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Celebrity Lecture raises nearly £800 for our Schools into Gardening project



Our speaker this year was Troy Scott Smith, Head Gardener at Sissinghurst (centre)

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Chatsworth House



OUT AND ABOUT 2017



Sulby Gardens

June

Rolleston Walled Garden



Three Rutland Gardens



Hill Top Farm



Redhill Lodge

Chairman's Notes

As many of you will probably be aware 2018 marks the bi-centenary of the death of Humphrey Repton's death. Following the success of the CB300 celebrations in 2016 to mark the 300th anniversary of the birth of Capability Brown, a programme of events is being planned nationally to celebrate Repton's life and work. In a sense the timing reflects Repton's ambition to become the leading landscape gardener in the country, following in Brown's footsteps. This he achieved and over the course of his career he moved from being a follower of Brown to becoming a landscape gardener and writer in his own right. His career provides a link from the landscape designs of the Eighteenth Century to the Gardenesque movement in the Nineteenth Century.

The Trust is looking to mark this anniversary with a visit to a major Repton site, to this end Elizabeth Bacon and I recently visited Woburn, which was one of Repton's most important commissions for the Duke of Bedford. The Duke was a major client of Repton's as well as Woburn, Repton landscaped Russell Square and an estate at Endsleigh in Devon for the Duke. Woburn has many interesting features and should prove an interesting and enjoyable place to visit. Next year is also an important milestone for the LRGT, marking 20 years since the first lecture took place. In the intervening years the Trust has grown both in size and in the scope of activities it undertakes. I am pleased to say that the Trust is currently in a strong position both in terms of its membership and its finances. The committee of the Trust, whilst pleased with the progress we have made especially in the fields of education and research, is aware that the Trust exists for its members. So while we celebrate the first 20 years of the Trust we are looking to ensure that it continues for the next 20 years. If as a member you have an idea of a place to visit, a topic for a lecture or a speaker for the future, please let the committee know. We are always open to suggestions from members of the Trust

It just remains for me to wish you all the best for Christmas and the New Year and I look forward to seeing you in 2018.

Stephen Barker

Events

The **Sunday afternoon tea in Hoby** is always one of our most popular events and so it was this year. I think the hospitality and welcome which we receive in the Village Hall, the traditional afternoon tea and speaker all contribute to the success of the afternoon. This year the **speaker** was **Kristina Taylor, Garden Writer and Designer** who based her talk on her recent book, “*Women Garden Designers 1900 to Present Day*” She talked about their commissions and their designs for their own gardens, starting with Gertrude Jykell and Beatrix Farrand who were working simultaneously here and in America. She then went on to discuss the contrasting styles of the designers across the globe. On looking through the book I was fascinated to discover to that one of the women, Florence Koch had been employed to design gardens for film sets in 1930’s Hollywood, I would love to know more about this.

As The Trust is approaching its 20th anniversary a visit to **Chatsworth** was long overdue, particularly in the Capability Brown tercentenary year. I have been visiting Chatsworth since I was a child and it has many happy memories for me. A particular treat as a child was to walk, with our aunt, up to the lake and Hunting Tower. I had not been up there since and, when arranging this trip, I hoped we might be able to get up there. We did, in a tractor trailer: it was just as



lovely as I remembered it. It was somewhat of a relief to me as it was a bit of a gamble relying on a childhood memory and to hear that the trip was equally enjoyed by The Friends.

This occasion was completely different from all my other visits to Chatsworth, as I found myself looking at it objectively, from a garden historical perspective,



particularly with the garden tour. It really hit me that what we were seeing was Paxton's original plan for the garden, as later generations had not left much of a mark. One can only wonder at

Paxton's genius. Such a pity his great glasshouse did not survive. The other thing which really surprised me that day was that the hill facing the south aspect of the house is in fact not a natural part of Derbyshire landscape but was created by Brown. Was another hill strictly necessary? He must have



thought so. Apart from some slight lack of communication on arrival it was a most successful and informative day.

