

# NEWSLETTER



SURREY  
GARDENS  
TRUST

April 2021  
No. 60

## Unforgettable Gardens

The Gardens Trust launched its Unforgettable Gardens campaign in 2020 to little fanfare but it is already gathering pace. Essentially, this campaign aims to raise awareness of how much we should value historic designed landscapes, how vulnerable they can be to a range of threats (neglect or mismanagement, climate or environment, modern development or lack of funds) and what volunteers and supporters can do to ensure their survival in good shape.

Initiated while other activities were curtailed by the pandemic, a weekly Unforgettable Gardens series of online talks in conjunction with county gardens trusts is now established. Surrey Gardens Trust will join this initiative and present four talks in October to highlight the diverse historic landscapes Surrey has to offer from Albury Park, to the Muslim Peace Garden in Woking, to Sutton Place and Munstead Wood. You can find details of the current talks on offer at: [thegardenstrust.org/events](http://thegardenstrust.org/events).

There is also an opportunity to nominate an Unforgettable Garden of the Month. Is there an historic park or garden in Surrey that you would like to highlight? An opportunity to promote a garden which needs support?

We will be working on a number of projects over the coming months and into 2022 - 2023, which, through research and recording initiatives, will call attention to the many other Surrey historic landscapes which are perhaps not so well known. This feels particularly appropriate in this the Trust's 30th Year.

Further details of the [Gardens Trust's campaign](http://www.gardenstrust.org.uk) can be found by following the link or visiting their website: [www.gardenstrust.org.uk](http://www.gardenstrust.org.uk). If you scroll to the bottom of the home page you will see a link to the eBulletin to which you can subscribe to be kept up to date with the Events and news.



If you have any ideas or would like to get involved in our initiatives, please don't hesitate to drop us a line at [chairsurreygt@gmail.com](mailto:chairsurreygt@gmail.com).

## Celebrating 30 years 1991 - 2021

### Party at Chilworth Manor



We are delighted to announce that we will be celebrating this 30th Anniversary year for the Trust with a party at Chilworth Manor, the location for the inaugural meeting to consider the setting up of a gardens trust in Surrey.

**Please save the date**  
**Tuesday, 13 July, 2021**  
**6pm to 8pm**  
**More details to follow**



# From the Chair

by Sarah Dickinson

*'Our England is a garden that is full of stately views,  
Of borders, beds and shrubberies and lawns and avenues,  
With statues on the terraces and peacocks strutting by,  
But the Glory of the Garden lies in more than meets the eye.'*

It occurred to me that Rudyard Kipling's familiar verse sums up rather well why we have such an attachment to our historic parks and gardens. Underlying our work as a Trust is the desire to conserve these 'thinking' spaces. As, once again, we are able to meet physically and embrace the innovation gardens often bring, I am sure that we will all be looking with renewed interest and knowledge thanks to the virtual communication we have mastered over the last months. The variety of lectures and webinars have exposed the vast expanse that is garden history.

Thanks to our **Events** team, we have made good use of our enforced isolation. We dipped our toe into the webinar pool in October last year when a virtual audience of over 80 joined our first webinar to listen to Vanessa Berridge delivering her talk on the wonderful Kiftsgate Court Gardens from the comfort of her study.

Our Zoom Winter lecture series followed and this has attracted larger audiences than we could have hosted in a physical venue, and also enabled attendees to go back over what they heard and saw to review and consider further. With reduced overheads and larger audiences, these have brought us more income than the equivalent in-person events too, so we have more to spend on awards and activities in the coming months and years.

The **Events** team has also been busy rearranging the Summer visits from 2020 and we are delighted to have a programme of visits ready for everyone to enjoy under appropriate government guidelines. The details have already been circulated and I am sure many of you are signed up to enjoy the array of gardens. Do book promptly to avoid disappointment: [www.surreygardenstrust.org.uk/events](http://www.surreygardenstrust.org.uk/events).

