



Buckinghamshire Gardens Trust

*To record and conserve the gardens and parks of historic Buckinghamshire
To aid in the creation and restoration of gardens, parks and
green spaces within the historic county*

Patron: David Gladstone, Wotton House, Wotton Underwood, Buckinghamshire

2018 Bicentenary of Humphry Repton's Death Commemorated

Welcome to our Spring 2018 Newsletter. Buckinghamshire Garden Trust has not been idle over the last 12 months. Volunteers have been enjoying much varied research and our new Planning Co-ordinator Jo Mirzoeff has been offering advice to local authorities on planning cases for parks and gardens in Bucks. Many members will have enjoyed participating in an excellent and well-attended programme of walks and talks organised by our Events and membership Secretary, Rosemary Jury.

In our research we have been actively engaged in researching the 15 Humphrey Repton sites in historic Buckinghamshire for the forthcoming publication, *Humphry Repton: Just what did he do for us in Bucks?* Our research proved that he probably only advised at a dozen of the 15. If you were an estate owner you might have received the business card above. The 24th March 1818 will be the bicentenary of Humphry Repton's death. As the last great landscape designer of the eighteenth century he advised at around 400 hundred parks and gardens (so he said) with the avowed intention to become the design successor to the great Capability Brown. He was famous for his beguiling "Red Books" presenting his proposed improvements showing "before" and "after" sketches and watercolours via a system of flaps. BGT researchers have tracked down four of these for Buckinghamshire sites. However, others are much more elusive and for some such as West Wycombe we have only information from his books. We will be publishing the fruits of all our hard work on Repton in August, both as a real book and online.

Congratulations to Charles Boot, a founder member of BGT and the Chairman for 17 years,



Business card for H. Repton, Landscape Gardener, Thomas Medland (1765-1833) Public Domain Wikimedia Commons

who was awarded by The Garden Trust "The Gilly Drummond Volunteer of the Year 2017" for his "total enthusiasm" and "inestimable, always going the extra mile". He was presented with the award by Dominic Cole, the GT President at the Plymouth AGM in August

With the changes in Data Protection Regulations you will see with this mailing that we need all members to complete and sign a consent form to ensure we comply with the new regulations and you can receive information e-mails from BGT.

Rosemary has produced a marvellous programme for the summer which we hope you will be able to attend. Many thanks to her for all her unstinting work. There are also many events celebrating Repton including a conference at Ashridge in August.

Dr Sarah Rutherford Chair of BGT

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Planning Co-ordinator Consultations

The Gardens Trust is a statutory consultee with regard to all planning applications that may affect historic designed landscapes that are included in Historic England's 'Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest'.

The conservation team at the Gardens Trust work closely with volunteers in the County Gardens Trust to provide that response by sending out a weekly list of applications across the country. Here at the Bucks Gardens Trust, we review the list for any development proposal which affects a registered site in Buckinghamshire. We also review proposals which may not be within the actual registered landscape but which may be adjacent to or which may have an impact from a distance on the landscape.

Through this role, the Bucks Gardens Trust is able to offer specialist advice and expertise on registered landscapes that we know well and, in many cases, where BGT members have previously undertaken in depth research.

Since September 2017 (when I took over the role), we have reviewed approximately 12 applications and formally commented on 8 of them. I have made 2 formal site visits to consider an application on site which is always the best way to assess the impact. In one instance, the site visit convinced me that the application was acceptable, in the other instance it convinced me that it was not acceptable!

We have formally objected to 5 of the applications, 2 of which are still being considered, one was withdrawn by the applicant and two refused.

It is good to know that our advice and recommendations are properly considered by local authorities as a part of the planning process and it is an opportunity for us to continually remind applicants of the importance of conserving these wonderful gardens and landscapes.

Joanne Mirzoeff

Research & Recording: What next?

After spending the last year becoming fully conversant with our dear friend Humphry, one of the volunteers admitted, having got to know the man, he was rather fond of him! It is now time to look at new sites to research. Following on from Sarah Grey's fascinating lecture in October about John Nash and Clare Leighton, we have decided that it would be an interesting project to look at 'Artist's Gardens in Buckinghamshire'.