Last autumn I went to the apple day at **Sulby Gardens** which are just in Northamptonshire on the Leicestershire border. It is an unusual property, 18 acres, comprising Victorian walled kitchen garden, orchard, woodland and meadow. On that October day I thought how nice it



would be to bring The Trust, perhaps even to have a picnic on a June evening. Mrs Alison Lowe, the owner was in agreement, which was incredibly generous of her as we had never met and it did seem a bit of a cheek to ask. We duly prepared the picnic for a June evening, with home-made interesting goodies, including filo tarts, quiches, cheese scones, savoury tarts etc to be accompanied with a glass of wine and lashings of ginger beer. The food was excellent, which was all to the good as the heavy rain of earlier in the afternoon returned, after being in the garden for only a short time. I think the party atmosphere created by the food and drink, maybe is what stays in people's memories rather than the garden itself, which is a pity. I went back on apple day this year, there were nearly 100 varieties of apples on display so you can take your unknown apples and have them named. You can also buy delicious apple juice made from named varieties. The trees, that day in their autumn colours were magical. Apparently the fritillaries in the meadow in spring are a sight worth seeing. Sulby is worth a visit and our grateful thanks are due to Alison for making us so welcome.



Rolleston Hall. This garden was known to us as it is part of our

On the other hand for our summer visit to three gardens in the two counties in June we had an almost perfect day. In the summer sun the rural landscapes of Leicestershire and Rutland were at their best. Our first garden was the **Walled Kitchen Garden at**

research project. The garden has 2 main areas, one is given over to a swimming pool and tennis court while the other is gardened and again divided by another wall. One is planted with a mix of vegetables and herbaceous plants while the other is mainly shrubs and roses. As one would hope at the end of June it was at its blooming best, a lovely mix of colours, shapes and scents. Tracy, the head gardener, looked after us providing coffee served with croissants baked that morning.



At the aptly named **Hill Top Farm, just outside Oakham** we were greeted by Mr and Mrs William Cross, the owners, who created the garden, with refreshing glasses of fruit juice. These were served on the terrace, from which we had wonderful views of the surrounding

countryside and which had lots of containers with sun loving plants. From here the garden lead through borders planted with interesting plants and shrubs.. There is a fairly recently planted woodland area leading to a wildlife pond and then back through the poultry, to glasshouses with interesting plants for sale. This was a lovely relaxing visit on a summer's day.

After a successful lunch in Lyddington we went on to **Red Hill Lodge, Barrowden** This is a new garden designed by Mrs Susan Moffitt on the site of an older garden with a small house. A large new house has now been built, based on a Lutyens design at North Luffenham. It is now



surrounded by a very imaginatively designed new garden. It is large

and on a slope. At the top is an herbaceous plot in the Oudoulf style and a viewing mound which overlooks the Welland Valley with a



remarkable view of the Haringworth Viaduct. From here, where the ground slopes down, an amphitheatre has been created and when it levels, there is a wonderful wild swimming pool, a bog garden, a vegetable patch

and thence a less formal area with shrubs and trees and lots more. The scones and cakes were delicious. It is a really interesting site and I look forward to seeing it again in a few years time.

I found this a perfect day out, good weather and great contrast in the gardens.

I used to drive past **Spetchley Gardens in Worcestershire** and wondered what went on behind the wall, but never got there. I was persuaded when I rang for details, that it was a one day visit, not to be added to Croome, which was my initial idea. They were so right. Spetchley Park and gardens are owned by The Berkeley family and the gardens mostly designed by Ellen Willmott, sister of Rose Berkeley, in the late 19th / early 20th centuries. This is not a formal garden; it is a wondrous



place of shrubs, trees, lakes, enormous borders and walled garden, and a good little cafe. It has the largest collection of plant varieties outside major botanical gardens and one of the first to be opened to the public. Edward Elgar spent time here and found inspiration to

write Dream of Gerontius. I think this garden is a bit of a secret and very well worth a visit. I should mention we had a splendid guide who said that spring was a particularly good time to visit.



Stephen again turned up trumps (perhaps in the present climate that expression should be banned) when he walked us round **Market Harborough** in August. He was able to point out notable buildings eg the first custom built office, an early 19th century shop front and of course the Grammar School. He was able to show us where various retail shops and important businesses, such as Symingtons had been. Situated as it was at the junction of canal, road and rail connections, Market Harborough had been a thriving more or less sustainable market town like so many up and down the country. With shopping habits and manufacturing changing, Harborough has changed over the years, but it is still busy and will change even more with the amount of new homes being built there. The walk was followed by tea and cake in Great Bowden Village Hall, provided by The Women's Institute, who have our grateful Thanks.