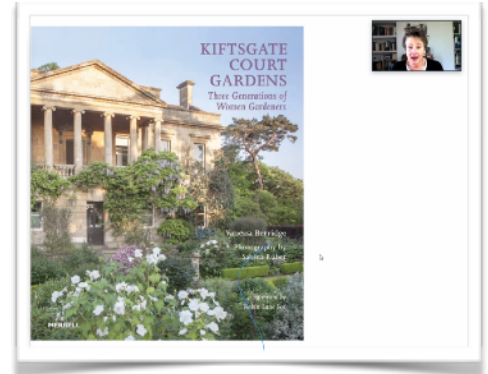
The **Research and Recording** group have used Zoom to keep in touch and continue their work. We have mentioned the Unforgettable Gardens initiative and the opportunity that this gives us to refocus on our research and recording activities. Of particular interest is work currently underway with regard to the lists of sites in Surrey of local importance, the Local Lists. This project is being lead by Fiona Maccoll. Following a review of the the lists compiled some years ago, it is proposed that these will be uploaded onto the SGT website. There will be an emphasis on identifying the exact boundaries of the sites for the Surrey Historic Environment Records, an important exercise to ensure that they are properly accounted for in the Development and Local Plan process. This is a project which will grow and we would very much like members with an interest in research and recording to come forward to assist us.

The government has recently awarded funding to 23 local authorities, amongst them Surrey, to create, improve or expand their local heritage list. These lists recognise heritage sites of local significance and give them some protection. Historic England requires councils to involve the local community in identifying sites to include. So this is an unmissable chance to nominate important landscapes which we think should be recognised and protected. Members of the Research and Recording group will be working with the National Landscape Adviser at Historic England in a pilot to ensure that our work with local lists is effective in giving this landscape heritage appropriate reference and associated protection through the local list and Local Plan process.

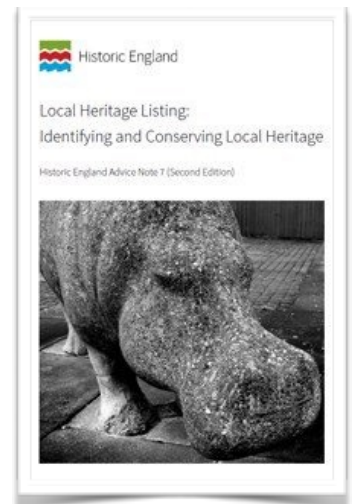
Complementing the Jekyll Archive Project, the Research and Recording group have started work on an audit of the Jekyll Surrey Gardens portfolio. This has been restricted to desk top work over the pandemic lockdown but, with a pro forma approach established, the work is gathering pace and new recruits would be welcome.

Wendy Craft, joint Chair of the **Schools Committee**, contacted a select few schools to enquire whether it was appropriate to run our Schools Award this year and was overwhelmed with positive requests from teachers, all keen to return to normal with a renewed sense of the importance of outside spaces.

The closing date to apply is Friday 28 May. We once again wait with enthusiasm to see what wonderful ideas the schools bring and how our generous scheme can make a difference.



Vanessa Berridge delivering her Kiftsgate Lecture via Zoom



<https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/local-heritage-listing-advice-note-7/>



## From the Chair cont/..

I am delighted to report that our membership continues to grow and extend a warm welcome to new members. We hope that the 30th Anniversary party in July will provide an opportunity for us all to meet if we do not have the opportunity beforehand at one of the visits.

Your Trustees have taken the opportunity with the advent of Zoom meetings to convene more regularly and discuss our vision for 2021 - 2023. I have touched on one or two of our ideas and others will follow in the coming months. As we start to get back to normal, we will be approaching those of you who, when you joined, expressed an interest in getting involved. As you read through this Newsletter, you will see that we are also hoping that members will come forward to help us with our marketing and communications and that we are looking for a new Trust Secretary. Details are set out on Page 9.

There is also a vacancy for a...

## New SGT Newsletter Editor

I am intending to step back as the Newsletter Editor by the end of 2021, or sooner if possible and, therefore, we are looking for a volunteer(s) from our membership who would like to take on this exciting and engaging role for the Trust.

The e-newsletter has proved to be an invaluable communication tool for us as an organisation, but it has lots more potential. We would like our new editor or editorial team to engage with partner organisations to ensure that the work that we are doing is understood and that we are able to promote and engage with their complementary work. The new editor/team will report to the Chair for guidance and to sign off the content and final form. They will also work with the Events Chair to coordinate on timing of events and the 'mailing' of the newsletter.

We moved away from our published hard copy Newsletter/Journals when we introduced the digital format and we often debate whether we could also, perhaps annually, publish a hard copy journal with longer research pieces, etc. We are open to ideas.

