

LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND GARDENS TRUST



Newsletter

No 30 Spring 2013

www.lrgt.org

Registered Charity no. 1063075

WALLED GARDEN RESEARCH STARTS IN EARNEST



Brian Slater

The Research Group has started work on a register of Walled Kitchen Gardens in Leicestershire and Rutland. It's an enormous task and you could help. See page 9

For details of spring events see pages 11-14

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

WINTER EVENTS	Page 3
MEMBERSHIP	Page 7
CONTACT DETAILS	Page 8
RESEARCH GROUP	Page 9
OLD POSTCARDS	Page 10
SPRING EVENTS	Page 11
EDUCATION	Page 15
VISITS TO KEW GARDENS IN AUTUMN	Page 16
JAPANESE GARDEN IN AYLESTONE	Page 17
INDOOR WINTER THOUGHTS ON THE GARDEN	Page 19
DATES FOIR THE DIARY	Page 21
YOU MIGHT ALSO BE INTERESTED IN...	Page 21
OUT AND ABOUT	Page 24

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

As I write this, I am looking forward to getting my life back on an even keel. As many of you will know, I have been in the process of moving from Market Harborough to Loughborough. As with all these things, the whole process of finding a new house and then deciding to have the builders in has taken longer than anticipated.

I am finally resident in Loughborough and, in a few months' time, I will have sufficient of the decorating done so that I can pay attention to the garden. My abiding memory from last year was the existence of vigorous bindweed, which I am going to have to tackle as I decide what to do with my new plot.

As your Chairman, I feel that I have been distracted over the past year and I look forward to being more involved in the Trust's activities. Fortunately the LRGT is blessed with a very able and active Committee who do all the hard work in keeping the Trust going and running it successfully. Gill Ragett, who lectured to us on Japanese gardens in

2012 and is involved with her own local Garden Trust, was very impressed with the range of activities carried out by the LRGT and with the level of involvement from the membership. To this, I will add my thanks for your support. If you have any ideas for future events or activities, please feel free to put them forward to either myself or other members of the Committee.

I look forward to seeing you all at this year's lectures and outings.

Stephen Barker

EVENTS

WINTER EVENTS

Following our very wintry lunch we had a very wintry snowdrop trip to Colesbourne Park in Gloucestershire. The weather forecast for the day was dire. The early part of the morning was dry with a very red sky - not a good sign. By the time we arrived for lunch at the Colesbourne Inn the snow began to fall and it was still snowing when we left after an excellent lunch. The coach took us up through a densely wooded valley and I think we all a little surprised when we arrived at a relatively modest fifties house. We later learned that there had been a very large Victorian pile which was pulled down after the war and would have been in keeping with the atmosphere of the winter afternoon.

We were given a short talk about the Elwes collection of snowdrops, hence elwesii, and set off into the grounds with the owner, Sir Henry Elwes. There were a lot of snowdrops, many different varieties and tales about snowdrops but the snow and cold meant that I did not take any notes, which I now regret. Among the snowdrops were other winter flowering plants, hellebores, cyclamen, aconites all looking very natural. There was an extraordinary aquamarine lake, the colour, quite natural, looking very ghostly in the snow. On reflection it was all rather surreal.

Warming tea and the most delicious chocolate brownies were served before we left. The weather had worsened and as we went up the M5 and I did wonder if the journey had been worth it as we spent more time travelling than in the garden. I think it was, as not only had Friends thoroughly enjoyed the day, but we found somewhere a bit off the beaten track and with an arboretum which will be worth visiting in autumn 2014. I really want to revisit and see Colesbourne Park at another time of year

Gillian Ragett returned in the autumn to give her lecture on the interpretation of Japanese gardens in the rest of the world. I think her lecture is best illustrated with the cartoon she showed us of an English Milord showing off his Japanese garden to a Japanese gentleman who is saying "How interesting. We have nothing like that in our country". We were shown good and bad examples of Japanese gardens and the problems of immaculate maintenance which they require. As before, she gave a scholarly and entertaining lecture, most enjoyable. She's a great personality and hopes to join us when we visit Rousham.