It took the Capability Brown tercentenary year to get us to **Burghley**, even though it is fairly near. I took advantage of the combined “Brown the Builder Tour” which included house and garden, visiting some parts not usually open to the public. I think was the right thing to do. The house tour in the morning was led by Annette, who was particularly entertaining, with various anecdotes, very informative



and knowledgeable, and willing to answer no-end of questions. The house is Elizabethan with changes made in the 18th century, particularly by Brown who removed one wing of the house. The Earls of Exeter visited Italy in the 17th and 18th century and, whilst there, acquired a vast collection of Italian

paintings which now cover the walls. I can't imagine how one would decide where to hang a particular painting. Just find a gap? There are ceiling paintings by Antonio Verrio, remarkable china and just so much more

I could not stay for the tour of the garden with John Burrows, Head Gardener, but I had done it the previous year. He talked a lot about the Brown landscape and placing of a particular group of trees, this really warmed me to the man himself.

Our **Autumn Lecture** this year was given by David Kesteven, Head Gardener at Renishaw Hall Garden, which won Historic Garden of the Year in 2015. Those of you who have visited will know how lovely it is. David talked about the various members of the very extraordinary Sitwell Family who made the garden. George, for example, who created the Italianate garden in the late 19th century, was willing to spend endless money on the garden but would not pay

up to get his wife out of jail. D.H. Lawrence is thought to have based, Wragby, the estate in Lady Chatterleys Lover on Renishaw and, on close reading, one should recognize The Sitwells. David showed us a wonderful herbaceous border recently planted by Arne Maynard, it was spectacular, even at this time of year, but, with due respect to David, his talent got the award. His talk though short was entertaining. . When I rang him next day he felt he had not given of his best as he did not feel well, a cold was developing.

The Celebrity Lecture was given by **Troy Scott Smith**, Head Gardener at Sissinghurst. Troy Scott Smith and David Kestevan, although very different characters, have a shared passion which both were able to express very palpably in their respective lectures. That is, their love of everything involved in gardens and gardening; it really did come from their hearts.

Troy is the first male Head Gardener at Sissinghurst, coming from Bodnant, where he had been head gardener and before that he had worked at Sissinghurst in the nineties, where he gained an intimate knowledge of the garden and says it was there that he learned much of his gardening technique. It is of course one of the iconic gardens of the country, much visited and owned by the National Trust. In his lecture he discussed ways in which he will try to restore the spirit of the garden in keeping with that of Vita and Harold's garden, whilst at the same time catering for hundreds of visitors each year. In the first instance he is looking at the approach and entrance to the garden, aiming at a less structured and more welcoming effect for visitors. For example, Sissinghurst was initially part of a working farm and Troy would like to return an area of grass which has no essential function into a meadow with grazing cattle. Within the garden itself he is discarding the extra neatness of a National Trust garden opting for a more informal effect as it would have been with Vita and Harold. It was a brilliant presentation with lots of ideas and interest- a talented man. An exceptional evening which raised £796 for the Education Group

Holiday in Northumberland 2017

From my point of view, I can say that this year's holiday was one of our most enjoyable. The combination of gardens, architecture, landscape, the sea, less busy roads and a conveniently-sited hotel gave us a stimulating but also relaxing holiday. The gardens were an interesting mix of styles, from the vast estate of Cragside to the new exuberant garden created by Sir John Hall at Wynyard Hall.

Lord Armstrong was an outstanding engineer and landscape gardener, **Cragside** becoming the first house in this country to have electricity installed. On his estate he planted seven million trees (that's what I am told: it seems an enormous amount) created



seven lakes, a very large rock garden which surrounds the house on three sides, a pinetum and a formal garden with glasshouses, herbaceous and bedding borders. Whilst we were there a gardener was planting out the bedding to her own design, with 2,000 plants.