If you would like to get involved or, at this stage, discuss further what the role involves, please do get in touch:

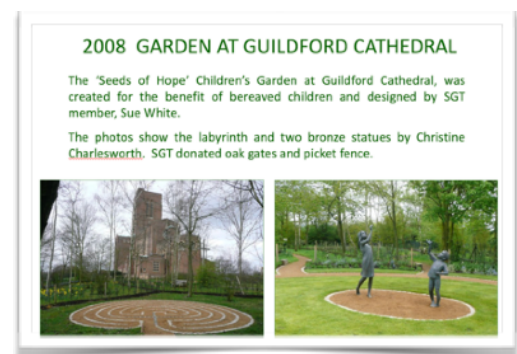
[chairsurreygt@gmail.com](mailto:chairsurreygt@gmail.com).

## Celebrating 30 Years

We are excited, to have a firm date in the diary for our 30th Anniversary celebratory party in July, post the anticipated lifting of the lockdown restrictions when we will be able to accommodate everyone. We are working with Chilworth Manor to arrange a safe and enjoyable event. Full details will follow shortly.

Our founding and longstanding Trustees have been working together on a presentation which they will present as an online talk in the coming weeks. At the time of going to press a date has not been finalised but I can assure you that you will be equally inspired by what has been achieved over these three decades.

Here is a little taster.



# Ramster Gardens, a woodland delight.

by Cherrill Sands

Ramster, Surrey, is a glorious woodland garden, in the south of the county just beyond Chiddingfold, a few miles from the Surrey-Sussex border. A delightful, informal garden developed throughout the 20th century, firstly by Sir Harry Waechter and then by the current family who have owned it for nearly a hundred years. It has a wealth of plants, particularly magnolias, camellias, rhododendrons and Japanese Acers, so the garden is especially beautiful in spring and autumn. There are close links with the once-famed Surrey nursery of Gauntlett & Co., who specialised in Japanese plants and ornaments, and also connections with the 'world class' garden at Bodnant in Wales.

Parts of the house at Ramster date back to the 17th century, built by a successful glass maker. Nearby Chiddingfold was a centre for the glass making industry.

In 1900, Sir Harry Waechter bought Ramsnest as it was then known, and converted the farmhouse into a comfortable country house. It was surrounded by oak woodland, with an undulating valley fed by a stream. The soil is rich Wealden clay with pockets of sand.

Sir Harry began to develop the garden, employing 40 gardeners and damming the stream to create a 5 acre lake.

When it came to plants and garden features, he was fortunate to have as his neighbour V. N. Gauntlett & Co., Ltd., Japanese Nurseries who could advise. Harry Waechter would employ local villagers to dead-head the rhododendrons ensuring improved flowering year after year.

Until the 1860s Japan was a closed country, isolated culturally and politically. Once it began trading with the West, their extraordinary art and culture was also exported. In 1885 a Japanese Village was built in Knightsbridge with a hundred Japanese men and women living and working, illustrating 'the manners, customs, and art-industries of their country, attired in their national and picturesque costumes. Magnificently decorated and illuminated Buddhist temple. Five o'clock tea in the Japanese tea-house. Japanese Musical and other Entertainments. Every-day life as in Japan'. (*Illustrated London News* 3 Jan 1885).

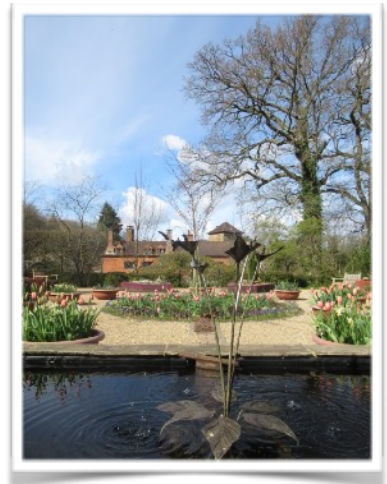
It is believed that some of the Japanese villagers advised the cast of *The Mikado* by W.S. Gilbert (which opened March 1885), with 'Japanese department and fan-play'. The film 'Topsy Turvy' directed by Mike Leigh captures the excitement and novelty of the time. 1904 opera *Madame Butterfly* by Giacomo Puccini (based on the novel *Madame Chrysantheme*) was a more serious reflection of the colliding worlds of East and West.

The art world too was influenced by Japanese culture, with Japanese woodblock prints being collected and studied by artists including Claude Monet and Vincent van Gogh.