Sally Walker, ex-chair of the AGT, was invited to the Friends Evening to tell us about its functions and origins. Leicestershire and Rutland Garden Trust seems to be such a particularly homogenous group that it is sometimes difficult to believe that we are part of a larger organization. Sally reminded us that we are. Grant followed with a short description of the origins of the formation of the LRGT in September 1997, which in some ways seems quite a long time ago when I think of what I have learned since then. Pip Wheatcroft, Joyce Farnese and Peter Rawson all showed there recent photographs, Pip's, very professional, with music.

Tea and cake was served and Joan Hands brought her quince jelly to sell, which meant that, with donations, we were able to give £40 back to the Trust, having paid Sian (who happily is coming with us to our new venue). This was our last event at Meeting House before moving to The Leicester Bowling Club. At both events attendance was 48/49 and would have been over 50 had there been more parking space. I learned

later that one or two people returned home being unable to park their cars. The Meeting House served us well, but difficulty in parking and limitations of booking slots were signals that we had to move. I hope you don't get lost on March 7th.

Elizabeth Bacon

IN SEARCH OF A GOOD LUNCH

After two years at the *Nevill Arms* in Medbourne, it was time to move to another part of the two counties in search of a good lunch. I wanted to find somewhere, not too pompous, with good food and able to accommodate about 35/50 Friends without disrupting other diners. Simon Hoggart, in his Saturday column in *The Guardian* occasionally mentions pubs up and down the country which he has found to be worth recommending to his readers. Over the past couple of years, he has been to the *Kingshead* in Waddenhoe and *The Jackson Stops* in Stretton, both of which we have used and know to be reliable, so, when he mentions The Royal Oak in Bredon on the Hill, I immediately think it may be worth a visit with the Winter lunch in mind. Although it is a bit on the margins of the counties, the church on the hill is of interest and could be visited pre lunch. We fix a date, book a table and enjoy a good lunch in the interests of L.R.G.T. The food is good but the configuration of the dining room is unsuitable and their Sunday trade is so good that they would only fit us in late in the afternoon, so that was out.

Sutton Cheney, on the west of the county is another possibility. I contact them, see the menu but decide against it as there would be a few other diners. With the noise we can sometimes generate it would be unfair for them, (I noticed this in Medbourne last winter). That was out.

Barnsdale Lodge in the opposite direction may be worth a try. A delicious looking menu is emailed, we can have the conservatory which is lovely (some of you will know it) and I feel rather pleased. However, a further email arrives to say "sorry mistaken date, can't do it

on a Sunday”. We could have an upstairs room but that has no lift, or the smaller room in the banqueting suite in the Barn. Both of these are out, the latter would be fine if we were a much larger group and the former for obvious reasons. Still in Rutland, the pub in Wing (can’t remember the name) is too small and *The Finches Arms* in Hambledon is down a lane which could be tricky in icy weather.

The Bowling Club has catering facilities and there is a catering business in the area run by Lucy Cufflin, who produces wonderful food, and has catered for events at the Bowling Club. She had a shop locally which sold delicious frozen meals. Much to the disappointment of the area, it is now closed. I contact her but she is out of the country, so that’s out.

So back to Google, several places seem interesting but there are problems, Long Whatton, too far in the north of the county, Lyddington has a very steep hill going into the village which again could be tricky in icy weather. We could have the Gary Lineker suite at the Football Ground with views of the river but it’s far too big and expensive. I meet the compiler of the Winter Lunch quiz in Waitrose and he suggests *The Joiners Arms* in Bruntingthorpe. The menu and price look exactly right so it’s well worth a visit to check it out; again the configuration of the dining room is not really suitable for us, so that’s out.

I have another place to check, *The Woodhouse Restaurant* in Woodhouse Eaves. I think it will be too small and as I am driving along the A6 in what must be the wettest, heaviest November rainfall ever, I wonder why all other years have been so easy and think that this is most likely to be a wild goose chase. I am late, mainly because of the weather and Sue is waiting for me in her car. We go in and are immediately offered coffee, a good sign. The Chef joins us, shows us the menu and then, the room: it’s all just exactly right for us. I breathe a sigh of relief. We book it and go next-door to the dress agency to celebrate by spending money.

