. What a lost opportunity.

Pip Wheatcroft arrived with a vintage wheelbarrow containing vintage garden tools. These had come from her great-grandfather's and subsequently her grandfather's garden in Measham. She had found some family photographs of a glasshouse with boiler and realised they must have belonged to a fairly important garden. Further research found more photographs revealing a well stocked garden with an extremely rocky rockery. This is a very nice small piece of local history as the garden no longer exists. It was where her great-grandfather arrived in his car, which was the first to be seen in Measham. It was of particular interest to see a stunning black and white photograph of the canal wharf, taken on a summer's day 100 years ago: the light and shade were fantastic...long before digital technology.

Peter then finished the evening with photographs taken during our short holiday and other events in 2009. They were a good reminder of a successful year for the Trust. He really is very talented.

I have not forgotten Joan Hands contribution which was rather different, she had discovered the witty horticultural verses of Reginald Arkell, some of which she read. She was very amusing and made us laugh so I will just finish with the following as an example:

*God gave us noses
To smell our roses.*

Winter gardens visit to Lincolnshire 18th Februaury 2010

On a chilly February day, a coach full of members and guests set out well prepared for muddy paths and a poor weather forecast. All appeared to be in good spirits and chatted companionably as we travelled via a somewhat circuitous route (courtesy of the advice a well known travel organisation!) through thickening fog. We eventually arrived at our first destination, 21 Chapel Street in the small village of **Hacconby**, near Bourne, Lincolnshire. We were warmly greeted by our hosts, Cliff and Joan Curtis, who had developed their garden from an old farmyard over the past 25 years. It



is divided into various sections, around which we wound our way through a paved area with archways and signs of a former pond at its centre, a group of more formal rectangular beds and across the lawn to two parallel borders. All were well stocked with year-round plants but our raison d'être was to view the winter planting. We weren't disappointed as each garden held an array of snowdrops, aconites, cyclamen and hellebores. There were also the brightly coloured stems of cornus planted intermittently amongst the flowers and some beautiful peeling barks on a couple of the birch trees. In a winter garden it seemed appropriate that one of the statues was of a small boy hugging his coat collar around his chin to keep the cold out but the blooms lifted our spirits in such a long, cold and continuing winter. All in all, a fascinating and very welcoming visit which will be remembered by many in the form of plants they purchased to take home. We then travelled on to The Cholmeley Arms in Burton Coggles for a warming lunch.



Several members had previously visited **Easton Walled Garden** but I had not, though it had long been on my ever-growing List. I found it much bigger and planted with far more variety than I'd anticipated. The main intention of our visit was, of course, to follow the Snowdrop Walk that led us through a wooded area planted with large drifts of both snowdrops and aconites. They were a joy to behold through the rapidly falling snow, which most of us felt improved the day, imbuing our surroundings with an almost magical quality. We continued through the more formal areas, the yew tunnel providing a temporary retreat from the weather and leading through to the vegetable and flower beds as well as the glasshouses. Although there had been an offer of leaving early should the weather be poor we all enjoyed ourselves so much that we left at the originally



appointed time. I for one shall be returning to see the planting in other seasons as well.

I know I was not alone in appreciating

Elizabeth's hard work in arranging such a delightful day out – and for ensuring we were treated to delicious homemade refreshments at regular intervals. The Trust's first Snow Visit turned out to be just as enjoyable as any in more clement days.

Barbara Lofthouse

Winter Lunch 7th March 2010

Given the continuously grey and bitter wintry weather we have all endured since Xmas what splendid weather for a winter lunch? After the disappointment of cancelling the original date in snow-bound January, we had a crisp and frosty day with brilliant sunshine. Luckily, it seems, no-one lost their way through a sudden diversion en route to the Crown at Old Dalby and I'm sure everyone took the opportunity to enjoy the rolling north Leicestershire landscape of soft browns and greens framed here and there by hedges and clumps of naked trees.