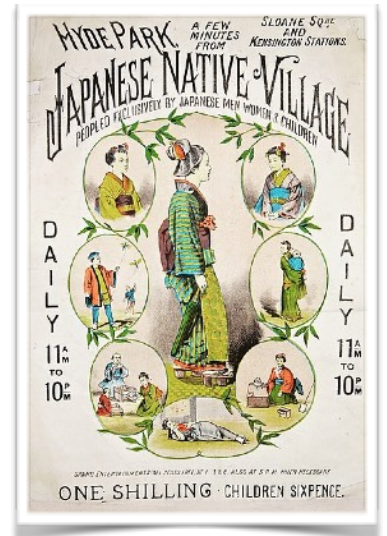
Japanese gardens also caught the national imagination, particularly after the six month Japan-British Exhibition at White City in London in 1910, which attracted over eight million visitors. Here Japanese gardens created by Japanese workers used trees, shrubs, bridges, buildings and even stones all brought from Japan. One of the exhibits, the Chokushi-Mon (Japanese Gateway) still survives at Kew.

These inspired similar gardens, some trying to be as authentic as possible, such as the exquisite Japanese Tea House and garden at Tatton in Cheshire. Other garden owners ordered from plant nurseries importing and selling Japanese plants and ornaments, blending Eastern exoticism with lush planting. Gauntlett Nurseries supplied many great gardens, including Gatton Park, Sandringham and Gunnersbury, as well as Ramster.

V.N. Gauntlett & Co were extremely successful and at the front of their catalogue listed hundreds of important patrons, including royalty and nobility from home and abroad. There were, of course, many lesser mortals who enjoyed reading and ordering from Gauntlett & Co. Catalogue 96 begins 'Gardening is one of the fine arts, and by no means the least difficult' and in over 450 pages lists trees, shrubs, bamboos, bulbs, ornamental grasses, ferns, foliage, sub tropical, herbaceous and climbing plants. To encourage sales there were many black and white photographs of individual plants and also of gardens as examples of fine planting.



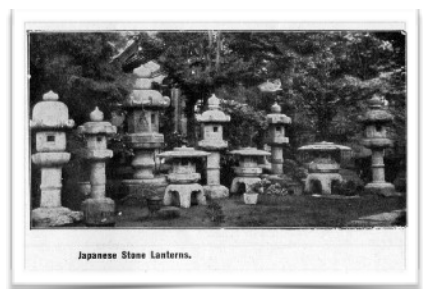
Ramster Hall with the Tennis Court Garden in the foreground © Cherrill Sands



Poster about Japanese Village in Knightsbridge (Wikipedia)



Gauntlett Catalogue No. 96



Stone lanterns in the Gauntlett Catalogue No. 96

## Ramster Gardens, a woodland delight. cont/...



Described in the catalogue as 'Bamboos and Rhododendrons in a Surrey Woodland Garden', is very likely to be of Ramster



Acer 'Dissectum' in full colour and Bronze Cranes in The Pond



Although many photographs were taken at the nursery itself, others highlighted famous gardens such as a 'Queen Alexandra's Wild Garden, Sandringham', 'Kew' or 'Gunnerybury'. Some photographs are merely described as 'in a Surrey Garden' and are believed to have been taken at Ramster.

Contrasting with the statuesque mature trees is a wonderful avenue of *Acer palmatum dissectum*, with twisting branches and vivid leaves, which have been there for over a hundred years. Ornaments include stone lanterns, and poised in The Pond are a pair of bronze cranes.

This history alone would make Ramster a fascinating place, but the plant collection was to be greatly increased with new owners in 1922, when Sir Henry and Lady Norman arrived. Lady Norman was the daughter of Lord and Lady Aberconway and grand daughter of Henry Pochin who created the exceptional gardens at Bodnant from 1875.

Lady Norman (1883 - 1964), like her mother and grandfather, was a keen horticulturist and Ramster provided the ideal ground in which to continue the family passion for growing magnolias, rhododendrons and azaleas. Many new varieties were added to the garden. Some were grown from seed brought back by plant collectors, while others were experimental crosses devised by Lady Norman herself. Many of these seedlings are now mature but not all are named. It's estimated that there are 300 species of rhododendron and azalea in the garden. Sir Henry Norman (1858-1939) was not only a Liberal MP & cabinet minister, but also a writer, an explorer and amateur scientist. He was involved with the introduction of wireless telegraphy and conducted experiments in the garden.