By the time you read this you will know if my search was worthwhile.

TWO MONTHS LATER. It really did turn out to be a winter lunch. When considering a suitable venue, considerations can be made to cover most eventualities, but not the weather. The weekend of January 19th/20th was the weekend when the snow came, not as much here as in other parts of the country, but enough to dissuade some Friends from attending, which was quite understandable.



We had looked at the weather online on Friday and, as only light snow was forecast for the East Midlands, we decided not to cancel. Our numbers were depleted, which was a pity for several reasons: my table plan (of which I was quite proud, as I had managed to put friends together) was disrupted: we missed seeing familiar faces and, most importantly of all we missed our quiz and quizmaster. Although the service was a bit slow, partly because it was snowing and we therefore decided to have coffee and dessert at the same time, I think we will go back there next year.

Not only did we find somewhere for lunch but a very interesting dress agency.

Elizabeth Bacon

MEMBERSHIP

Our membership is thriving as we begin another year. It is currently 140 members. If you have forgotten to renew your subscription I hope you will soon do so. We have 5 new members to welcome. I hope you will

enjoy the coming programme of lectures and events. Our membership continues to reach all parts of our two counties. Two of our new members come from North Kilworth and Market Harborough.

I trust you will all continue our policy of introducing like-minded friends to the Gardens Trust. The majority of our new members have been introduced this year by members, so, many thanks to you all. Sadly Newbold Verdon Gardening Club has decided not to renew its membership

Our healthy membership allows us to fill a coach for visits more easily and the visit to Colesbourne Park was well supported. The number of members who have opted to pay their subscription by bankers order continues to increase. So many thanks to those of you who have chosen this method of payment. The form is available both on our leaflet and on the website (www.org). It reduces costs for us, which we can use for visits, lectures or even educational grants as we expand our activities.

Irene Jones

Useful Contact Numbers

Chairman	Stephen Barker	0150 9557205
Membership	Irene Jones	0116 2709370
Events	Elizabeth Bacon	0116 2705711
Research/Newsletter	Deborah Martin	0116 2707525
Secretary	Sue Blaxland	0116 2609748

Or you can contact us at www.lrgt.org

RESEARCH GROUP

The last few months have proved very busy for the Research Group and so we are very pleased to have welcomed more recruits. Sue Blaxland has completed her research on Papillon Hall and there is an article about it in this year's AGT Yearbook, which is included in this mailing. A full report is now available on our website and also on the Parks and Gardens UK database (www.parksandgardens.org). Our main focus, however, has been our Walled Kitchen Garden project to produce a register for Leicestershire and Rutland.

Having given our December meeting over to a lovely pre-Christmas lunch, we embarked on our Walled Kitchen Garden project in January, with an invasion of the Record Office, to look at old Ordnance Survey maps for evidence of walls and glass houses. Impractical to work in such a large group, we have divided ourselves into small groups and now research our allocated areas at times to suit each team. This is an enormously time consuming task, initially trying to identify all the sites of walled gardens on 1st and 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey maps, (we have found 25⁰⁰ to the mile best) making notes and subsequently looking at what remains today for the record. Google Earth has proved useful for this and later we will need to make site visits.

It is amazing just how the momentum of this work has grown. We have been surprised by the detail we can get from these old maps, not just the size and aspect but the range of buildings, paths and layout. Looking further into other sources like sales catalogues, it is possible to find out much more detail of the types of glass houses and plantings. The more time we spend at the Record Office, the more there is to look at. This is a big project and although the group is very enthusiastic and taking the work very seriously, it is not going to be a short term undertaking.