The main part of the garden at **Belsay** is in the quarry created when the new Belsay Hall was built in the early nineteenth century. The garden, with its meandering path, links the new house with the former house and castle. It is planted with a variety of shrubs, trees and plants - too many to mention, but somehow giving the garden a very natural appearance. I loved it.

Howick, was notable for its fantastic bog garden with large pond and I can say that, surrounding the house, was one of the best ever wild flower meadows I have ever seen. It was June, so we saw it at its best. The house and garden are surrounded by woods so the overall effect was rather magical. Worth noting that it was the home of the Grey family of the tea fame but, on the day we went there was no Earl Grey tea to be had.



Wallington, another estate set in woodland has a walled garden, planted as a pleasure garden and is one of its main attractions. Situated some way from the house, it is a lovely walk through the woods to reach it. Notable was the fact that the owners the Trevelyan family gave a home to 100 children away from the bombs in Newcastle during the war.



children away from the bombs in Newcastle during the war.

Herterton, on the other hand, is a very formal garden designed and planted by Mr Frank Lawley and his wife Marjorie, both artists; he did the bones of the garden and his wife, the planting plan. The use of evergreen shrubs and



colour in beds contained by box hedges is spectacular. It was all very clipped and formal, unexpected in the moorland landscape. Marjorie is ill and it was thought that our visit may have been one of the last public openings. A little gem.

Finally there was the garden of Mr John Hall, property developer, at **Wynards Hall**. This could not be a bigger contrast to Herterton. The walled garden on the estate has been redesigned and planted with hundreds of roses; there are other plants, but these are what hit you as you arrive. The most remarkable thing about this garden is that when we saw it in June, this was only the second year of planting. One of the gardeners did say that the soil in the walled garden had a history of being well tended over the years and would have contributed to the rapid development of this garden.



Exuberant is the word that best describes this garden. It is surrounded by parkland, other gardens and a small nursery. I can safely say that all these gardens are very well worth a visit.



Not only were the gardens of interest, but the architecture was a bonus, which I had not really expected. **Seaton Delaval Hall** for example, was designed by Sir John Vanburgh: an example of English Baroque architecture. He did not live to see it finished and a fire in 1822 left the central block a shell, which is what we see today. This, I think is what makes it interesting as one can see the bones

of the building which are not normally visible. Work has been done on the building to keep it structurally secure. Belsey Hall is a Regency building built in the Doric style and finished in 1817. Built of ashlar it looks very austere, it is unfurnished but it is an outstanding example of its style. I do not think I have ever been aware of such perfect proportion as there is here. The two storey pillared hall is quite remarkable whilst the library is with its floor length windows and perfect proportion is simply “perfect”. Cragside House on the other hand could not be more of a contrast. It would seem that the architect was given the brief of encompassing most architectural styles from the last 500 years. However, it is very imposing sited on a hillside surrounded by the gardens and hundreds of trees. The house itself is full of paintings, china, furniture and amazingly enough on the very top floor a very large renaissance fireplace! An extraordinary place.

Living as we do, far from the sea it is always a treat to be able to spend an afternoon walking on the beach which we did in **Bamburgh**, under the shadow of its castle. We also enjoyed the moorland landscape with distant hills and considerably less busy roads. The hotel was very well situated, just off the A1, west of Gosforth so travelling was not a problem.

Finally, should you ever find yourself in that area; very close to the **Charles Jenks land sculpture Northumberlandia** (which was well worth seeing and I have failed to mention) do find a café called The Parlour where they serve afternoon tea all day. The Ritz and other similar places may think they have the best, but this must top them all. Sandwiches, cakes and scones complete with



doggy bag. NB, for the pedants amongst us, this was not high tea.

Elizabeth Bacon



Research Group

Rather than giving you more statistics about how many walled kitchen gardens we have discovered and how many researched, I thought it would be more interesting for you to have a flavour of the detail of what we do.

There are ten of us working regularly on this project and we have divided into small groups, which makes the project more manageable.