During the Second World War, Ramster was requisitioned for the use of Canadian forces. Afterwards the garden was rejuvenated and new areas developed by Miranda Gunn, Lady Norman's grand daughter. An article in SGT Newsletter No 14, Spring/Summer 1998 about Ramster quotes Miranda as she comments on the pleasure of people returning 'year after year - I love that'. One of the new areas was a bog garden where the gunnera are still flourishing. Log steps have been added to the gunnera jungle to encourage children to explore (although adults enjoy it too!).

Current family custodians are 4<sup>th</sup> generation Rosie Glaister and her husband Malcolm. New areas are still being created such as the Tennis Court Garden, with raised beds and plenty of seating. Sculptures appear throughout the landscape, but the number will dramatically increase this spring when Ramster hosts the Surrey Sculpture Exhibition (23 April - 20 May). Next year will be a celebration of family ownership and a new Centenary Garden is already in progress.

In 1927 Ramster was one of the 600 gardens which opened on behalf of the National Garden Scheme and continues to open every year for the NGS.



It is possible to visit Ramster from flowering spring to colourful autumn, and there is always something new to experience. Apart from the Japanese features of the Tori Arch, the Red Bridge, stone lanterns and bronze cranes, there are contemporary sculptures, and a wealth of plants, from wild flowers at your feet to towering trees reaching into the sky.

Pre-booking is not required. Near the entrance is a small Tea Room and outside socially-distanced benches for rest and refreshment.



# England's Post-war Designed Landscapes: Rediscovered and Revalued. (Gardens Trust Lecture Series)

by Sheri Sticpewich

Over the course of an 8-week period earlier this year a lecture series unexpectedly opened my eyes to a whole new area of garden design. The Gardens Trust lecture series on England's Post-War Designed Landscapes put together by Karen Fitzsimon, a chartered landscape architect, garden historian, horticulturist and avid campaigner for post-war landscapes, really brought home the importance of thinking critically about this period and what we should be doing now to conserve and preserve these sites. The context for this lecture series was a conference on Post War designed landscapes held by the Gardens Trust in June 2017. From that conference, the campaign called 'Compiling the Record - The Essential Mid to Late C20 Landscapes' was launched, aimed at finding and informing the public about these unrecognized and neglected mid to late 20th century designed landscapes (think mid 1960s to 1990) with the goal of getting as many of these as possible included on the *Historic England Register*. As many of you will recall, this campaign culminated in the addition of 24 (out of a total of 112 entries) of these sites, being included in the *Historic England Register of Parks and Gardens* in 2020 - one of which was the JFK Memorial at Runnymede.

What I hadn't appreciated at the onset of this lecture series was how accurate Karen's initial question - Too Young to be Loved? - would prove to be. Among the designation criteria was the requirement that the site be at least 30 years old and under threat. These designed landscapes were broken down into categories and each week focused on a different category: infrastructure, parks and civic spaces, commercial, cemeteries and memorials, housing, public and private gardens; and universities. All of the speakers were not only extremely knowledgeable about their particular subject but obviously passionate about these sites and the individuals who had commissioned, created and maintained them. But rather than trying to summarise each of the lectures I would like to focus on a few of the women who were hugely influential in designing post-war landscapes and why this topic is so relevant today.

## Pioneering Women



Sylvia Crowe © Banbury [guardian.co.uk](http://guardian.co.uk)

Throughout the series, the names of two women in particular kept cropping up: Dame Sylvia Crowe and Brenda Colvin. Here were two women excelling in a field long dominated by men -- we are not talking about planting pretty perennials in geometric patterns to adorn one's garden. These women were working with the Central Electricity Generating Board (CEGB), the Forestry Commission, the Highways department and local authorities to provide sympathetically designed landscapes around complex and often controversial projects. The poise, skill and fortitude these women must have had to enable them to excel must surely have been as monumental as many of the projects they undertook.