It was a very jolly affair with 35 members present. Although we very much missed the company of those who unfortunately were unable to make the revised date, the event was marked by a regular babble of lively conversation – a sure sign everyone was having fun. Only as we tucked into the delicious three-course lunch was the excited buzz a little quelled. Then with taste buds still tingling, amid great laughter, some 'Eureka' exclamations and even odd groans of complete despair, in small groups we puzzled over an immaculately prepared quiz with lovely coloured pictures set by our leaders: Deborah Martin, Elizabeth Bacon and Stephen Barker. Questions ranged across topics related to both the Rutland and Leicestershire landscape from the number of arches in the Seaton Viaduct to Lord Beaumont's art collection bequeathed to the National Gallery. Here we very much missed the expertise provided in past years by several absent members, most notably Jennifer and Malcolm Elliott. Anyway, congratulations go to our clever prize winners Barbara Lofthouse, Sue Blaxland, Eileen Peers, Penny Howie and Anne de Graeve who managed to obtain 15 out of 20 points.

My humble suggestion for next year is that some of us more feeble souls, who thought the questions 'stinkers', volunteer to originate a few questions of our own. Perhaps, as a Gardens Trust, it's time to explore and reveal our members' basic knowledge of plants, gardens, garden design and features – but with one proviso: all Latin names are banned!!!!

Rowan Roenisch

Spring Lecture 18th March 2010

The Re-awakening of the Walled Kitchen Garden - Speaker Susan Campbell

A historical tour through the centuries and a tutorial into the essential clues to identify the sites of walled gardens proved a winning formula for Susan Campbell when she was guest speaker at the Leicestershire and Rutland Gardens Trust Spring meeting.

This renowned expert and historian drew an appreciative audience of members and visitors to the March meeting held at Leicester's Friends' Meeting House on March 18th.

In her lecture, entitled 'The Rise and Fall and Rise Again of the Walled Kitchen Garden', Susan Campbell revealed the depth of her knowledge that has made her one of the foremost experts on the subject today.



Susan Campbell with Stephen Barker

She told the Trust how it was back in 1984 that she first came to prominence. After a number of years researching the history of old walled gardens around the country Susan discovered an English kitchen garden, which was still being run in its traditional manner.

After working closely with the garden's owner Catherine Macdonald-Buchanan Susan published her book 'Cottesbrooke' which charted a year in the Northamptonshire walled garden, she said: 'Much to my amazement it was such a hit that it went to the top of the Times best sellers' list.' The success of the book was marred by the death of the gardens' owner but also paved the way for furthering Susan's research. Today, Susan has researched and photographed over 400 walled kitchen gardens both here and abroad and she is currently recording the National Trust's restoration of the gardens and glasshouses at Tatton Park which will form yet another book.

In her lecture Susan explained how walled gardens have developed through the ages. Her comprehensive collection of slides combined both modern photographic sources and looked at art through the centuries to trace the development of the genre. The walled gardens were created to satisfy domestic needs and they evolved with the development of horticultural expertise.

Today we are surrounded by clues of where these gardens were situated. Susan urged her audience to keep their eyes open for disused garden sites. Road names such as Orchard Way, and Garden Close; properties named the Garden House and housing developments retained by old walls often indicate former treasures.

For centuries the walled kitchen garden has been a feature throughout the British Isles. For some landowners on more modest means they would cover an acre or less but wealthier estates could extend to over 20 acres or more. But the standard form of high walls, divisions into quarter segments, glasshouses, water supply and work sheds and the shelter of tall trees were common denominators.

In the earliest recorded gardens, shrubs for medicines were particularly important grown alongside fruit and vegetables. Susan showed an illustration of mediaeval life in the 14th century which featured a walled garden with gourds gathered in baskets and trellised fruit trees. By 1563 an illustration from a garden in Antwerp revealed exotica rules! A vast array of species was being raised including grapes, cherries, melons, peaches mulberries and

medlars alongside cauliflowers peas and beans. And it was as early as Tudor times that oranges and lemons were being grown in specialist buildings.

Hotbeds were developed in the Stuart garden helping to speed up the germination of newly introduced crops such as melons and oranges. Holland has always held a position at the forefront of horticulture and it was the Dutch who were the first to succeed in growing pineapples in Europe and the craze extended to England in the early 1700s. 'Pineries' became the must have horticultural accessory with elaborate heating flues in the walls. By the end of the century grand gardens such as those at Welbeck in the Nottinghamshire Dukeries could produce vast quantities of pineapples to grace lavish dining tables.

The Kitchen Garden continued to develop through the centuries with fine tuning of the buildings and their infrastructure allowing for the production of increasing quantities and variety of produce. By the 19th century the kitchen garden could produce a year round supply of fruit and vegetables, and there was a huge social cachet in being the producer or the most rare and exotic items.