Sarah has given us two to start on, Four Hedges, Monks Risborough and Lane's End in Meadle. Paul and John Nash grew up at Wood Lane House in Iver Heath and Ben Nicholson was born in Denham Village, both possibilities. There are probably several others we can research, if you know of any sites perhaps you could let us know.

We also continue to look at gardens that are at risk due to development, Julie Wise (HER officer) brings these to our attention. Having looked at some of those on the route of HS2 we now need to consider those on the East/ West expressway and train line from Oxford to Cambridge which is to run through the north of the county.

We still await news of the six sites that we entered for The Garden's Trust, 'Compiling the Record Project' which aims to identify Mid to Late C20 designed landscapes that could be included on the Historic England Register. The sites submitted were: Central Milton Keynes, Campbell Park, Bekinscot, Chilterns Crematorium, Bledlow Manor and High & Over.



Milton Keynes Skyline

I don't think we are in danger of running out of suitable sites and as long as we can continue to fund our valuable work we shall continue to add to the 60 plus sites already completed. If you know of any trusts that award grants to similar projects or if you are interested in making a financial contribution, please get in touch.

Claire DeCarle

***Humphry Repton: Just what did he do
for us in Bucks***

During the last year the Bucks Garden Trust volunteers have been hard at work researching the fifteen sites in the county thought to have been associated with Humphry Repton. As a result of the research we can say, with some certainty, that three of the sites researched have a questionable attribution to Repton, with one other attribution being tenuous. We now have a much better understanding of Repton's work and have uncovered exciting new archives, not to mention discovering the whereabouts of two Red Books - for Shardeloes and Hanslope Park. All the information has been analysed by the team and from this Dr Sarah Rutherford has used her considerable writing experience to compile our forthcoming publication, ***Humphry Repton: Just what did he do for us in Bucks***, which we plan to publish by the summer, ready to launch at the 'Celebrating Humphry Repton' conference at Ashridge House, 10/11 August 2018. The book will include background to our research, a mini

biography of Repton, the German connection (C. de Carle), Patrons & Politics (J. Lovie) and of course the all-important gazetteer comprising the volunteers' reports.

Only a limited number of copies will be available; to ensure that you have a copy you may wish to be included on the subscription list (following the tradition of historical botanical publications often funded in this way); your name would be included in the book's acknowledgements. The cost will be £40, to include a small donation towards the printing, and you will of course be amongst the first to receive a signed copy. Please contact Rosemary if you are interested?

A huge thank you to all the volunteers who have taken part in this project: Gill Grocott, Jill Stansfield, Sarah Tricks, Wallace Wormley, Rose Palmer, Clare Butler, Claire de Carle, Geoff Huntingford, Gwen Miles, June Timms, Mary Buckle, Sheila Meekums, Julia Wise, Ken Edwards and Mick Thompson



**Celebrating Humphry Repton
Conference at Ashridge House
Friday 10 –Saturday 11 August 2018**

A two-day conference based at Ashridge, Hertfordshire to cast new light on the life and works of Humphry Repton and consider his legacy in landscape design.

The programme comprises a series of lectures on the first day followed by a tour of the gardens at Ashridge. The second day starts with a series of lectures in the morning followed in the afternoon by a tour of Woburn Abbey gardens led by Gardens Manager Martin Towsey where the conference will finish.

Cost to delegates attending both days with one-night accommodation, meals and visits will be £285.00 inc. VAT. Non-residential rate that includes dinner on the Friday night will be £150.00.

Speakers that have indicated they would be able to speak at the conference include: Professor Tom Williamson (University of East Anglia), Professor Stephen Daniels (University of Nottingham), author of the recognised work on Repton, Dr. Jonathan Finch (University of York), Dr. Sarah Rutherford (Garden Historian), Dr. Jane Bradney (Garden Historian), John Phibbs (Debois Landscape Survey Group and leader of the celebrations of Capability Brown in 2016 as well as an authority on the work of Repton), Michael Symes (Formerly Birkbeck, representing the Gardens Trust) and Keir Davidson (Landscape architect and author).