Sylvia Crowe was born in 1901 in Banbury and was homeschooled from the age of about twelve after suffering from tuberculosis. She later went to Swanley Horticultural College and was apprenticed as a garden designer for 14 years to William Cutbush. In 1936 she applied her knowledge to designing a garden for the Chelsea Flower Show and was awarded a Gold Medal. This garden was considered highly innovative because of her creative use of concrete, a material not really valued for its decorative use at the time. During this period she joined the

Institute of Landscape Architects (ILA), an organization founded in 1929 by a group including Thomas Mawson and Brenda Colvin and one where Geoffrey Jellicoe would be the longest serving President from 1939-1949. Both Brenda Colvin and Sylvia Crowe would serve as Presidents to the ILA in the 1950s. After the war, Sylvia's career exploded, thanks in part to Brenda Colvin's offer of space at ILA's London office where Sylvia remained until 1982. Sylvia's work ranged from small garden details to projects involving hundreds of acres of forestry and reservoirs. She also published numerous books on the topic of landscape design, many of which are still considered to be the definitive guide today (*Tomorrow's Landscape*, 1956 and *The Landscape of Power*, 1958 both printed by Architectural Press).

One of Crowe's seminal works was Rutland Water and the creation of what was then the largest reservoir in all of Europe. Here she considered the natural terrain, wanting the landscaped areas around the reservoir to follow gentle curves with the slope of the area dictating the shape of the reservoir itself. For Crowe, it needed to blend into the natural landscape as if it had always been there and provide recreational space for the public - the landscape should surround the project yet bring people into the area. Common elements of these types of projects were nature trails, allotments, angling, scientific research centres and other recreational activities. Similarly Crowe was to work on Harlow New Town where she was determined that there would be a corridor of green leading from the suburbs into the city centre whereby civic spaces such as libraries, civic centres, government buildings, parking and designated parks all worked to provide ample outdoor space and gathering areas for the residents. In 2020, Harlow Town Park was added to the Register of Parks and Gardens as Grade II.



Barnsdale Creek overlooking Rutland Water where a plaque stands commemorating Sylvia Crowe's work@[geograph.org.uk](http://geograph.org.uk)

## England's Post-war Designed Landscapes: Rediscovered and Revalued. cont...

Brenda Colvin (1897-1981) co-founded the Institute of Landscape Architects in 1929 and served as its President from 1951 to 1953. Like Sylvia Crowe, Brenda started her career by studying garden design at Swanley Horticultural College under Madeline Agar, with whom she worked on the design of Wimbledon Common. Colvin set up her own practice in 1922 and that practice, Colvin & Moggridge, still exists, and is now run by preeminent landscape architect Hal Moggridge. During Brenda's early career most of her work focused on designs for private gardens. She was known as a brilliant plantswoman and for being sympathetic to the surrounding landscape, particularly trees, as she believed they 'define and separate the open spaces, thus serving as do the walls and pillars of a building'.

After the Second World War, Colvin turned her attention to transforming landscapes altered by the construction of reservoirs, power stations, industrial sites, factories, hospitals, universities and new towns. Her solutions were considered innovative but always ecologically minded. Two noteworthy examples of Colvin's work are the landscape around Eggborough Power Station and Salisbury Crematorium. Eggborough, the now decommissioned coal-fired power station in North Yorkshire, consisted of eight cooling towers, a single 200m tall chimney and large power station building and was supplied with fuel by a branch line of the local rail line. Colvin framed these enormous buildings with long shelter belts on raised banks using the ash from the incineration process. She also incorporated recreational areas near the cooling towers for use by the employees. Salisbury Crematorium, listed Grade II on the *Register of Parks and Gardens* in 2012, is the only known crematorium designed by Colvin (with assistance from John Brookes who worked with Colvin from 1957-1960) and clearly demonstrates her belief that crematoriums '*can have a park-like open treatment and be in appearance much like any public or private park*'. Properly designed, the crematorium can be a far pleasanter place to look at than the cemetery, and its maintenance is far easier and more economical because it dispenses with narrow footpaths and other obstructions breaking the simple stretches of grass.' Colvin disapproved of the individuality expressed at cemeteries with their haphazard arrangement, unique headstones and lack of uniformity. Having recently visited Brookwood Cemetery I can certainly concur with Colvin that there is a certain restfulness and calm felt when walking through the Military Cemetery that is not observed in the remaining cemetery.

Both Colvin and Crowe were concerned with ecology and conservation and did much to educate others about their concerns. They were both quick to point out that for centuries what most of us considered to be a 'natural' environment had resulted from some intervention by man - be it Neolithic on the chalk downs or by Capability Brown at Petworth Park. Colvin's pioneering study, *Land and Landscape* published in 1947, highlighted the need for general planning with an eye towards avoiding the 'twin evils of urban decay and suburban sprawl'.