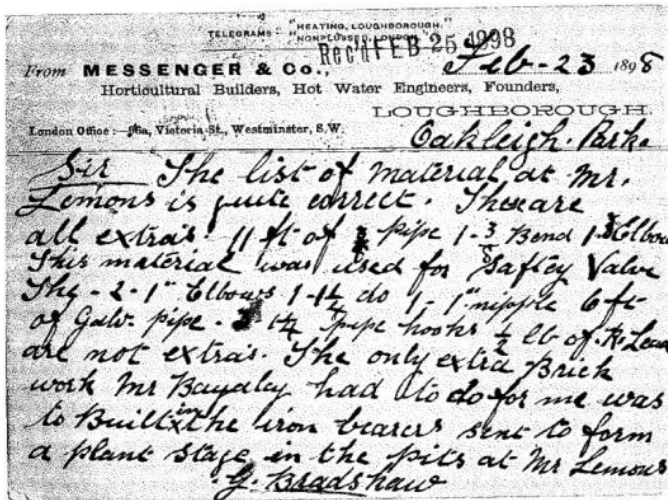
Local knowledge is obviously a great help in identifying these gardens and so we would ask all of you to let us know of any historic Walled Kitchen Gardens that you know of, even if it is only the walls that

remain today. Also, if anyone else is interested in joining the Research Group to get involved with this project, do let us know.

Deborah Martin

OLD POSTCARDS

This interesting postcard was bought by our Chairman at a postcard fair.



According to a contact we made recently, who is researching the Messenger archives, the Mr lemon mentioned was a Mr R B Lemon of Wraylands, Reigate, Surrey. The card, dated a few months before Messenger became a limited Company, also suggests that, as the firm was so well known in Loughborough and in the process of moving from one site to another, they didn't always need to put on their actual address.



SPRING EVENTS 2013

An Afternoon at Long Close

Sunday, April 28th at 2.30pm.

A talk on The Lost Gardens of Khajurho, India

followed by afternoon tea at John Oakland's garden,

Long Close, Main Street, Woodhouse Eaves LE12 8RZ

Own transport- Cars can be parked in the adjacent public car park.

Afternoon tea at John Oakland's garden in Woodhouse Eaves has become an annual event and this year the Landscape Architect and Garden Designer, Rowland Byass, will be giving the talk.

In remote rural part of the central Indian state of Madhya Pradesh, are a collection of thirteen walled gardens dating from the eighteenth century. These landscapes were sites of pleasure, productivity and sacred spaces. Like the late Mughal courtly world of which they are an expression, their cultural origins are a hybrid of Hindu and Muslim traditions. For the maharajas of the nearby capital of Chhattarpur, these gardens were a kind of country dwelling (royal caravanserai) as well as productive gardens for vegetables and fruit. The presence of a temple and cremation platforms points to extra religious and funerary functions.

The gardens fell into disrepair in the mid-nineteenth century, at the same time that political power in northern India passed from the noble families who created them, to the emerging power of the British East India Company.

A project is underway that aims to restore the Lost Gardens as living historical artefacts of a vanished culture, to promote organic agriculture, to provide local employment and spread the economic benefits of tourism in a poor rural district. This lecture will tell the

story of the Lost Gardens, their more recent 'rediscovery' and the project to restore them.

We will also be able to have a recent report of what is happening there as Diane and Steve Horsfield have recently returned from a visit.

John's drawing room has limited space so early booking is advised.

Cost: Friends £8.00 Guests £9.50

(Includes entrance and tea of sandwiches and cake)

Please return the booking form by Friday 12th April. This is important as we need to know numbers for catering.

Coach trip to Rousham and Pettifers garden, Oxfordshire

Saturday May 18th 2013

Coach departs Glebe Road, Oadby (Botanic Garden entrance)

9.30am

Packed lunch required

Our main visit today is to Rousham but in the morning we will visit Pettifers garden in Lower Wardington, Oxon. This has a very stylish townhouse garden in the front and a beautifully planted rear garden, which pays homage to its stunning views. The garden is on several levels with low retaining walls near the house giving way to vast borders facing each other across a wide lawn. The owner, Mrs Price is an ardent plant lover whose travels in India have influenced her sense of colour in the garden. I think this is going to be a very interesting garden.