Here is what the “South-east” Group (Elizabeth Bacon, Rowan Roenisch and Gill Knight) have to say:

“We have thoroughly enjoyed our regular research days (particularly pub lunches and café tea & cakes) and we have found things we hadn’t expected:

1. We found a cottage in a wood – just like an illustration from Grimm’s Fairy Tales. It’s so hidden you’d never find it.
2. When we were busy looking for a walled kitchen garden in the Record Office card index we found another one we didn’t know existed and which we have since visited.
3. We visited another walled kitchen garden in Kibworth and further research has led to us now wanting to solve the mystery of the Crow Garden.
4. We know how much was spent by the Keythorpe Estate at James Veitch & Son’s nursery in 1880, 1881 and 1882 but we do not know what was purchased; and we know the cost of gardeners’ labour for six years but not how many gardeners were employed or their names.
5. The PC hard-drive crashed and we lost the report that was ready to send on Skeffington.”

In the North East (Sarah Bailey, Karen Gimson and I), we have been researching Rothley Court, which used to be known as Rothley Temple.

In the 18th Century, the estate was owned by Thomas Babington, who was an MP, philanthropist and anti-slavery campaigner. In 1782, he engaged William Emes, who was a notable landscape designer to produce a plan for the estate, and this included a walled kitchen garden. We found this plan at the Record Office and also a notebook by Babington, which he used as an account book. This

listed all the expenditure on the “new kitchen garden”. Between 1782 and 1785, he spent a total of £26 14s 1½d on creating the garden. He lists specific costs, such as “digging and carrying mould” (£0 13s 7d), “making door in old back wall” (£0 12s 7d) , “carriage by Hudsons for a tonne of stone for the walls”(£5 0s 0d)

The notebook has a marbled pattern on the cover and is about the size of an old-fashioned school exercise book. All the writing is in Babington’s own hand. At the back of the book are extracts which he has copied, together with his observations, from Gibbons “History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire”, which had recently been published. It is detail like this which makes this project so fascinating and really brings our research to life.

The benefits of giving the talk on walled kitchen gardens continue to become apparent: we were told of another site that we didn’t know and were given a contact name to get access to the walled kitchen garden at Nanpantan Hall, which is now a community garden and is on the list for the West Group. Even better: the group has already researched the history of the garden extensively and are very happy for us to use and publish their work.

Sue Blaxland

Education: 'Schools into Gardening'

Annual Award to a Student at Brooksby College



This year our annual award to a student at Brooksby College has been given to Grace Smith. Sue Blaxland and Judith Hibbert (Chair of the Education Group) visited the College on Tuesday 24th October to present Grace with a cheque for £100. The College selected Grace

for this award because of her commitment to the course she has undertaken. Grace was thrilled to receive the award and said she would be using the money to buy books for her course. Grace commented 'It feels fantastic to win the Brooksby Horticulture Award. When I was growing up I didn't feel like I had many opportunities, and I didn't really enjoy learning at school. Coming to BMC has helped me to discover a subject that I really enjoy, a subject that makes me want to learn and keep on learning.'

Judith Hibbert

John Ferneley College.

Our relationship with JF College, Melton Mowbray, came about via a spot of 'cold calling'. Having contacted another school by telephone, only to be told "No thanks, I don't think we would be interested in that." I then realised how double glazing sales people must feel – all the time! So, I changed tack and prepared for an email rebuff but, as luck would have it, that was not the case. The email was passed from the head teacher to her PA who also

happened to be the lady in charge of JF Gardening Club – and a very enthusiastic lady, too!

An appointment was made to visit the school and Margot Fawcett and myself arrived there (Celebrity Lecture flyer in hand!) at the start of the summer holidays – a typical July day with lots of rain and so much wind that the umbrella just had to perform its inside out trick. Over coffee, we heard that Tracy decided to resurrect the once ‘happening’ school garden and had spent that Academic Year (2016/17) with an enthusiastic group of Year 7 & 8 children assisting her on a Tuesday, after school. Help to reroof the shed was given by other members of staff and tools, seeds and plants were begged from anyone willing to provide them. The somewhat overgrown ground became home to a few raised beds for vegetables, and large pots were filled with strawberries or sunflowers. There were great plans for the future – funds permitting.