### Relevance Today

The concepts expressed by the likes of Dame Sylvia Crowe and Brenda Colvin seem so simple and many of them we take for granted now but if the destruction of the designed landscape around the Commonwealth Institute in London tells us anything, it is that the public (and many landscape architects and developers) do not understand fully the intention and significance of these post-war designed landscapes. What appear to us to be quaint little courtyards, curious slides and playgrounds, overgrown trees, dank shrubbery and badly repaired paths were really carefully considered areas meant to provide safe, enjoyable and often flora-rich areas where individuals and families could live, work and play. Our impressions of many of these sites today are the consequence of the passage of time and bad decisions made by succeeding generations. People left with the task of maintenance have not done many of these landscapes any favours, but surely the answer is not to demolish them and replace them with this generation's idea of what is required but rather to consider carefully the significance of these individual sites and concern ourselves with their history, preservation and required adaptations so that they continue to be as useful, practical and beautiful as they were originally intended.



Brenda Colvin (mid 70s) © Wikipedia



Eggborough Power Station, North Yorkshire

In 1959, Dame Sylvia summed up her philosophy: *It should be the aim of each of us to leave our chosen corner not more vulgar and submerged, but lovelier and more dignified, after we have gone.'*

## England's Post-war Designed Landscapes: Rediscovered and Revalued. cont...

In one of initial lectures, Karen Fitzsimons laid out what were the strengths of many of these post-war designed landscapes. Four of the most salient, given the experiences of this past year, are that many of these landscapes were 1) designed to provide spacious and safe places for their intended users, 2) be relatively easy to maintain largely due to their choice of materials, 3) adaptable and 4) popular still, due to their modern, clean lines. The intervening lack of care and poor maintenance means they are too easily discarded but the original design principles still provide opportunities for equitable access to green spaces, capacity to host renewable energies and green infrastructure to assist with climate change. Unfortunately, today's perceived or actual housing crisis may well force further poor choices and policy changes that mean many of these landscapes may indeed be 'too young to love'. Certainly not an outcome that any of the landscape architects like Crowe, Colvin, Mitchell and Jellicoe amongst others would be celebrating.

So what can we do to help avoid the careless destruction of these post-war designed landscapes? Perhaps the most important job is to observe, question and research these lesser known, neglected and often overlooked sites. In other words don't assume that the derelict courtyard on the neighbouring housing development, the overgrown trees or mismatched paving didn't have a well considered design behind them several decades ago. Get involved with reviewing planning applications, comment (or vote) on proposed policy changes and record historic sites, putting them forward for listing. Sometimes all it takes is one champion of a cause to get the ball rolling or create the tsunami wave of change. I honestly don't think these sites are 'too young to love' and I intend to learn more about them myself.

Further Recommended Reading:

Post-War Landscapes: Introduction to Heritage Assets published by Historic England

NB: extensive further reading list on the topic included in this document.

<https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/iha-post-war-landscapes/heag290-post-war-landscapes/>

*100 20th Century Gardens and Landscapes* by Twentieth Century Society (published by Pavilion Books 2020)

<https://thegardenstrust.org/campaigns/post-war-gardens-landscapes/>

### Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe Study Day at RHS Wisley

#### New date announced THURSDAY 14 OCTOBER 2021

We have tentatively arranged a revised date for the Jellicoe Study Day to be held in the new facilities at RHS Wisley. As the Gardens Trust lecture series has highlighted, understanding Post War Designed Landscapes is a first step in taking appropriate decisions to conserve this heritage. The event will be an opportunity to explore the profound influence that Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe (1900-1996) had on 20th century landscape design and how his sensitivity to purpose and the environment are still relevant today for modern town planning and landscape design. Our speakers will focus on his Master Plan for Hemel Hempstead New Town and Water Gardens, the John F Kennedy Memorial at Runnymede and the Cadbury Factory at Moreton. The day will include these presentations, refreshments, discussion and tour of Jellicoe's Canal at RHS Wisley. For further information please contact us at [eventssgt@gmail.com](mailto:eventssgt@gmail.com).

Booking will open in early July 2021 and details will be sent out in advance to members and anyone previously booked on the event.





## Get Involved

We are looking to expand our team.

### *Marketing and Communications volunteer*

Do you think that you can help promote the activities of the Trust and encourage new members to support our activities and join in our events and volunteer work.