Rousham is a place of pilgrimage to William Kent admirers. When designed in 1738 it represented the first phase of English landscape design and remains as Kent left it. It still has many features which delighted 18th century travellers. There are the ponds and cascades in Venus Vale, the Cold Bath and seven arched Praneste, Townends Building, the Temple of the Mill, and on the skyline, a sham ruin known as the Eyecatcher. A unique landscape.

There is also a very good walled garden with dovecote, flowerbeds, espaliers etc.

It will be advisable to eat one's lunch on the coach as there are no facilities at Rousham. There is a loo.

11.00am Arrive Pettifers for coffee and garden visit

12.30/45pm Leave for Rousham

2.00pm Arrive Rousham for garden and house visit

4.30pm Leave for tea at Hopcroft Hotel

These times are approximate

Cost: Friends £ 33. 50 Guests £35.50

(Includes all entrances, coffee, tea and tour of Rousham House.)

Please return the booking form by Friday 3rd May

SPEND THE LONGEST DAY IN RUTLAND

**Visit the Prebendal House, Empingham LE15 8PS
and**

The Old Vicarage Burley LE15 7SU

Friday June 21st 2013

Own Transport

The Prebendal House in Empingham was built in 1689, as the summer palace for the Bishop of Lincoln. The large four acre garden is an interesting mix of herbaceous borders, water gardens, topiary, statuary and (hurray) a walled kitchen garden. Proceeds from our visit will go to the church.

In a relatively short space of time Sandra and Jonathan Blaza have created a wonderful three acre country garden full of interest at **The Old Vicarage, Burley**. There are formal lawns and borders, a lime walk, rose garden and rill and many other delights, including (hurray again) a walled kitchen garden. They have made good use of the borrowed landscape. It was the winner of Country Living Kitchen Table Talent Award for Best Large Garden in 2011

A Ploughman's Lunch has been arranged at the Fox and Hounds in Exton. **Please indicate on booking form if vegetarian option required.**

Cost: Friends £21.00 Guests £23.00 (Includes entrances, lunch and tea)

10.30am Meet at the Prebendal House, Empingham for garden visit (Coffee not confirmed)

12.15/30pm Lunch at the Fox and Hounds, Exton LE15 8AP

2.00pm Garden visit and tea at The Old Vicarage, Burley

The Prebendal House is situated next to the church in Empingham, just off the A606. Turn into the drive to park. The Fox and Hounds is on The Green in Exton. The Old Vicarage is in Burley, a mile north of Oakham on the B668 to Cottesmore. If coming from Oakham turn right opposite the village green and from Cottesmore turn left, just after 2nd 40 sign.

Please return the booking form by Friday June 7th.

EDUCATION- SCHOOLS INTO GARDENING

We were pleased to hear that our acorns are taking root. Another class of children from Belgrave St Peter's Church of England Primary School is going to be taken for a visit to the Outdoor Garden at Kelmarsh organized and funded by their school. We view this with delight as it shows how good practice can grow without large sums of money being spent. Some of the photos of our visit on 20th May 2012 taken by Pip Wheatcroft can be seen on our website. We will be funding a visit for a class of 8 year olds from Eyres Monsell Primary School on 20th May 2013.

Our plans and contacts with schools and young people continue to develop. In consultation with Brooksby and Melton College we have decided to introduce **The Gardens Trust Student Award**. This will go to the student with some financial difficulties who makes the most progress within their course in Horticulture. The award is for £100 and will be in the form of books or equipment needed on the course. Equipment such as drawing boards and good quality secateurs can be costly. The college will propose up to 3 students from which members of the Education Sub-committee can select a winner. After discussion with the student, the College will buy a prize from their suppliers which the student will receive at the College Prize Giving in June 2013. We had agreed to awards for 3 years but this could be extended. Your views would be welcome.

As you will realise most of the income derived so far from our Celebrity Lectures is now spoken for. Please help us to sell all our tickets for our Celebrity Lectures so we can continue with this programme for young people. We have ideas for several new developments for next year and I will report back once firm plans are made.

If this is an area which interests you or one in which you can make a contribution, please contact Irene Jones on 0116 2709370 or by chatting to me at one of our events.