This was where LRGT entered the arena. Tracy and a colleague attended the Celebrity Lecture having previously submitted a list of requisites for the future of their large garden. The list was **duly considered and a grant of £500** agreed upon. Half of this is to be spent on a poly carbon greenhouse with the rest used for tools and a rose arch. The arch is to act as a support for a Peace rose and will provide an ‘entry’ into what is a very valuable space for not only practical science, but also

for the emotional wellbeing of all. There is already a bench and there are hopes that this will be used during the day by anyone feeling in

need of a little quiet reflection. An added bonus was an unwanted compost turner delivered – along with a sack of bulbs – by Margot.

The Education Sub-committee are all hoping to visit during the next few weeks when the Club will be operating at lunchtime due to the dark nights being upon us again. Tracy's enthusiasm has most certainly rubbed off onto her young charges and we wish them all happy gardening. For ourselves, we hope to maintain a long and happy relationship with the school - both assisting when required and watching their plot flourish and bear great fruits.

Mary Dunford.

Bulbs for Schools

This autumn members of the Education Group purchased a 25 kg bag of daffodil bulbs to distribute to schools across Leicester and Leicestershire. So far seven schools have each received a bag of 50 bulbs, three in the County and 4 in the City. These include John Ferneley College, The Grove Primary, Little Bowden Primary, Forest Lodge Primary, Granby Primary, Charnwood Primary, Hazel Primary, Shaftesbury Primary and Overdale Junior.

Kelmarsh 2017

This year we invited Granby Primary school to select a group of children to visit Kelmarsh Walled Kitchen Garden. The school was very pleased to receive this invitation as there is very little green



space on the site. A year 2 class was selected and arrived at Kelmarsh on the morning of May the 8th with members of staff, full of excitement. After a brief introduction to the garden by Kate Groome we began the tour of the kitchen garden. Both children and staff really enjoyed identifying and tasting a range of vegetables.

After lunch the bug hunt was great fun and led to some interesting discoveries!

Judith Hibbert

Membership

Our membership is a healthy 138 members so far this year. We have 2 new members whom we hope will enjoy the programme of events planned for 2018. I must thank you for the speed in which most of you renew your membership. This makes my task so much easier.

The majority of members are now using direct debits which, of course can be cancelled at any time to suit your wishes. This has reduced the workload for the Treasurer and me too. The saving on postage is significant. These savings allow us to maintain our low membership fee compared with so many other organizations.

Our membership continues to be very stable and extends to all parts of our two counties. Three members have resigned after finding their working lives too busy to make real use of their membership. However, they plan to return in easier times. Our healthy membership allows us to fill a coach for visits more easily. So please continue to tell your friends and family about us.

Irene Jones
Membership Secretary

Keeping the cost of membership down

It is now over 10 years since we set the current membership fees for the Trust. Postage is one of the biggest administration costs we have. Over that time second class postage has gone from 24p to 56p, a huge increase of 133%. As the LRGT Treasurer I am always trying to reduce the number of mailing to keep this cost to a minimum. The

committee have responded, reducing the mailings and often handing out the envelopes at meetings and on trips.

At the last committee meeting we decided that there was no requirement to increase the fees in 2018. This is great news as I am sure you will agree; membership of the LRGT is excellent value. However, with inflation again in the news we have to do everything to keep our costs to a minimum.

One of the other developments in the last 10 years is the use of email. Currently 84% of our membership use email at home. Occasionally we have already contacted members on email with last minute reminders of events etc. In 2018 we would like to see if we could send out details of trips and events to members on email. This would be a great cost saving. However, we do recognise that not all members have access to email or would wish to receive information that way. So we will contact you individually as to your preference to either receive information via email or via post.

Please work with us on this as it has the potential to significantly reduce our costs and enable us to keep our membership fees at the same level for many more years.

Thank you

Steve Horsfield, Treasurer

Obituaries

Eddie Ingram

It is with sadness that we heard of the death of Eddie Ingram on 22 June 2017. He was a founder member of the Gardens Trust, for the whole of its twenty years existence. We send his daughter Sarah and his grand-daughter Eve Jean our best wishes and kind thoughts of sympathy to all his friends and family.

Eddie was a quiet man. However he had a high intelligence, acute observation skills and a wide knowledge of many subjects. He was a qualified Electrical Engineer, born in Aberdeen who did some of his post degree training in Manchester. He worked for AEG in Whetstone for many years and lived in Kenwood Road.