Booking: <http://bookings.ashridge.org.uk/repton-anniversary-conference-284-c.asp> or Sally Rouse sally.rouse@ashridge.hult.edu Tel: 01442 841028

Buckinghamshire Gardens Trust Summer Events 2018

Details of the summer programme 2018 are below. You can book these events now, using the enclosed booking form. Further events are planned later in the year and full details will be included in the Autumn Newsletter.

Thursday 24 May: Henley River Museum Time:??? Cost:£10 members/£12 guests

The Museum has four permanent galleries: Rowing, Rivers, John Piper and History of Henley on Thames. It is also home to a Wind in the Willows exhibition. *The Barbara Hepworth: Finding Form* exhibition features works from the Tate, National Portrait Gallery & the Arts Council. It explores the development of Hepworth's sculpture and her preoccupation with forms from the 1930s- 1960s.

Wednesday 20 June: Ashridge Gardens (Max 30) Time: 2pm Cost: £15 members/£17 guests.

Ashridge Gardens cover 77 hectares (190 acres) originally designed by Humphry Repton in the early 19th century. The Gardens are made up of a number of small gardens as well as a large lawn area leading on to avenues of trees affording views out to the old parkland. Work over the past ten years has led to the restoration of the Rosary, an Armorial Garden, the Italian Garden and the Flower Garden plus a new Herb Garden.

Tuesday 17 July: Moggerhanger Park, Garden and House Time: 1.45 Cost £15 members/£17 guests

Moggerhanger Park and Garden (Repton) is a Grade 1 listed Georgian Historic House (Soane) set in 33 acres of parkland and woodland. It is recognised as the most complete surviving example of Soane's work set in stylish grounds and woodlands sculpted by Humphry Repton.

Thursday 2 August: Cedar House Garden, Wendover Time:2.15 Cost £10 members/£12 guests

A chalk garden in the Chiltern Hills with a steep sloping lawn leading to a natural swimming pond with aquatic plants. Wild flowers with native orchids. Shaped borders hold a great variety of trees, shrubs and perennials. A lodge greenhouse and a good collection of half-hardy plants in pots.

Sunday 19th August: AGM Wotton House Time: ??? Cost £5 members/£7 guests.

Wednesday 12th September: Woburn Abbey Time: 11.30 House/ 3.30 Garden Cost £20 members/£22 guests

Woburn Abbey has 22 rooms & the house has one of the most significant private art collections in the world. The Abbey is set within 3,000 acres of Deer Park. Visitors can also explore 28 acres of Humphry Repton inspired gardens. Highlights include the bog garden, designed in the 21st century to make use of a boggy patch and historic features, such as the romantic Doric Temple and Wyattville Seat.

Tuesday 2nd October: Milton's Cottage & Garden Time 2.00 Cost: £120 members/£12 guests

Milton's Cottage was built in the late 16th century. Fleeing the outbreak of the Bubonic plague in London, Milton came to Chalfont St. Giles with his wife and daughters in 1665. Although he lived here for less than 2 years, Milton's Cottage was an important place in the writer's life he completed *Paradise Lost* and was inspired to write its sequel, *Paradise Regained*. The garden (Grade 11 listed) at Milton's Cottage has been planted with species of flowers and plants that are referenced in Milton's

Saturday 10th November: Lecture The History of Shardloes by Edward Copisarow at County Museum Time: 2.30 Cost:£12 members/£14 guests

NonBGT Events 2018

18 April-22 July	Garden Museum, Lambeth	Cedric Morris: Artist Plantsman
21 st April 2018	Garden Trust	Henry Repton Study Day at Woburn Abbey
27 April 2018	Bedfordshire Garden Trust	Study day on Repton in Bedfordshire
1-3 June	Oxford Rewley House	Study Weekend: Wonders & Marvels
13 June	Garden Museum, Lambeth	Magical gardens of Oxfordshire & Warwickshire
21 June	Garden Museum, Lambeth	Gorgeous Gardens in Hampshire
22 June	Oxfordshire Garden Trust	Visit to Thame Park
5 July	Oxfordshire Garden Trust	Visit to Adwell between Thame & Watlington
31 August-2 September	Garden Trust Annual Conference in Birmingham	

More details can be obtained from the individual organisation and on line.