Irene Jones

VISITS TO KEW GARDENS IN AUTUMN

One of the many pleasures of living in Richmond is its proximity to Kew Gardens, though now that it is so expensive to visit, for many people, this is a restricted pleasure. But I, as a long-standing “Friend” can go in free at any time as the whim, stamina, and weather entice me there.

I say “long-standing” and in a way, it has been much longer than living in Richmond. My first visit, and I wish I could remember it more vividly, was a school outing. The whole school, about 70 girls, was at Hayes in Kent, about as far south east of London as Kew is south west. I suppose I was about 14. In those days before Health and Safety were invented, these 70 girls, unsupervised just wandered about all day in twos or threes, sometimes meeting another group with “Have you found the blue border?” or “Have you been in The Palm House?” The following day for home-work, we had to write a poem about Kew. I wrote a sonnet of which I only remember the first line, “The Garden at Kew is like a Nature class”. The rest is forgotten, just as well, but I remember my fascination with the informative labels tied to each tree and shrub.

Years later, living in London, I would often at weekends take a train to Kew and have a long walk there. The entrance was one penny (the old, large, brown sort) which one put into the turnstile and pushed one’s way in. There was a notice just inside saying “No ball games. No musical instruments” which pleased me.

More years later, living in Richmond, we went there often for quiet leisurely walks, often in the wilder parts near the river and Queen Charlotte’s Cottage, and now, in my old age, as a Friend, I go there for shorter walks, to see, so I intend, some special area, but I so often get waylaid by some vista not before noticed, some tree bursting into blossom just that day, or some tree trunk’s bark mottled like the most expensive tweeds.

I was last there towards the end of October 2012, a grey drizzly, windless, misty day, and other visitors were few. Long practised habit allows me to disregard the frequent aeroplanes, so it was very peaceful. How changed all was since the heavy green of July and August. The mistiness seemed to enlarge the garden, making the distances wider, as the far off trees were faint silhouettes, the middle ones tall and darker, and the nearby ones so varied and vivid in colour. In spite of the mist muting the colours, the variety of colours curiously allowed them to glow with an unnatural luminosity. Each dark trunk stood in a circle of yellow or rust-coloured leaves, echoing the colour above, surrounded by the bright green grass. The way these trees seemed to hold the light was mysterious; a yellow maple, each star-shaped leaf a clean yellow, glowed in the mist. One such, only a small 12' high tree, the interior leaves were all this clear yellow, but the outer leaves, those on the end of the branches, were still a sagey grey-green. It was like a lantern with a golden glow within. There is a tall *Cotinus*, that I have often visited in autumn; it has a thickly ribbed trunk like twisted ropes, a leaf canopy of lumps like a bit of broccoli, which was dark purple and chocolate, but mixed with branches of scarlet, and in other places, leaves of dark purple, mixed with gold. If such a tree could flood the air with colour through the mist, what is it like when the sun shines on it? And the close-up details, a spindle-berry bush with dark purple leaves sprinkled with heart-shaped pink berries, just splitting to show orange seeds, berberis bushes hung about with clusters of shiny scarlet berries, and below all this, banks of *Cerastostigma*, whose fading leaves were still clotted with specks of blue as intense as a Mediterranean sky. And among all these, lit-lantern like trees, stand the solid holly trees, the flat planes of cedars and the sharp pointing fingers of firs – all dark green and fading away into the mist.