Key elements of the role will be:

- To promote the Trust and its Events programme through local and national publications as well as digital platforms (as appropriate) and to maintain a database of contacts.
- To develop online social media presence of the Trust through Twitter and Instagram to complement the Trust's Facebook page – scheduling and writing posts, advertising events, monitoring and tracking posts to build our presence across these platforms.
- To liaise with Council with regard to the design and production of the Trust's publications: to include membership leaflet, newsletter/journal and other ad hoc advertisements.
- To manage and update the website and engage in its development from time to time

### *Trust Secretary*

Our current secretary will be standing down in July to give herself more time with her family. We are therefore seeking to recruit a volunteer Trust Secretary, with an expanded role to assist us with our work and with arranging and supporting Council meetings and acting as the Chief Administrative Officer for the Trust.

Key elements of the role will be:

- To arrange the annual calendar of Council meetings in advance and book any venues required for these meetings.
- To call Council Meetings (6 meetings per year), prepare and distribute agenda and papers.
- To attend Council Meetings and take minutes.
- To record declarations of interest or conflicts of interests made by Council members.
- To prepare and circulate copies of the minutes after each Council meetings.
- To assist the Treasurer and Chair with the preparation of all required documents for the Trust's Annual General Meeting.
- To promote good corporate governance.
- To manage a database of forms used by the Trust to ensure they are up to date and comply with any changes in government requirements such as GDPR, etc.
- To assist with succession planning.
- To ensure that appropriate insurance arrangements are in place.
- To manage the Small Grants Scheme including ensuring all required documentation has been received as per the criteria.

***We welcome all applicants for either position, so please do encourage friends and colleagues to apply, whether or not they are SGT members. If you would like to discuss the position informally in the first instance, please contact [chairsurreygt@gmail.com](mailto:chairsurreygt@gmail.com) and we can arrange a call. Otherwise, please apply with a covering letter and a brief resume to include an email address and phone number.***

## WFGA and the WRAGs Trainee Scheme - gardens in Surrey urgently required.

*by Alison Hepworth, WFGA Regional Manager for Surrey, Kent and London and SGT member*

WFGA (Working for Gardeners Association), has been inspiring gardeners for over a century. Formed in 1899 it is a charity whose aim is 'Advancing Horticulture'. Its original intention was to provide education and employment for women working on the land, and from it sprung the Women's Land Army. Now open equally to men and women, alongside the WRAGs (Work and Retrain as A Gardener) training scheme, it also offers workshops, skill days and garden visits.

The pandemic has led to a recent uplift in interest in horticulture due to the enforced period of time spent at home and in the garden during lockdown. As widely reported in the press, the nurturing and consoling nature of working outdoors and in the garden has led to a thirst for knowledge about plants, a desire to improve horticultural skills and, in many cases, an opportunity to reassess one's future and working life.

As a result, applications to join the WRAGs scheme, where would-be gardeners learn practical horticultural skills in a carefully selected garden, have surged. Lockdown saw interest from potential trainees who were either considering changing direction, had been made redundant or had their RHS studies and voluntary opportunities suspended. The WRAGs scheme offers them a positive step towards change and a source of hope.

Trainees work for 12-14 hours a week for a year under the instruction of the garden owner or head gardener. An administration fee of £600 to join the scheme on confirmation of a placement is paid by the trainee to WFGA. Trainees are paid the National Living Wage, currently c£8.91 per hour, by the garden owner on a self-employed basis. Regional Managers monitor and visit trainees and use their local knowledge to source new gardens. Graduates of the scheme, which has been operating successfully now for some 28 years, have gone on to run their own garden business, work in plant nurseries and become head gardeners.

WFGA is always on the look-out for garden owners who have established a garden they are proud of and can pass on their skill and knowledge to a new generation of gardeners. Training is built around the charity's curriculum, and Regional Managers are on hand to advise. If you think that you can give a trainee a year's part-time paid experience, please get in touch. You could be the catalyst that propels one of this year's lockdown life-changers into a rewarding new career. If you have any questions about the scheme, please do contact Alison Hepworth via email: [alison.wfga@gmail.com](mailto:alison.wfga@gmail.com) or through the contacts listed below.

As one recent applicant said:

'During the recent lockdown, I immersed myself in the garden. I would love to gain more experience, knowledge and horticultural skills to develop this further. A WRAGs placement could be the key to unlock my future.'

Contact: [admin@wfga.org.uk](mailto:admin@wfga.org.uk); [wfga.org.uk](http://wfga.org.uk). Instagram: @wfga\_org

West Horsley Place who had a WRAGs trainee last year.  
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