Old hot air flues were superseded by more efficient boilers and the development of engineering techniques saw the introduction of cast iron hot hothouses such as those manufactured by the Leicestershire firm Messengers. Finer glazing bars and more sophisticated ventilation systems allowed better light penetration and air circulation than the earlier wooden versions. Today the sharp sighted can also identify a former walled kitchen garden by the remains of some of these elaborate structures.

It is estimated that there were some 50,000 walled kitchen gardens of 1/2 an acre or more in the 19th century and firm evidence of numbers should come to light with a new statistical survey being carried out by English Heritage.

At Welbeck in 1910 an army of 48 gardeners was employed to maintain the extensive gardens but within a few years the numbers had dwindled as men went off to the battlefronts of the First World War.

This was the end of the heyday of the walled kitchen garden. Without the available manpower and the development of mass market forces many historic walled kitchen gardens simply were left to decay and many varieties of fruit and vegetables vanished. There was little or no regard for the social and historical value of what had been.

Now thanks to the work of enthusiasts such as Susan Campbell there is a huge resurgence of interest in walled kitchen gardens. It started with Cottesbrooke and the Victorian Kitchen garden TV series. Gardeners and historians have been awakened to the elaborate detail of the walled kitchen gardens at properties such as Heligan in Cornwall, West Deane near Chichester and Culzean in Ayrshire.

Walled gardens are being reinvented and recreating their former glories under a new guise. Babbington House in Somerset now carries the accolade of 'Best Spa in Europe' but its walled kitchen garden has been restored and has provided fresh produce for the hotel's restaurant for the past five years.

The dedication of enthusiasts such as Susan Campbell means that the decline of the walled kitchen garden is truly a thing of the past.

Further information is available from:

The Walled Kitchen Gardens Network e-mail: fiona.grant@walledgardens.net

Nicola Dalton

At the AGM I was so overcome by our new venue, The Friends Meeting House, and good audience that I made no reference to our events this year. This is the year of the 'Walled Garden', and, in the course of the next few months, we will have visited five, at Kelmarsh, Lamport, Doddington and Normanby Halls and Guanock, as well as another garden with a very long wall which does not really qualify. Our Autumn Lecture will be given by Molly Connisbee, Director of Communications for the Soil Association, bringing another dimension to our theme this year.

We have arranged a fish and chip supper after our evening in North Luffenham and a historian to walk us round Ashby. It should all be very interesting.

Following the success of last year's Friends Evening, I do hope there will be a similar response for contributions this year.

The very latest news is that we now have an invitation to Highgrove: September 24th 2010 1.30pm; more details to follow.

Elizabeth Bacon

The Octagon Room

The very first lecture of the Leicestershire and Rutland Garden Trust was held in the Octagon Room in October 1997. The subject was Deer Parks and it was given by Tony Squires. At that time I was still working and knew practically nothing about Deer Parks. The lecture was splendid and I was captivated, so much so that, when I went into work next morning, I virtually delivered the whole lecture again to a very patient colleague over coffee. I subsequently discovered that this person had developed a great passion for Deer Parks but has not joined the Trust! I would be interested to know how many of our present audience were at that meeting.

I do not really know why we did not stay there: it is a pleasant room with good facilities, but move we did and after looking at several venues we settled on Wellington Street, probably because it was central and well known. The disadvantage was that there were no facilities for any hospitality and we kept being given different rooms. After one particularly poorly attended lecture, which deserved a much better audience, we decided in 2003 to move back to St John's. It was John Oakland, I think, who suggested that we could offer tea or coffee and

biscuits after the meeting, creating a more social side to the Trust. He was right and thus a tradition was born and the cake making began.

I do not think we have looked back since then. I can think of only two lectures which did not really come up to scratch, and there have been several notable ones - Richard Gornall on Botanic Gardens, Jane Balfour on Peto and most recently Phylip Statner on The Head Gardener's Perspective are the ones which spring to my mind. Furthermore, if the lecture was not to one's particular interest, there was always the tea, cake and chat afterwards. The only problem with that was that some of us always missed the questions and end of the lecture to put the kettle on, so it was decided to pay someone to attend to our domestic needs. That has worked very well, Joy did a really good job and now Sian is following in her footsteps.