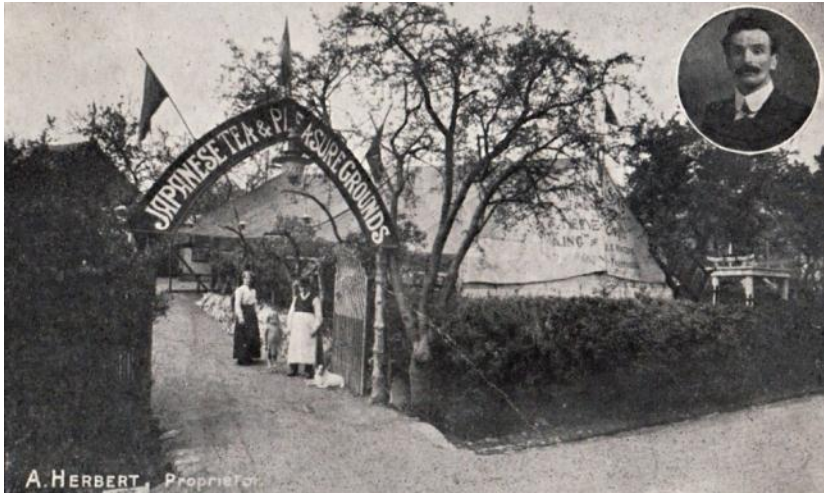
Ann Baer

JAPANESE TEA GARDEN IN AYLESTONE

When Gill Ragett came to talk last year about Japanese Gardens, we mentioned to her that we had a postcard in our collection that showed a

Japanese Tea Garden in Aylestone. She was able to provide us with more information about this:

It was constructed around 1917 and was originally owned by a Mr. A Herbert, who ran it as a commercial venture in a former orchard. (However, according to the Leicester Council's Conservation Plan



which we have found on-line, it was founded by the Rossa icecream family, so perhaps we need to do some more research on this).

The site was dominated by a large marquee which could seat about two hundred people, with a stage for entertainments which were held on weekends. A sketch of the stage by Fergus Wright in 1917 shows Japanese paper lanterns strung across the ceiling. A photograph reveals Japanese feature in the grounds, including an interpretation of a *torii* gateway, along with a small zoo of parrots and monkeys! A visit to the Japanese tea garden was a weekend recreation for local people. It was referred to as “going to the Japs” and was often combined with a boat trip on the canal. There were two fires in the gardens, which were eventually closed at the end of the 1930’s.

Sue Blaxland

INDOOR WINTER THOUGHTS ON THE GARDEN

Judging by the number of small advertisements in each issue of local magazines, there are a large number of “Garden Designers” looking for clients. Is not this a new profession, and, it seems, an overcrowded one, too many people trained for non-existing jobs? There are far more such people advertising themselves than there are gardeners, the people who actually dig, plant, prune, mow and sweep up.

I cannot imagine ever employing such people to design a garden for me. It would take away all the fun of gardening. Surely we all know what that fun is. It starts usually in winter, when the garden is ‘in abeyance’ when you collect gardening catalogues. You read them avidly, speculating and imagining how this view from the kitchen window, will be a Spring Garden, snowdrops and crocuses there, aconites and tiny irises there under the still bare crab apple, and behind them daffodils and grape-hyacinths in clumps. And then, in the long border between the boundary wall and the lawn, should it be multi-coloured tulips coming up through forget-me-nots, or white ones coming up through lumps of saxifrage – or both? And then, a ceanothus in that alcove with polyanthus under it? Then behind all this, a profusion, for June, of Dutch irises, sweet-williams, lupins and delphiniums against the wall, and how about a pale pink copper-leaves clematis smothering the wall behind them, mixed up with a later flowering blue-mauve one? Then, in the large stone basin which stands on a circle of stone paving, chalk white osteospermums and lobelias pouring over the edges and, in the centre, a sugar pink rose, or a crimson one, or both? And of course there must be sweet peas, yes train them over a willow wigwam by the garden seat. Then, as August approaches, all those veronicas, lilies, petunias will fill the places where the tulips were, and there, as a background to the stone basin, a blue-green recumbent juniper, smelling of gin. And how about dahlias, scarlet and lemon and cream? Begonias too, and, why not have pots with geraniums standing around,

where the spring bulbs were to delight you from the kitchen window? There is so much choice as you imagine future glories.

How could one forego all this pleasure by getting someone else to choose?

You will notice that all the plants mentioned above I have called by their traditional English names, and they are traditional ‘cottage garden’ plants, but a glance at any catalogue will show you hundreds of new plants with names I have never heard before. If the old-fashioned plants can give you such an overwhelming wealth of choice, how even more difficult are your decisions now? The catalogues fall from your hands as you sink back in a reverie of future splendours.