He joined the Gardens Trust as part of his love of the natural landscape He was a great walker carrying a compass in his pocket at all times. His love of the outdoors was enhanced by his precise knowledge of trees, birds, butterflies and especially bats! Information could be obtained from him given you asked a precise question on Natural History, Geology, Astronomy, Art and many other subjects. His sense of humour was strong and slightly sly.

He claimed he joined the Gardens Trust because I told him to! He came to many of our lectures and Friends Evenings until recent years. I remember he came to the excellent Gardens Trust Conference at Rufford Abbey. He also joined the Research Group for a short time.

I miss our many amusing chats as he was en route for his daily newspaper. He became a familiar figure on his way to Holbrook News. A lovely man.

Irene Jones

Odette Fogler (15.9.1914 - 5.6.2017)

I do not think that many of you will remember Odette as she only came on a few visits in our very early days but she was a familiar face in Stoneygate. It was by chance (as these things often are) that she met her neighbour, Mary Pierce, (a founding member of the Trust) who thought she might be interested in a meeting, at The Attenborough Centre, to set up some sort of Garden Trust. As I was

nearing retirement Odette thought I might be interested and suggested I went along and that was that. I had no idea what it was all about but the cakes were delicious.

Odette had come as a refugee to this country from Vienna in 1938/39 and ended up in this area where she lived for the rest of her life. Although always wanting to keep a low profile she had always been active in the community. Way back, I think in the early 60's she was involved in setting up one of the first Oxfam shops in the country, where she continued to work as a volunteer for many years. She was always to be relied on to assist at the local CND tea, which went on for about 30 years and well into her nineties she could be seen delivering leaflets for The Stoneygate Conservation Society in which she was a very active member. She discovered gardening rather late in life, helping me out in my garden. She was the most meticulous weeder you could ever meet. In later life i.e, after about 98 she became rather reclusive, and did not want her friends to visit. It was very sad as I did not know of her death until several weeks after it happened and her few remaining friends had not been informed.

Elizabeth Bacon

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Research/ Secretary	Sue Blaxland	0116 2609748

LRGT Events 2018

- Sunday 21st January** Winter Lunch: Neville Arms, Medbourne
- Thursday 15th February** Coach trip: Ashwood Nurseries and John's Garden, Kingswinford, West Midlands
- Thursday 22nd March** AGM and Spring Lecture: Speaker: Twigs Way
'Ernest 'Chinese' Wilson, Plant Hunter Extrordinaire' TBC
- Sunday 22nd April** Hobby Afternoon Tea and Lecture
Speaker: Tim Richardson 'Oxford College Gardens'
- Wednesday 23rd May** Coach trip: Gunby Hall - house and guided garden tour
- Monday 18th June** 4 night 5 day holiday to SW Wales
- Saturday 9th June** Coach trip: Lunch in Evenley followed by visit to Thenford House Arboretum and Gardens
- Saturday 14th July** 20 year Celebration Lunch – Hobby Village Hall
- Thurs. 23rd August** Coach trip: Arley Hall and Gardens, Northwich, Cheshire
- Thurs. 13th September** Celebrity Lecture: Speaker Nigel Dunnett, Prof. of Planting Design and Urban Horticulture, University of Sheffield
- Thurs. 20th September** Coach trip: Woburn Abbey
- Thurs. 25th October** Autumn Lecture: Margaret Willes 'The Gardens of the British Working Class'
- Thurs. 15th November** Friends Evening

July



Spetchley Park Gardens



**OUT AND ABOUT
2017**

August



Market Harborough Walk



September

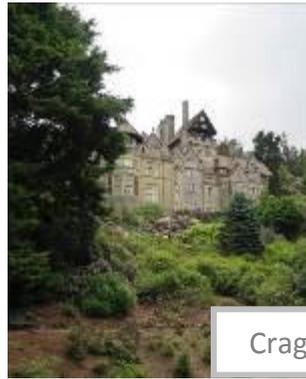


Burghley





Belsay Hall and Castle



Cragside



Herterton

**Northumberland Holiday
June 2017**



Howick Hall



Seaton Delaval



Wallington



Wynyard Hall