Our successful campaigning has increased our membership and has meant that, with some reluctance, we have to leave the Octagon Room for a larger hall with more seating capacity. We look forward therefore to pastures new at the Friends Meeting House

However, we did actually return there for our Joseph Banks Lecture in April.

Elizabeth Bacon

Membership

We currently have 139 members in the current year which runs from 1st October 2009 - 30th September 2010.

Nineteen new members have joined us. I welcome them all and hope they will enjoy the coming programme of lectures and events. Our membership is widely dispersed through the two counties and I hope the policy of introducing likeminded friends will continue.

Deb Martin has designed some attractive gift cards to be used with gift membership, so some of you may wish to provide a year of pleasure for a friend or relative.

Welcome to:

Mr N Crutchley, Mrs M Lloyd, Ms D Stone,
Mrs A Allsop, Mr & Mrs R Makings,
Mr & Mrs T Fleming, Mrs I Brightmer,
Mrs E Henderson, Mr and Mrs A Brown,
Ms D Sawday, Miss S Canetti and friend,
Mrs C Venison and Mr R Bradley, Ms S
Bolt, Mrs B Garrard, Mrs G Donaldson

Many of our members have now opted to pay their subscription by bankers order. The form is available both on the leaflet and on the website, and we are grateful to those who use it. It reduces costs for us which we can use for visits, lectures or even educational grants as we expand our activities.

Irene Jones

Education

'Schools into Gardening'

We have moved further since I wrote a small piece about Education in our Autumn newsletter. Our sub group has been beavering busily away.

The committee **has agreed to award small grants to some primary** schools and we intend to start with one in the county of Leicestershire that asked us for support at the beginning of the year. This will allow us to try out our system of finding out the schools plans, seeing they are put into practice and then we will give the award when their project is completed. We will visit the school before and after the project.

We will **then offer one award to one of 10 schools in the city** who have started garden schemes which are still are still in progress. They will be able to apply via the **website** and you will be able to see this shortly. **Rutland** primary schools will be targeted next. This is because we do not yet have enough information about the schools in the County.

The scheme will be made available in the future to **older students** and may involve schools who have contact with allotments. We may support training, visits or buying garden tools etc. We are trying to meet needs of young people without being too prescriptive. **We are learning as we go too.**

We are using ‘Schools into Gardening’ as our title and we hope to give small grants of perhaps £100 or £200 pounds. The main source for much of this will come from our Celebrity Lecture, so we need your support in attending and bringing friends as guests to our lecture to enable us to help the young people.

Our first meeting at a school has been arranged and I will keep you informed of our progress

If this is an area which interests you or one in which you can make a contribution, please contact me.

Irene Jones

Research Group

Over the winter the Research Group has had several enjoyable and interesting sessions sorting the archive at Belgrave Hall. As a follow-up, we are also interested in identifying the statues in the gardens. A couple of examples are shown here and other images will be shortly available via the website. If you have any ideas, please let me know.



We also spent a very informative evening at the Record Office seeing where archive material is stored, getting to grips with how to access it and looking at maps and documents relevant to the research we do. I think we all came out enthusiastic to get on with more research and feeling less daunted by the system. We look forward to future visits there.

Continuing our research for the Parks and Gardens UK database, Humberstone Park has been added and entries for Evington Park and Arboretum are nearly completed.

Now the weather has hopefully improved, our next meeting on 12th May will see us making our first visit to Welford Road Cemetery and we also have a visits planned to Gumley Hall and Papillon Hall (Lutyens).

We would be very pleased to welcome anyone interested in joining this group, which meets once a month on a Wednesday afternoon.

Deborah Martin

In search of a Leicestershire or Rutland connection

Dr J P Craddock is researching the **Milner White landscape gardening partnership (c1858-1995)**, which carried out garden work in most counties during the firm's long history. The principals of the firm were Edward Milner (1819-1884), his son Henry Ernest Milner (1845-1906, his son-in-law Edward White (1872-1952) and his son Leslie Milner-White (1905-1976). He has yet to find a Milner White site in Leicestershire or Rutland and has approached the Trust to see if we can help.

Please let Deborah know if you have any information to pass on.