The following quotation is, I think, the most perfect description of a cottage garden. It comes from George Eliot’s “Scenes of Clerical Life: Janet’s Repentance” Chapter VIII, 1857.

“The garden was one of those old-fashioned paradises which hardly exist any longer except as memories of our childhood; no finical separation between flowers and kitchen garden there, no monotony of enjoyment of one sense to the exclusion of another, but a charming paradisiacal mingling of all that was pleasant to the eyes and good for food. The rich flower border running along every walk, with its endless succession of spring flowers, anemones, auriculas, wall-flowers, sweet-williams, campanulas, snap-dragon and tiger-lilies had taller beauties such as moss and province roses varied with espalier apple-trees; the crimson of a carnation was carried out in the lurking crimson of the neighbouring strawberry beds; you gathered a moss rose one moment and a bunch of currants the next; you were in a delicious fluctuation between the scent of jasmine and the juice of gooseberries, and along one side, what a hedge, tall and firm, unbroken like a green wall.”

Ann Baer

DATES FOR THE DIARY

4 th July	Coach trip to Hemingford Grey and Abbots Ripton, Huntingdonshire
11 th August	Town walk in Market Harborough, including the Hammond Arboretum
5 th September	Celebrity Lecture, Speaker: Cleve West
15 th September	Coach trip to Syon House and Chiswick House, London
17 th October	Autumn Lecture, Speaker: Steve Biggins 'The gardens at Calke Abbey'
14 th November	Friends Evening

You may also be interested in ...

The Association of Gardens Trusts www.gardenstrusts.org.uk

Annual Weekend Conference 2013

Friday 6th to Sunday 8th September

EASTERN PROMISE Transforming London's Landscapes: From Abercrombie to the Olympics

This will be hosted by the London Parks and Gardens Trust and based at Queen Mary's College, University of London, Mile End, London, E1 4NS and will look at the transformation of East London's landscapes since Patrick Abercrombie's seminal 1940s London Plan. Lectures and visits will focus on Mile End Park, Canary Wharf and the Thames Barrier Park and will conclude on Sunday with a guided tour of the Olympic Park.

Further details and booking forms are now available.

To receive further information please email:

office@londongardenstrust.org

or telephone: 0207 839 3969

**NUMBER 10 DOWNING STREET GARDEN
OPENS TO THE PUBLIC FOR
OPEN GARDEN SQUARES WEEKEND
Saturday 8 June 2013**

Number 10 Downing Street will be participating in Open Garden Squares Weekend, opening its garden on Saturday 8 June 2013.

Keen to open up Downing Street and show people what goes on behind the famous black front door, the Downing Street garden will join over 200 private, hidden and little known gardens opening to the public as part of Open Garden Squares Weekend. Organised by the London Parks & Gardens Trust, the Weekend (8 & 9 June) is presented in association with the National Trust which is helping to make the city's hidden green spaces accessible to as many people as possible.

The Number 10 Downing Street garden and tour is only accessible by participation in a public ballot. Forty lucky entrants will be selected at random to participate on the tours taking place at 11am and 2pm on Saturday 8 June. For further information about entering the ballot see www.opensquares.org

Open Garden Squares Weekend tickets: One ticket gains access to gardens on both Saturday 8 and Sunday 9 June. An advance weekend ticket is £10 (inc. fees) from www.opengardens.org or from City Information Centre (CIC, between St Paul's Cathedral and Millennium Bridge). A ticket bought over the Weekend is £12. National Trust

Members can go half price (£5 advance/£6). For children under 12, admission is free.

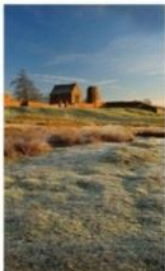
For more information about Open Garden Squares Weekend and full listings for each participating garden, visit:
www.opensquares.org



Cards for sale

Profits to 'Schools into Gardening'

£1.50 each



Cards available at meetings
or from Elizabeth Tel 0116
2705711

Photographs by Pip Wheatcroft



OUT AND ABOUT

January 2013
Colesbourne Park,
Gloucestershire