A Thomas Messenger Greenhouse in Syston

This year, the topic of walled gardens is the overall theme for our activities. As you know we launched our programme with the Spring Lecture on this subject, by Susan Campbell. Some of you may also have seen the article that we wrote for the "Mr Leicester" column in the Leicester Mercury to publicise our events. This resulted in an unexpected response – a telephone call from somebody living in Syston who has a large Thomas Messenger greenhouse in her back garden.

Thomas Messengers, who were a local Loughborough firm, produced the Rolls Royce of greenhouses in the Victorian and Edwardian periods. They also made verandas, summerhouses and all the frames and equipment that were needed for a Victorian kitchen garden.

The owner came to our lecture and was able to identify her model from a reproduction Messenger catalogue belonging to our Chairman. On the following morning, Elizabeth and I went with Susan Campbell to look at it.

This proved to be a substantial structure with separate rooms for plants needing hot or temperate conditions. There was a brick boiler house at the rear and possible living accommodation for a gardener attached. In front of the glasshouse, was what appeared to the uneducated eye to be the base of a brick cold frame. However, Susan Campbell pointed out the low arches in the front wall of the greenhouse. Clearly, this was a bed to grow a grapevine and feed it through the wall into the hothouse.



Several houses further along the same road, there was another smaller Victorian glasshouse, of an equally high standard, possibly also by Messengers.

So the Research Group has a mystery to try to solve. What was a large “top of the range” greenhouse doing in the back garden of a large Victorian terraced villa? Was it just that the owner was a very keen gardener or is there more to the story? Susan Campbell wondered if the site could previously have formed part of a walled garden. The 1902 OS map shows both the house and the garden building complex.

We will let you know if we manage to find out anything else.

Sue Blaxland

Dates for your diary

Heated Kitchen Garden Walls

Those of you who attended the spring lecture on Walled Kitchen Gardens will have been fascinated by Susan Campbell’s descriptions of heated kitchen garden walls. Diane and Steve Horsfield have such a heated wall in their Hoby garden, which is open to the public on **19th and 20th June 2010** to raise funds towards the re-glazing of the South Aisle Windows in All Saints Church, Hoby. This year’s event takes place from 11.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. on the Saturday and Sunday and includes over 14 inspirational Open Gardens, several open to the public for the first time. **Hoby Open Gardens** is a full day’s activity, from coffee and cake in the morning to lunches in the village hall, Pimms Bar and cream teas. That is as well as a renowned White Elephant stall, tombola, greetings cards, books, cakes, produce and plant stalls and an art exhibition in the church. The Trust will be having a publicity stand during the two days so why not come to see the wall and enjoy the open gardens. Entrance by programme, which includes car parking, is £4.00 for adults. Hoby is six miles from Melton Mowbray.

Launde Abbey Flower Festival

Saturday 29th to Monday 31st May 2010 11.00am – 5.00pm every day £5.00 per car

Refreshments, plant stall, games for all ages, bouncy castle, craft stalls, bric-a-brac

Bank Holiday Monday: Car Boot Sale, Craft Fair, display of Rolls Royce cars

Details Tel: 01572 717 254 or www.launde.org.uk

Apethorpe Hall Tours

English Heritage's Apethorpe Hall has not been sold and so there will be tours again this year on **Wednesdays and Saturdays, from 2nd June until the end of September**. Tours are £7.50 per person and must be pre-booked. Telephone 0870 3331183

Cottesbrooke Hall Plant Finders Fair 25th - 27th June

Products and plants, guest speakers including Dan Pearson, Alys Fowler and James Alexander-Sinclair, traditional craft demonstrations

Further details www.cottesbrookehall.co.uk or
Tel: 01604 505808

University of Leicester Botanic Garden

Plant Sale & Family Day
Sunday 27th June 2010
11am-5pm

Opposite the racecourse:
entrance via Glebe Rd & Stoughton Drive South

- ❖ specialist plant sales
- ❖ sculpture exhibition
- ❖ arts & crafts stalls & demonstrations
- ❖ wildlife & horticultural groups
- ❖ Free children's entertainments :face painting, bouncy castle, art activities & balloon magic
- ❖ music
- ❖ environmental groups

❖ Refreshments

£3.50 per adult, children free

Lampport Hall Study Days

University of Leicester Centre for the Study for the Country house

11th May 'Silver and the Country house'

14th September 'Palace to Pleasure Garden: Thames Architecture, c. 1500-1800'

19th October 'Flashing the Garter: the Insignia of the Order as display of power in the country house'

9th November 'Comfort and convenience in the Country House'

Details: www.le.ac.uk/ha/countryhouse or
tel: 0116 252 2866

Newbold Verdon Open Gardens

Sunday July 11th 11.00am - 6.00pm. 12 gardens open.

Various exhibitions in village churches. Lunches from 12.00 - 2.00pm.

Teas and Live Music from 2.30pm

Library open in afternoon with childrens activities.

Programmes £3.00 on the day from St James Church Hall, Main Street, Village Square.

Details 01455 822130

AGT Events

London Parks and Gardens Trust Open Squares Weekend 12th-13th June 2010

Visit more than 120 private gardens and squares

AGM and Annual Conference Isle of Wight 1st-4th October 2010

Details of both these events on the AGT website www.gardenstrusts.org.uk or

Tel: 020 7251 2610

Exhibitions

If you are visiting London in the coming months you may be interested in the following exhibitions.

‘A Garden Within Doors’ Plants and Flowers in the Home. Until 25th July 2010.

Geffrye Museum, Kingsland Road, London, E2 8EA. Tel 020 7739 9893.

www.geffrye-museum.org.uk

Open: Tuesday – Saturday 10am – 5pm. Sunday & Bank Holiday Monday 12 – 5pm.

The exhibition explores the role of houseplants and flowers play in homemaking and the psychology of the home. The strong links between home and garden will be highlighted by special displays in all of the museum’s period rooms (1600 to the present) and also in the exhibition gallery, which will focus on the long 19th Century (1800-1914) a period when domestic gardening and an interest in bringing plants and flowers indoors grew exponentially.

‘Christopher Lloyd: A life at Great Dixter’ until 12th September 2010.

Garden Museum, Lambeth Palace Road, London, SE1 7LB. 020 7401 8865

www.gardenmuseum.org.uk

Open: Sunday to Friday 10.30am – 5pm. Saturdays 10.30am – 4pm.

A retrospective of the late Christopher Lloyd, in which the exhibition brings together personal objects from Christopher’s home at Great Dixter, recollections from friends and colleagues, his writing and his gardens. The aim of the exhibition is to provide a picture of one of the 20th Century’s most influential gardeners.

‘Paul Sandby 1731-1809. Picturing Britain, A Bicentennial Exhibition’ Until 13th June 2010.

The Royal Academy of Arts, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London. Tel: 020 7300 8000

www.royalacademy.org.uk

Open: 10am – 6pm except Friday. Friday 10am – 10pm.

Regarded as the father of English watercolour painting and a founder member of the Royal Academy of Arts, Paul Sandby’s landscape panoramas and intricate maps lead the way in documenting the rapidly changing face of eighteenth century Britain. His work is of interest for both the range of subjects he covered including urban and rural scenes and the geographical spread across the country

Recent Books

'Richard Woods 1715-1751. Master of the Pleasure Garden'

By Fiona Cowell. Published by Boydell & Brewer. Price £50.

Unlike many 18th century landscape gardeners Richard Woods was fond of flowers. Whereas Capability Brown preferred carefully contrived natural landscapes, Woods placed more emphasis on the pleasure ground and kitchen garden. The book looks at Woods activities as a plantsman, amateur architect and as a farmer. Woods Catholicism is also examined and the impact that this had on his obtaining commissions and who he worked for in a period when being a catholic was a bar to many positions in society and government.

'Wales: Guide to Historic Parks and Gardens'

Published by The Welsh Historic Gardens Trust (01970 832 268)

The guide lists all the designed landscapes in Wales open in 2010.

Newsletter contributions

Thank you, to all who have given me articles and photographs for this newsletter. I would be pleased to hear from anyone interested in contributing articles, book reviews etc. for future editions.

If you have any ideas to improve the newsletter or our events programme, Elizabeth (Events) and I would welcome your comments.

Deborah Martin

Useful Contact Numbers

Chairman	Stephen Barker	01858 433545
Membership	Irene Jones	0116 2709370
Events	Elizabeth Bacon	0116 2705711
Research Group	Deborah Martin	0116 2707525

Or you can contact us at www.lrgt.org

